

THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

2022 | 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




Oh my gosh how time flies. I am completing my fourth year as Mayor, and what a great four years it has been. I have residents and elected officials ask me time and time again "how is it that Ridgefield is doing so well?" My answer is simply that our City Council and staff have fostered many partnerships along the way to assist in providing quality neighborhoods and unique businesses where residents can live, work, play and learn.

The Ridgefield City Council has worked closely with our local partners like CTRAN to get better service here. We've worked with our State Legislators as well as our Federal delegation to help the Council fulfill our community's priorities like additional parks space and improved roads.

In the last four years, Ridgefield has also enjoyed welcoming many new stores and restaurants like Rosauers that have made our lives so much better, and we look forward to many more businesses coming to Ridgefield in the coming years that will bring additional jobs and the services our residents need and want.

City Council has asked your opinions of what we should be working on through surveys, a public engagement website, and meetings. Your emphasis to build a strong and safe community drove the addition of new police officers and safer roads. Parks and trails are always at the top of the list too, and of course community events including Ridgefield's award winning "First Saturdays".

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 Don Stose

Re-elected Councilmembers

Ridgefield residents re-elected three City Council members to serve another term beginning in 2022: Don Stose, Ron Onslow and Jennifer Lindsay.

Mayor Stose joined the Council in 2008 and has served as Mayor for 4 years. Mayor Stose has helped guide the community through unprecedented growth by leading Council work with schools, funding partners for parks and roads, and developers who he always pushes to be better. He is active in the Pink Lemonade Project, Ridgefield Lion's Club and quick to volunteer for any community project. His response to most any idea is to flash a friendly smile and say "we can do that."

Councilor Onslow has been on the Council since 2007 and served as Mayor for 10 years. The Onslow family entered the restaurant business in 1901, which Ron continued from 1963-2004. After retirement, he moved to Ridgefield and immediately became involved in the community, including City government. His tenure as Mayor brought stability and vision for the community that carries forward to today. His focus in recent years has been advocating for Ridgefield at a regional level with the Regional



Transportation Council, CTRAN, Association of Washington Cities, Clark College Culinary Arts Advisory Committee, and Urban County Policy Board.

Councilor Lindsay volunteered on the City's Planning Commission from 2016 to 2018 and then brought her passion and intellect to City Council. Her work continues to be focused on supporting people whose voices are sometimes not heard as well and assuring they are included in public decision making and involved in our community. She also works with Council to keep a small-town feel as the City grows and create a trail system network throughout the City.

Inclement Weather/Snow and Water

Winter is here and Ridgefield Public Works employees, plows, sanders, and de-icer are ready to keep our community safe and accessible. When snow is in the forecast the crew ensures that City equipment is ready, preemptively applies de-icer to the City's roadways and monitors the condition of the roads as the snow begins to fall.

Should snow and ice begin to accumulate on the roads, streets are classified by priority for plowing. Main roadways such as Pioneer St, Hillhurst Rd, and Main Ave are cleared first, followed by key collector roadways such as Heron, Pioneer Canyon and Wells Drive. During severe snow events the crew works 24/7 to keep open the major streets that connect police, fire, and medical services. Plowing may leave a slight build-up of snow at the ends of private driveways. You can help the City and your neigh-



bors by shoveling this build-up out of the way.

If you are driving in snow or ice, remember to use the accelerator and brakes gently. Increase your following distance and decrease your speed. Never follow City snow removal equipment.

Budget & Finance

Ridgefield Council members adopted a balanced \$62.9 million 2022 Budget on December 2, 2021. The budget includes key community investments in people and projects including better roads, parks, trails, and public safety. Ridgefield uses seven City Council goals and community surveys to guide and develop the annual budget according to council and resident priorities.

Even with extensive investments in residents and infrastructure, as well as decreasing the burden on residents, the City of Ridgefield remains committed to maintaining strong reserves to cover future emergencies, capital repair and replacement, debt service, retirement, or downturns in the economy. The 2022 budget is available online or at City Hall (230 Pioneer St) during business hours.



**Park Reservations
Open for 2022!**



Vehicle License Registration Fee Eliminated

On Thursday, December 2, City Council members unanimously delivered on their promise to eliminate the \$30 Vehicle License Registration Fee charged to Ridgefield residents after voters passed a ballot measure to fund necessary pavement preservation with a sales tax instead.

According to the Washington Department of Licensing, it will take until April 1, 2022 for their system to update and remove the fee.

The approved Proposition 1 implements a 0.2% Sales and Use Tax to replace the vehicle license fee. The measure passed with 59.28% "Yes" votes and the election was certified on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. The retail sales tax rate within Ridgefield city limits will increase from 8.4% to 8.6% on April 1, 2022.



New Police Officers

In 2021 we hired two additional police officers. Last January we hired Ric Doran from Portland Police and in November we hired Officer Roberto Cuneta as our newest officer. Officer Cuneta grew up in Vancouver and played football and basketball at Heritage High School. He married his high school sweetheart and now lives here in Ridgefield with their son. Prior to working for Ridgefield, he worked at the Cowlitz Tribal Police and the Warm Springs Tribal Police. Since Officer Cuneta is already certified as a police officer in the State of Washington, his training time is substantially reduced and he will be able to hit the streets after his field training which will be completed in February. In 2022 we have also been authorized to hire another two officers ensure our community stays safe as we grow. In 2023 I will be asking for a helicopter! Just kidding. No Helicopters. Have a great year.

– Chief Brooks



RIDGEFIELD FIRST SATURDAYS

Ridgefield First Saturdays will follow all local and state health guidelines related to COVID-19. Events may be adapted or cancelled due to changing local conditions. Please check our website for the most up to date information.



FEB 5, 2022 | 10AM-2PM

Family friendly competition in spud-related games, football and baseball drills!



APR 2, 2022 | 9AM-2PM

Put your detective skills to the test with a family-friendly mystery game in Downtown Ridgefield!



MAR 5, 2022 | 9AM

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



MAY 7, 2022 | 9AM-2PM

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

City Events



March 1, 2022 | 5:30PM

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



April 23, 2022 | 9AM-1PM

Free disposal for City of Ridgefield residents to dispose of large bulky items, yard debris, and other waste.