

# the Ridge

News and Information About the City We Love

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WA

2025 | EDITION 1



By now, you have probably heard that I am retiring from my position as your Mayor and on City Council effective January 10. This is not a decision that I have made lightly, but it is the right choice for my family and my health. I will greatly miss serving the community of Ridgefield in this capacity. For nearly 18 years, I have had the honor of representing you on City Council, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Ridgefield has grown from less than 3,000 to over 16,000 during my time on Council. As we have grown, we have welcomed new neighbors, new businesses and new challenges. But we have also maintained our hometown traditions, created unique spaces and places and expanded on the kindness Ridgefield is known for. It has been a privilege to guide and support that path over the past two decades.

I am proud of the Ridgefield we have today, and happy to continue to call it home. I'll leave you in good hands - my fellow Council members are bright, demonstrate clear and thoughtful leadership, and love Ridgefield.

*See you around,*

- Mayor Ron Onslow





## 10th Anniversary of First Saturdays!

2025 marks a key milestone for our Community Events program, the 10th anniversary of Ridgefield First Saturdays! Ridgefield First Saturdays is our community event program of themed gatherings on the first Saturday of each month. The idea was to create a regular attraction to bring people into downtown to shop, play, dine and more.

The Ridgefield community was already celebrating on the first Saturday of June (Big Paddle), October (BirdFest & Bluegrass) and December (Hometown Celebration) so the team selected first Saturdays as Ridgefield's community day.

While these events are organized by the city, they are a reflection of our community partners, local businesses and artisan vendors who bring ideas, dedicate their time and participate in special activities. These celebrations are also amazing because of all of you who visit, participate, and tell your friends.

Join us on May 3rd, to celebrate ten years of making memories on Ridgefield First Saturdays, and mark your calendar for all of the 2025 First Saturdays events.



# Join the Fun in 2025

### FEBRUARY 1: Bowls & Books

Celebrate National Library month with activities at the Ridgefield Community Library and a token for a free 'bowl' at participating nearby restaurants!

### MARCH 1: Arts Month Kickoff & Color Run

Kick off Youth Arts Month with a colorful fun run supporting local schools!

### APRIL 5: Discover Downtown Dash

Discover downtown on a fun, family-friendly scavenger hunt.

### MAY 3: Spring Festival & 10th Anniversary of First Saturdays

Celebrate ten years of First Saturdays with us! Visit downtown for live music, crafts, plant sale, art show and more.

### JUNE 7: Big Paddle Waterfront Festival

Join a flotilla of kayaks, paddle boards and canoes on Lake River. Enjoy a waterfront festival with music, games and good eats.

### JULY 5: The Weekend Continues

Keep the patriotic spirit going over the weekend by supporting local merchants and spending time with your hometown community.

### AUGUST 2: City Days

Learn about how we take care of our community, plan for the future, and protect our resources at City Days, part of the Day of Festivals.

### SEPTEMBER 6: Multicultural Festival

Celebrate our vibrant and diverse community at the 8th annual Multicultural Festival.

### OCTOBER 4: BirdFest & Bluegrass

Continue a tradition of more than 25 years celebrating the partnership between Ridgefield and our neighboring wildlife refuge.

### NOVEMBER 1: Make A Difference Month Kick-Off

Learn how you can get involved in your community and make a difference.

### DECEMBER 6: Hometown Celebration

Get in the holiday spirit with your friends and neighbors in the heart of downtown.

# Project Highlights

## PARK LAUNDRY CLEANUP

In January, soil excavation work will begin on the Park Laundry Cleanup Site in Downtown. Stockpiles may be visible as this essential environmental cleanup work gets the site ready for redevelopment. Learn more at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org)

## OVERPASS SAFETY SCREENS AND ARTWORK

Safety screens, similar to the ones installed on the downtown Rail Overpass, will soon be installed along Pioneer Street over I-5. A series of colorful sandhill cranes in different stages of flight will then be installed on the screens both at I-5 and downtown, visually connecting downtown and the growing junction area. The cranes will serve as a unique landmark for travelers passing Ridgefield by car on the interstate, or by train. Learn more at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org)

## RORC FIELDHOUSE

The City is installing a Fieldhouse at the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex. The new structure will cover the existing batting cages adjacent to Fields 4 and 5 and add an Umpire Changing Room/Office. The project is funded by a WA State Legislature Capital Budget Grant and is being completed in coordination with the Ridgefield School District and Ridgefield Raptors. Learn more at [RidgefieldRoundtable.org](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org)

## Building the Roads of Tomorrow

The Pioneer Widening and Discovery Drive Roundabout project is well underway between Royle Road and 56th Place. This project will increase traffic capacity and flow, provide safe pedestrian and cyclist access and provide access to a future Ridgefield Recreation and Community Center.



When completed in Fall 2025, Pioneer Street will be a four-lane roadway with shared use paths for non-motorized users from just west of Royle Road to I-5, a new roundabout at Pioneer Street and Discovery Drive and a completed collector roadway north of Pioneer, Discovery Drive and Pioneer Canyon Drive to connect the businesses and future amenities of the area.

Find additional project information at [www.RidgefieldWa.us/pioneer](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us/pioneer)

## Make A Difference Awards

Ridgefield is lucky to have a great number of people and organizations working to keep our community thriving. The Make a Difference Awards are our way to recognize those efforts. Nominations are open now for the 2025 awards, visit [RidgefieldRoundtable.org/make-a-difference-award](http://RidgefieldRoundtable.org/make-a-difference-award) to recognize the individuals and organizations that you think are making the most difference in our community.

### Past award recipients:

- Individual: Megan Dudley (2024), Wendy Lehner (2023)
- Organization: Ridgefield Family Resource Center (2024), Ridgefield Lions Club (2023)



The 2025 Make a Difference Award finalists and recipients will be recognized at the State of the City on Tuesday, March 18.

*You're Invited*  
**State of the City**  
**Tuesday, March 18**



If you have questions about the plan for the future of Ridgefield, want to learn more about a project, are interested in meeting your Council members, or simply want to know more about the work the City of Ridgefield is doing, please join us for the State of the City event on Tuesday, March 18.

Ridgefield High School Performing Arts Center, 2630 S Hillhurst Road  
**5:00 PM Open House**  
**6:00 PM Auditorium program**

The State of the City is a unique event that starts with an Open House at 5:00 PM, attended and tabled by City Council, board members, and city staff who are ready to answer your questions. At 6:00 PM, we will move into the auditorium for the Make A Difference Awards, remarks from the Mayor, and a review of the past year and what is to come.

*Save the Date*



Wednesdays,  
July 2 – September 3



Wednesdays and Fridays,  
July 2 – September 3



Tuesday, August 5



Saturday, August 16



Friday, October 31



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