

THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

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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



As summer months turns to fall, it is fun to look back on all of the community celebrations we have just completed. Big Paddle, Fourth of July, Sausage Festival, Main Street Day, the new Dragon Boat Program, and the Multicultural Festival just to name a few.

As we return to school routines, I want to use this chance to remind everyone to please exercise patience during school drop-off and pick-up times. Be extra aware of students who may be walking or riding bicycles to and from school. Safety measures like lighted crosswalk signals only work when pedestrians use them and drivers pay attention to them. If your children will be crossing any street, please encourage them to do so properly and use lighted signals where they are available. If you are driving, please be aware of all pedestrian traffic.

Whether you are a longtime or new resident, fall offers many opportunities to get connected and engaged in Ridgefield. October's BirdFest and Bluegrass on October 7 is a celebration of both Ridgefield's Wildlife Refuge and bluegrass music, with performances occurring throughout the day. Mark your calendars for the annual Downtown Trick or Treat on Halloween from 3pm-5pm. This is a favorite tradition for the young and old alike as our downtown streets come alive with kids in all sorts of fun costumes. Whatever it is that makes fall fun for you, I hope part of that includes our Ridgefield community!



Councilor in Action

Councilor Judy Chipman's passion is helping others. Her energetic spirit and kind heart are focused on Ridgefield's food bank, Neighbors Helping Neighbors. As a board member in 2022, Judy learned that funding had reached crisis levels. She helped to quickly raise enough funds to assure that the food bank would stay open. She is also a member of 100 Women Who Care, an organization of ladies who donate to local non-profit organizations.



Judy grew up in Ridgefield where her family grew beans on a farm, attended community events and picked strawberries at Royle's berry farm. She transferred to La Center High School to become the second pianist in their music program.

Judy returned to Ridgefield with her husband nine years ago. They have three grandchildren, enjoy walking the neighborhood and attending Raptors games. She previously served 9 years on the Columbia Credit Union board and is a retiree from Bonneville Power Administration.

In 2018, Judy was appointed to the Planning Commission and to City Council in 2021. Her focus for Council is helping to shape the future of the city while preserving the small town feel and assuring that all residents have an opportunity to be heard.

Police Department Updates

2023 has been full of exciting changes for the Ridgefield Police Department. Under the leadership of Chief Cathy Doriot, who has served the department since 1989, and Lieutenant Rachel Andrew who joined this year, the department has continued to grow. Two officers have joined the department this year through lateral transfer, Officers Anthony Coblenz, Darrell Benton, and one officer, Igor Fokin, has just started as entry level.

In June, the department moved into the newly built Police Station within The Bluffs building at 101 Mill Street, Suite 110. The move has provided much needed additional space for personnel as well as improved safety through a secured parking lot and daylight basement.

Finally, we celebrated National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1. This annual event provides an opportunity to strengthen police-community partnership and build an atmosphere where neighbors look out for neighbors and where the police are an approachable and connected part of the community. Our full department was in attendance, as well as the Neighbors on Watch (NOW) volunteer group.

Stay Up to Date on Ridgefield Roundtable

Wondering what the latest update is on a city project? Visit RidgefieldRoundtable.org, our dedicated community engagement site.

Ridgefield Roundtable is a tool designed to make it easy for Ridgefield residents to stay up to date, participate in community decisions, and provide ideas and feedback, and ask questions on a variety of topics affecting our community. On the site you will find pages for a wide variety of projects, from park development and pavement preservation, to art installations and Comprehensive Plan Update.

Register for a free, anonymous account on Ridgefield Roundtable to receive an invitation each time we publish a new project or ask for community feedback.





Development Activity

In 2016, City Council adopted a comprehensive plan designating commercial zoning for future development around the I-5 junction and Pioneer Street/Royle Road intersection. The future is now: with over 15 businesses open in Pioneer Village, Tractor Supply providing a new retail option on S 65th Avenue, and more, this vision for Ridgefield is coming to fruition.

While 2023 has been an exciting year for new businesses, there is more to come in 2024 and beyond from credit unions to medical and dental offices, to local and national restaurants. As for one of the bigger openings on the horizon, rough grading for Costco and 13 surrounding commercial building sites is well underway. Infrastructure installation is scheduled for 2024, then the wholesaler should start going vertical and be open in early 2025.

