

village NEWSLETTER

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VOL 38 NO6

Ridgefield Park, N.J.

JUNE, 2023

ROLL OUT THOSE LAZY HAZY CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER.....

It is great to live in New Jersey ----- for many reasons; but, especially for the change in the seasons. We get to enjoy the warm weather and the cold weather - and everything in between. Some people might say that we get to suffer through the hot weather and freezing weather, etc. But, let's keep things positive.

Summer Concerts at McGowan Park; and on Grove Street in the Main Street Business District. Busking (Street Musicians) on some Thursday and Saturday nights. Look inside for more details.

The July 4th Celebration. The Reading of the Declaration of Independence at 7:30am; Flag Raising and Canon Blast at 7:45am. Fire Dept. Review at 8am; The Baby & Youth Parade at 9am; The Main Parade at 11:30am; and then Bar-B-Qs all over town in the afternoon; and the a Concert & Fireworks at 7:30pm. Start to Finish - It will be a GREAT DAY. More details in the July 4th Program.

As you know, the Shade Tree Commission plants new trees throughout the Village in the Spring. There are some weeks during the Summer when we do not get much rain. So, if you see one of our new trees drooping due to lack of water, please give it a nice long drink.

The Village Swimming Pool is now open; and it's never too late to join. What a great treat to come home from work, and then take a short run down to the pool to cool off and relax.

We wish everyone an enjoyable Summer.

William Gerken, Commissioner
Adam MacNeill, Commissioner
Mark Olson, Commissioner
Wanda Portorreal, Commissioner
John Anlian, Mayor

BOARD OF RECREATION

The RP Board of Recreation is here to help offer programs to our Village residents. The list below represents what is in the mix this season, but we are always thinking about what else may make RP an even better place to live and we are always willing to listen to our Village residents if they have any ideas they would like to share. Check our page on the Village website at www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation for all registration forms and current information. Have a question? Send us an email and we'll respond as soon as possible. Email: boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org. Our voice mail is (201) 641-4950 ext. 610. Please remember we are VOLUNTEERS and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Upcoming Board of Recreation activities are as follows:

Archery Clinic - Open to those 6 years old and up. The program runs until June 24th - if you are not sure if you will be interested, try one session on Saturdays at 9am, 10am or 11am at no cost. The program will start again in the fall. Registration fee is \$25.00. Be on the lookout for the next registration info to be released. The program is held behind the DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue.

Basketball - Early registration will again be offered until August 15 only. Early registration fee is \$50.00 for first child, \$40 each additional child. Registration fee for any form RECEIVED after August 15 will be \$55/\$45. Early registration forms should be mailed to the Village Clerk's office. Registration will be held at the Civic Center in the fall. Registration forms are available at

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation> or found at the Clerk's Office and the Public Library. The Board of Recreation is also looking for qualified referees for the basketball program. If you would like information on being a possible referee, please send a letter or email to the Board indicating your experience and availability (@ 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park). Also, anyone (adults included) in at least seventh grade (as of September) who

is interested in training to be either a timer or scorekeeper for next year's basketball season should email their info to the Board of Recreation. Regular registration will still be held on September 22 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and September 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Registration fees in September will be \$55.00.

Just a note for prospective coaches for next season - for the safety of our youth, all Board of Recreation coaches have some mandatory requirements before they can coach. You can complete the requirements now if interested in coaching.

1) Background checks - paid for by the Board of Recreation and only take a few minutes to complete.

2) Certification - you may attend a fall class offered by the Board or schedule a class at your convenience at:

<http://youthsports.rutgers.edu/> (you will be reimbursed after submitting a copy of your card and paid receipt).

3) Online Concussion course - view the video at

<http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>.

Submit certificate of completion to Board.

4) Protecting Our Children Videos - the Village insurance carrier requires coaches to view these videos.

Links: <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-institute/model-policies/protecting-children-videos/>

[https://njmel.org/?s=Building+a+Safe+Workplace%3A+Anti-](https://njmel.org/?s=Building+a+Safe+Workplace%3A+Anti-Harassment+and+Discrimination)

[Harassment+and+Discrimination.](https://njmel.org/?s=Building+a+Safe+Workplace%3A+Anti-Harassment+and+Discrimination)

Submit certificates of completion to the Board.

Tennis - The program will run on TUESDAYS June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 at Fellowship Park. Cost is \$85.00. Residents may contact Barry Ruback at barrys10s@gmail.com or 201-568-3946 with any questions. Adults and children are welcome to join in the fun.

