



# VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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## THE CHANGES OF THE SEASONS CONTINUES

Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall. It never stops. The circle of the seasons just keeps rolling - whether we notice it or not. Well, in New Jersey, you really can't help but notice the continual change of the seasons. The addition or subtraction of the layers of clothing is a real giveaway.

So, Spring is upon us. It is a time of renewal - a time to look up into the sun - and smile and see all of the plants and trees budding out with their new leaves, spring flowers; and a lot more action in sports and outdoor activities.

It's time to do some Spring Cleaning. Get your garden ready for planting. Time to sign up for your plot in the Village's two **Community Gardens** (in McGowan Park and Fellowship Park - An application can be found on the community garden page of the website.). The Environmental Commission will be celebrating **Earth Day** on May 20th at the Riverside Park along the Hackensack River (Come on down for a boat ride conducted by the Hackensack Riverkeeper); and the **Nature Preserve** will be having it's official Opening and Dedication on June 3rd.

The planters on Main Street and in our neighborhood districts will be getting new flowers for the Spring and Summer. If interested in helping to plant or provide some TLC for the flowers, contact the **VILLAGE GARDENERS** by contacting Commissioner William Gerken at the Municipal Bldg (201-641-4950 Ext 2 or via e-mail: wgerken@ridgefieldpark.org). The Village Gardeners always needs some more volunteers.

Easter is a little late this year. But, the Easter Lilies and other Spring Flowers will be available at the IGA, This & That Hardware, and Dayle's Flower Shop, and House of Flowers. They always have some very good deals.

We are still trying to find ways of making up for the loss of tax dollars caused by New Jersey Transit taking ownership of the old "Skymark" development site. They are trying to decide how and when they will build their proposed Bus Maintenance Facility. They have said that they are considering some form of Public-Private partnership which may generate some tax dollars for the Village. But, all of that is conjecture and certainly far into the future.

Don't forget - 2nd Quarter Real Estate Taxes are due on May 1st. The good news is that you still have about a month before they are due. And when you are stopping in at the Municipal Building, why not sign up for the **VILLAGE POOL**. The temperatures may be mild now, but the hot summer weather will be here before you know it. There is nothing like getting home from a long hot work day, changing into your bathing suit and splashing into the pool. What a great feeling!

On the last Monday in May (May 29th) we will again be celebrating **MEMORIAL DAY** and the ceremony will take place at 11am at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street. We hope to hear the great voices of the Royal Scarlets from the high school with us again at this event.

**FLAG DAY** is on June 14th. Don't forget to proudly display our American Flag.

The RP Arts Association will be having a Summer Arts Fest on Saturday, June 10th from 6pm to 9pm in the Main Street Business District. Music, food, and art. Stop by. It will be a lot of fun.

**VOLUNTEER** - We have many organizations and committees in town that are looking for new faces to join them in helping to keep Ridgefield Park a great place to live. The Fire Dept, Ambulance Corp, Rescue Squad, Bd of Recreation, Environmental Com., Sustainable RP, Shade Tree Com., Concert Committee, Arts Assoc., Baseball, Football, Soccer, Nature Assoc., Village Gardeners, and many more. If you are interested, you can leave your name and contact info at the Village Clerk's Office and someone will get back to you to introduce you to one of these great (and fun) organizations.

DON'T BE SHY! JUST DO IT!!

## GIVE US SOME FEEDBACK.

Let us know how we are doing; how you are doing; do you have any suggestions? Take a look at our website:

[RidgefieldPark.org](http://RidgefieldPark.org), follow us on our FACEBOOK page at

[www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj](http://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj)

and on INSTAGRAM at

[www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj](http://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj)

to see other information and news.

**Happy Easter! Happy Spring!**

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

## BOARD OF RECREATION

Information on all Board of Recreation activities is at

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation> and is constantly updated.

Don't forget to check the website and/or municipal message board frequently for updated info. All registration forms are available on the website. Questions: boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org. Kindly remember volunteers run these programs and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Be sure to be on the look-out for registration forms and news from the Board of Recreation on the school district website. A link has been created for community flyers. All forms are distributed electronically now so you can print it from there or on the Village website. You can also pick up a copy in the hallway of the Clerk's office.

The Board of Recreation does a lot but doesn't run every activity. Visit our website to see what activities the Board does sponsor. Baseball, football, cheering, wrestling, softball and soccer, for instance, are all run by private organizations and, unfortunately, we are unable to answer any questions concerning these activities. Want to know about **summer concerts**? Go to <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture>. Info on summer recreation: <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/summer-recreation> or <https://sites.google.com/site/rpsummerrec/>.