To learn about upcoming ribbon cuttings and other networking events with the local business community, visit the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce website. What to know what's developing on a certain piece of property? Check out Ridgefield's development activity map.

Pay Attention to Changing Weather

Inground sprinkler systems help quench your landscape's thirst during spring and summer months. As the season changes to Fall, keep an eye on the changing weather and your yard's water needs. It is during this time of change that we often see sprinklers running while it is currently – or just finished – raining. Following weather conditions will help you to reduce water waste through irrigation.

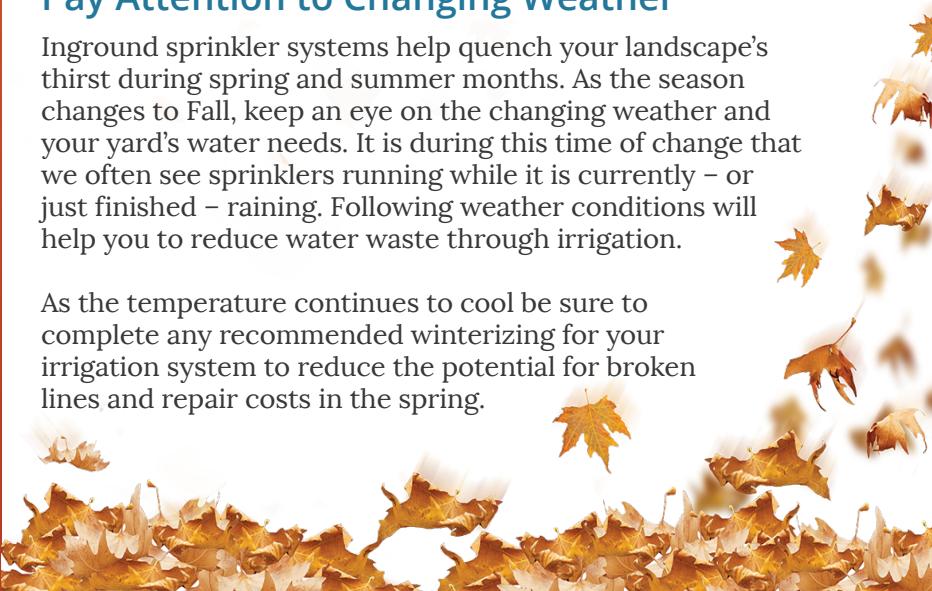
As the temperature continues to cool be sure to complete any recommended winterizing for your irrigation system to reduce the potential for broken lines and repair costs in the spring.

CITY LEADERSHIP

CITY COUNCIL

Ron Onslow
Lee Wells
Matt Cole
Judy Chipman

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





BirdFest & Bluegrass October 7, 2023 9AM-9PM

Commemorate the annual Wildlife Refuge and First Saturdays festival with activities both on the refuge and downtown, including birding activities, vendors, crafts, bluegrass music and a Pickers Festival!

Come enjoy music, fun, food, family-friendly activities and a sense of community at downtown Ridgefield's First Saturdays!



Hometown Celebration December 2, 2023 9AM-7PM

Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of Downtown Ridgefield with Santa visits, crafts, food and gift vendors, a tree lighting and so much more. Enjoy the Circle of Trees decorated by local organizations in Overlook Park during the month of December.

City of Ridgefield Events



Downtown Trick or Treat October 31, 2023 3PM-5PM

Put on your costume and come Trick-or-Treat at participating Downtown Ridgefield businesses from 3pm to 5pm on Halloween!



Make A Difference Month November 2023

Kick off the season of giving with our Make A Difference Month challenge. Participate in activities throughout the month that will make a difference in your community.

Community Events Calendar

Find information about City events and festivals, activities sponsored by community organizations, special activities at Ridgefield businesses and more. Hosting a public event? You can request to add your event by emailing Events@ridgefieldwa.us. View the calendar at RidgefieldWa.us/community-events-calendar

Text Message Alerts

Receive texts directly to your mobile phone about urgent issues such as road closures, major community events, city office closures and emergencies. Text "RIDGEFIELD" to (360) 262-1528 to sign up to receive messages.

Email Newsletters

You can sign up to stay informed about what matters to you through the City's website. Email newsletters are delivered regularly about City Council, Parks Board and Planning Commission meetings, traffic impacts, and city news. Sign up at RidgefieldWa.us/emails