5:00 - 6:00 pm 6 - 8 years old

6:00 - 7:00 pm 9 - 11 years old

7:00 - 8:00 pm 12 years old and up

8:00 - 9:00 pm Adults



T2S Basketball - The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez and held at Veterans Park, 10 Morningside Lane. Their Summer Clinic will run: Week 1: June 26 - June 29 ; Week 2: July 03 - July 06; Week 3: July 10 - July 13; Week 4: July 17 - July 20, Week 5: July 24 - July 27; Week 6: July 31 - Aug 03. Pavilion available for shade & hydration. FEE: \$250 per week (\$50 OFF Sibling Discount); **MULTIPLE WEEK REGISTRATION FEE:** \$225 per week. Applicants must register online at <https://www.t2sba.com/products/summercamp>. For multi-week registrations, use <https://www.t2sba.com/products>. Info: t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com.

Big Mike's 3 v 3 Co-Ed Basketball League - Fall 2023 Season - This is a new adult activity named in honor of Mike O'Neill who was a pillar of this community and spent many years on the sidelines and fields of RP giving of his time to coach his children as well as many others. Eligibility: Men 25 years and older / Women 21 years or older
Game Nights: Mondays @ Lincoln School gym
Game Times: 6:30 / approximately 7:15 / approximately 8:00 and approximately 8:45pm [8 team league]
Game Structure: Each game will be 4 quarters, 8 minutes in length.
Regular Season Dates: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23. Playoff Dates: 11/2 & 11/3

Roster Size: 5-8 Players We encourage each team to have at least one woman participating (if at all possible) We'd like Ridgefield Park and Little Ferry residents as first options but we're okay with up to two people who live outside of these towns participating.

Cost: \$350 Per Team - Payment to be made via check made out to Board of Recreation. This can be mailed to 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park or dropped off at Town Hall at same address. Payment due no later than Monday, August 28.

Ping Pong - Currently the class is held for adults. If there are enough children interested, we will try to set up a children's class so please send us an email if your child is interested. An 8-week session costs \$120.00.

Adult and Family Events - keep checking our page for updated info on available group tickets or activities that may come up throughout the year. If you have a suggestion, send it in!

Halloween Rag-A-Muffin Parade - Mark your calendars for some fun on Saturday, October 21 (rain date October 28) starting at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate the spooky season with a costume contest for the kids including goodie bags, food carts, DJ and a magician!! Please note we have moved our event one week earlier to avoid conflicts!!

The sixth division will be changed to 8 yrs - 6th grade and then there will be a division for grades 7-12 as well as an adult only division will be tried this year. Come have some fun with us!!

Summer Recreation - This program is completely separate from the Board of Recreation. It is run by Daina Scheideler. For any information check the Summer Recreation website:

[https://sites.google.com/site/rpsummerrec/201-Voicemail: 641-4950 x615 or email summerrec@ridgefieldpark.org](https://sites.google.com/site/rpsummerrec/201-Voicemail:641-4950x615oremailsummerrec@ridgefieldpark.org).

Summer Concerts - These are not run by the Board of Recreation. Check out <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-arts-culture>. Sign up for the mailing list <https://ridgefieldpark.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=6cfff8f10b94df8ed98b34e25d&id=2ed9223a79> or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ridgefield-park-59474083613>.

Want info on the Board of Rec? All Board of Recreation meetings are open to the public. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center at 159 Park Street. Anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is more than welcome to attend any meeting. You can also find info on our activities on Ridgefield Park's social media pages. Remember to check out [instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj) and [facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj) to see photos and updates about the Board of Recreation and other events in town.

Summer String Camp - INTRODUCTION TO STRING INSTRUMENTS - Your child's choice of violin, viola, or cello. This camp is for absolute beginners or almost beginners to intermediate skills. Your child will learn in group classes.

Ages 5-8 camp will run from 11:15 - 12:00 Ages 9-13 camp will run 12:15 - 1:15

Must attend school or live in Ridgefield Park. Bogota and Little Ferry students are also eligible to participate.

SESSION 1: July 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

SESSION 2: August 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

WHERE: Civic Center, 159 Park Street, Ridgefield Park

FEE: \$280 for 5 weeks (14 classes) You will need to rent the instrument for your child. RENTALS: O. DiBella Music in Bergenfield 201-385-5800

info@odibellamusic.com Main Violin, LLC in Fort Lee 201-947-2727

www.mainviolin.com

REGISTRATIONS DUE BY JUNE 30, 2023. Download registration form at: <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/pages/2023-summer-string-camp>.

