



There's a famous quote: *"The world is run by those who show up."* In Ridgefield, we take that to heart.

Since becoming Mayor, people often ask what my favorite part of the job is. The answer is simple: it's connecting with you. When we moved here, the owner of our first home told us, "This town is like Mayberry!" And in many ways, she was right. Ridgefield is the kind of place where neighbors lend sugar and time. Where a friendly wave isn't just a gesture—it's a way of life. Where volunteering to plant trees or serve at a festival isn't a chore—it's just what you do.

Showing up here comes in many forms: a full crowd on First Saturday, a packed school concert, or a quiet moment helping a neighbor in need. We may be a "small city," but we are rich in stories, passions, and people who care deeply about one another.

That's what inspired the WAVE initiative—Welcoming, Available, Visible, Engaging. It's not about buzzwords. It's about naming who we already are, and challenging ourselves to be better. Since March, we've hosted our first Coffee Talk, met with dozens of residents, updated the city website for better access, and are planning a summer of connection.

Progress takes people. It takes you. Have you considered joining a board? Volunteering? Hosting?

Democracy isn't a spectator sport. It's a potluck. Bring what you've got, and let's build something great—together. Let's continue building our own version of that "Mayberry" spirit—where everyone's welcome, everyone's voice matters, and together, we create a place that's stronger, kinder, and more connected.

Because at the end of the day, Ridgefield thrives when neighbors show up. And there's always room for one more at the table.

– Mayor Matt Cole



Making A Difference in Ridgefield

In Ridgefield, we show up for one another. That spirit inspired the annual **Make A Difference Awards**, created in 2023 to recognize individuals and organizations making a meaningful impact in our community. The 2025 awards, presented at the State of the City on March 18, celebrated Ridgefield's ongoing commitment to helping others.

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD WINNERS!

Bill Baumann

A dedicated community leader, Bill Baumann heads the Green Bag Project, which has collected tens of thousands of pounds of food for local families. He's also an active Lions Club member and long-time public school advocate, volunteering with Citizens for Ridgefield Schools. Bill's selfless service, ability to unite people, and dedication to Ridgefield's well-being make him a true community treasure.

Compassion 360

Compassion 360 provides essential support to Ridgefield families in need, including food, clothing, school supplies, and temporary housing assistance. Their weekly market and seasonal efforts—like distributing over 200 Thanksgiving boxes and holiday gifts—have become a lifeline for many. Through their dedication, they have become a beacon of hope, offering critical support during difficult times.

2025 Honorable Mention Finalists

- Sandy Lasher
- Robin LaBonte
- Ridgefield Art Association
- Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation

Learn more about this year's finalists on the **City of Ridgefield YouTube channel**.



Want to make a difference?

Visit RidgefieldWa.us/Community to explore local organizations and find your way to get involved.



We are updating the plan for the City of Ridgefield to ensure a sustainable future where residents can live, work, shop, play and access services – all within Ridgefield.

With insights from community meetings and surveys in 2024, we developed five Community Vision Statements: Small-Town Charm, Growth and Infrastructure, Community Health and Well-Being, Equity and Inclusion, and Environmental Conservation and Natural Beauty. These statements are the guideposts for our planning for the next 20 years. Read the statements and learn more at RidgefieldRoundtable.org/Comp-Plan

Bee Happy: Native Plants Thriving at Davis Park

If you're looking for ideas on how to incorporate native plants into your garden, swing by Davis Park for inspiration! Thanks to the Ridgefield Garden Club, you'll find two beautifully replanted flower beds along with educational signage to guide you.

Last fall, Garden Club volunteers transformed the triangle and west berm flower beds at Davis Park, replacing non-native species with a vibrant selection of native plants. The chosen varieties support pollinators and other local wildlife, and they're well-suited to Ridgefield's climate—meaning they thrive without the need for extra watering.

This spring, as the new plantings enter their growing season, the Garden Club has installed informative signage throughout the beds. Visitors will find labels identifying individual plant species as well as displays explaining the importance of native plants and their role in supporting pollinators.

The Ridgefield Garden Club hopes these public displays will inspire residents to bring native plants into their own yards. Even a small garden can make a big difference, creating valuable habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, and birds.

For more information and gardening resources, visit RidgefieldGardeners.org.



Councilmember Katie Favela: Leading with Heart

Councilmember Katie Favela has called Ridgefield home for over a decade. A licensed clinical social worker, firefighter's wife, and mom of two, her life is rooted in service—and that commitment shines in her work on City Council.

As a Councilmember, Favela focuses on supporting healthy families, strengthening public safety, and ensuring Ridgefield's growth reflects our community values. "I'm committed to service with heart—leading with compassion and ensuring I serve with integrity and care," she says. She also represents the city on the Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO) Board, the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB), and as liaison to Clark-Cowlitz Fire & Rescue.

Outside of Council, she serves as a statewide Family Youth System Partner Round Table (FYSPRT) system partner representative, on the Child Death and Prevention Board for Clark County, as a mental health partner with the Ridgefield School District, and a host family for the Ridgefield Raptors.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to raise my family in this vibrant, growing community," says Favela. "I love serving on City Council because I have the opportunity to give back to the same community that has poured so much into my family."



Upcoming Events



Big Paddle Waterfront Festival SATURDAY, JUNE 7

We are excited to invite you to the Lake River waterfront for Big Paddle Waterfront Festival featuring guided paddles and hikes, live music, outdoor games, beer garden, food, and a cornhole tournament.
www.RidgefieldBigPaddle.com



Musicians in the Park WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS JULY 2 – SEPTEMBER 3

Enjoy a series of lunch-time performances by local musicians at Davis Park. View schedule at RidgefieldWa.us/Musicians



Dragon Boat Community Paddles FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM JUNE 20 TO OCTOBER 4

Try Dragon Boat paddling – an exciting growing sport – on Ridgefield's own Kaohsiung boats! No experience necessary, free registration required.
RidgefieldWa.us/396/Dragon-Boats



City Days/Ridgefield Day of Festivals SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Learn about how your City works at City Days, watch Dragon Boat Races at the Paddle For Life Races, check out the 2025 Duck and Goose Calling Championship in Abrams Park, or shop the Children's Entrepreneur Market along with the Farmers Market and First Saturday Vendors!



Meet Me on Wednesdays WEDNESDAYS JULY 2 TO SEPTEMBER 3

Meet up with other community members for a walk starting at Overlook Park led by a local community leader. View schedule at RidgefieldWa.us/MeetMe



National Night Out TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

National Night Out is an opportunity to build police-community partnerships at a free hot dog cookout in Abrams Park with members of the Ridgefield Police Department and other local public safety partners.



THURSDAY, JULY 3 – STREET DANCE

An old Ridgefield tradition brought back by the 4th of July Committee – dance in the street with your neighbors on the eve of Independence Day at Davis Park!
Ridgefield4th.com

FRIDAY, JULY 4 - RIDGEFIELD 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

Ridgefield 4th of July Parade and Festival is a hometown tradition planned by the non-profit 4th of July Committee. In 2025, we will again be offering a free shuttle into Downtown. Ridgefield4th.com

SATURDAY, JULY 5 - FIRST SATURDAY: THE WEEKEND CONTINUES!

Join us in celebrating our hometown with the Farmers Market, live music, a street sale, Ridgefield Runners Independence Run and more in Downtown Ridgefield! RidgefieldWa.us/349/July-First-Saturday