Upcoming Board of Recreation activities are as follows:

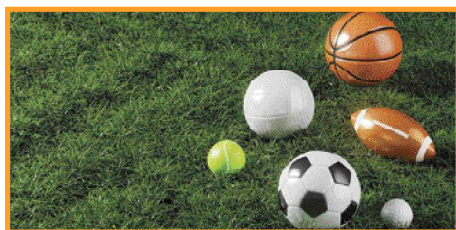
**Ping Pong** - open to adults and children grades 1 and up. The program will be held for an 8-week session and will begin 3/20 and end 5/8. Cost is \$120.00 for the eight-week session. Paddles and balls will be supplied by the instructor. Sessions are scheduled for Mondays at the civic center. (6:00 - 7:15 p.m. for children, 7:30 p.m. for adults). Questions, contact Sue Chak at 201-755-8847. Registration forms are online. Session runs: 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8.

**Archery Clinic** - Open to those 6 years old and up. The spring session will run from April 16 - June 24, 2023 (no archery on 5/27 Memorial Day Weekend), Saturday mornings in three sessions: 9:00 - 9:45 10:00 - 10:45 11:00 - 11:45. Registration fee is \$25.00. Bring your registration form (download) and fee to the first session. Held behind the DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue. We need more volunteers to help out. If you have some time and can volunteer, let us know at

[boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org). We'll provide all the training you need.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. SHARP at Veteran's Park. Line up at 9:45 a.m. on the Preston Street side of the high school. Prizes will be awarded, and the Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet the children. All children up to Grade 6 are invited to participate. The Easter Egg Hunt is a rain or shine (or snow!) event. Don't forget a basket to carry your eggs! Remember this is a dog-free park and dogs are not permitted to enter the park.

**Big Mike's 3 v 3 Co-Ed Basketball League** - Spring 2023 Season - This program, celebrating the memory of Mike O'Neill, returns for its spring session after a successful run in the fall 2022 with six teams participating. Eligibility: Men 25 years and older / Women 21 years or older 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. Game Night: Tuesdays Location: Lincoln School Gym Game Times: 6:30 P.M. / approximately 7:15 P.M. / approximately 8:00 P.M. and approximately 8:45pm Regular Season Dates: April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23, May 30 Playoff Dates: June 6 and June 13



Cost: \$350 Per Team. Check made payable to RP Board of Recreation and drop off or mail your packet to the Clerk's Office. We can accept a maximum of 8 teams. If you do not have a full roster to submit and you are still interested you can submit your contact information and if we receive enough individual interest we will form a team.

**Adult Women's Slow-Pitch Softball** - Completed registration packets are due by May 1. The season begins in May and runs through July. All women 18 years of age and older (including out-of-towners) are eligible to play in this league. Late registrations should be immediately dropped off at the Village Clerk's Office. Registration fee is \$900.00 per team.

**Tennis** - Registration forms are online. The program is available for RP residents/students or those attending school in RP. Barry Ruback runs this program, which is taught by All Pro Tennis Staff. Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3. 2:00 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8 years old; 3:00 - 4:00 pm 9 - 11 years old; 4:00 - 5:00 pm 12 years old and up; 5:00 - 6:00 pm Adults.

Cost is \$85.00 per session. For more information, call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or email: [barrys10s@gmail.com](mailto:barrys10s@gmail.com). Sessions run from the spring through fall.

**T2S Basketball** - The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. For further information, interested people can email [t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com](mailto:t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com) or on Facebook: @t2sbasketballacademy. 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. Anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is welcome to attend any meeting. Info or questions: [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org) . Voicemail: 201-641-4950 ext. 610.

## BECOME A PART OF RIDGEFIELD PARK'S ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Stay up-to-date on daily events in Ridgefield Park by following along on our new Instagram and Facebook pages:

[www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj)

[www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj)



## RIDGEFIELD PARK DPW

Please visit our new and improved webpage, <http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works>, for all schedules and information

As previously communicated, the following changes took effect on January 1, 2023.

- **Newspapers** are no longer being collected but can be brought down to our DPW recycling center Monday through Saturday, 9am-12pm. You may also contact the Knights of Columbus and arrange a pick up. They can be contacted at 201-641-9710.

- **Cardboard:**

If your garbage is picked up on Friday mornings, cardboard will be picked up every Thursday.