FROM SUSTAINABLE RP...

Thanks to all the visitors for the time you spent speaking with the team of Janet Harris and Veronica Leone at Earth Day on May 20th. Learning to use the Recycle Coach app and how to use the DPW's recycling map contribute to a smarter, cleaner and healthier local municipality. You probably already know that alkaline batteries can be dropped off at the Recycling Center Monday through Saturday from 9AM - Noon. Sustainable RP is now recycling disposable razors, sneakers, alkaline batteries and legos at all the events we attend so bring any of these items to our table. Let's all remember about the Reuse of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Check out the Materials Reuse section at the Recycling Center, a small area set aside so residents can drop off items that someone else in the community just might be able to use.

Ridgefield Park is participating in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge <https://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge> again this year with a fifth garden of native plants added at the town pool to start. We thank our Mayor and Commissioners for their support. Information about what you can do to help pollinators can be found at <https://justoneplant.weebly.com/how-to-help.html>

We look forward to seeing you at our next big event the Swap & Shop held at Brewster Park on Saturday, September 23rd. And we'll see you at the Street Fair on October 7th and get to the Health Fair on October 14th.

Look for our upcoming meetings on the Village Events calendar or send us an email - sustainablerp@ridgefieldpark.org



DISCOVER RIDGEFIELD PARK'S SMALL BUSINESSES: JOIN THE LOCAL MOVEMENT!



Did you know that Rollhouse Dragon has a Ridgefield Park Roll? Or that we have a business called Power Bat Pro Shop which handcrafts baseball bats in town? And have you tried the chimi pizza at Wahizza, had your hair cut amidst disco balls at Salon Renegade or taken a wellness day and gotten a facial at McKenna Elizabeth Aesthetics?

In Ridgefield Park we take pride in our small businesses, and with the help of our new social media manager, this commitment is being taken to new heights. During Small Business Week, 56 Ridgefield Park businesses were proudly showcased on the town's official Facebook and Instagram pages to encourage residents to shop locally and support the community. But this is just the beginning! The village is committed to continuing to highlight the diversity of our town and the unique offerings of each small business throughout the year - and we encourage residents to join us!

Shopping locally not only benefits the Ridgefield Park economy, but it also helps small businesses to grow and thrive. Supporting your community creates a sense of pride and unity that makes Ridgefield Park a truly special place to live. Even if you're not spending any money, there are still many ways to show your support. Like and share their social media posts, leave positive reviews, and recommend them to your friends and family. You have the power to make a difference!

Don't forget to snap a photo and tag @ridgefieldparknj on social media when you shop locally. Your posts can help others discover the amazing small businesses in our town. Let's work together to create a thriving local economy and celebrate the diversity of our community.

Follow Ridgefield Park's social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all the latest news and events in the village. Together, we can create positive change and build a community that continues to support each other.

Scan the QR code below to find and follow Ridgefield Park's social media accounts and check all the businesses we have highlighted so far:



WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR - RED WHITE AND BLUE

The Ridgefield Park Fourth of July Parade and Celebration will be held on Tuesday, July 4th. The parade was founded in 1894 and is one of the oldest continuous July 4th parades in the United States. The Ridgefield Park Fourth of July Citizens Committee prepares for the Day's event months ahead of time. Many organizations, schools, churches, and families also plan for the day's activities. Invitations are sent to organizations in and outside the community to participate. Emergency Service Units prepare for every possible occurrence so that residents and visitors to the Village can relax and enjoy the day. Mayor John Anlian and the Commissioners welcome all to our Village for these events. Our day begins at 7:30am at Euclid Ave. and Mr. Vernon St. with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and then at 7:45am, the Flag Raising Ceremony by the Boy and Girl Scouts. At 8am the Fire Department presents their personnel and equipment for inspection and honor the milestone anniversaries of their members. The Baby and Youth parade - which begins at 9am at Poplar St. and Euclid Ave - is led by the honor students. In honor of Disney's 100th Anniversary, the theme this year for the Baby & Youth Parade, is "When You Wish Upon a Star." The parade consists of village and visiting children, who walk, ride in decorated carriages, elaborate floats, or personally decorated bicycles. You will see red, white, blue along with your favorite Disney characters on this day. Prizes are awarded and a fun time is had by all.

The Civic Parade steps off promptly at 11:30am at Preston St. and Hudson Ave. The parade will be led by this year's Grand Marshall Elvira "BeBe" Rohlf. Fraternal and village organizations, youth and sporting associations, bands and visitors march with pride. Village residents and visitors have enjoyed this event for over a century.

