

December 22 – Ridgefield Events

Christmas Eve Worship at Messiah Lutheran Church, North County Campus is a 5:00pm service that is family friendly with staffed nursery care available. It's at the Heron Gate Building at the Ridgefield Junction, 2 South 56th Place, Suite 203.

For a complete listing of Christmas Eve Candlelight and Christmas Day services at Messiah, go to www.messiahvancouver.org Information: 574-7081.

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Ridgefield Community United Methodist Church is hosting a pair of open services on Christmas Eve, December 24th: a 5:00 pm "**Service of Lessons and Carols**" with the nativity story told through scripture and song; and a 10:00 pm "**Christmas Communion**" service with familiar carols, a message, and holy communion. Both services end with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th, RCUMC is hosting an **informal gathering** of singing, sharing and praise at 10:30 am. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus! Ridgefield United Methodist is located at 1410 S. Hillhurst, one mile south of Pioneer. All are welcome! 887-8312, www.RidgefieldUMC.com

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St. Mary of Guadalupe Catholic Church will have a **Christmas Eve service** at midnight and a **Christmas Day** service at 10:30 am. Information: 687-4515, www.sacredheartbg.org.

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Ridgefield Church of the Nazarene will have a **Christmas Eve Service** at 6 pm and Christmas Day services at 9 and 11 am. Information: 887-3576.

KWRL Babe Ruth early registration began December 15th for the 13U and 15U age groups. Our Kalama-Woodland-Ridgefield-La Center league is looking to have **four teams** in the two age divisions. We interleague with Longview-Kelso-Hazel Dell Metro-Camas/Washougal Babe Ruth leagues.

An **open tryout** in January is being scheduled and will be on the website. The regular season begins in early April and ends in mid June. All-Stars for 13U-14U-15U teams begin after the regular season. If interested please call Will @ 601-4394 and leave a message or check the website at <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=kwrlbaberuth>. You can fill out the 2012 KWRL Registration form and send it to 38706 NW 14th Avenue Woodland, WA 98674

Last week I told you about the **RHS cheerleaders** being in the **Christmas morning parade**. Heide Presson reports that the program will be aired on ABC Christmas morning from 9 to 11 am. Information: hpresson@comcast.net

News from Ridgefield School District:

Students learn math and science by growing plants

Students in **Sharon Floyd's third grade class** at Union Ridge Elementary **learn math and science** while growing holiday gifts for their families. Each student received a paperwhite bulb, a perennial plant that blossoms into strongly fragrant bunches of white flowers typically around the winter holiday.

"We learned that you don't need soil to grow plants," said Emma Smithline, one of Ms. Floyd's students. Instead of using soil, students planted the bulbs hydroponically, putting the bulbs into small glass beakers filled with only gravel, water, and nutrients.

Every other day, students measure the height of their plants, taking careful note in their journals. "We record the dates and draw bar charts after we measure the number of centimeters our plants have grown," said Gabe Carlton, another of Ms. Floyd's students. "It's a lot of fun to learn about science by growing plants." Then, as a class, the students collate their results, using their bar charts to determine the median, mode, and range of the plant heights in their class. In addition, they sketch their plants so they can visualize their plants' progress over time.

"Projects like these are a great way for students to experience science through hands-on effort," said Floyd. "Watching the plants grow over time engages the students, and demonstrates why knowing math and science is so important."

Some of the more experienced student gardeners were careful to keep what happens to these paperwhites when they blossom a secret from their classmates. "I've planted these before, but I don't want to spoil what happens for the rest of the class," said Carlton. "I'm hoping our paperwhites blossom right before we go on break."

For more Did You Knows, visit the Did You Know section of the Ridgefield School District website: <http://www.ridge.k12.wa.us/1581101114144313707/site/default.asp>

New business in Ridgefield:

Kim Blaufuss is pleased to announce the grand opening of **Best Acupuncture**, a **traditional Chinese medicine practice** at 8507 South 5th Street. Kim has a ten year background using Chinese herbs, which have no known side effects, although the results take longer than conventional medicine. She can treat pain, allergies, exhaustion, sinus problems, the effects of aging and other problems in a safe and natural way. Contact her at 773-1566 or view her website at www.best-acupuncture.com.

Local author:

Kristy Cameron has written a new book, "**Tina Marie's Amazing World.**" In the book, a young girl hangs upside down from a tree branch and describes to the cow that happens to be standing nearby, how different and amazing the world looks upside down.