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### WEDNESDAY

- Bottles and cans will be picked up at the curb. They must be placed loose in a garbage can. As of March 1st, any recycling placed in plastic bags **WILL NOT** be picked up.

- Cardboard is **NO LONGER** picked up on this day.

- White goods **MUST** be called in and scheduled by Tuesday at 3pm. Please call 201-440-4860 to be put on the schedule.

### YARD WASTE

**Yard Waste** pick up will begin again on Monday, March 13th. It **MUST BE** placed in a garbage can or in brown garden bags in order to be picked up. NO plastic bags will be accepted. NO waste is to be put into the streets or plazas. If you place debris in the street, you may be subjected to a fine. Leaf season will begin again in October.

### BULK TRASH

The DPW will be following the ordinance for bulk trash pickup.

- No house or apartment cleanouts.

- Large amounts of debris will not be accepted.

- **We are no longer taking paint.** Please call the Bergen County Utilities Authority at (201)-641-2552 for any hazardous waste you may have.

- Please do not put out appliances or electronics as they must be called in for Wednesday.

- No renovations will be picked up.

- If you have wood, please cut into 3 or 4 foot pieces and tie into bundles.

We will be hosting a **FREE** paper shredding day on Saturday, April 22nd at 24 Industrial Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.





## FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

As most of you know a family in the village was the victim of a devastating house fire on the evening of January 19th. Thankfully no one was injured however the 2nd floor and attic of the home were completely destroyed by the fire. In our investigation we found that at least one portable space heater was in use and may have contributed to the origin. Always be cautious when using space heaters, they should always be plugged directly into a proper wall outlet, never use extension cords or power strips which will be overloaded. Also, never place the heater in proximity to combustible materials such as bedding, curtains, rugs etc. and lastly never leave portable space heaters unattended when in use.

We want to also remind everyone to maintain your smoke detectors, battery operated **smoke detectors** should be replaced after 10 years and batteries should be replaced every 6 months. When it is time to replace your detectors, they should be replaced with 10 year sealed detectors. We can not stress enough that **SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!!**

**Lithium Ion batteries** have become a big problem, there have been multiple fires and numerous fatalities caused by these batteries. Never charge devices unattended and always use the proper charger that is designed for your device. Never charge devices such as E-bikes or scooters in public hallways, means of egress or anywhere that a fire or failure of the battery will block your way out of your home.

With spring around the corner now is a good time to clean up excessive brush and dead leaves that have accumulated around your property and could pose a fire hazard. **Gasoline** should be stored only in approved closed containers in a shed or garage, never store gasoline containers in your home or basement.



With BBQ season coming up quick, when using charcoal or wood, be sure to completely extinguish the fire when completed and always properly dispose of ashes in a metal container stored away from your home, garage shed and other combustibles.

Prior to firing up your propane grill be sure to check all hoses and connections for cracks and leaks, never store your propane cylinders in your home or basement. Always keep your BBQ clean to prevent uncontrolled flare-ups and BBQ at least 10 feet from your home.

As always if you have a fire safety question, you can reach our office at 201-440-2570

## RIDGEFIELD PARK DOG & CAT OWNERS FREE RABIES CLINIC

Sponsored by the  
RIDGEFIELD PARK HEALTH DEPT.  
April 27, 2023 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING  
24 INDUSTRIAL AVE  
RIDGEFIELD PARK

Dogs must be secured on a leash and must be accompanied by a person over age 12.  
Cats must be brought in a carrier.  
ONE PERSON PER ANIMAL  
Licenses for dogs and cats may be renewed at this time.

\$10.00 - Neutered

\$15.00 - Not Neutered

Reminder: All pet licenses expired on December 31st and must be renewed. New licenses may be obtained at the Health Department office. Proof of current rabies inoculation must be presented. An additional late fee will be charged for pet license renewals after April 30th.



Sustainable Jersey has recognized Mark and Leslie Olson as the February 2023 Sustainability Heroes. Mark Olson has served as a Village of Ridgefield Park Commissioner for three years and the chair of Sustainable Ridgefield Park for four years. Leslie Olson is in her third year as the chair of Sustainable Ridgefield Park. Known for straight forward and thoughtful leadership, Mark and Leslie have championed new collaborations that break down traditional silos and build partnerships across organizations, departments and municipal boundaries in Bergen County.