The Grand Finale Concert & Fireworks! The Rutherford Community band will play from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm and the fireworks will begin around 9:30 pm. Both the concert and fireworks display will be at Veterans Park Field - which is located just south of the High School. Admission is free. For updates you can follow the Ridgefield Park 4th of July Committee's social media pages at

<https://www.facebook.com/RP4thJulyCommittee>; or
<https://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj4thofjuly/> Information is also available at Ridgefield Park's website at
<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/fourth-july-committee>.

NATURE PRESERVE DEDICATION

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Village of Ridgefield Park held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially dedicate its new Nature Preserve. The principal speakers were Mayor John Anlian, Environmental Commission Chairman Stephen Quinn, Commissioner William Gerken and former mayor George Fosdick. Also in attendance were three Bergen County Commissioners, Tracy Zurr, Mary Amaroso & Germaine Ortiz; and Adam Strobel, Director of the County Open Space Trust Fund. Cheryl Krouse Deputy Chief Of Staff for Congressional representative Josh Gottheimer, also presented the Mayor with a Certificate from Congress congratulating the Village on its accomplishment. Both Mayor Anlian and Mr. Quinn grew up in the Village; and proposed the creation of a nature preserve back in the early 1970's. Starting in the mid-1980s, the Village slowly acquired different parcels of land to the extent that the nature preserve now consists of approximately 13 acres. Certain sections of the preserve were named after persons who had a significant positive impact on the preserve: Albin Obal, George David Warrington, and George & Susan Fosdick. And signs have been placed in their honor/memory. Following remarks by local officials and guests, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place; and then Mr. Quinn and others led a guided nature walk through the preserve. Over one hundred people were in attendance at the event.

A special thank you to all who attended this historical event for the Village of Ridgefield Park, and to all of the residents and organizations that have ardently supported this initiative from day-one. It was a long journey, but in the end, it truly took a Village to make this dream a reality. If you would like to visit the Nature Preserve, it is located just north of the Ridgefield Park Jr-Sr. High School - at the end of East Grand Avenue. There is a small parking lot located on the left side of the roadway which is designated for Nature Preserve parking.



FROM THE HRC

The Ridgefield Park Historic Preservation Commission would like to welcome its newest members: Timothy Arata, Theresa Robinson, and Nelson Nunez!

For those unfamiliar with the HPC, we are a commission appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Our mission is to review and oversee changes in the architectural appearance of buildings within the Village's Central Business District; and to assure that the appearance of these structures, and the district as a whole, is preserved and enhanced.

District: The Village's Central Business District is roughly along Main Street from Summit Street to the Post Office at Pine Street and along Mount Vernon Street from Herbert Street to near Bergen Avenue. Some side street sections, such as along Spruce Street are also within the district.

Statement: The buildings and architectural appearance of our business district possesses a certain character upon which we would like to preserve and improve. Architectural Guidelines have been prepared for reference when properties or businesses decide to make changes affecting the facades of the buildings in the district. The commission reviews applications for all proposed changes within the district using these established Guidelines. Similar guidelines and reviews have been in effect in numerous downtown districts throughout the State, with results that have seen significant improvement to economic growth and property values.

Who Must Apply: Anyone who is altering, renovating, or otherwise changing the exterior of a building or property within the district must apply before the Historic Preservation Commission. Work may include, but not be limited to, signs, awnings, lights, storefronts, sidewalks, and painting. It is incumbent upon all property owners within the district to advise potential tenants that they must apply for approval from the Commission for any changes to the exterior of the building, including the space immediately inside a glass storefront. It should also be noted that, where building exteriors are deteriorating or are in need of maintenance, approvals may be granted contingent upon the building owner making necessary improvements.

NOTE: backlit, internally lighted, and neon signs are not permitted, lighted/led signs are only permitted if they are installed 2' inside the window. no flashing or scrolling lights/signs permitted.

Applications are available to purchase in the Building Dept. The fee is \$60.00.

If you have any questions, reach out to us at hisprescomm@ridgefieldpark.org. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. on the third floor of the municipal building.

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE.....

COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The Board of Commissioners of the Village of Ridgefield Park, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., has established their Caucus and Regular meeting dates for the year 2023. The Caucus Meetings will be held on the Thursday preceding each Regular Meeting, unless otherwise indicated, at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building, 234 Main Street, Third Floor. Regular meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise indicated, at

7:30 PM at the Municipal Building,
234 Main Street, Third floor
Remaining 2023 Meetings:
2023 Caucus Meeting Dates:

July	6 and 20
Aug.	3 and 17
Sept.	7 and 21
Oct.	5 and 19
Nov.	9 and 28
Dec.	7 and 21

2023 Regular Meeting Dates:

July	11
Aug.	8
Sept.	12 and 26
Oct.	10 and 24
Nov.	9 and 28
Dec.	12 and 26

RAFFLES

All Clubs, Organizations, PTAs or Individuals that conduct 50/50's, tricky trays, basket raffles, bingo, casino nights, or any other type of raffle must register with the State of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Commission to obtain an Identification Number. Only after obtaining this ID number can you apply for a raffle license.

The State will not issue a raffle license unless you are a registered organization. To register: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/lgcc

RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH RAFFLE YOU CONDUCT.

Raffle license applications are available in the Village Clerk's office. Applications must be completed six (6) weeks prior to your raffle.

**THE LEGALIZED GAMES OF
CHANCE CONTROL COMMISSION
IS ACTIVELY ATTENDING RAFFLE
EVENTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
- FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN
RESULT IN YOUR EVENT BEING
SHUT DOWN**

@ YOUR LIBRARY

Free Professional & Educational Online Classes

Are you looking for a chance to build a useful talent? How about a certification for a professional skill? Need help acing an interview? Or how about studying for the SAT? The Ridgefield Park Public Library has got you covered! Through our website (www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org), the library is offering free classes in a variety of professional subjects. Everything from ESL, to management, to website design and over 6,000 free courses are available to you via our new service: **Gale Presents Udemy**. For more information, please visit the library.

Going on a Trip?

Take the Internet With You!

The library now offers free Wi-Fi hotspots for patrons to take with them on trips. These portable devices allow patrons to connect to the internet wherever they are without having to rely on phone signals or local internet providers. It's as easy as checking out a library book. One of the many things made possible through the Friends of the Library. For more information, please visit the library.

Free Driver's License Learning

The library is now offering free Driver's License Practice Tests through our new service, ePermitTest. By visiting our website, www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org, you will gain access to guides, simulators and virtual exams for your driver's licenses and permits. For more information, please visit the library.

Your Library is Now on Your Phone for FREE

Your library is now offering free ebooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows, magazines, instructional videos, music albums, graphic novels and more all for free through our app **Hoopla** - a digital library service that works like the library except on your phone, tablet, computer, or streaming device. All you need is a library card and no outstanding fines. Also, be sure to download the new and free **BCCLS Library App** in order to check out books, keep track of your library card, and search the catalog all from your phone. For more information, please contact the library.



RECYCLING 101 - THE BASIC RULES

If you are a resident of the Village of Ridgefield Park, there is right way to recycle and a wrong way to recycle. Every week many residents do not realize that they are putting materials that do not belong in their recycle bins.

It's actually quite simple. The Ridgefield Park Department of Public Works asks you to only recycle plastics that either have the number 1 or number 2 on the plastic bottle or container. That means any plastic container, lid or bottle that has the numbers 3,4,5,6, or 7 does not belong in the recycle bin, rather it belongs in the trash. For instance, all plastic bottle caps should also be put in the trash, while any plastic container, lid or bottle that has the number 1 and 2 on it should be washed out before it is placed in your recycle bin.

Now here is where it may get a little complicated with #1 recycles. Plastic bottles with a #1 symbol are good to recycle. However, plastic containers that contain your blueberries or strawberries or salads that have the #1 symbol and the initials PET on them are not acceptable. These containers are sometimes called clamshell containers. A 2016 article by the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) identified key issues with recycling PET thermoform containers such as plastic clamshells. These containers often have labels with strong adhesives that are difficult to remove. They produce more fine particles when processed and have a different bulk density than PET bottles. This makes it difficult to process clamshells and bottles together.

When plastic clamshells are processed at material recovery facilities (MRFs), operators and sorting equipment have a hard time differentiating the clamshells from other similarly shaped containers made of different plastics - and from the more desirable PET bottles. So, when the final PET bales are created to be shipped for processing, they are "contaminated" with the plastic clamshells.

It's important to follow these basic rules when recycling. When the wrong plastic is put in a recycle container it could hamper the machinery at the recycling plant that the Village of Ridgefield Park currently contracts with. To help you sort out what goes where, the DPW has developed a great guide to help you navigate the recycling stream. For a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials please click on the DPW Recycling Guidelines or visit

https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf1121f/uploads/generic_calendar.pdf. The DPW and Sustainable Ridgefield Park also encourage each resident to get the Recycle Coach APP by visiting <https://recyclecoach.com/> or by clicking here. Recycle Coach will have the dates of garbage, recycle and cardboard pickups in your neighborhood.

