

THE RIDGE

News and information about the City we love.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

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More Places To Play Are Coming To Ridgefield

Ridgefield families need more places to play. That's why the city and school district have been working together to build the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex (RORC) which opens this Fall.

What is RORC and Who gets to use it? The complex is being built to satisfy the recreation needs of our community. Beginning in 2015, the City and school board reached out to the public, youth sports leagues and park staff around the county to get feedback about outdoor recreation needs. In response to this input, RORC will include 6 multipurpose turf fields, a community building with a full kitchen, trails, playgrounds, lots of parking, and road improvements to make sure people can get in and out.

The priority for use of the fields will start locally – with school district and city events, local sports clubs, and local community groups. Facilities will then be available to the public through an online reservation system.

Where's the money coming from? RORC is paid for by the growth that created the need, through development fees. The city is not using or raising taxes for it, and NO school bond dollars are being used. The partnership saved the city about \$2 million, and the school district saved about \$4 million in costs of parking and fields that is required for the new schools.

What else will be going on at RORC? One exciting opportunity that recently came to fruition is the expansion of the West Coast League (WCL) collegiate wood bat baseball to Ridgefield. The WCL teams are college-eligible student-athletes who will provide our community with family-friendly entertainment with 30 home games each summer beginning 2019.

What's next at RORC? On September 8, residents can check out RORC and the new schools and have fun with the family at a co-hosted event: the school district's Experience Ridgefield and Ridgefield Main Street's Oktoberfest.

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Community Events

Check out the Community Events Calendar on our website!

- 9/1: Multicultural Festival
- 9/8: Oktoberfest & Experience Ridgefield
- 10/19-20: Halloween Hall
- 10/27: Make a Difference Day
- 10/6: BirdFest & Bluegrass
- 11/3: Wine & Chocolate
- 12/1: Hometown Celebration

- Saturdays, May-October
Farmer's Market



More good times coming up!



BirdFest & Bluegrass
10/6 DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD
10/6-7 RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE



Wine & Chocolate
11/3 DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD



Hometown Celebration
12/1 DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD

- **September 8:** Oktoberfest by Ridgefield Main Street combined with Experience Ridgefield by Ridgefield School District @ Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex
- **October 19-20:** Halloween Hall by Ridgefield Art Association @ Abrams Park
- **October 27:** Make a Difference Day

For more information on City events, visit the community events page on our website at www.ridgefieldwa.us.

PD Receives Grant for 15 Defibrillators

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has awarded the Ridgefield Police Department a grant for 15 automated external defibrillators (AEDs). As a result of the generous grant, Ridgefield now has an AED in every police car and city building. An AED is a sophisticated but easy to use medical device to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

The need for additional AEDs became more of a priority for PD following a 2017 incident in nearby LaCenter. A student at La Center High School began experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Personnel from the local fire and police departments were at the high school with AEDs for an unrelated reason and were able to save the student's life before additional emergency personnel arrived.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations.



Nominate a Heritage Tree

Ridgefield's Heritage Tree program aims to preserve and recognize the significant trees in our community. A heritage tree may have a distinct size, shape or location; possess exceptional beauty or have an association with history. If you have or know of a special tree or a grove of trees that meet the program criteria, you can submit a nomination for the tree to have heritage tree status. Nominations can be made on the City's app "Access Ridgefield" or the Community Development page on the City's website.



Councilor in Action

Sandra Day brought her energy, enthusiasm and southern charm to Ridgefield from the small town of Groesbeck, Texas. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in Texas and spent a majority of her professional career in Texas at Raytheon, but chose Ridgefield as the "right place to live" following her retirement in 2008.

After spending only a few lively minutes with Sandra, you will learn that her passions are family and the natural environment. She travels regularly to Phoenix and Houston to visit her two sons and six grandkids ranging in age from 9 to 31. Back at home in Ridgefield she spends time gardening, hiking, discovering the local natural areas and exploring the expanding network of parks and trails.

