

# THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

2022 | EDITION 2



We're known and loved for having a fun, engaged community. There are many ways to bridge the gap and stay connected with the City of Ridgefield.

Find out how at  
[www.ridgefieldwa.us](http://www.ridgefieldwa.us)



Hello Ridgefield! As we come out of the dark, wet, and sometimes snowy days of winter, we can reflect on all that has changed since we rang in the new year. As I mentioned in the State of the City, the only constant lately is change.

Along with me being sworn in as Mayor in January, we have another change on council. I am pleased to announce that in April, the Ridgefield City Council unanimously voted to appoint Matt Cole to Council Position 4. Thank you to all the community members that engaged in the appointment process.

Another change is that the rules on masking and gatherings have been lifted, and Ridgefield is buzzing with activity! We are back to in-person First Saturday

Events, Farmer's Markets, Meet Me on Wednesdays and being able to gather with friends at our favorite local restaurants. Now that we can hold in-person events again, we are seeing a wave of ribbon cuttings for new local businesses. Getting to meet the owners and hearing their stories and their excitement and passion for Ridgefield has been one of my favorite parts of being Mayor.

Something that hasn't changed is that I always look forward to spring and summer in Ridgefield. My family, friends and I enjoy being able to spontaneously grab our kayaks, hiking shoes or paddle boards and get outdoors. Hopefully during these warmer months, I will get the chance to bump into many of you while you are out and about enjoying our hometown!

-Mayor Jennifer Lindsay

## Ridgefield Parks and Trails Are Expanding

In 2020, City Council approved the Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan, which outlines a six-year parks facilities program. The plan provides a path forward for system improvements and expansion and was shaped by the input of Ridgefield residents, non-profit, private, and public stakeholders.

Work in 2022 includes construction of a splash pad at Overlook Park; a multi-modal trail completing the sidewalk system between Ridgefield High School and neighborhoods to the north along Hillhurst; volunteer work parties creating the Onslow Nature Play area at Abrams Park; building and planning trail connections between downtown and Pioneer Canyon; enhancing outdoor recreation; master planning efforts for Refuge, Boyse and Horns Corner Community Parks; and planning for trail connections from Heron Drive north to Main Ave.



## City Council Appoints Matt Cole to Position 4

After a rigorous process including multiple questionnaires, finalists' selection, and a public candidate forum, at their meeting on Thursday, April 28 Councilmembers conducted final interviews and unanimously appointed Matt Cole to Position 4. Cole subsequently took the Oath of Office and will sit for election in 2023.

"We have some really good quality people in Ridgefield, so naturally, to be selected feels great," Cole said.

Matt Cole has served on the Ridgefield Planning Commission as well as represented Ridgefield on the Clark County Mosquito Control Board. In 2021, Cole was the citizen advisor to the Budget Advisory Committee. He has coached baseball, served on advisory boards at both Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver, and participates in local community business events. Cole enjoys the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex, attending Ridgefield Raptors games, spending time in Downtown, and visiting the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.



"These four finalists are why Ridgefield is such a great city. All of them are dedicated, passionate advocates for our community," said Mayor Jennifer Lindsay, "Matt is the candidate with the best background to help him hit the ground running successfully."

## Utility Department Reminders: Budget Billing and Water Conservation

The Budget Billing program uses your past year billing history to estimate your bill throughout the year and charge an equal payment for each two-month cycle. This can help to keep utility costs level throughout the year, rather than surging in the summer months when use is higher.

One of the worst surprises our residents get on their water bills is during summer months when irrigation frequency and timing for your lawn's needs can create water overuse. *Run irrigation in short intervals in early morning or late evening, check for leaks and review your water usage each statement to avoid these surprises.*

Sign up for **Budget Billing** at any time at [www.RidgefieldWa.Us](http://www.RidgefieldWa.Us). Click on "Manage Utilities" and select Budget Billing from the list of forms or select "Water Conservation" to learn more about how to keep your use low.