It's also important to know that the DPW no longer picks up newspapers or magazines. Residents can either drop them off at the DPW or call the Knights of Columbus at 201-641-9710 and leave a message to schedule a pick up your newspapers and magazines. Remember, these are just some of the basic rules to follow when putting recyclables in your recycle bin.



Please like us on Facebook!!

<https://www.facebook.com/RidgefieldParkDPW> We created this page to keep our residents posted on upcoming happenings with the DPW and events we are part of. And always check our webpage on the Village website for important information and upcoming events.

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works> Our webpage is there for any questions you may have regarding our schedule and other important information.

We've been busy training our employees. In January, all employees were trained in CPR by the Ridgefield Park Police Dept. We want to thank the police for teaching the classes and getting the DPW workers certified. Please, if you ever need assistance and see one of us, reach out for assistance. We're here to help!

We've also sent ten of our employees to a training class for Confined Space Entry. This class is for anyone who enters or works as attendants during confined space entries. The class reviewed OSHA standards and had a thorough review and evaluation of hazards, personal protective equipment, entry procedures and entry equipment. Everyone who attended said it was very informative.

We would like to remind all residents, that leaf season will start up again in the Fall. Please do not place any yard waste in the streets as it will not be picked up. As we prepare for the 4th of July, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!!!

RESCUE SQUAD

This past November the Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad held our annual Fund Drive. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents and business who so generously contributed to this year's appeal. It is your generosity and recognition that make it possible for us to continue to serve this community.

This past December, the Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad was invited to an Emergency Services Appreciation Luncheon, presented by the OCM Grace Church located at 90 Mount Vernon Street in the Village. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor John Maxham, Brianne Heaney and the wonderful members of the congregation for providing us with an appetizing selection of food and drink and all the "much appreciated" thank you cards. All members of the Rescue Squad appreciate being recognized for their dedication to the residents of this community.

This past March members of the Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad attended a 16 hour Confined Space/Trench Rescue Operations course held at the Bergen County Emergency Services Training Center in Paramus and the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah. The members of the Rescue Squad continue to learn and train on their own time to better serve this community.

On March 13, 2023 the Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad took delivery of a new Hurst (Jaws of Life) rescue tool. This new rescue tool is a major upgrade to our service. It is battery operated which allows us to save precious time getting the tool into service at a motor vehicle accident or other rescue scene. On Sunday morning April 23 the members of the Rescue Squad took part in a motor vehicle accident rescue drill hosted by the Bogota Rescue Squad in conjunction with the Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

This provided the members of the Rescue Squad a great opportunity to gain experience and practice in using our new rescue tool (and test it under adverse weather conditions-a steady soaking rain).



SUMMER CONCERTS

Summer concerts this year will start with "Tribute to Musical Cornucopia" on Grove St. on June 21st. at 7:00pm. This concert is sponsored by the American Federation of Musicians. Cornucopia is a 17 piece Big Band Jazz orchestra. Don't miss them. They haven't performed in Ridgefield Park since 2019.

6/21 - Tribute to Musical Cornucopia - 7:00pm - Grove St.

7/4 - Rutherford Community Band - 7:30pm - Veterans Park before the fireworks.

7/12 - Larry Umaña & his Latin Jazz Project - 7:00pm - Grove St.

7/19 - Adison Evans - 6:00pm and Sweet Megg - 7:30pm - Grove St

7/26 - Joe Kenney - 6:00pm and Robert Bannon - 7:30pm - Ferris Park

8/9 - Nicholas Schneider, Olivia Locarno and Chloe Umaña - 6:00pm and The Waldwick Community Band - 7:30pm - Ferris Park

8/17 - Student performances - 7:00pm - Location TBA (Chestnut Street Park, Lincoln School or Roosevelt School)

8/23 - Angel Feliciano - 6:00pm and Epic Soul at 7:30pm - McGowan

8/30 - Sandy Stones Trio - 6:00pm and Taxi - 7:30pm - McGowan Park

9/8 - Word on the Street - 7:00pm - Grove St.

9/30 - Bergen County Busking Festival - 12:00noon until 9:00pm - Grove St.

The concert on 8/17 will be a curated by our RP HS student musicians. It is open to jr. high, sr. high and students who live in or go to school in Ridgefield Park. If you are interested in performing contact

ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org



THE JOY OF SPRING

Warming weather... Longer daylight hours... Outdoor activities... Flowers blooming... Birds singing. And trees leafing out providing a canopy of beautiful shade trees for the Village.

