

# the Ridge

News and Information About the City We Love

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WA

2024 | EDITION 3

New roads, new roundabouts, new businesses and new neighbors. There is no denying that Ridgefield is changing. As we adjust to meet the needs of our new population, we have a unique opportunity to maintain and build on the strong community foundation that makes Ridgefield, Ridgefield.

City Council and staff are committed to maintaining and fostering strong community connections through community building events and activities, such as public meetings about City projects like Envision Ridgefield 2045; supporting our local community organizations by serving as liaisons, supporting fundraising initiatives and maintaining a City Partner program; and building relationships with residents and community members in our everyday interactions by volunteering, frequenting local businesses, attending ribbon cuttings and more.

You can help nourish our small-town roots by getting to know your neighbors, getting involved in local volunteer organizations and events, supporting local businesses and staying connected to Ridgefield news.

If you aren't sure where to start, check out the city website at [www.RidgefieldWa.us](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us). There you will find community event and meeting calendars, contact information for community organizations, and the latest city news and announcements.

See you around,

- Mayor Ron Onslow



## Dragon Boat Program Continues to Make Waves

For the second year in a row,

Ridgefield's Dragon Boat Program has brought excitement and community spirit to Lake River. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, community partners, and staff, the 2024 program featured two components: Team Calapya and a free Community Paddling experience.

Team Calapya began practicing on Lake River in March, honing their skills in this dynamic sport. A dragon boat team consists of 20 paddlers, a drummer to keep rhythm, and a tiller for steering. The team has competed in several regional races, including the Portland Rose Festival, Paddle for Life, and the Portland Dragon Boat Festival. Practices continue through October 5.

**The free Community Paddles offer a hands-on introduction to dragon boating.**

Every Thursday from June 13 to October 3, at 6:45 PM, community members aged 14 and up are invited to join Team Calapya for a paddle on a 40-foot Kaohsiung Dragon Boat. This program is unique, rewarding and fun, made possible by passionate leaders and volunteers.



Ridgefield Dragon Boats on Lake River



## Project Highlights

### Park Laundry Cleanup

Environmental cleanup work is underway along Main Avenue and Simon Street in Downtown Ridgefield. The Cleanup Plan, set by the Washington State Department of Ecology, includes soil excavation, groundwater remediation, controls and monitoring. Learn more at [www.RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Park-Laundry-Site-Cleanup](http://www.RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Park-Laundry-Site-Cleanup)

### Pioneer Widening and 50th Place Roundabout

Construction is underway to build a four-lane roadway along Pioneer Street from Royle Road to I-5, and a new collector roadway, Pioneer Canyon Drive, connecting N 50th Place to N 56th Place and a roundabout connecting the two. Stay up to date on the project at [www.RidgefieldWa.us/Pioneer](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us/Pioneer)

### Envision Ridgefield 2045

We are updating the plan that guides growth in the City of Ridgefield for the next 20 years, and we need your input. Get involved at [www.RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Comp-Plan](http://www.RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Comp-Plan)

## Thank you, Jennifer Lindsay, for your service to the city and community of Ridgefield.

Jennifer Lindsay resigned Position 6 of Ridgefield City Council on August 23. Lindsay served as a Council member 2018-2021, as Mayor 2022-2023, and as Mayor Pro Tem in 2024. She will continue to be active in the Ridgefield community as she pursues a master's degree in education. Her voice and presence on Council will be missed.



During her time in office, Jennifer Lindsay demonstrated her dedication to Ridgefield at Council meetings, community meetings, community events, building relationships with community partners, and lobbying for funding for Ridgefield projects at the State and Federal level. Her focus on the Council was preserving Ridgefield's small town feel amidst growth, creating an interconnected trail system, and maintaining the historical atmosphere of Downtown.

State law provides that City Council shall appoint a qualified person to fill a vacant position within 90 days. The appointed member's term will expire in 2025. The process to appoint a new Council member is currently underway. Residents have the opportunity to participate in the process at the Town Hall Public Forum, October 3, and at the City Council Interviews, October 10. Visit [www.RidgefieldWa.us](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us) for more information.

## City Days 2024

On August 3rd, Ridgefield held another successful Day of Festivals, a celebration of three events, the Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Races, Ridgefield Art Association Forest Fair, and City Days.

City Days is a special edition of First Saturday where City staff showcase their projects and engage with the community. This event is a valuable opportunity for residents to ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about City services.



A highlight this year was the "Paint the Plow" activity, led by our Public Works Facilities crew. Community members had the chance to leave their mark—literally—by adding their handprints to one of the snowplows. Be on the lookout for these colorful plows during winter weather!

## Boards and Commissions: A Unique Volunteer Opportunity

One of the ways that you can get connected and make a difference in Ridgefield is by volunteering on a City Board or Commission. In Ridgefield, volunteer residents serve on the Parks Board, Planning Commission, and Roundabout Committee to provide recommendations to the City Council on their subject matters. Members attend monthly meetings and occasionally participate in community events or other activities. When asked why they serve, this is what we heard from current members:

*"I wanted to give my time to a part of our community that I valued... Being part of the Parks Board allows me to contribute to something I am passionate about that has a lasting legacy"* -Rian Davis, Parks Board Chair

*"Listening to community members and helping find ways to meet these needs by making recommendations to our council members has been an exciting experience"* -Brigid Taylor, Parks Board Member

These positions are critical to representing the community's wants and needs in local government decisions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, please email the City Clerk at [City.Clerk@RidgefieldWa.us](mailto:City.Clerk@RidgefieldWa.us)





It can be hard to stay up to date with community information in our active city.

**Here are three ways to stay connected:**

- ✓ Sign Up For Email Updates: Receive email notices for public meeting reminders, community development reports, or our monthly 'Ridgefield Roundup' email newsletter, depending on your preferences. Sign up at [RidgefieldWa.us/List.aspx](https://RidgefieldWa.us/List.aspx)
- ✓ Visit [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](https://RidgefieldRoundtable.org) and subscribe to project updates for the projects you are interested in. All it takes is an email address and we will make sure to send you a message when we post major updates, new surveys and other information.
- ✓ Follow the City of Ridgefield on social media. We are most active on Instagram and Facebook, but also post to Nextdoor and publish links to news in the r/Ridgefield sub on Reddit.

## Event Highlights

### BIRDFEST & BLUEGRASS

**October 5**

It's the 25th annual celebration of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge with activities on the refuge and downtown, including birding, vendors, crafts, bluegrass music and a Pickers Festival! This year you can also participate in a sunset paddle on the Ridgefield Dragon Boats on Friday night, October 4.

### DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT

**October 31, 3PM-5PM**

Grab a candy bucket and tour Downtown in your costume while Trick-or-Treating at participating businesses.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE MONTH

**November**

Get involved in your community to Make a Difference! Join Ridgefield Main Street's Wine Walk highlighting local non-profits along the way. Find information online for new ways to connect with non-profits, develop positive community habits, practice kindness and be a part of what makes Ridgefield unique.

[www.RidgefieldWa.us](https://www.RidgefieldWa.us)

### HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

**December 7**

Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of Ridgefield with Santa visits, crafts, food and gift vendors, a tree lighting and so much more.