

# THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

2022 | EDITION 3



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](http://www.RidgefieldWa.us)



As we wrap up the warm summer months and start to look forward to fall, it is fun to look back on all of the entertaining activities that just finished up. We started summer with Ridgefield looking fantastic on Independence Day as we welcomed a record number of guests to celebrate on the Fourth of July. We closed out summer with our Ridgefield Raptors having their first ever playoff series victory!

September brings back to school. As we return to school routines, I would like to use this chance to remind everyone to please exercise patience during morning drop offs and afternoon pickups, and to be extra aware of students walking to and from school. To assist with pedestrian safety, motorists will notice improved lighted crosswalk signals at Ridgefield High School. We'll keep

working on better safety measures but please remember they only work when the drivers and students use them. If your children will be using this crossing, please encourage them to use it properly. If you're driving, please be aware.

Whether you are a longtime or new resident, fall offers many opportunities to be engaged in Ridgefield. One of the largest First Saturday Events is October's Birdfest and Bluegrass. This is a celebration of both Ridgefield's Wildlife Refuge and bluegrass music, with performances occurring throughout the day. Mark your calendars for the annual Downtown Trick or Treat on Halloween. This is a favorite tradition for the young and old alike as our downtown streets come alive with kids in all sorts of fun costumes. Whatever it is that makes fall fun for you, I hope part of that includes our Ridgefield community!

-Mayor Jennifer Lindsay



## Ridgefield Continues to Grow, Additional Services Coming Soon

Driving through Ridgefield, you won't travel far without seeing new construction, and for good reason: Ridgefield has been experiencing unprecedented growth. With approximately 14,000 residents, Ridgefield has grown 35% since 2019. Even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the City issued 85% more new home permits than the previous yearly record.

While the pace of growth is a big change, and under State growth laws the City can't prevent it, it WAS planned. In 2016, City Council adopted a comprehensive growth management plan based on data projecting a population of 25,000 by 2035. The plan governs where different types of development occur in the city and establishes goals for residential and employment densities. It also considers the transition from heavy residential growth to a more sustainable, full service live-work-play community. We are now seeing this transition occur in real time. Housing starts have slowed significantly in 2022, and projects bringing services and jobs for Ridgefield residents are ramping up. Costco, Clark College, Tractor Supply, Les Schwab, Haarup's new Headquarters, and a YMCA are just a few of the employers and services that are coming. City staff are ready to ensure they are designed and built to best serve the community. Read the Comprehensive Plan at [RidgefieldWa.us/government/city-departments/community-development](https://RidgefieldWa.us/government/city-departments/community-development).

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## Police Chief John Brooks Retiring for a Walk in Memphis

Ridgefield Police Chief John Brooks is retiring from the Ridgefield Police Department effective October 3. He and his family will then be putting on their blue suede shoes, boarding a plane, touch down in the land of the Delta blues, in the middle of the pouring rain. Walking in Memphis, as Head of Security for a Naval Base in Western Tennessee.

Chief Brooks has served as Ridgefield's Police Chief since October 2016, after 26 years in the Portland Police Bureau. Since joining Ridgefield, Chief Brooks has led the police department's almost doubling in force, while recruiting and retaining high-quality personnel who continue to serve Ridgefield residents well. Chief Brooks also led the creation of key safety initiatives including Neighbors on Watch – a community volunteer program to empower and train local residents to help extend the efforts of Ridgefield's Police Department by being the eyes and ears for safety in their communities. The program started with 6 volunteers in 2018 and has since grown to 36 active NOW members.

“Police work is a people business with success being measured by how you were able to help. I've truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to help the great people here in Ridgefield,” shared Chief Brooks.

Ridgefield Lieutenant Cathy Doriot will serve as the interim Police Chief. A Ridgefield native, Lt. Doriot has served the Ridgefield Police Department since 1989.







The Ridgefield Police Department at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2.



Families learning about the equipment Public Works uses to maintain our streets, parks, and infrastructure.



Public Works crew members pose with the Vacuum Truck at the 2022 City Days event.

