

THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

2023 | EDITION 1



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



Happy New Year Ridgefield! I don't know about you, but the last few months have been a whirlwind. As I complete my fourth year on City Council, and my first year as Mayor, I've seen so many exciting things happen in Ridgefield.

Specifically, December saw Overlook Park full of festive carolers along with families and friends connecting over cookies, cocoa and holiday cheer at our annual Hometown Celebration Tree Lighting.

Local businesses and organizations all came together to create beautiful and creative trees for one of Ridgefield's newest holiday traditions, the Circle of Trees. Congratulations to Sage Organics for winning the most

competitive Circle of Trees Decorating Contest yet!

Also in December, we celebrated the ribbon cutting of the long-awaited Administrative Building at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. This building will enhance the experience of the 200,000 visitors that enjoy our beautiful refuge annually.

While 2022 was a great year, we have so much to look forward to in 2023!

As former Mayor Don Stose once said, "The future of Ridgefield is bright and becomes brighter every day, thanks to Ridgefield's Council, staff, partners, and most of all our residents."

-Mayor Jennifer Lindsay

Inclement Weather

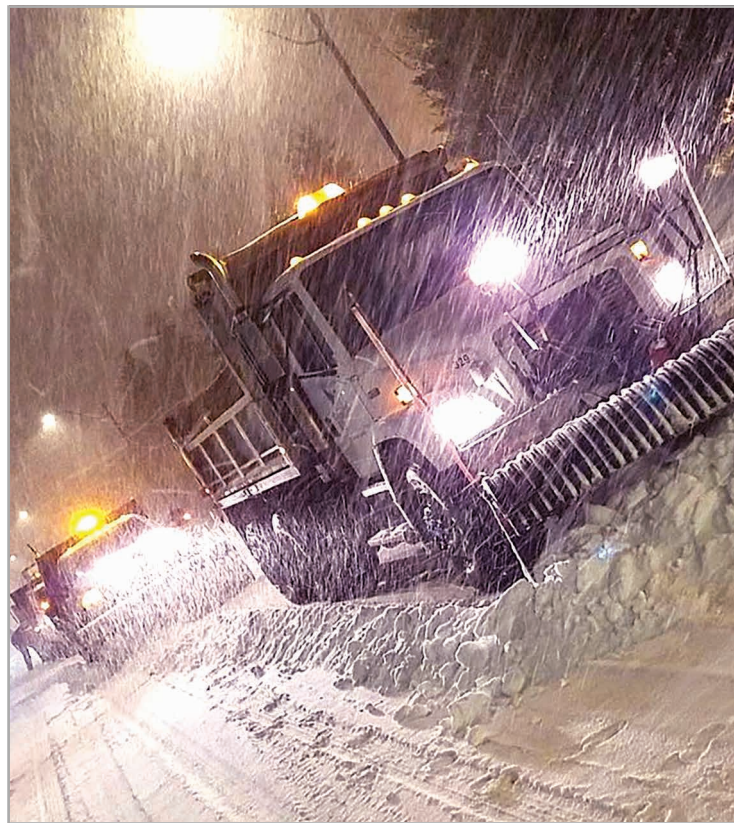
Equipped with four plows, two sanders and a de-icer truck to help clear the roadways, the City of Ridgefield Public Works crew is ready to keep the major streets that connect police, fire, and medical services open and clear.

When snow is in the forecast, the crew ensures that City equipment is ready, and monitors the condition of the roads as the snow begins to fall. Streets in the City are classified by priority for plowing.

Priority #1 routes are main roadways and are plowed first. Depending on how quickly snow is accumulating, the crew will move on to priority #2 streets as priority #1 roads are cleared, then on to priority #3 roads.

Some roads are not classified; these roads may be too steep to safely plow, or have limited traffic. After a snow event and as the priority routes are cleared, the Public Works crew may be able to clear unclassified roads on a case-by-case basis.

Remember to slow down, use the accelerator and brakes gently and please do not follow snow removal vehicles and equipment too closely.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The 2016 Ridgefield Urban Area Comprehensive Plan outlines policies to accommodate population and job growth through 2035, consistent with a vision to develop as a complete community with quality neighborhoods and jobs, protect environmental resources, and manage growth. Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties and cities to update their comprehensive plans every eight years to plan for growth over the next twenty-year period.

Along with other cities in Clark County, Ridgefield will be

updating our comprehensive plan starting in 2023, with an adoption date in mid-2025. At a minimum, the new plan will include goals and policies for land use, housing, capital facilities, and utilities. The new plan will build on the 2016 plan and incorporate new voices through an extensive public participation process with in-person and virtual open houses, workshops, and public hearings.

Check out the current comprehensive plan at <https://ridgefieldwa.us/wp-content/uploads/ComprehensivePlan2016.pdf> and learn more about the GMA at <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/General-Planning-and-Growth-Management/Growth-Management-Act.aspx>.

2023 City Budget

At the December 1, 2022 Council Meeting, Ridgefield City Council adopted the 2023 budget. The focus of the 2023 budget is infrastructure improvements to support the growing community. The 2023 expense is \$88.9 million with \$49.6 million of that on capital investment. The operating budget is \$23.3 million to support vital public services. The city will add an additional six full-time staff in 2023 with a focus on police and public works maintenance.

The Finance Department added a new digital budget book to add transparency to the budget process. The digital budget book is available on the city's website at <https://city-ridgefield-wa-budget-book.cleargov.com/7057/introduction/transmittal-letter>. The addition of the digital budget book adds an interactive view of the 2023 budget and prior year comparisons.





