



QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL and RIDGWAY COMMUNITY: September 2018

This update is a supplemental report for inclusion in the Town Council agenda packet for the regular monthly meeting, distributing to the community, and for posting on the Town website. It is for informational purposes. Items herein may or may not warrant Council discussion, and do not require Council action unless noted on the meeting agenda.

Master Planning

The Town is updating its Master Plan which defines the community’s big picture vision for the future and presents a road map for achieving that vision. Master planning consultants Clarion and Associates were selected in the spring for the job. Staff put together a Master Planning Steering Committee made up of 12 citizens, 2 Planning Commissioners, and the Mayor. Focus groups were held on nine different topics involving more than 50 people in June. At several summer events, volunteers asked fellow community members what they loved and what they wanted to transform about Ridgway and took photos.

A webpage for Master Planning was set up on the Town’s website: www.bit.ly/ridgwaymp. In July, the Master Planning Community Survey went live and ended on September 3rd. More than 660 survey responses were received (320 from Town residents)—an incredible response rate!! Thanks for participating in this critical planning process for our community. Your input makes a huge difference as to how the plan will look.

Save the Date for the next opportunity to participate interactively in Master Planning: **Thursday, September 27, 5:00 – 8:00 pm at the 4-H Event Center.** Survey results will be available, as well as special guests to help us creatively engage with Ridgway’s future. Snacks and child care will be available to encourage everyone to attend!

Updated Refuse/Recycle contract & Animal Resistant Trash Containers

Residential containers were delivered in late August. Please contact Town Hall directly at (970) 626-5308 ext. 212 if you are having difficulty using the new container and we will dispatch someone to assist you. If you have extra trash or recycling, please call Bruin the night before the regular pick-up and request the extra pick-up. There will be an extra service charge for the extra pick-up. Bruin Office number: (970) 864-7531.





Public Works

WATER RATES

The Town Council has been reviewing and considering the cost of treatment and distributing water, which has increased significantly over the past decade. The last significant rate increase to adjust for the cost of treatment and distribution was in 2006. The Town made a small adjustment in 2013 to assist with loan payments for the reservoir construction. Staff published a memo this month to further describe the impacts of the proposed water rate adjustment and proposed base water allocation changes. **The Town Council will consider the ordinance at the regular meeting of Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00 pm in Town Hall.** The draft ordinance may be viewed at Town Hall or online here –

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway/ordinances-progress>

DROUGHT and WATER RESTRICTIONS

The Town remains under mandatory water restrictions, which went into effect on June 12, 2018 and are in line with the adopted Resolution 18-06 for Water Conservation and Management during times of restricted or limited water supply. The Town Council will consider amending this plan at the regular meeting of Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. In addition, the Council will be considering a Water Wasting Ordinance that ties into the Water Conservation and Management Plan. The draft ordinance may be viewed at Town hall or online here - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway/ordinances-progress> . Fire restrictions were in place for much of the summer and were lifted in both Ouray County and Ridgway in late August.



Effective June 12, 2018

**Mandatory
Outdoor Water
Restrictions
Are Now in Effect!**

WATER PLANT AND DIVERSION STRUCTURE

A lightning strike near the water treatment plant in early August caused electrical issues and forced the plant to be manually run for over a week. Events like this are not unheard of, with lightning strikes happening every few years. Town personnel are trained to ensure Ridgway continues to have safe drinking water during such events. Please thank them if you see them –



they put in extra time and work to be sure the water plant was keeping up with demand in a very challenging year of limited water supply and no significant reduction in water demand.

The Town's water diversion structure that diverts snowmelt and stream flow water to the Town's storage reservoir, Lake Otonowanda, and ultimately to the water plant and to the community is scheduled to be replaced this fall. The current structure is over 40 years old and in need of reconstruction.

TREE MONITORING

Town staff worked with our contracted arborist to update our tree inventory and identify tree maintenance needs throughout town. Tree pruning and removal were prioritized for trees that pose a possible hazard to public safety and property. Watering, upkeep, removal and replacement of the streetscape trees were also discussed. The new trees have fared very well even during this significant drought.

PARKS, FACILITIES & MOSQUITOS

After a challenging summer of drought, the seasonal parks crew will be wrapping up their work in September - October. The smaller trees in all Town parks were hand pruned. This year's crew consists of crew leader Steven Schroeder, Leta McNatt, David Wade, Rocky Steele, and Rodney Paulson. Rodney focused on mosquitos again this year and had a very successful year with very few mosquitos reported in town.