Take your child to work day



Donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors collected at Spring Clean Up



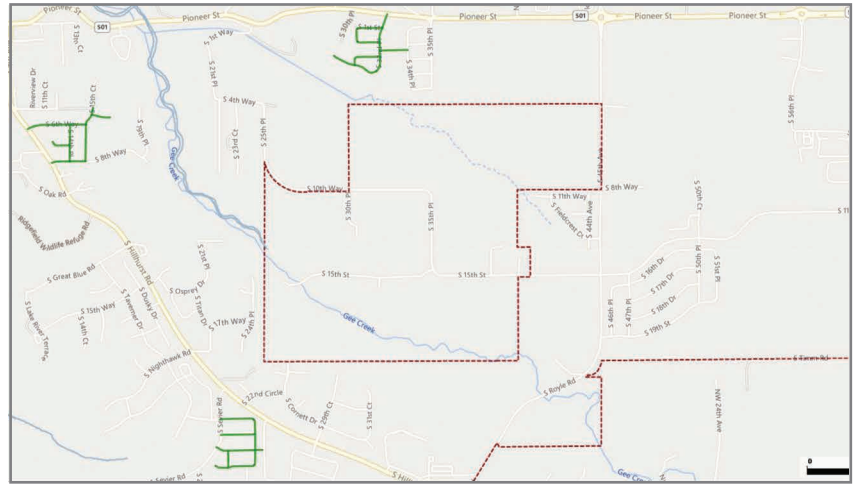
Our new bridge is complete!

## CITY LEADERSHIP

### CITY COUNCIL

Ron Onslow  
Rachel Coker  
Lee Wells  
Matt Cole  
Judy Chipman

**MAYOR** | Jennifer Lindsay  
**MAYOR PRO TEM** | Rob Aichele  
**CITY MANAGER** | Steve Stuart



## Upcoming Pavement Preservation Work

Pavement preservation methods are the best way to prevent costly street repairs in the future. Last year, the City Council asked residents whether you wanted to continue paying car licensing fees for this preservation or would rather see a sales tax that is assessed on purchases in Ridgefield regardless of where the purchaser lives. The clear answer was to replace the car tabs with a sales tax, which started April 1 of this year. Those funds are being put to work this summer. This year, the City will be applying a slurry seal to approximately two miles of neighborhood streets, shown in green on the map. Slurry seals prevent water from penetrating below the asphalt and provide a fresh new surface. To address streets that need repair instead of preventative maintenance, the City completes a process that involves removing and replacing the road base and repaving. These repairs are more costly, and roads are prioritized for repair based on their condition. In 2022, this more costly repair work will be focused on improvements to Royle Road and on S 5th Street.

## Welcome Officer Keating

Please welcome Officer Collin Keating as our newest police officer in the City of Ridgefield. Officer Keating grew up in Clark County, before joining the Marines. When his enlistment ended, he enrolled in college and began to work security at San Diego Natural History Museum. Eventually Officer Keating returned to Clark County to be closer to family. Officer Keating's desire was to begin a career in law enforcement and selected Ridgefield as the place where he would like to work. Officer Keating is the first entry level officer we have hired in two years as all our other hires have been lateral officers. He is scheduled for academy training this summer and will later transition to field training. We are very excited to have Officer Keating as part of the RPD Team.



# RIDGEFIELD FIRST SATURDAYS

Each month find themed events with vendors, activities, and fun in Downtown Ridgefield. Interested in getting involved? Let us know at [Events@ridgefieldwa.us](mailto:Events@ridgefieldwa.us)



**JUNE 4, 2022 | 9AM-2PM**

Celebrate the Lewis River to Vancouver Lake Water Trail and our natural environment with a paddle on Lake River.



**JULY 3, 2022 | 9AM-2PM**

Kick off a celebratory, patriotic weekend with Farmers Market, vendors, and street sale in Downtown Ridgefield!



**AUG 6, 2022 | 9AM-7PM**

A day of celebrations in Ridgefield! Find City Days, RAA Forest Fair, and Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Races.



**SEPT 4, 2022 | 9AM-2PM**

Celebrate diversity with your community through fun activities and games, crafts, performances, and educational opportunities.

## City Events

**100 Miles in 100 Days**  
June 4–September 12

100 Miles in 100 Days challenges community members to get moving and enjoying our environment and natural resources.

**Musicians in the Park**  
Wednesdays June–September

Free live music at Overlook Park from 12pm–1:30pm.

**Meet Me on Wednesdays**  
10AM Wednesdays

Meet community members at Overlook Park for outdoor exercise and socializing.