



For Immediate Release | May 12, 2020

## **Ridgway Advances to Graduate Status in the Colorado Main Street Program**

Ridgway, CO – The Town of Ridgway is excited to announce that it was recently advanced to “Graduate” status in the Colorado Main Street Program. Ridgway now joins five other communities with Graduate status that are all working to bring to life the history and unique attributes of their downtowns. The Colorado Main Street Program’s overarching mission is to strengthen Colorado communities by assisting them with implementing the Main Street Approach® and helping revitalize historic downtowns through preservation-based economic development and community-led revitalization, customized by each community.

The Town’s exemplary work in the important strategic planning process that energizes stakeholders and volunteers, and leads to a more vibrant and healthy community, was cited as a main reason for the advancement to Graduate status. According to a letter submitted to the Town by Rick Garcia, Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs, “Ridgway has demonstrated a commitment to downtown revitalization, building partnerships, and collaboration.”

The Town’s Main Street initiative began in 2012 with a downtown assessment and recommendations for revitalization efforts. It moved from “Candidate” to “Designated” status in 2014. In 2015, Ridgway was named Main Street of the Year by Colorado Main Street, especially honoring its downtown design and improvement plans which soon became the Ramp Up Ridgway downtown infrastructure and streetscape project, completed in 2017. Ridgway’s Main Street and Creative District initiatives function together as Ridgway Creative Main Street since both ultimately seek to increase the economic vitality of our town.

The Town would like to thank the Colorado Main Street Program for this recognition and for helping the Town to achieve its adopted goals.

For more information, please contact Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator, at [dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us) or 970-626-5308, Ext. 215.

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