



RHS Class of 1976 – “Raise Ridgway” Campaign

We were all “**Raised in Ridgway!**” That quaint, small town sitting in a beautiful valley at the doorstep of the Allegheny National Forest.

Founded in the early 19th century by entrepreneur Jacob Ridgway of Philadelphia, the town capitalized on abundant timber resources and emerging industries to meet demands. Designated as Elk County’s seat, it developed a notable history shaped by lumbering and metallurgy, with generations contributing to economic growth and community life.

Many of us, as members of the postwar “**Baby Boomer**” generation, left after graduation in the 1970s to pursue education and careers elsewhere. That outflow has had long-term effects: a diminished workforce and a shrinking tax base have strained funding for essential services, including emergency response, public health, and other community supports that sustain resilience.

A primary example being the health care in the area is in crisis. Our town hospital has closed, forcing residents to travel by car, ambulance, or helicopter for treatment; for example, the nearest maternity ward is 35 miles away. What can be done? How can you help? By giving back!

During their 50th reunion, the RHS Class of 1975 raised more than \$4,000 to support local needs, directing donations to the Ridgway Public Library, the RHS Alumni Association, and other community organizations. Their effort is a model of meaningful civic commitment.

The RHS Class of 1976 accepted a friendly challenge from Guy “Chris” Fustine, Class of ’75 President, to exceed its fundraising total. In response, the ’76 50th Reunion Committee launched the “**Raise Ridgway**” campaign. Generous contributions from fellow classmates have enabled the campaign to surpass \$5,700.00, with additional donations anticipated. Funds are being thoughtfully distributed among the following organizations; Elk County Council of the Arts, Ridgway Ambulance Corporation and Area School District Foundation, Alumni Association, Parks & Recreation, Public Library, and YMCA identified above, while any remaining contributions have been pledged to the RHS Alumni Association.

The campaign remains open until the RHS Alumni Association’s Annual Homecoming Weekend and Fund-Raising Gala scheduled for September the 25th through the 27th. Please considering sending a check payable to “**Jim Fabiano**” or “**RHS Class of ’76**” at:

RHS Class of ’76 – “Raise Ridgway” Campaign
c/o Jim Fabiano
306 Oak Street
Ridgway, PA 15853

Name: _____

Address: _____

Any Special: _____

Instructions

☐ **Donation for “Raise Ridgway” Campaign:** \$ _____