Planting and maintaining the trees for that canopy is a year round activity, but spring is the busiest time. This spring the DPW planted 66 trees throughout the Village - along the streets, in the parks, and on the street medians. The new species include Redbud, London Plane, Plum, Serviceberry, Oak, Cherry, Linden, Dogwood, Maple, Tupelo, Sassafras, and Persimmon. The Shade Tree Commission(STC) appreciates the great work the DPW did in planting, staking, and attaching Gator bags to the new trees - plus all the work they do year round in assessing, trimming, removing trees and then collecting the leaves!

Help keep the trees healthy so that the trees can, in turn, help to keep the environment healthy. The new trees, as well as established trees, need care. During the summer heat, if a tree in the neighborhood looks dry, please make sure that the gator bags are filled with water. Place the hose in the opening at the top of the bag between the two layers and fill the bag with water which will dispense the water slowly through small holes at the bottom. Older trees need water, too, especially if there's a drought. The DPW and the STC try to keep gator bags filled, but YOUR HELP in preserving the new trees would be greatly appreciated. Trees also need mulch to keep them from drying out; to apply it correctly, spread a 2 inch layer of mulch to 3 feet out from trunk keeping the mulch at least 3 inches from base of trunk...think donuts & not volcanoes!!!

Special thanks to Gianna Terrarosa and Hannah Ferrer, two Girl Scouts and seniors at RPHS, for planting two trees, a Persimmon and a Red Maple, in RP's new Nature Preserve. The two Ambassador level Scouts from Troop 5252 with their leader Nicole Kachadoorian, are part of the Girl Scout Tree Promise which has joined with the Elliot Wildlife Values Project, American Forests, and SciStarter, an initiative begun in 2021, to plant 5 million trees in five years across the country and even across the world. The STC appreciates these Scouts for recognizing the importance of planting and protecting trees locally and globally.

Enjoy the whimsical tree created by Grant School's kindergarten class. The project to celebrate trees was a group effort supported by Principal Natasha Hernandez. The students used recycled newspapers and magazines to decorate the tree drawn by art teacher Peggy Conversano. Language Arts teacher Cassandra Fenton helped set up the tree at Earth Day. The project coordinated by Kindergarten teacher Candee Romba was exhibited at the STC table and is now on display at the RP Public Library.

Remember: maintenance of sidewalks in the public right-of-way is the property owner's responsibility. The STC's Sidewalk Repair Program helps owners whose sidewalks have been damaged or up-lifted by Village trees. Applications are available at Town Hall or on the RP website(ridgefieldpark.org).

Reimbursement for repairs are only available by making an application, having the application approved, and using STC approved contractors. Unauthorized work, and /or, damage to tree roots, will be subject to fines.



MOSQUITO HABITAT CHECKLIST



Container mosquitoes are the #1 mosquito problem in Bergen County!

WATER +7 DAYS = MOSQUITOES

Use this checklist to help you find and eliminate all the places that mosquitoes breed around your home. Any container that holds water can be a home for mosquito larvae. After 7 days, larvae will emerge as adult mosquitoes. Remember to stay vigilant and to keep containers free of standing water all year long.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buckets | Problem: Buckets are the most common mosquito habitats found at homes.
Solution: Empty buckets and turn them over. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Garbage cans and recycling bins | Problem: Garbage cans, recycling bins, and recycled containers can hold water.
Solution: Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of garbage cans and bins, keep covered and dispose of recycling weekly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tarps, plastic bags and sheets | Problem: When tarps are not fitted tightly, multiple pockets form and collect water.
Solution: Keep tarps tight and refit them if water collects. |

BUILDING STRUCTURES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gutters | Problem: Gutters hold water when clogged with leaves or improperly pitched. Plus the leaf debris provides food for the larvae
Solution: Keep gutters clean and properly pitched. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Flexible downspout extensions | Problem: Improper pitch and ridges cause these pipes to hold water.
Solution: Pitch downspout extensions so water drains completely after it rains or replace with a non-flexible extension that is pitched to drain fully. Keep the inside free of debris. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Leaky hose spigots | Problem: Water can accumulate below the faucet.
Solution: Fix leak or call a professional plumber. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Decks & Porches | Make sure to check under decks and porches for containers that may hold water. |

