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News and Information about the City we love

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WA

2024 | EDITION 2

## Hello Ridgefield!

Spring is in full swing and bringing out the best of our town: baseball games, live music, outdoor dining at local restaurants and taphouses, and community events. Drier weather also brings with it road and building construction activities that show just how much we are growing.

Speaking of growth, in March we released the 2024 State of the City video and held an open house focused on Ridgefield's plan coming together. In the video, Council members walked through how we have planned for and executed the plan for Ridgefield over the past several years transforming our community from a small town of less than 2,500, to a thriving city of 16,000 with new services and amenities opening every day.

We also invited you to get involved in the creation of our new growth plan – Envision Ridgefield 2045. We're looking out over the next 20 years to figure out who we are now, and who we want to be in 2045. We're looking to our residents, our community for ideas on how to build on our successes and learn from our challenges to continue to grow smart and maintain the small town feel that we all love so much.

If you haven't had a chance to watch the 15-minute State of the City yet, I invite you to do so at [RidgefieldWa.us/SOTC](https://RidgefieldWa.us/SOTC). If you are ready to get involved in our new growth plan, join us at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/comp-plan](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/comp-plan).

- Mayor Ron Onslow



## Prepare for Road Construction Season

The return of summer sunshine in the PNW also means a return of roadwork.

To ensure our investment in new roadway pavement and application of preservation methods lasts, our crews need warm, dry weather, leaving a relatively small window of time to perform this work.

This year, you can expect to see road projects all around Ridgefield, including pavement preservation projects, the construction of new roundabouts and widening of Pioneer between Royle Road and 56th Avenue, and various other projects on city, county and state roads.



South Royle Road Corridor Improvements

We try to schedule work at night or other off-peak times and encourage contractors to minimize full and partial road closures as much as possible, but some impacts to travel time are unavoidable. To stay up to date on these activities, visit our website [RidgefieldWa.us/traffic](https://RidgefieldWa.us/traffic) to view current notices and sign up for email alerts.

For more information on road projects such as 2024 Pavement Preservation and I-5 to Royle Road Transportation Improvements, visit [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org).

## Project Highlights

### Police Department Drone Program

The Ridgefield Police Department's top priorities are your safety, security, confidence and comfort. We are implementing new modern technology designed to increase the safety and effectiveness of our police investigations, while ensuring residents privacy and security. For more information on our new Drone Program, visit [RidgefieldWa.us/Police](https://RidgefieldWa.us/Police).

### Pioneer Widening and 50th Avenue Roundabout

The City will be improving traffic capacity and flow, and improving multi-modal transportation along Pioneer Street between Royle Road and Interstate 5. When completed, there will be a four-lane roadway along Pioneer Street from just west of Royle Road to I-5, and a new east-west collector roadway (Pioneer Canyon Drive) connecting 50th Avenue to an extension of 56th Place. These projects will be completed prior to new businesses opening in the adjacent developments. For more information, visit [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/i5-to-royle-road](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/i5-to-royle-road).

### Waterfront Park Master Plan

The City is teaming up with the Port of Ridgefield to create a vibrant waterfront park along Lake River. We're working to narrow down to a preferred concept, using community feedback as the guideposts. We look forward to collecting more community input during Big Paddle on Saturday, June 1. Learn more and add your thoughts at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/waterfront-park](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/waterfront-park).

### Envision Ridgefield 2045

We're updating the City's long range planning tool, the Comprehensive Growth Plan, and the first step is to develop a community vision for Ridgefield in the year 2045. Share with us what you love or would like to see change in Ridgefield at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/vision-questionnaire](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/vision-questionnaire). We need your unique perspective on housing, jobs, services, parks, transportation, and more.

## Meet Your Newest Council Member: Katie Favela

City Council appointed Katie Favela to fill a mid-term vacancy after a rigorous and competitive process that included a detailed application, public forum, and interviews with City Council. Favela was appointed on April 11 and has already been an excellent addition to the Council. She will stand for election in November 2025 to retain the seat through the remainder of the term.

