

November 23, 2011 - Ridgefield Events

Pacific NW Best Fish is hosting Pre-Holiday Wine Tastings on Friday evenings from 4pm to 7pm

December 2nd - special guest **Alameda Brewery**

December 9th - special guest author **Spike Walker**, regular on Discovery Channels "After the Catch", will be here telling stories about his life on the Bering Sea and signing his books. Spike Walker spent more than ten seasons aboard some of the most successful crab boats in the Alaskan fleet, and rode out one of the worst storms in Alaska's history. He is the author of *Working on the Edge*, *Nights of Ice*, and *Coming Back Alive*. Wine tasting provided by East Fork Cellars.

Dec 10th - Noon to 4pm Spike Walker returns for another day of storytelling and wine tasting. Join Pacific NW Best Fish, East Fork Cellars & Spike for an afternoon's thrilling ride on the Bering Sea. Info: Kelly, 887-4268, www.pacificnwbest.com

On 11 November, in honor of Veteran's Day, **American Legion Ridgefield Post 44** held their **Community Appreciation Awards Program**. Several community members were honored

The Ridgefield American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44 member honored Allene Wodaege for her many years of service to the community by naming their "Citizen of the Year" Award for her. It will now be known as the "**Allene Wodaege Citizen of the Year**". The very deserving recipient of the first "Allene Wodaege Citizen of the Year" Award was **Kathy Winters**. Kathy's list of community service is exceptional and she is very deserving.

The "**Educator of the Year**" went to **Arthur "Ossie" Osmundson**. For 35 years Ossie has taught in the classroom and on the field with great success in both classrooms!

Chief of Police **Carrie Greene** was named the "**Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**". Chief Greene's body of work with the RPD could easily be an award winning effort in any community. She took a police force in total disarray and molded it into a highly respected community police department.

The "**Firefighter/EMT of the Year**" was **Eric Lawrence**. Eric has saved the District thousands of dollars by performing in-house IT services in addition to his Firefighter and EMT duties. Truly a prize of an employee.

Peter Rylander was named "**Eagle Scout of the Year**". Peter is the son of Bart and Kerry Rylander. His Eagle Project was working on the Community Garden, located on South 5th Avenue. Peter's list of Boy Scout accomplishments is extremely impressive.

Post 44 also honored two individuals for their work with Boy Scout Troop 310. **Joni Hougan** and **Nate Starbuck** were given "**Youth Mentor of the Year**" awards. They both have been deeply involved with Troop 310 since the Troop was re-established in 2006. Ask anyone involved, the troop and the boys successes would have not been possible if not for these two deserving individuals.

Dionne, Scott and Tony Zebrun were presented the "**Blue Star**" banner in honor of Michael Kingsbury, Kylie Zebrun's husband, who is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia in the Navy.

Rev. James Moore was named the American Legion Post 44 "**Legionnaire of the Year**". Jim is one of those guys that helps whenever and wherever help is needed. Truly an invaluable member that we deeply appreciate.

News from Ridgefield School District:

Ridgefield students outperformed 17 of 20 statewide test scores on the MSP and HSPE.

On the 2011 MSP/HSPE tests administered to students in grades 3-8 and 10th, Ridgefield students **outperformed the statewide scores** in 17 of 20 testing categories. The High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) and Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) are administered annually as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Here are some other highlights from Ridgefield School District:

- * Ridgefield's 3rd grade is #2 in the county for Math and #3 for Reading.
- * Ridgefield's 4th grade is #1 in the county for both Reading and Math, and #2 in Writing.
- * Ridgefield's 5th grade is #2 for Math and #3 for Reading in the county.
- * South Ridge Elementary's 4th grade is #1 in the county for all three tests: Reading, Writing, and Math.
- * In 2011, Union Ridge Elementary's 6th graders scored 72.9% in Math, a 34.3% improvement from their 5th grade 38.6% math scores last year. By comparison, 6th graders throughout the state only improved 5.2% year-over-year.
- * Ridgefield's upper grades (7, 8 and 10) outperformed the statewide scores in 7 out of 10 testing categories.