AROUND THE GARDEN

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Planter saucers | Problem: If a plant saucer holds water for 5-7 days it will support mosquito larvae.
Solution: Dump the water out every 3-5 days or don't use a saucer at all. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Planters without drainage holes | Problem: Planters fill with water after heavy rains.
Solution: Drill holes in the bottom of your planter – it's healthier for your plants. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Self-watering planters | Problem: The hole used to water the plant is also used by the female mosquito to access the water and lay eggs.
Solution: Tightly seal the watering hole after adding water. If this is not possible, treat the reservoir water with a Bti* product. The most effective method for preventing mosquitoes is to not use these planters. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wheelbarrows | Problem: Water collects in the main tub or small crevices inherent in their construction.
Solution: Turn wheelbarrows over or store them on end. If crevices present, check weekly and move to empty any water you find. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Watering Cans | Problem: Watering cans holding water for many days will attract egg laying mosquitoes.
Solution: Empty and store upside down or in a garage or shed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rain Barrels | Problem: Rain barrels conserve water but can also be a perfect home for mosquito larvae.
Solution: Cover tops of rain barrels with tightly fitted screen. (Use nylon window screen and secure with a bungee cord or other tight elastic.) Mosquitoes will use the overflow hole to get in and lay their eggs; either plug hole or treat with a Bti* product. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bird Baths | Problem: Unless water is changed regularly, mosquito larvae flourish.
Solution: Change water at least once a week. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ornamental ponds | Problem: Ornamental ponds without fish provide a great home for mosquitoes.
Solution: Get fish. If that is not an option, you can use Bti* to treat for mosquito larvae. |

<input type="checkbox"/>	Behind the shed & under the shrubs	Problem: Discarded and unattended items in hard to reach spaces can collect water. Solution: Look under bushes and in overlooked spots in the yard and remove debris that can hold water.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tires	Problem: Water left inside tires will cause mosquitoes to breed. Solution: Rid of old tires or you can puncture holes at the bottom of the tire so it may drain any water that is trying to collect within the tire.

CHILDREN'S TOYS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Portable basketball hoops	Problem: The fill holes in the base of a portable basketball hoop allow mosquitoes to reach the water and lay eggs. Solution: Make sure caps for fill holes are in place; replace if lost.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kiddie pools	Problem: Kiddie pools can become mosquito habitat if the water is not changed often. Solution: Empty or change water in kiddie pools every 5 - 7 days. Be sure to store indoors or turned over when not in use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sand boxes	Problem: Water accumulates in some plastic sand boxes whether covered or not. Solution: Drill small drainage holes in the bottom of your sand box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Big plastic toys, wagons, etc.	Problem: Wagons, dump trucks, cars, kitchen sets, and playhouses all fill with rain water when left outside and, if left unchecked, will breed mosquitoes. Solution: Keep toys turned over or inside when not in use. If water can get inside the plastic toy so can a mosquito - drill drainage holes in the bottom.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deflated toys	Problem: Like a tarp, a deflated toy (kiddie pool, bounce house, etc.) will create multiple small pockets that fill with water and provide habitat for larvae. Solution: Drain off water, dry out, and store indoors when not in use.

RECREATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	Boats	Problem: There are many compartments on boats that can collect water. Even when a boat itself doesn't hold water there can be containers left on a boat that do. Solution: Empty all the water possible. If there is water that can't be emptied, you can treat it with a Bti* product. Cover boats in storage with taut tarps or use boat shrink wrap.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jet skis	Problem: The foot depressions tend to hold water and provide a mosquito breeding ground. Solution: Rinse out the foot depressions with a hose every week. Jet skis can be tightly tarped or stored indoors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pools/pool covers	Problem: Pool covers and pool skimmer compartments filled with water breed mosquitoes. Solution: Treat the pool or pool cover with Bti* in the spring before you open it. If you know of an abandoned home in your neighborhood with an unkept pool, call the Bergen County Health Dept 201-634-2600 . It may need to be treated or stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae.

** A note about Bti - Ideally, keep containers dry or discard if unneeded. If you do need to treat for mosquito larvae in a container, use the low impact pesticide Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis). It is available at many hardware stores, pond supply stores and online. Bti effectively targets mosquito larvae. It can be purchased as a granule, briquette, or liquid. Be sure to choose a product that is registered with the US EPA, labeled to use for mosquito larva. Closely follow the directions on the label. You may only use these products on your property; if you see a source of standing water elsewhere, call the **Bergen County Mosquito Control Division**.*



The primary strategy for mosquito control relies on an Integrated Pest Management approach that focuses on controlling mosquito larvae versus broad control of adult mosquitoes. Much of the effort is on source control-- reducing or eliminating the standing water where mosquito larvae live. This checklist can help you do your part to control mosquitoes in your landscape.

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