We are using the expertise of contractors to estimate and plan for future capital needs and maintenance of the Town. This analysis will assist in prioritizing, planning, funding and budgeting for larger infrastructure projects, facility requirements, and personnel needs in the coming years. Reports are anticipated before the end of the year with a presentation and discussion with the Town Council on October 17th.

STREETS





An epoxy was applied to parking stripes downtown to prolong the life of the stripes. Thanks for the cooperation from residents and businesses during the week that project took place in late August.

We will be patching some areas of asphalt downtown this Fall. Please look out for workers and drive safely around work areas.

The Town is seeking funding to create a Storm Water Master Plan in 2019. It will be a plan only; no construction is in the immediate forecast for this project.

Marshal's Office

Summer has been busy for the Marshal's department. School is back in session again, so please be aware and cautious and look out for our walking, biking and strolling students while driving.

The Town received funding from the State to participate in the "Click it or Ticket" campaign over three months this summer, allowing our officers to focus on enforcing seat belt laws. "Click It or Ticket" is part of an ongoing national effort to make sure drivers and passengers buckle up and reduce traffic deaths and injuries on our highways. In 2017, the State of Colorado had an 83.8% seat belt compliance rate. The goal of the campaign is voluntary compliance, but if drivers are stopped for another offense and they are not buckled up, they will get a ticket. The enforcement also targets drivers with unbuckled children in the vehicle. Those drivers can be stopped and ticketed without another violation.

The Marshals worked with the Public Works department to place signage on residential streets to help slow traffic and remind us all to keep an eye out for pedestrians.

Slow Down
Enjoy the Scenery.
Effective December 8, 2017
Questions? | Town of Ridgway | (970)-626-5308

**SPEED
15
LIMIT**

The Town of Ridgway has reduced speed limits to 15 mph on all side streets with the exception of North Railroad to minimize dust and aid in the safety of pedestrians and wildlife around Town.

Quick tip for the Fall: Colorado's child passenger safety law clearly defines child safety seat and seat belt use from birth through age 15 as follows:

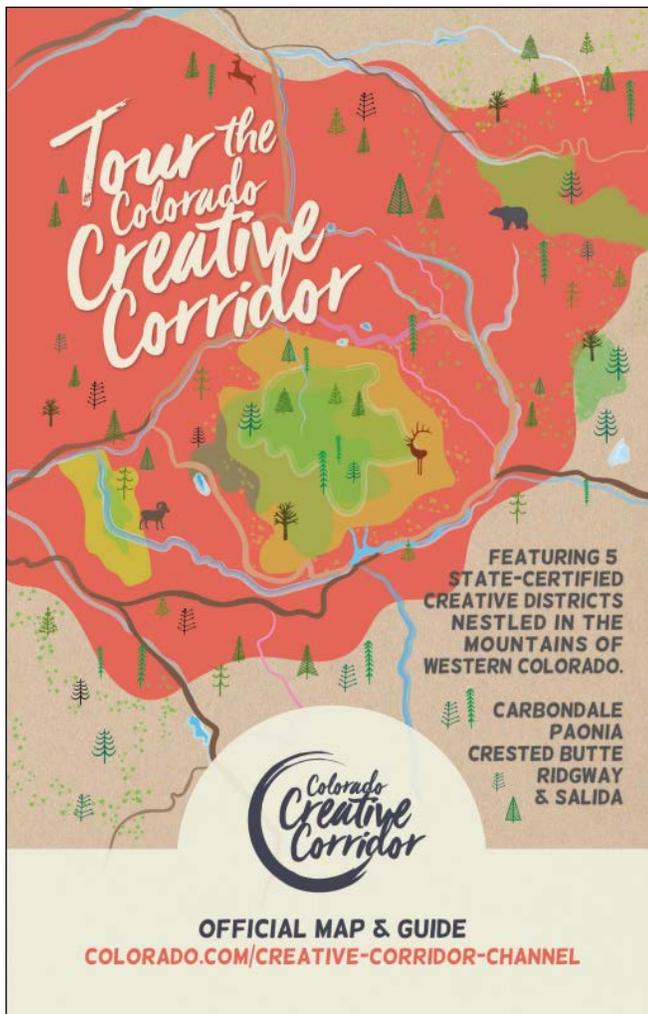
- The law requires infants to ride in a rear-facing child safety seat until they are at least one year old and weigh less than 20 pounds.