The district is pleased and proud of these results, and our teachers and administrators continue to implement new strategies to continue to improve student learning.

The annual **Report to the Community** contains detailed scores for each school, year-to-year comparisons, and much, much more. It will be in your mailbox soon, but you can download an electronic copy from our website.

Want to learn more? Visit the Did You Know section of the Ridgefield School District website: <http://www.ridge.k12.wa.us/1581101114144313707/site/default.asp>.

Thanks!

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL BOND COMMITTEE

Fundraising dinner and auction was a **huge success!**

Friday's event at the community center was an unqualified success. While we are still tallying the final numbers, we can safely say that we met and actually exceeded our fundraising goal for the event! The community gave generously through donations of money and auction items. This event raised more than half of the money needed for this campaign, allowing us to get the message out about this great bond measure and why it deserves everyone's support.

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I especially want to thank organizer-extraordinaire Tevis Laspa and all the members of his event committee, Jeanette Ludka and Don Lasher for handling all of the complicated record-keeping, our amazing student entertainers, and "Smokin' Eagle" Joe Melroy for the single most important contribution of them all: the mouth-watering main course!

Thank you, bond supporters! Your support is inspirational.

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Come work off that turley this Friday and Saturday! Need to get off the couch and work off some of that Thanksgiving dinner? We have two opportunities this week to help.

Friday, November 25, we will be **assembling yard signs** at 1919 North 9th Way, in Bellwood Heights, from 9 am to noon. You bring a fully charged cordless screw driver, we will supply the signs, stakes, and screws.

And on Saturday, we will be **doorbelling homes** located on key roads and asking supporters to place a yard sign in their yards. We will meet for coffee at the Old Liberty Theater at 9 am, and your doorbelling flyers and maps will be handed out.

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Super-important **volunteer assignment meeting** set for Monday, December 5th!

Ready to put up yard signs, go door to door with flyers, and spread the word? We are having one maing event where volunteers will be assigned dates and times for all of their volunteer activities in the campaign. This meeting will be Monday, December 5th, 6 p.m. at Vinnie's Pizza in downtown Ridgefield. As this event we will be training you in the fine art of doorbelling, via a dramatic skit performed by members of the campaign committee. We will also be assigning routes and handing out precinct maps for distributing yard signs, scheduling times to wave signs on the street corner once the ballots are mailed, and scheduling ALL of our other upcoming volunteer activities. We may even be eating some great pizza and drinking a beverage of choice as well!

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Like Us' on Facebook

Please help us spread the word about the bond measure on Facebook. How do you do that? First, find our campaign page by searching for "Citizens for Ridgefield Schools" on Facebook and "liking" us. Then, when you see posts about the bond measure, click the "share" button to share those stories with your Facebook friends and get the word out. And please, tell your fellow PTA members, sports team parents, teachers, family members, and others to do the same.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Randy Mueller, Chair

I got the following note from several people, and it's worth passing on!

Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big national chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy? Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I know I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner-operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre?

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Local authors publish wonderful books of stories and poetry. They would make wonderful gifts.

Honestly, people, do you really need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.

Saturday, December 3rd, is the day for **Walk & Knock**. Once again the **Ridgefield Lions** are sponsoring the walk in the Ridgefield area. Lots of volunteers are very greatly appreciated! We will feed you coffee, hot chocolate & donuts in the morning, followed by sandwiches and chili. Please meet at the High School office at 8:30 am or contact Missy Stucky at missy-mfarms@tds.net or [360-901-0740](tel:360-901-0740).

Ridgefield Hometown Celebration - Annual Art & Craft Bazaar - Saturday December 3, 2011 - 9am - 4 pm - Ridgefield Community Center - 210 Main Street, Ridgefield

Some of the best Artists and Crafters available! There will be handmade quilts, aprons, dolls, knitted items, jewelry, oil paintings, wood carving, pottery, glass work, warm cinnamon rolls and sweets with fresh sandwiches available.

