

# THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

2023 | 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)



Thank you to all of the residents, stakeholders, business owners, elected officials and friends who joined me for the annual State of the City on March 21. The evening reminded me of the small town charm and active community that I cherish in Ridgefield.

We started the evening with the First Annual Make a Difference Awards. These awards are to recognize the unsung heroes that make Ridgefield the special place we call home. The community selected the Ridgefield Lion's Club and Wendy Lehner as the organization and individual to receive this year's awards. Join me in thanking them for their dedicated volunteer efforts.

We continued with the premiere of the City Council's State of the City video. During the video, council and special guests shared stories about specific work that

we are doing: Clark College at Boschma Farms to provide needed advanced education opportunities; YMCA creating an active gathering place for our residents; economic development like Costco to provide local jobs, services, and tax revenue; infrastructure being built this year to provide safe connections for cars, bikes and pedestrians; new parks and trails for recreation opportunities around the city; and the heart of our city – the destination downtown – bustling.

We are dedicated to keeping what makes Ridgefield unique – growing opportunities for small business, enhancing our historic downtown, supporting active lifestyles, and preserving natural resources. We are managing Ridgefield's growth in a way that services, recreation and education are available in our City. And we can't do that work without you! To provide feedback, learn more about these and other projects, and stay connected to what is happening in Ridgefield, find Ridgefield Roundtable on the City's website: [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org)

## Planning for Projected Growth

### What Is the Growth Management Act?

Since 1990, cities and counties in Washington have periodically developed and implemented Comprehensive Plans to manage projected population growth. This is a requirement under a series of state statutes known as the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA establishes thirteen goals to guide growth management, from accommodating housing to protecting the environment to encouraging economic development.

### Why is this important now?

Ridgefield last updated its Comprehensive Plan in 2016 and is beginning a new update process this Summer. By June 2025, Council will adopt a new plan articulating goals and policies to be implemented through 2045.

### How can I learn more and get involved?

If you are a member of the Ridgefield community, you are a stakeholder. As the update process gets going, we will be seeking collaboration with community members in a variety of forums. A good place to get started will be Ridgefield Roundtable: [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org)



## Rachel Coker Resigns Her Position on the Ridgefield City Council

Ridgefield City Councilmember Rachel Coker resigned her position effective April 17, 2023. Rachel will continue to be active in the Ridgefield community. You may find her participating in community events, volunteering for the Ridgefield Lion's Club, continuing an active role in the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce, visiting the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge or sitting at Eagle's Nest Lookout Park enjoying a light spring rain and the sound of singing birds.

Councilor Coker moved to Ridgefield in search of a better education and community for her family. She was appointed to the Parks Advisory Board in 2019 and brought her background in business and her experience in various communities to the City Council when she was appointed in 2021. While on Council she has been an advocate for the protection of our natural spaces and resources, the sustainability of our community in the ways it grows and operates, and the continued robust education of Ridgefield youth.

When informed of the resignation, Mayor Jennifer Lindsay said: "I want to thank Rachel for her contributions to the Council and the Ridgefield community. She has always asked thoughtful and analytical questions about policies and projects, and brought an important voice to Council decisions. She will be missed."

## Recognition Awarded to Finance Department

In April 2023, the City of Ridgefield received recognition for 2021 Financial Reporting. The City of Ridgefield is proud to be one of a handful of entities to receive recognition for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) as well as the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The City has received recognition for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for eight years and created its first PAFR for the 2021 fiscal year.

A Popular Annual Financial Report, or PAFR, is a document that is intended to convey the financial results of the City's operations to those stakeholder's of the City that do not necessarily have a background in public finance. The Finance Department has made both reports available on the city website, [RidgefieldWa.us](http://RidgefieldWa.us)