The Village of Ridgefield Park is a silver-certified Sustainable Jersey community. Mark said, "If it were not for Sustainable Jersey, I don't think we would have a community garden and we would not have started the journey to enhance our creative culture. Sustainable Jersey actions gave us ideas and direction to do these things and the certification process gave us the push to get them done in order to achieve certification."

Ridgefield Park Mayor John Anlian has been supportive of the work since the beginning. He said, "Over the last couple of years, our Environmental Commission and Green Team have tackled some important issues and have introduced new programs and ideas that have and will continue to transform Ridgefield Park into a more sustainable community. Because of their dedication the Village has achieved Sustainable Jersey's silver certification, making Ridgefield Park one of only 64 municipalities to achieve this status."

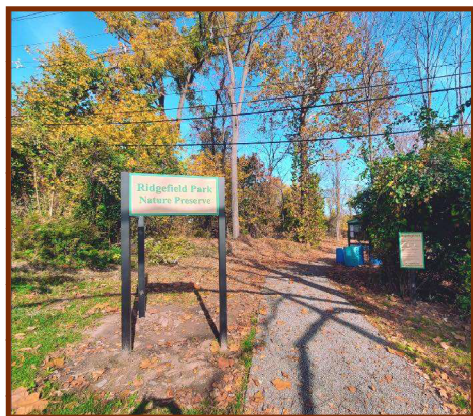
The Village of Ridgefield Park has achieved silver-level certification in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Leslie said, "Key to our success is recertification every year so we are not overwhelmed with the overall task every three years. It allows a natural flow and advancement of the actions we do." Sustainable Ridgefield Park is proud to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by Mark and Leslie Olson to increase sustainability efforts in our Village and county, and to increase countywide opportunities for the arts through their work with Creative Bergen.

## RIDGEFIELD PARK NATURE PRESERVE - GRAND OPENING!!

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission is pleased to announce that the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve will take place at **10AM on Saturday, June 3rd.**

All Village residents are welcome and invited to join our municipal and County dignitaries to celebrate our own Nature Preserve that will be dedicated to the future teaching of environmental sciences and nature study as well as providing Village residents with the opportunity to take a stroll in the great outdoors and connect with the natural world.

So, please, join us on **Saturday, June 3rd, at 10AM** for the official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. This will be followed by free nature walks in the Preserve. Light refreshments and souvenirs will be available.



## 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:

April	6 and 20
May	4 and 18
June	8 and 22
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:

April	11 and 25
May	9 and 23
June	13 and 27
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/lgccc](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/lgccc)

**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**

## PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Property Tax Payments can now be made online using a debit/credit card, or your bank account information. There will be convenience fees charged for this service. The convenience fee is charged by the provider and not the Village. To make a payment, visit the Village website: [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org) and click on the link: "Make online property tax payments"

When making tax payments, by mail or in person, please submit your entire tax bill for receipting purposes. If making payments by mail, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you request a receipt.

**\*\*THERE IS A DROP BOX LOCATED IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY FOR TAX PAYMENTS. PLEASE - NO CASH PAYMENTS.**

## TIE IT UP - ITS ABOUT CARDBOARD

Tie up flattened cardboard boxes or sheets, cereal boxes, empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, paperboard, and shoe boxes for recycling.

You can leave packing tape or shipping labels on cardboard boxes, which get filtered out during recycling.

Throw out wet or contaminated cardboard in the TRASH. Moisture, grease or oil can ruin other recyclables in the pickup.

NOTE: Cardboard takeout containers and coffee cups should be thrown out or composted because they have been contaminated.

Flatten cardboard boxes for easy pickup. Break down cardboard boxes used for mail or packaged goods so they are flat. Carefully cut any tape holding flaps together. Pull apart the flaps and press the box down to flatten it and tie it up using twine.

Find your designated cardboard pickup date on the DPW webpage under calendar and instructions or use the Recycle Coach App.

For more about recycling cardboard and its uses at: <https://www.wikihow.com/Recycle-Cardboard>





## PAPER RECYCLING - WHEN YOU SHRED AT HOME

You can bring shredded paper to the DPW recycling center and put it in the designated container. If you don't know which one it is ask the attendant. Do not put plastic bags or brown paper bags into the container with the shredded paper. Place the empty plastic bag in the plastic bag recycling bin and the brown paper bag into the cardboard recycling container.

### About Newspaper and Magazines...

The village no longer does curbside pickup of newspapers and magazines. You can bring newspapers and magazines to the DPW recycling center and put them in The Knights of Columbus container.