It's a city wide celebration, with horse drawn carriage rides and merchants' open houses. Santa arrives at 12:30 at First Indy, 228 Simon Street. The annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree will start at 4:30 at Overlook Park.

Alcove Art Gallery is sponsoring a Treasure Hunt for kids at Hometown. Stanzas of a poem will be found scattered around town in our Word Houses. Pick up an entry form at Alcove and follow the clues to find the parts of the poem. (Teenagers need to find two bonus locations) Put the poem together and return the form to the gallery. Small prizes will be awarded to selected entries in the three categories at the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

I will again be found outside Alcove on that day, painting original Christmas cards. Stop by and say 'hello'. We'll be serving hot apple cider and cookies inside.

There will be lots more information on Hometown in my next mailing on December 1.

Pioneer Street Cafe is now offering **pies to go** to make your holidays easier! Right now they have apple and pumpkin. The apple pies are available frozen and unbaked or baked. Local apples and a perfect crust! Pumpkin pies are baked and frozen, so just thaw and enjoy. Everything made from scratch of course. [360-887-8001](tel:360-887-8001) Pioneer Street Cafe 207 Pioneer Street

Baseball and Softball season is right around the corner. It's time to **get signed up for Ridgefield Little League**. Online registration began November 15. Those who sign up before December 31st will receive a 10% discount. Registration will run through January 15. For more information and to sign-up online go to our website at: <http://www.ridgefieldlittleleague.com>, or contact Teresa at radofamily@comcast.net.

News from the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

You are invited to attend the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge **membership meeting** on December 4th from 2-4 in the Ridgefield Community Center. There will be a program highlighting the Friends accomplishments in 2011, plus board member election, bylaws changes and more to include a light meal.

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THANK YOU ALL for helping make the Friends' fundraiser an outstanding success! We couldn't have done it without you and our Chairs Bruce Crockett, Patricia Thompson and Michel Hersen. We raised over \$4,000 for buses to bring school groups to the Refuge and \$14,000 to support Friends' education programs.

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From Friends President Russ Roseberry: The **Friends Board** met on November 7th to begin **strategic planning** for the next three years. The meeting provided a wealth of information on Friends' programs and budgets for habitat restoration, Plankhouse education and Birdfest & Bluegrass. Budget projections for 2012 were provided that indicate the Friends will need to raise significant funds to maintain our current successful programs. Important grants that support us are harder and harder to get. The bottom line is that without more funds the Plankhouse Coordinator position will have to be cut and the Plankhouse programs, including environmental education, will end. Please consider providing financial support as you are able.

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Attention Refuge Volunteers! - Join us for a few special field trips just for you! To thank our volunteers that work so hard for the Refuge all year long we are planning few extra-curricular activities to span the winter months when we have a little less going on as far as volunteer opportunities. Limited space is available so please sign up right away. Admission to all events are FREE! Carpooling is limited but available from the refuge office.

Future trips:

December - Oregon Historical Society (Dates/Times TBA)

January - World Forestry Center (Dates/Times TBA)

Volunteer appreciation events are made possible with help from the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Friends group. For more information about the Friends see their website at www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

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Roger's Refuge Ramblings by Roger Windemuth

BirdFest is over for another year. Those of you who were there at the festivities for either or both of the two days, October 8 & 9, were, I'm sure, impressed with all of the many varied, fun, and instructive activities that were going on throughout those two days. I give many thanks to the organizers and workers for putting together another superb BirdFest.

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One of the activities which I think needs special note, an activity that went on throughout Sunday, October 9, was the Big Sit! For those who are not familiar with the Big Sit, let me briefly explain. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. The Big Sit! is like a Big Day, or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which one can observe. This area limitation is a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter. People can sit or stand inside the circle and count all the bird species that can be seen or heard from inside that circle throughout that one day.

