

June 9, 2011 – Ridgefield Events

Ridgefield High School 2012 Graduation Night will benefit from sales at the annual fireworks booth fundraiser. The booth is at exit 14 next to the Country Kitchen restaurant, and it will be open from June 28 through July 4, from 9 am to 9 pm.

To volunteer, contact Diana Locken at locken02@yahoo.com or Tara Figone at tfig@comcast.net (cell/text: [360-901-2082](tel:360-901-2082)).

Burgerville at Salmon Creek (13309 NE Highway 99) will donate 10% of their proceeds to the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** this Sunday from 7 am to 10 pm. The money will go toward the Friend's education fund.

Sorry I was unable to import the coupon that was sent to me, but hopefully you can be sent a coupon by emailing rfriends@pacifier.com or mele1@comcast.net.

Ridgefield mayor **Ron Onslow** will receive the "**Leading Eagle Award**" on June 14th at the Parks Foundation Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Water Resources Education Center. This is the first Florence B Wager award for leaders who influenced the directions of parks, trails & recreation programs.

(Note from the editor) Ron has been a driving force in the creation and improvement of many public spaces in town, and well deserves this honor. Thank you Mr. Mayor for all your work - you are indeed a Leading Eagle!

The **Word House project** in downtown Ridgefield is in full swing, with four houses up and two more in the works. Check out the poetry, quotations, etc. in each box. You are invited to take a copy to keep.

Clyde Burkle, Mark Burton and John Nix were involved in the construction of the supports. The Lions Club, Bj Babcock and Jean Morrow donated money for the project, Joe Burton donated plywood, boxes, and posts, Ridgefield Hardware donated paint, and Gail Alexander was the brains behind the whole project. A true community effort!

If you are interested in displaying a Word House at your home or business, call me at 877-2160. If you'd like to contribute an original essay or poem, contact the individual store.

The **Summer Reading Program** at the Library has something for kids of all ages, starting with the zero to three year olds and going on up. There are prizes for completing the game pieces, and each library will have a Grand Prize for each age grouping. Among the prizes are \$300 for a day at Great Wolf Lodge, a year long family pass to OMSI or the Oregon Zoo, \$200 gift card from Amazon, etc. Get full details at the library, 887-8281, or visit their website, fvrl.com. First Independent is a major sponsor of this program.

Overlook Park Committee is in final discussions about plans and finishes for the park. Construction should begin sometime in early August, and includes reconfiguring South Main Avenue to add more parking.

The **Art-in-the-Park Committee** has been working hard to come up with ideas for artwork, and would welcome donations to supplement the existing funds that are earmarked for artwork.

Can you believe the **4th of July** is less than 4 weeks away? Mailers will be sent out describing the day's events and there will be posters around town. The theme of the parade is **American Movies**.

If you or a group you're involved in would like to have an entry in the parade, you may go to ridgefield4th.com for information and the application. The food and vendor booths are filling fast. Abbey Roadster will play at this year's Street Dance. This great 15 hour event is made possible by The Port of Ridgefield, Corwin Beverage, United Natural Foods and Dollar Tree as well as many other sponsors. Information: 887-0329.

(Note from the editor) For those of you new to town, Ridgefield's 4th of July celebration is a wonderful touch of old-time America and is an event you shouldn't miss. Visitors come from all over to watch the parade, there's a flyover by the Blue Angels and there are all sorts of other things going in town. People line Pioneer and Main early in the morning to get a good vantage point for the parade. I'll be walking with the ladies of the Garden Club, and although we haven't decided what movie to depict, I'm sure it will be outstanding.

American Red Cross blood drive will in the large room of the Community Center from 1:30 to 6:30 on Monday, June 27. Call 733-2767 for an appointment, or go to redcrossblood.org with sponsor code ridgefield. Giving blood is a wonderful way to help your community at no cost to you. I suggest drinking at least at three cups of water before donating, as it makes the process much faster. My personal record was ten minutes.

The City of Ridgefield sponsors **Ice Cream Socials** throughout the summer. The next one will be at **Columbia Hills** on Thursday, June 16 from 5:30 to 6:30. Come and meet your city officials.

Helpful **Hint from Kathy** - (via Barb Blystone)
If you have **trouble understanding an operator** after dialing a **toll-free number**, try very politely asking what country the representative is from. If he/she is not based in the States, very politely ask to speak to a customer service representative in the USA. The rep may suggest talking to his/her manager, but repeat "I'd like to speak to a customer service representative in the USA." You should immediately be connected to a rep in the USA. It's the law. It takes less than one minute to have your **call re-directed to the USA**.

This is not about trashing other cultures or countries, but just imagine what would happen if every US citizen insisted to talking to only US phone reps from now on. Imagine how many jobs would be created by this simple maneuver.

Remember - the goal here is to restore jobs here at home - not to be abrupt or rude to a foreign phone rep.