## Recreation is Alive in Ridgefield Parks

### Discover Ridgefield Parks this summer!

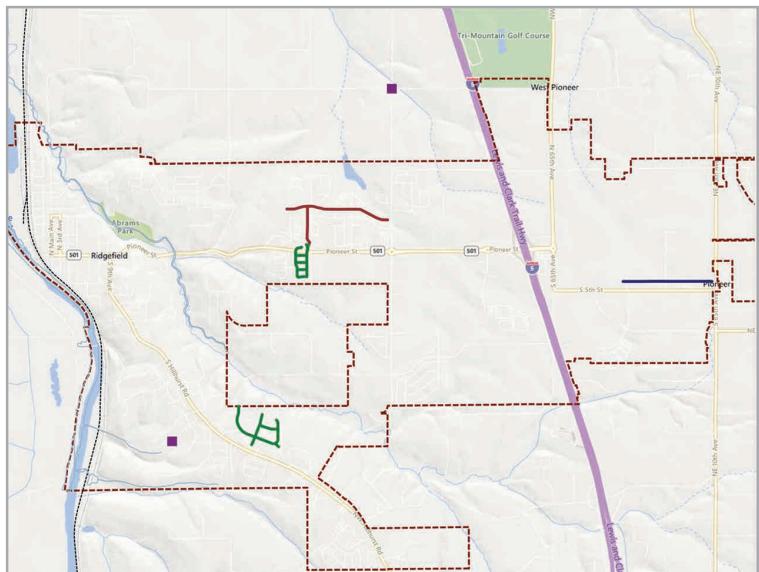
Abrams Park features play structures, a disc golf course, an orienteering course, fields, and a reservable picnic shelter. Overlook Park, in the center of downtown, is the perfect location for a picnic and will soon be home to a 2,000 square foot water play area (opening Summer 2023!). Visit our website, RidgefieldWa.us to find a park near you.

## Pavement Preservation Work Continues This Summer

Ridgefield's livability, economic vitality, and public safety depend on a healthy, viable street system. This includes upgrading substandard roads, improving pavement conditions, and improving ADA accessibility. Scheduled maintenance extends the life of our streets by 50% and costs less than expensive repairs needed without it. Every year the City Council has increased the funding for this maintenance and preservation, which – thanks to Ridgefield voters – comes from a sales tax paid by all who shop or build in the City.

In 2023, the following projects will put these funds to use:

- S 5th St (S 74th Pl to N 85th Ave): Road Rehabilitation
- South Harrier Road: Asphalt Repairs
- N Royle Road/NW 289th Street Intersection: Asphalt Repairs
- N Pioneer Canyon Drive (N 32nd Ave to Royle Rd): Rubberized Chip Seal
- N 35th Avenue (N Pioneer Canyon Dr to Pioneer St): Rubberized Chip Seal
- Cedar Ridge Neighborhood (various streets): Crack and Slurry Seal
- Wishing Wells Estates Neighborhood (various streets): Crack and Slurry Seal



## CITY LEADERSHIP

### CITY COUNCIL

Ron Onslow  
Lee Wells  
Matt Cole  
Judy Chipman

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

# City of Ridgefield Events



## Musicians in the Park

12PM Wednesdays  
June - September

Free live music in downtown Ridgefield from 12pm-1:30pm.



## Meet Me on Wednesdays

10AM Wednesdays  
June - September

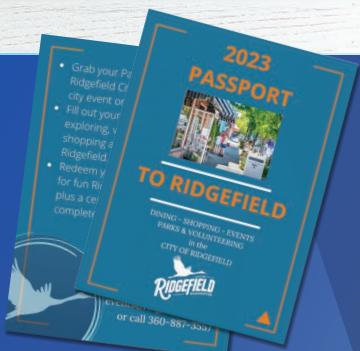
Meet community members in downtown Ridgefield for outdoor exercise and socializing.



## Farm to Table

Saturday, August 19th

Outdoor community dinner in the street complete with live music, fresh flowers, and local wine and beer. Ticketed, 21+ Event.



## Get involved, learn, and support Ridgefield by filling out the first ever Ridgefield Passport!

Get your passport at City Hall or a First Saturday event and partake in volunteer activities, sight-seeing, shopping, dining, and more!



## Big Paddle

June 3, 2023

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



## Day of Festivals

August 5, 2023

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



## Downtown Market & Street Fair

July 1, 2023

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



## Multicultural Festival

September 2, 2023

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