Our Team keeping the streets safe



Site of our new Splash Pad coming in 2023



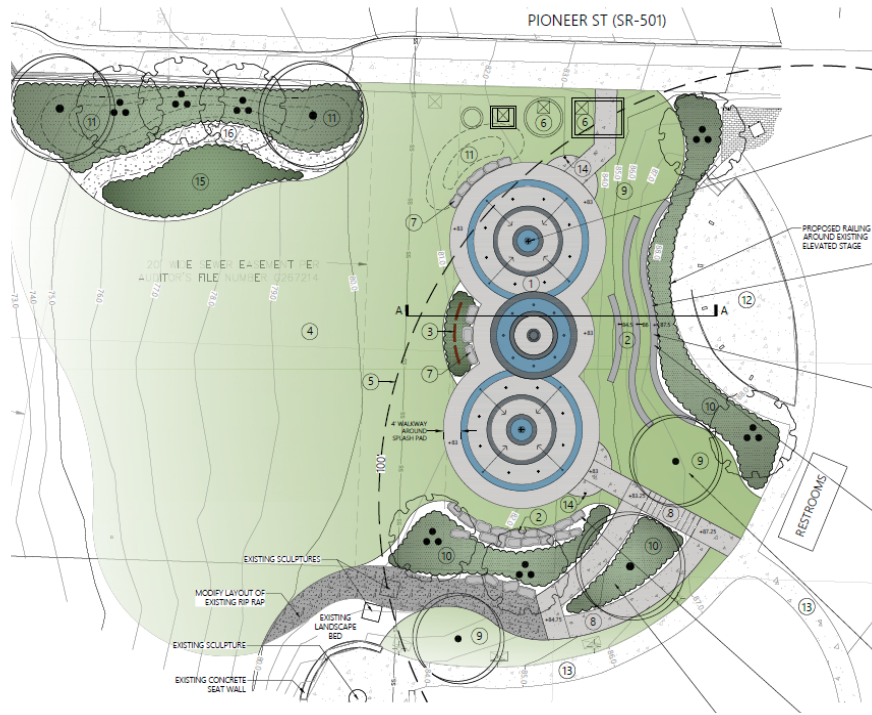
Ribbon cutting of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Administrative Building

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



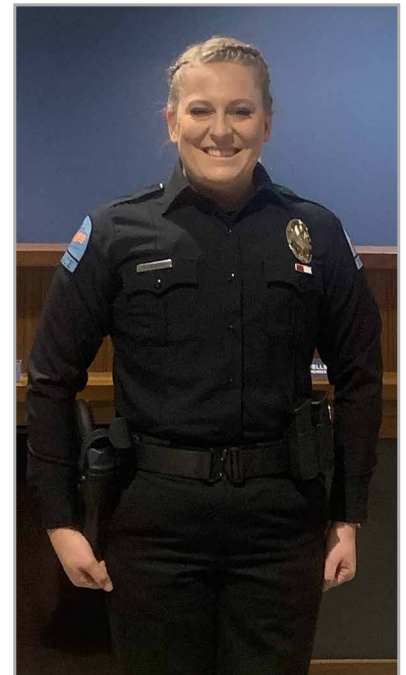
Overlook Park Splash Pad

Construction of the Overlook Park Splash Pad is set to begin this January. The splash pad will incorporate a combination of natural elements and ground level features for water play.

With approximately 2,000 square feet, some of the considered features are a rain garden, landform-type amphitheater seating and a recirculating system.

New Police Officer

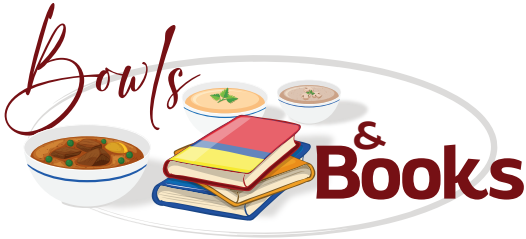
On December 15th, 2022, Officer Kaylin Debiak was sworn in as Ridgefield Police Department's newest Lateral Police Officer. Officer Debiak, who was born and raised in Vancouver, Washington, graduated from Camas High School in 2008. After graduation, she joined the Navy, where she served as a Master at Arms. While in the military, Officer Debiak met and married her husband, Luke Debiak, a deputy with the Clark County Sheriff's Department. Officer Debiak worked for two years as a police officer with the Cowlitz Tribal Police department, prior to lateraling to Ridgefield PD.



Officer Debiak has a heart for public service and loves the challenge of being a police officer.

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



Bowls & Books

FEBRUARY 4, 2023 | 10AM-2PM

Take part in “National Take Your Child to the Library Day”, during Library Lovers Month. Enjoy some soup or ice cream during “National Homemade Soup Day” and “National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day”.



Arts Month Kickoff & Color Run

MARCH 4, 2023 | 9AM

Kickoff Youth Arts Month with a 5K run or walk in Downtown Ridgefield!



Ridgefield Green + Clean

APRIL 1, 2023 | 9AM-2PM

Take part in Ridgefield's effort to keep the city clean and “green” with on-theme events, challenges, and activities.



Spring Festival

MAY 6, 2023 | 9AM-2PM

Celebrate the anniversary of Ridgefield First Saturdays at our annual celebration of spring!

City Events

MARCH 21, 2023 | 5:30PM

Hear an update from the Mayor on the past year's achievements as well as current and future projects in Ridgefield.

