

the Ridge

News and Information about the City we love

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WA

2024 | EDITION 1

Happy New Year!

The holidays in Ridgefield are bright, joyful, and full of traditions both old and new.

This season reveals some of the best characteristics of our community – our enthusiasm, through extravagant decorations of homes, businesses and trees; our smalltown pride, through supporting our many local shops and restaurants; and our generosity, through multiple charitable programs focused on making the holidays special for everyone.

At the end of this busy season, I always enjoy taking time to reflect on the past year and set goals for the new year. In that spirit, I would like to invite you to the State of the City on Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Ridgefield High School Performing Arts Center. We, myself and the rest of the Councilmembers, are currently preparing the presentation and are looking forward to sharing with our community the work completed in 2023, and what is to come in 2024. Please join us to learn about how we are planning for the future of Ridgefield, while maintaining our community's unique roots.

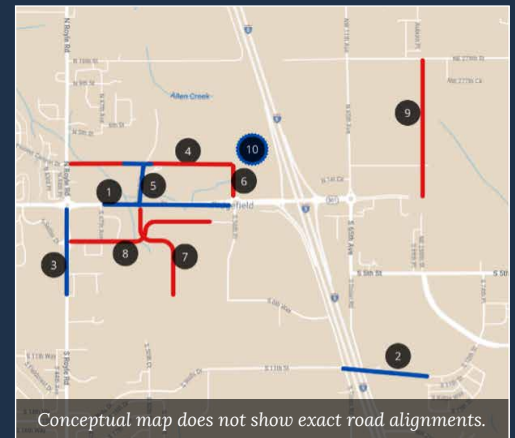
In addition to presentation of the State of the City video, we will be presenting the 2024 Make a Difference Awards on March 19. We started this award last year to highlight an individual and an organization that deserve recognition for their contributions and commitment to helping others in need, improving our neighborhoods, creating community, and making Ridgefield a better place to live. Nominations are now open and may be submitted at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Make-a-difference-award through March 5.



See you there!

Transportation Improvements Coming Around Pioneer Street and Interstate Junction

PROJECT	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION
1 Widen Pioneer Street (4 lanes) from 56th Place to Royal Road	2024
2 Build the South 10/11th Street Corridor and I-5 overpass	2028
3 Widen Royle Road to minor arterial (3 lanes)	2024/25
4 Build Pioneer Canyon Drive as industrial/commercial collector	2024
5 Build N 51st Ave as industrial/commercial collector	2024/25
6 Build N 56th Ave as industrial/commercial collector	2024
7 Build N 51st Ave as minor arterial	2024
8 Build new east-west collector south of Pioneer (SR 501)	2024/25
9 Build new north-south connector east of I-5	2024/25
10 Build new regional stormwater facility at I-5 junction	2024



— City Project — Developer Project

The 2016 Update to the Ridgefield Comprehensive plan, developed with community input, outlines direction and policies to accommodate 8,708 new jobs, consistent with the City vision to develop a regional employment center, quality neighborhoods, and a complete community. The Junction subarea, centered around I-5 and Pioneer Street, plays an important role in attracting employers who provide high-quality jobs and employment opportunities for residents. Construction will begin soon on critical infrastructure improvements to increase the capacity of the area before new retail and services open.

A group of interconnected transportation infrastructure projects are planned in the area to accommodate the expected increase in traffic volume and provide access to new areas. Several of these projects will be completed by private developers, paying for the increased infrastructure needs their projects create. Other portions must be completed by the city. The project list and map above provide an overview of the work to be done. The City has an opportunity to design the area to be pedestrian and cyclist friendly, while addressing the need for increased vehicle traffic capacity. For additional information, visit RidgefieldRoundtable.org.

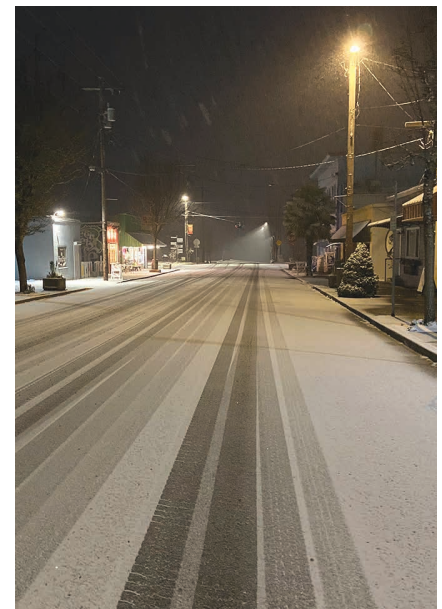
We Are Severe Weather Ready, Are You?

Public Works prepares for severe weather events by diligently following weather reports and readying equipment. In severe weather, crews begin clearing streets in the early hours to prepare main roadways for the morning commute. When appropriate, the City deploys the following methods to improve driving safety:

- Pretreat streets with magnesium chloride to lower the freezing temperature of water.
- Plow to within one-half inch of the pavement.
- Distribute sanding rock to help provide traction. *When sanding rock is used, it is practice to sweep streets to remove rock after the event has passed.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE

- Get a snow shovel and broom. Clearing sidewalks is the responsibility of adjacent property owners.
- Bookmark our Severe Weather webpage, Ridgefieldwa.us/350/Severe-Weather, to check snow and ice removal information and find updates on road conditions and closures during a Severe Weather event.
- Sign up to receive Text Messages about urgent issues, such as emergency road or city office closures, by texting "Ridgefield" to (360) 262-1528.