Or

The Knights of Columbus will collect newspapers and magazines from you. To schedule a pickup call 201-641-9710 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you, explain how the pickup is done and schedule it.

## EARLY SPRING NATURE WALK AT THE NATURE PRESERVE

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission will be sponsoring a **FREE** Early Spring Nature Walk on **April 22** (the national observance of Earth Day) at the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve.

Please come and join us as we search our Preserve for newly blooming wildflowers, arriving migratory birds and other signs of early spring.

The nature walk will start at 9AM and we will meet at the Nature Preserve Parking Lot at the base of East Grand Avenue. The nature walk will be canceled if it rains.



**CHIEF JOSEPH RELLA**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**



### Fundraising Update

The Ridgefield Park Police Department and PBA Local 86 would like to extend our gratitude to all Village residents and businesses who generously donated to our annual fund drive mailing. Please be reminded that the PBA Local 86 is the only organization connected to our department. We absolutely do not solicit donations by telephone under any circumstances. Any requests for donations from any other police organizations should be carefully scrutinized. Please contact police headquarters at (201) 641-6400 if you have any questions or uncertainties.

### Fraud Alerts

Tax season is upon us and many Village residents have received fraudulent phone calls from the Internal Revenue Service. We would like to remind residents to be cautious when dealing with individuals soliciting private information via the telephone or internet. If you are unsure if the call is legitimate, ask for a contact name and information and inform the caller that you will be in touch with them at a later date and time.

Tax-related scams are extremely popular and are often recognized well after the fact. Remember - if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you know of a tax fraud, you can report it to the IRS by sending completed Form 3949-A, Information Referral, to Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. You can download the form or call 1-800-829-3676 to order by mail.

Phishing phone calls are also very common and may include actors pretending to call from a collection agency, telling you that you owe an outstanding balance, asking to settle a debt via credit card or gift cards over the phone, and threatening legal action or arrest.

While it is hard to investigate phone scams, you can report them to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). They will track complaints from consumers that will help detect patterns of fraud or abuse.

Visit <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/> and click on the "OTHER" tab on the right side to report a phone scam.

## RIDGEFIELD PARK'S MONARCHS NEED YOU!

Last year, our Mayor, John Anlian, along with our commissioners signed a proclamation to be part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, which signified Ridgefield Park's commitment to helping monarchs and other pollinators survive and thrive. Many of our town's residents have contributed to the effort: Girl Scout Gianna Terrarosa created a pollinator garden; our Community Gardeners planted additional native plants and milkweed; three additional pollinator gardens have been planted in locations in town, along with many, many wildflower seeds being planted at the Nature Preserve in Ridgefield Park to support the Monarch's race against extinction. Ridgefield Park is starting year number two of this initiative and we have a question for you!

**Did you know YOU could be a champion for the monarch butterfly?** Now that we have your full attention, it's not that difficult! Just a few changes in your own front yard, backyard, or terrace, can create a space that monarch butterflies and all of the other local pollinators will love! First, plant milkweed for the monarchs; it is ALL they need! Second, choose other native plants such as Stiff Goldenrod and Wild Bergamot to beautify your space. They return year after year, don't need much in the way of maintenance and you have a multitude of colorful flowers to choose from! Third, please do not use pesticides. They are the enemy of pollinators and the environment, and are not good for people either. If you have a lawn, make the plot smaller and add plants instead of just grass. Whatever lawn you have left, don't cut it so often and leave it a little long when you do cut it. Pollinators prefer lawns that are not completely manicured! That's about it ... just make these few minor adjustments and you will be a hero for the monarchs and all pollinators, and you will have a beautiful, colorful, nature-supporting space to enjoy!

By the way, the Ridgefield Park Library made available hundreds of wildflower seed packets to residents throughout the months of May and June and at our Earth Day celebration last year. Were you someone who took a packet or two? Have you planted them and they've bloomed or are you waiting to see what will happen this year? If you have planted milkweed or native plants please take a picture of what has bloomed, post it on Twitter, and tag it #justoneplant. Girl Scout Gianna Terrarosa will repost your photos on her pollinator garden's page to show everyone that just one native plant can make a huge difference! Also, please feel free to post photos on Instagram as well, and tag it #ridgefieldparknj.

If you feel inspired to do even more, please join one or more of our town organizations, such as the RP Nature Preserve, the RP Environmental Commission; <https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparkgreenteam/>, or RP Sustainable Jersey (Green Team); [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org).



## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR MAY 20

This year's Village of Ridgefield Park's Earth Day celebration is set for Saturday May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Riverfront Park, located behind the Department of Public Works building located at 24 Industrial Avenue.

Hosted by the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission, the day starts off with multiple interactive shows featuring lessons on different animal species and scientific demonstrations.

The fun continues with mini eco-cruises from the Riverkeeper along the Hackensack River, all-day music provided by Mark Rust, face painting and a Green Fair featuring local artisans, environmental exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. A new addition to this year's program will be Neighborhood Compost, a New Jersey subscription-based compost pick-up service and circular home shop.

Once again, the Hudson River Fisherman's Association will be on hand to help those who would like to fish on the Hackensack River with a catch and release program. The association will be providing fishing equipment for those who don't have their own fishing gear. The Board of Recreation will also be offering a mini archery clinic throughout the day.

Mayor John Anlian said, "This year's Earth Day celebration features a number of fun and educational activities for the residents of Ridgefield Park and their families. It is a day for us all to celebrate all the natural resources our Village has to offer all of us."

"We hope to raise awareness about environmental issues that are affecting our community as well as encourage all residents to enjoy and take advantage of the environmental treasures that are all available here in Ridgefield Park," he said. "Over the last couple of years our Environmental Commission has tackled some important issues and has introduced new programs and ideas that have and will continue to transform Ridgefield Park into a more sustainable community. This includes the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve initiative and the newly formed Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve Association."

The following shows will be presented throughout the day and include: Mad Science -Interactive Science Experiments Show - Start Time: 11:00 a.m.; Snakes n Scales - Start Time: 12:15 p.m.; Tenafly Nature Center-Raptors Show-Start Time: 1:15 p.m.; and Bats-Bats-Bats with NJ's Bat-Man, Joe D'Angeli-Live Animal Show-Start Time: 2:15 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the Earth Day Celebration. Those interested in attending this year's celebration can send the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission an email at [envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org). The Earth Day celebration will take place rain or shine.

## GROWING FRESH PRODUCE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

What could be better than growing fresh produce for our local food bank?

Ridgefield Park is fortunate to have a lovely plot for planting fresh vegetables right next to the St. Francis Food Pantry.

Garlic was planted last Fall and you can see the shoots peeking out now! The plot is visible from Euclid Ave. between Mt. Vernon and Park. The first vegetable seeds for Spring planting will go into the ground in late March. We're also planting flowers to attract pollinators.

The Food Pantry serves over 300 local men, women and children each month and is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. Our new vegetable garden will also need volunteers to help plant, water, harvest and do other tasks.

If you are interested in being part of this special new place to support the Food Pantry, please join our "Help Needed" list. We will need help! Contact Marian McKenna at [marian\\_mckenna@yahoo.com](mailto:marian_mckenna@yahoo.com) or 650-776-6543.





## SPRING INTO THE ARTS IN RIDGEFIELD PARK

The latest Village Art Exhibit, "The Places We've Been...", showcases photography by the Ridgefield Park Arts Association members and their immediate families. The exhibit opened on March 14th. Stop by to see this exciting exhibit located on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the RP Municipal Building (234 Main St.). The RP Arts Association organizes and manages the Village Art Exhibit, formerly known as the Rotating Art Exhibit. For questions about the exhibit, email [ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.org](mailto:ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.org).

The North Jersey Chapter of the American Harp society held their spring meeting on March 26th at 5:00pm in the Civic Center. It opened with a presentation by an expert on historic harps followed by a recital. You don't need to play the harp to come to a meeting or be a member. Find out more about them at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthJerseyAHS/> and please come and show your support for the North Jersey Harp Society at their next meeting in their new home - Ridgefield Park.

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association will hold a Village Voices Cabaret Night on Saturday, April 29th at the RP Civic Center (159 Park St.) from 7:30-9:30 PM in the upper floor loft. Sit at tables and enjoy live music performances by RPHS alumni Sarah Zukhovin and Elijah Rivera, and RPHS juniors Chloe Umaña and Olivia Locarno. Free snacks and beverages will be provided (BYOB). Tickets are \$15 if purchased in advance, \$20 at the door. Seating is limited. To reserve and purchase tickets, email [ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.com](mailto:ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.com).

With the coming of spring busking will resume on Grove Street. If you would like to busk/perform send an email to [ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org](mailto:ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org). At the end of the summer Ridgefield Park will be sending one busking act to a busking festival in Overpeck County Park which is scheduled for September 30th. There will be more changes to Grove Street this spring so stay tuned.