This is a fun, exciting book that has been comically illustrated to perfection and is perfect for little ones up to the age of six or seven. It's available on amazon.com or you can purchase an autographed copy at www.LPPublishing.net. If a person wants an autographed copy they can email Kristy at kristy.cameron@comcast.net to request a copy. The book is \$12.00 with an extra \$4.00 shipping charge if she mails it to them.

Update on **Myrtle's Tea House**:

We have now been serving holiday tea in our new location for two weeks and are extremely happy to be operating in our **new building at 321 North 3rd Avenue**. We have essentially doubled our seating capacity and have every table booked until the end of the month! It has been wonderful to see our faithful patrons returning to Myrtle's Tea House this month after our two months "hiatus" to move and renovate, and surprisingly, we have many new patrons discovering us for the first time! Business in Tea Land is booming!

There are many people to thank for making the move happen quickly and having the renovation completed on time to reopen on December 7th as planned. First and foremost, we would like to **thank the ladies of Ridgefield** for donating their time (as well as boxes, tape, and newspaper) to pack us up in record time when we had to vacate the former location a month sooner than planned. People now look around the new tea rooms and ask us who packed up all the china, and we proudly reply "The ladies of Ridgefield"! We so appreciate their gift of time. We invite anyone who helped us pack to come to tea and be treated to a complimentary tea lunch as a special thank you.

We would also like to thank the City of Ridgefield for guiding us through the process to apply and obtain the conditional use permit in order to open the tea house in the new location. Also, special mention to the building department for responding so quickly to every question and inspection request to enable us to reopen as scheduled. It was a very complex renovation turning the duplex into the tea house and we are still amazed that it was accomplished in such record time. Several patrons also mentioned that when they showed up at our former location, unaware that we had relocated, that city workers guided them to our new location! Wow!

We are so happy to be staying in Ridgefield! There is a wonderful sense of community here making Ridgefield a very special place. Thank you all!

Elizabeth Brush, Myrtle's only granddaughter.

Ridgefield Wellness and Nutrition is sponsoring a '**Weight Loss Biggest Loser**' challenge, starting January 4th for twelve weeks. The entry fee is \$35, and half of that goes to **support the Ridgefield Schools Foundation**. There's one-on-one coaching, a complimentary body scan analysis and a personalized meal plan tailored to your body type. Weekly group meetings help people stay motivated. To sign up, or for more information, call 904-6019.

More information on developments at the **Port property at Discovery Ridge**:

“The Port’s plans for the building, designed specifically for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and DOE, include new construction specifications meeting LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] Silver certification”, said Randy Mueller, Director of Business Development for the Port. “The opportunity may also exist to achieve an even better rating for the project, depending on the final configuration of the building.” Cost of the project is estimated at \$9.2 million.

Long term lease rates to the State would be negotiated, but the initial rate would match rates being paid by the WDFW at their current location in Vancouver. Terms of the lease will also include a negotiated option to purchase the facility. Construction and occupancy timelines have not been determined, but are projected to be 12 to 24 months after an agreement has been reached.

According to Brent Grening, Executive Director for the Port, “Locating within Discovery Ridge could be a huge advantage for WDFW. By design, Discovery Ridge is a 30 acre office park whose focus is on attracting environmental sciences and other complimentary fields of research and development. Cross collaboration, and the sharing of ideas and research have obvious benefits to both public and private organizations. We are very enthusiastic about the talks we’ve had with the state so far and the possibility of WDFW becoming the *anchor tenant* as it were and kicking off this entire development concept.”

“Certainly the Port believes that locating in Ridgefield is a great match for the department [WDFW], especially considering their areas of responsibility which include not only Clark County, but Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, Klickitat and Wahkiakum counties as well”, said Bruce Wiseman, Port of Ridgefield Commissioner. “We are proposing a site that is about 90 seconds from the newly constructed Ridgefield I-5 interchange which will cut driving time for field employees, and that means cost savings. It’s also more convenient for the general public who need to do business with the agency”, Wiseman concluded.

News on the School bond:

The board of directors of the 700 member **Building Industry Association of Clark County** voted to endorse **the Ridgefield School District’s proposed bond**, which will be voted on February 14. This is a major land development and construction group that realizes that having strong schools makes our community strong.