For BirdFest that circle centered on the Observation Blind at the River €œS Unit of the refuge. Randy Hill, Deputy Project Leader for the Ridgefield NWR, hosted the event at the blind. He reports that 113 people participated through the day with 46 different species being seen. He says that nearly twice as many people came this year to participate but the total number of species seen was down from the upper 50's last year. All in all, though, it was a good, fun day looking and listening for birds. For those who would like to know more about the Big Sit! go to the website <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php>.

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On another note--I have been writing the Refuge Ramblings for the Friends' Newsletters for five years now and I have covered many topics about the refuge and the wildlife that is found there. For those who would like to check through the archives of these ramblings, especially the ones about wildlife, you now have a chance to do that by going

to a blog that I have created called "Ramblings". This is a blog that will not only have most of the Refuge Ramblings but many of the ramblings will have photographs of the wildlife that is the focus of the article. This blog will also host several Galleries with photographs primarily of the wildlife of the refuge, but also from some of the other places I have visited. If interested please go to blog.windemuths.com.

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Photography Membership from Board Member Michel Hersen

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, the photography group members, graciously led by Randy Hill of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, had their first **guided tour of the Refuge**. After two cancellations due to inclement weather we had a beautiful day. Not only did the weather hold up but wildlife was out in full force. We saw numerous coyotes, river otters, hawks, and the usual assortment of ducks. The highlight of the outing was the observation of both Tundra Swans and Sand Hill Cranes coming in to roost for the evening from the south. This was observed from a remote blind on the Refuge.

Photography members present all agreed that watching the plethora of swans and cranes return at sunset was an exhilarating and most memorable experience. Some of the photographers are beginning to share their photos with one another. In the near future we will share the results of this tour with the rest of the membership. We will have another guided tour in the future and encourage members with an interest in photography to upgrade their membership. It is not too late to do this for the next tour.

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A big thanks to the 29 people that came out on October 22nd (**Make a Difference Day**). Together we planted 270 native shrubs to build habitat by Duck Lake! "

Web Site: www.RidgefieldFriends.org Email: rfriends@pacifier.com

News from Ridgefield School District:

Ridgefield High School's **drama students** performed **Shakespeare's Twelfth Night** at the Winningstad Theater in Portland as part of the Portland Playhouse's Fall Festival of Shakespeare. In addition, Ridgefield's students were chosen for the cover of The Columbian's Weekender newspaper magazine.

Two actors from the playhouse trained students to take on William Shakespeare's comedy-musical by helping students with their acting and singing. In addition, students learned that not all directors have the same perspective and style. "Some directors like to expound on their method, while others are brief, said Bob Meek, theater and choir teacher at Ridgefield High School. "Having different people giving instruction exposes students to a variety of styles, helping them hone their craft so they can be prepared to work with different people.

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Want to be in-the-know about Ridgefield schools?

Website: www.ridge.k12.wa.us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RidgefieldSchools

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RidgefieldSD

Email List: <http://bit.ly/unGUYI>

Shelley Kennedy announced she will teach a **terrarium-making class** in her home on Saturday, December 10, from 10:30 am to noon. Cost is \$20 for class; \$15 for materials; bring the container of your choice. Questions, call: 727-3075. You must register and pay by December 3rd so Shelley has time to buy materials

Follow up on the tomato blossom end rot issue from Missy Stucky of Millennium Farms: "Another way to insure that your **tomatoes do not get blossom end rot** is to apply a lot of lime to your soil, both in the fall and in the spring. We also add more lime and fertilizer directly into the hole when we plant. The egg shells provide a slower release of calcium, whereas lime is taken up much more quickly by the plant's roots." Thanks Missy, for the information!

Open Studio Holiday Sale at Robin Hominiuks Studio - Wood Fired Pottery and a new line of Jewelry
Come out and shop Local!

Saturdays - December 3rd and 10th -10:00am to 5:00 pm

Sundays - December 4th and 11th - Noon to 5:00pm

Please call for extended sale hours

27000 NE Bjur Road
Ridgefield, WA 98642

[360-887-5120](tel:360-887-5120)