Sandra actively demonstrates her passion for the outdoors as a volunteer for the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, an advocate for embedding environmental and garden education in our schools, and by taking a leadership role in planning the annual community event -- Ridgefield Big Paddle. Big Paddle was originally created to celebrate the 32 mile Vancouver Lake-Lewis River water trail (which includes the full 11.5 mile extent of Lake River), to connect people to the adventures that can be found on a trail and to encourage all citizens to protect and sustain their surrounding natural areas.

Sandra also serves on the Board of Directors for the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation, volunteers with the Ridgefield Lions Club and attends multiple charity events to raise money for a new library in Ridgefield. As a breast cancer survivor, she also spends time with the Pink Lemonade project – an organization that works to "educate, empower and support women through their breast cancer journey." She has even been seen paddling with a dragon boat team at the Row for the Cure.

As an active member of the Ridgefield City Council, Sandra is excited about the bright future of the community. She believes that the collaboration between the City, the Port of Ridgefield, the School District, the dedicated residents and local community organizations will create good things for everyone. "We really value the natural environment, the uniqueness about our town, the history of our town, and the way citizens come together in time of need."

Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation

The City of Ridgefield has received The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The award represents a significant achievement in satisfying nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation and reflects the commitment of City staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The Finance Department, which is primarily responsible for having achieved the award, also received a Certificate of Recognition. This accomplishment was driven by the City Council's commitment to transparent government and being conscientious stewards of public funds. The City's budget document and information about the Finance Department are available on the City's website.

City Leadership

CITY COUNCIL

Sandra Day
John Main
David Taylor
Darren Wertz
Ron Onslow

MAYOR

Don Stose

MAYOR PRO TEM

Lee Wells

CITY MANAGER

Steve Stuart





The Mayor's Round About

On July 30th, John Main, City Councilmember, informed me that he is resigning his position effective October 1, 2018 due to his plans to move out of the City. He and his wife, Tami, are moving to Idaho to be closer to his adult children and two grandchildren.

On behalf of the entire City Council, I want to express my sincere appreciation to John for his exceptional service to the City of Ridgefield and wish him much happiness and success as he begins this new chapter in his life.

I will miss seeing John riding his bike around town, his contributions to development of multi-modal trails that connect the Ridgefield community and his passion for enhancing the community through arts. With his leadership, Ridgefield established an Arts Quarter in 2017 that will bring a strong, vibrant arts scene to downtown Ridgefield. John has also represented Ridgefield interests as the Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for CTRAN; as the Treasurer for the Ridgefield Art Association and as a member of the Ridgefield Main Street Board.

“My decision to end my term early is not without a lot of personal reflection,” John said. “I am happy to have had the opportunity to work with the Council, staff and so many wonderful residents and to serve the City of Ridgefield. With the new Outdoor Recreation Center, grocery store and Vancouver Clinic; Ridgefield has a bright future ahead as a great place to live, play and raise a family.”

With a vacancy on the City Council, a process has begun to appoint a qualified replacement. Details about the process can be found on the City Council page of the City's website. While John's term does not end until December 2021, Washington law will require the appointee to run for election in 2019.



Shopping Opportunities are Coming To Ridgefield!

By now most of our residents have heard that a new grocery store and other conveniences are coming to Ridgefield, and more than a few people know the location will be the southeast corner of Pioneer and 45th Avenue. While we knew these things there hasn't been much activity to speak of so far, but that's about to change. The Community Development Department has reviewed the proposals to construct our grocery store to make sure they meet the high standards expected by our citizens and we've sent the paperwork out with our seal of approval. By the time our residents read this lots of dirt will be moving and activity at the grocery store site should be in full swing. The skeleton of the store Ridgefield residents have wanted for years will begin to rise in the next several months and we anticipate our unique Ridgefield Rosauers Grocery store will open in late summer 2019.



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