## National Night Out

We recently celebrated our 17<sup>th</sup> year of National Night Out here in Ridgefield. It was a great time for our community to connect with each other and the Ridgefield Police Department. In addition, the Police volunteer group, Neighbors On Watch (NOW), were present with all the Ridgefield officers.

National Night Out was launched as a crime prevention program in 1984 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as a way for people to take back their neighborhoods by gathering in the streets and turning on their house porch lights to celebrate their power to control events in the community. National Night Out eventually morphed into neighborhood parties focused on safety. In Ridgefield, it has become one of our largest community events where public safety and community building is the focus. Our “end game” is to continue to build an atmosphere where neighbors look out for neighbors, and one where the police are an approachable and connected part of the community. If you didn’t make it this year, we hope to see you next year.

Be Safe. – Chief Brooks

## City Days Recap

During the August First Saturday Day of Festivals, Ridgefield hosted its second City Days. This year’s event focused on the Public Works Department with a Dozer Days type display of a plow, street sweeper, flail mower and vacuum truck; and, of course, hard hats for kids who climbed on the big rigs. Families enjoyed a fun and educational stormwater scavenger hunt on recognizing storm water facilities such as catch basins and filter vaults, identifying rain gardens and how to partner with the City to protect the health of our streams, lakes, wetlands and drinking water. Attendees also planned walking trips with trail maps, completed a community survey to help advise the Master Plan for a new Boyse Park, and sported temporary tattoos after learning how to “Leave No Trace.” For more information about Public Works, visit:

[RidgefieldWa.us/government/city-departments/public-works](https://RidgefieldWa.us/government/city-departments/public-works)

## Upcoming Community Survey

The City of Ridgefield wants to hear from residents regarding the services the City provides. Following up on surveys completed in 2015 and 2019, these surveys are used to measure resident satisfaction within multiple areas of local government services and identify community priorities.

A random sample of Ridgefield households will receive the 2022 survey in early fall. Data are expected to be released in late December or early January 2023, and used by both City Staff and Council to help prioritize work and funding that benefits residents.



### CITY LEADERSHIP

#### CITY COUNCIL

Ron Onslow  
Rachel Coker  
Lee Wells  
Matt Cole  
Judy Chipman

**MAYOR** | Jennifer Lindsay  
**MAYOR PRO TEM** | Rob Aichele  
**CITY MANAGER** | Steve Stuart



# City Events

## Downtown Trick or Treat Monday, October 31

Put on your costume and come Trick-or-Treat at participating Downtown Ridgefield businesses from 3pm to 5pm on Halloween!

## Make A Difference Month November 2022

Kick off the season of giving with our Make A Different Month challenge. Participate in activities throughout the month that will make a difference in your community.

## RIDGEFIELD FIRST SATURDAYS

Each month find themed events with vendors, activities, and fun in Downtown Ridgefield. Interested in getting involved? Let us know at [Events@ridgefieldwa.us](mailto:Events@ridgefieldwa.us)



### 9AM-7PM October 1, 2022

Commemorate the annual Wildlife Refuge and First Saturdays festival with activities on the refuge, vendors, crafts, bluegrass music and a Pickers Festival!



### 9AM-7PM December 3, 2022

Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of Downtown Ridgefield with Santa visits, crafts, food and gift vendors, a tree lighting and so much more. Enjoy the Circle of Trees decorated by local organizations in Overlook Park Dec. 3 to 31.

## Be in the Know

Stay informed on what matters to you most. We make it easy for you to get the information you want, delivered how you want it. Learn more at [RidgefieldWa.us/stay-connected](https://RidgefieldWa.us/stay-connected)



### Community Events Calendar

Find City events and festivals, activities sponsored by community organizations, special activities at Ridgefield businesses and more.

[RidgefieldWa.us/  
community-events-calendar](https://RidgefieldWa.us/community-events-calendar)



### Text Message Alerts

Text "RIDGEFIELD" to (360) 262-1528 and receive texts directly to your mobile phone about urgent issues such as road closures, major community events, city office closures and emergencies.



### Email Newsletters

Stay informed about what matters to you. Email newsletters are delivered regularly about City Council and Planning Commission meetings, traffic impacts, and community events. Sign up at [Ridgefield-Wa.us/stay-connected](https://Ridgefield-Wa.us/stay-connected)