On Saturday, June 10th the Ridgefield Park Arts Association will hold its 4th annual **SUMMER ARTS FEST** in the downtown area on Main St. This free, outdoor festival begins at 6PM and features live music and dance performances, street art, and tables and chairs where you can relax and enjoy the show while dining on takeout meals from your favorite nearby restaurants. So mark your calendars and save the date!

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION (STC) NEWS

**PSE&G Line Work Damages Village Trees**  
The most important information regards the extreme pruning of the Village trees by a tree service hired by PSE&G. The devastation and resulting ugly misshaped trees lining Railroad Avenue from 80 Railroad Ave north, Central and Lincoln Avenues is the result of their work. Please note: neither the Ridgefield Park Department of Public Works nor any tree service hired by the STC is responsible for the destruction. In fact, the DPW works tirelessly to trim the Village trees to keep them safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing; their workers constantly take tree care courses to educate and train them to do the tree work properly. Also, The STC only hires licensed, insured private tree companies that have trained workers and arborists.

Yes, state law permits PSE&G to do line clearing but they should not allow the tree service companies they hire to do irreversible damage to the trees. The value of the trees damaged is thousands of dollars...residents' tax dollars!

### Spring Activities

Leo Tolstoy's quote, "Spring is time for plans and projects," is certainly true in Ridgefield Park.

The good news...tree sites and tree species are being selected and trees ordered. It's not too late for residents to contact STC with a tree request. Spring is on the way! As roots of the trees start growing again, early spring is a good time to perform the first of your twice yearly root-clearing treatments of your sewer lines.

ARBOR DAY will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20th at 9:15am at Riverside Park - which is located behind the DPW Building on Industrial Avenue. It will be followed by the Earth Day celebration sponsored by the Environmental Commission. Plan to attend.

Remember that maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of each homeowner in the Village. The STC's Sidewalk Repair Program helps homeowners obtain repairs of sidewalks uplifted or damaged by town trees. Details on this program are available on Ridgefield Park's website: [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org) NOTE, that STC only reimburses repairs that have been initiated using this program.



Volunteers are needed for the STC. Members do not plant or prune trees but select sites, respond to property owners' concerns, and plan programs such as Arbor Day. The work, important and varied, is rewarded by the beautiful trees lining the Village streets.

To contact the STC for a tree request, to volunteer, to report an issue, or any other reason, email [shadetree@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:shadetree@ridgefieldpark.org), call 201-641-4950 leaving name, tree issue and address of the tree or attend a meeting. The STC meets in the third floor conference room of Town Hall at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month except for December when the meeting is on the second Monday.

### Featured Tree - Eastern Redbud

The Eastern Redbud, a harbinger of spring with its beautiful flowers, pink sometimes with a purplish tinge, on the trunk and branches as well as the thinner twigs. It is a small tree, 20-30 feet tall at maturity with a short trunk and a flat or somewhat rounded crown. The Redbud is important in spring and summer for some butterflies and all nectar seeking insects; its pods provide winter food for the birds. The Redbud was a favorite tree of George Washington who transplanted redbuds from the woods onto the grounds of Mount Vernon.

Enjoy the trees!

## SUSTAINABLE RP 2023 EVENT UPDATE

Saturday, April 22nd 9am - 1pm with DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue  
Paper Shredding, Second Chance Toys Collection, Hard Plastics Collection and Food Pantry Breakfast Cereal Donation

Saturday, September 23rd 11am - 3pm  
Annual Swap & Shop and Materials Reuse Event at Brewster Park (details to post on social media)

Saturday, October 14th 9am - 1pm Health Fair  
Knights of Columbus Building, (upstairs)  
106 Bergen Avenue, 9am-2pm Blood Drive (downstairs)

We'll be at other events too - Earth Day and the Street Fair.

Learn more about what we do. Go to [sustainablelrp@ridgefieldpark.org](http://sustainablelrp@ridgefieldpark.org)



## WISH-CYCLING - WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT

Let's face it, we all have stared down at a plastic container or two in our lifetime, while asking ourselves the question, to recycle or not to recycle?

We all have faced that dilemma at one time or another. So instead of wishing it into a recycle bin, let's see how we can take the guessing out of our decision making.

According to [methodrecycling.com](http://methodrecycling.com), there are three issues with wish-cycling:

### 1. It Can Create More Waste

Every time a batch of recycling is contaminated with non-recyclables, it risks being sent to a landfill altogether. That means not only did the original container that was wish-cycled not get recycled, it also caused way more recycling to be landfilled instead.