Council member Favela is a social worker who has served as chair on the Planning Commission and volunteers with the Boosters, Ridgefield School District Equity and Engagement Board, and welcoming host family for the Ridgefield Raptors. On her application, she emphasized the importance of community, *"A strong community generates a participatory energy that makes residents feel integrated and empowered... This sense of community brings out the best in people, and inspires them to do more for themselves and those around them."* Welcome to City Council, Katie Favela!



## Your Dollars, Your City: Transparency in Action

Financial transparency is critical for local government as it fosters accountability, trust, and informed decision-making among residents. The City of Ridgefield recognizes this importance and has built financial transparency and availability of information into our systems and practices.

One transparency initiative is the publication of a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which simplifies complex financial information for the public who may not have a background in finance. Ridgefield has published PAFRs for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, and

received a Certificate of Achievement for both. You can find the PAFR, and the more complex Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at [RidgefieldWa.us/199/Annual-Financial-Reports](https://RidgefieldWa.us/199/Annual-Financial-Reports).

Other financial transparency efforts include an online Transparency Center and Digital Budget Book. These tools provide easy access to budget details with easy to understand, interactive charts. The City takes pride in publishing a budget document that meets the highest principles of governmental budgeting and has earned an award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for seven consecutive years. The budget may be viewed at [RidgefieldWa.us/200/City-Budget](https://RidgefieldWa.us/200/City-Budget).

## What's Being Built There?

Building and development is happening all around our City. You can stay informed on the status of private developments through two tools on our website:

### Development Activity Map

An interactive map with project information organized by location. [RidgefieldWa.us/168/Development-Activity-Map](https://RidgefieldWa.us/168/Development-Activity-Map)

### Land Use Notices

Have you seen a Public Notice sign on a property while driving and wondered what it was? These notices are all posted online at [RidgefieldWa.us/331/Development- Public-Notices](https://RidgefieldWa.us/331/Development-Public-Notices)





## Downtown Parking on Our Busiest Days

The Ridgefield Farmers Market, new splash pad, numerous restaurants and food carts, and community events are sure to draw crowds into our historic downtown this Spring and Summer. The lack of parking available in our Downtown Core Area can be a challenge on these busy days. The City has been working with Downtown merchants, residents and Ridgefield Main Street to create additional parking capacity in the downtown core by adding spaces, creating turnover in existing high demand spaces, and helping visitors locate public parking.



The proposed plan would add an estimated 20-30 spaces in the Downtown Core Area and encourage turnover with strategic time limits in high demand spaces. We will keep you updated on our progress toward these changes at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/downtown-parking](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/downtown-parking).

In the meantime, keep these tips in mind the next time you head downtown during a busy event:

- ✓ Carpool if possible, travel with family members or neighbors to minimize the cars in the area.
- ✓ Check the event website for parking instructions. Many events have designated parking areas and some even have buses or trolleys arranged to transport people from parking to the main event.
- ✓ Be prepared to have to walk a couple of blocks: arrive early, locate a drop off spot closer to the event for any passengers with mobility challenges, bring your patience.

## Event Highlights

### BIG PADDLE

**Saturday, June 1**

Join in a celebration of trails of all kinds at the Ridgefield Waterfront – on the water and on land. Participate in guided paddles and hikes, listen to live music or enjoy a beer garden and lawn games. Attendees will also have a chance to engage with the Waterfront Park Master Plan project team and shape the future of the Ridgefield Waterfront.

### MUSICIANS IN THE PARK

**Wednesdays and Fridays, July 3 – September 4**

Enjoy a music filled lunch at Overlook Park during this series. Local musicians will plan from 12 PM-1:30 PM every Wednesday, and select Fridays throughout the summer.

### MEET ME ON WEDNESDAYS

**Wednesdays, July 3 – September 4**

Meet community members for themed hosted walks each week that will start at 10 AM at Overlook Park.

### DOWNTOWN MARKET & STREET FAIR

**Saturday, July 6**

Continue the Independence Day small town celebration vibe going with Farmers Market, vendors and a street sale in Downtown Ridgefield.

### RIDGEFIELD DAY OF FESTIVALS

**Saturday, August 3**

Celebrate community at one or all of three exciting events: City Days, Ridgefield Art Association Forest Fair, and Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Races.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**Tuesday, August 6**

Celebrate police-community partnerships with a free hot dog dinner, a chance to meet your police officers and learn more about public safety.