Envision Ridgefield 2045 is a multi-year initiative to update the City's long range planning document, the Comprehensive Plan. As we work to update the plan, community members and the City will work together to develop a guide for Ridgefield's growth and development. There will be numerous ways to get involved throughout this process including community survey, stakeholder interviews, conversations and community events, and public open houses. Early outreach will focus on visioning, while later conversations will focus on specific topics included in the plan, such as land use, economic development, transportation, and parks. Sign up for email updates on this project at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/overview.



ABRAMS PARK MASTER PLAN

Abrams Park, steeped in Ridgefield history, spans 40+ acres with diverse amenities like play areas, sports fields, nature spaces, and more. As our city expands, there's a vital need for a long-term vision for Abrams Park's future. Your input is key to shaping this vision. Join us in this collaborative effort by taking the survey at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/abrams-park-master-plan.



WATERFRONT PARK MASTER PLAN

The City is teaming up with the Port of Ridgefield to create a vibrant waterfront park along Lake River. Before breaking ground, we're crafting a comprehensive Master Plan that considers community needs, wants, and the site's logistical constraints. Your thoughts are essential in making this community park truly special. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to be part of this exciting collaboration at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/waterfront-park.

Budgeting for City Priorities & Measuring Our Success

Ridgefield City Council adopted the 2024 City Budget on December 7, 2023. The expense budget includes \$52.3 million in strategic capital investments such as widening Pioneer Street and constructing a roundabout at 50th Ave, construction of a 5-million-gallon water reservoir on the east side, and the Kennedy well field project to prepare for growth projected over the next 20 years. The implementation of a local tax increment financing plan near the Interstate 5 junction will provide the financial footing for the city to build infrastructure that will spur an estimated \$700 million dollars of private development. This commercial development will provide services requested by Ridgefield residents and sustainable property and retail sales tax growth. The operating budget of \$24.7 million will support continued high priority public services such as public safety, streets, water, parks and community events. The budget also includes six new full-time staff positions, two additional police officers and four public works maintenance workers.

As a planning and policy document, one fundamental purpose of the City's budget is to allocate resources that support the community's vision and priorities. City Council has adopted seven organizational goals to provide direction for staff and policy decisions. New services or initiatives are considered based on how they assist in meeting these organizational goals. The goals are:

- **Goal Number 1 :** Plan and Manage the Growth of the City
- **Goal Number 2:** Revitalize Downtown as a Destination Location
- **Goal Number 3:** Create and Maintain Economic Stability for the City
- **Goal Number 4:** Assure the City's infrastructure is able to Meet Growing Community Needs
- **Goal Number 5:** Retain Culture and History of Ridgefield
- **Goal Number 6:** Maximize the City's Natural Resources and Attractions
- **Goal Number 7:** Actively Engage and Communicate with the Ridgefield Community



Staff have developed performance measures within these goals to provide a quantifiable way to recognize success and identify areas for improvement. Performance measures also offer transparency and allow the public to hold the City accountable for stated objectives. These metrics can be reviewed in the digital budget by scanning the code above.

Stay Connected, Get Involved and Enjoy the Ridgefield Community!



PUBLIC MEETINGS

- **City Council Meetings**
6:30 PM, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month*
- **Planning Commission Meetings**
6:30 PM, 1st Wednesday of each month*
- **Parks Board Meetings**
6:30 PM, 2nd Wednesday of each month*

*Public meetings can be attended in person or virtually.
Visit RidgefieldWa.us for details.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

BOWLS & BOOKS

February 3, 2024 | 9 AM- 2 PM

Celebrate Library Lovers Month at the Ridgefield Community Library and enjoy a free bowl of soup or ice cream from a participating downtown business of your choice.

ARTS MONTH KICKOFF & COLOR RUN

March 2, 2024 | 9 AM- 2 PM

Start Youth Arts Month on the right foot with a color filled 2-mile run or walk in Downtown Ridgefield supporting The Ridge Association.

STATE OF THE CITY

March 19, 2024 | 6:30 PM

Watch the premiere of the Mayor's 2024 State of the City video update on the past year's achievements as well as current and future projects in Ridgefield. Reception with light refreshments beginning at 6:30 PM, presentation at 7 PM.

RIDGEFIELD GREEN + CLEAN

April 6, 2024 | 9 AM- 2 PM

Take part in Ridgefield's effort to keep the city clean and green with service and sustainability themed events, challenges, and activities.

SPRING FESTIVAL

May 4, 2024 | 9 AM- 2 PM

Celebrate the anniversary of Ridgefield First Saturdays at our annual celebration of spring complete with vendors, crafts, plant sale, art show, and more!

SAVE THE DATE

- February 3, Saturday – **Bowls & Books**
- March 2, Saturday – **Arts Month Kickoff & Color Run**
- March 19, Tuesday – **State of the City**
- April 6, Saturday – **Ridgefield Green + Clean**
- April 20, Saturday – **Spring Clean Up**
- May 4, Saturday – **Spring Festival**
- June 1, Saturday – **Big Paddle**
- July 3, Wednesday – **Musicians in the Park Season Kick-Off**
- July 6, Saturday – **Downtown Market & Street Fair**
- August 3, Saturday – **Ridgefield Day of Festivals: City Days, RAA Forest Fair, Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Races**
- August 6, Tuesday – **National Night Out**
- August 17, Saturday – **Farm to Table Dinner**
- September 7, Saturday – **Multicultural Festival**
- October 5, Saturday – **BirdFest & Bluegrass**
- October 31, Thursday – **Downtown Trick or Treat**
- December 7, Saturday – **Hometown Celebration & Tree Lighting**



Communication Survey

How do you prefer to learn about city news and programs?

Help us to improve the way we communicate, connect and engage with our residents and businesses in Ridgefield. Take the communication survey at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/communication-survey.