### 2. It Can be Costly and Time-Consuming

Wish-cycled materials that aren't immediately caught may end up going through the recycling process, which can damage the sorting machinery and cause costly delays at the recycling center that the village utilizes.

### 3. Not Everything is Recyclable

Simply put, wish-cycling creates the mindset that everything is recyclable, when in reality not all materials are recyclable.

So where do we start? We can start by:

1. Paying special attention to plastics, as they are the most common material to be wish-cycled.

2. Learning what the plastics codes mean and which ones are recyclable in Ridgfield Park. For the most part, plastics with #1 or #2 can be recycled in the village. Discard all other plastics that do not have a #1 or #2 on them. Remember aluminum cans, glass bottles, glass jars and tin cans may be recycled. Water bottles and juice bottles with a #1 and #2 should be recycled without the caps. All materials should be rinsed out and should not contain any remnants of liquids or food. All materials should be placed in a hard plastic or galvanized container. Materials placed in a cardboard box or plastic bag will not be picked up.

3. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out. As annoying as it is to see materials go to the landfill, it is better than contaminating larger amounts of recycling. Recycling is very location-dependent, so always double-check and triple-check Ridgfield Park's requirements before recycling. You can always check the Ridgfield Park Department of Public Works website at <https://www.ridgfieldpark.org/departments-public-works/pages/recycling-information> to see what can be recycled. Through the DPW site, you may also download the Recycle Coach APP on your smartphone to keep up with what is recyclable and when your pickup day is scheduled in your neighborhood. And of course, you can always call the DPW at 201-440-4860 or email [DPW@ridgfieldpark.org](mailto:DPW@ridgfieldpark.org) with any questions you may have about recycling.

4. And finally, be diligent and be sure to double-check for commonly mis-recycled items that ensure you won't fall into the trap of recycling them or in this case wish-cycling them into a recycle stream where they really don't belong.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Environmental Commission wants to inform Village residents who might be planning or maintaining pollinator gardens, that they can call the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division and have their property placed on a "No Spray" list to prevent the Mosquito Control Division from unknowingly spraying their pollinator garden and killing beneficial insects attracted to their property.

Below is a Notice from the Mosquito Control Division on planned spraying for mosquitoes this spring. Check out [www.ridgfieldpark.org/environmental-commission](http://www.ridgfieldpark.org/environmental-commission) for the full information distributed by the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division.

### BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

#### MOSQUITO CONTROL PUBLIC NOTICE

Mosquito Control is everyone's responsibility; please do your part by preventing mosquitoes from breeding on your property. For more information on mosquitoes and mosquito control contact The Bergen County Mosquito Control Program @, 201-634-2880 or 201-634-2881 and or visit our website @ <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/public-works-mosquito-control/about-mosquito-control>.

In compliance with Section 9.10 of the New Jersey Pesticide Control Code (N.J.A.C. Title 7 Chapter 30) the Bergen County Department of Public Works - Mosquito Control Division, Jerome Avenue, Paramus New Jersey 07653 will be applying pesticides for the control and reduction of adult mosquito populations on an area-wide basis as needed throughout BERGEN COUNTY during the period from April 30, 2023, to May 31, 2023.

The pesticides used will be those recommended by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) for the control of adult mosquitoes which includes:

DUET (Active Ingredients: Prallethrin and trans-chrysanthemate), Zenivex (Active Ingredient: etofenprox 20%), Fyfanon (Active Ingredient: Malathion) Merus (Active Ingredient: Pyrethrins 5.0%) applied ONLY by ground using truck mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) equipment.

UNLESS in an extreme emergency where we may utilize the above by helicopter All applications will be according to product labeling and NJAES recommendations.

In case of any pesticide emergency, please contact the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System @ 1-800-222-1222; or the National Pesticide Information Center @ 1-800-858-7378 for routine pesticide-related health inquiries.

Upon request the Bergen County Mosquito Control shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application. Except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than the 12 hours.

The phone number for updated information on time and location of applications is 201-225-7000; and those seeking further information regarding the Bergen County Mosquito Control activities are requested to contact Warren Staudinger, Division Director (NJCPA License #58053A) @ (201)634-2880 or (201) 634-2881. The information is also posted on the County website @ <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/public-works-mosquito-control/about-mosquito-control>.

For information on pesticide regulations, pesticide complaints and health referrals contact the New Jersey Pesticide Control Program @ 1-609-984-6507.