- The law requires children ages one to four years old that weigh at least 20 pounds up to 40 pounds to be restrained in a forward-facing or rear-facing child safety seat.
- The law requires that children who weigh over 40 pounds or who are at least four years old be properly restrained in a child booster seat or with a child safety belt-positioning device. Children must ride in booster seats until they are eight years old.
- A child who is at least eight years old must be properly restrained with a safety belt or child restraint system.

Ridgway Creative Main Street

COLORADO CREATIVE CORRIDOR



The new Colorado Creative Corridor website went live in June at www.colorado.com/creative-corridor-channel through the Colorado Tourism Office. All 5 towns that collaborated to establish the Corridor are featured on the website with suggestions of places to visit and a sample itinerary. A Creative Corridor brochure was released in August, available digitally on the above website, as well as the RCD and Chamber websites. Additional itineraries and a local business listing for visitors are in process to round out this collaboration between the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and the Creative District. A 2019 application was submitted for a second year of Colorado Creative Corridor funding through the Colorado Tourism Office.

EVENTS and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team (C.A.T.), formerly known as the Ridgway Creative District Committee, held a Creatives' Meet and Greet event in Hartwell Park on May 31, attended by about 50 people. The C.A.T. announced and explained its new name with a Dr. Seuss-like poem written and performed by member Brenda Ratcliff. Potential new C.A.T. members were solicited at this event, and creative people who often work alone got the opportunity to network.



A subcommittee led by Mayor John Clark is planning to expand the Creative District’s Independent Film Festival this year to a two-evening event on *Friday and Saturday, November 9th and 10th*. Subcommittee members Shane Carrick, Abel Lannan, and Jim Courson have been working on this event for months and anticipate an exciting variety of short films to share with the community. *Save those dates!*

The idea to host First Friday events in July, August, and September, evolved from Creative District and Chamber discussions about the potential benefits to downtown businesses of the promotion of the Creative Corridor statewide. An informal business survey confirmed interest in holding the events, which are promoted by the Creative District with each business responsible for its own special events.



Treehouse Studio (next to Burro Cafe) at August First Friday

COLORADO MAIN STREET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Consultants Ben Muldrow and Matt Ashby visited Ridgway in early June and met with numerous citizens and organizational representatives to listen to Ridgway’s downtown success stories and offer creative ideas for utilizing those stories. This “PickAxe Project” provided sample photos, videos, branding suggestions, and methods for reaching various audiences to promote our downtown.

A Downtown Parking Assessment was completed at the end of June by DHM Design from Durango. The consultants presented their findings to Town Council and the Planning Commission in June. The Parking Assessment report is available at www.town.ridgway.co.us in the Resources tab under Town Studies and Reports.

RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE

Artspace consultants, project partners, Town staff and officials, and citizen representatives have continued to develop the Space to Create facility concept for Ridgway, a primary task along with identifying funding options during the predevelopment contract. Discussions have prioritized affordable living space in the initial conceptual design process. A community open house to give input on concept designs is scheduled for **Thursday, October 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.** in the Town Hall Community Room.



SNOW ON ITS WAY

Heads up, hopefully snow is on its way! A friendly reminder that you are in charge of removing snow on all sidewalks abutting your property. Town has a list of folks who perform these services if you are looking to hire someone, contact mgill@town.ridgway.co.us.

SANDWICH BOARDS



DID YOU KNOW?

- Each business may have one “portable sign,” but you must apply for a permit.
- Generally, each business is subject to total allowable square footage for the business. If the business is connected to others, total signage allowed may be regulated by a Master Sign Plan.
- The sign may be placed in the Town right-of-way but **cannot interfere with traffic or create a safety hazard**. All portable signs should be weighted down as to not move in the wind.
- If placed in the public right-of-way, **it must abut the property** in which the business is conducted.
- It may only be out **during open hours**.

This is not a complete list of regulations, please refer to the Ridgway Municipal Code 7-3-12 for a complete list of provisions. Applications can be submitted to Town Hall.

QUESTIONS | CONTACT BUILDING INSPECTOR, MIKE GILL AT 970.626.5308 x216

We hope you enjoy a beautiful autumn in our gorgeous spot on the planet!!



Online photo by Glenn Randall