

village NEWSLETTER

www.ridgefieldpark.org

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Ridgefield Park, N.J.

MARCH, 2020

SPRING IN RIDGEFIELD PARK

Spring is here! But, did we actually have Winter? It didn't seem like it. But, that is what life is all about. Sometimes the expected is really the unexpected. So, let's talk about what we do expect for the coming months: April showers, Passover, Easter, warmer weather, flowers, baseball, soccer, shorts and short-sleeve shirts, and a lot of smiles for the feeling of renewal that Spring always brings.

Upcoming events in the Village: Little League Opening Day, Soccer Assoc. Opening Day, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Election Day on May 12th, Memorial Day, Flag Day, School graduations; and getting ready for the 4th of July! See inside for further details.

Spring is also the time for "spring cleaning." Time to tackle those chores that we have been putting off until Spring. Well now is the time to do it. House cleaning, painting the house, cleaning up the yard, recycling those old clothes, etc.

The ground is also warming up; and we can play farmer for a few months. Time to turn over the soil in the garden and plant those early Spring vegetables, etc. Get the rest of your garden planted as soon as the last day of frost passes. The last day of frost is May 12th.

Appreciate who you are and where you live — Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, It is a great place to live, work, raise your family, have fun, and sit back and relax. Now, let's charge into Spring.

Happy Spring!

Commissioner John Anlian
Commissioner Theresa Kohles
Commissioner Adam MacNeill
Commissioner Hugo Poli
Mayor George Fosdick

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 2020. 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 2020 Meetings:

2020 Caucus Meeting Dates:

March	5 and 19
April	9 and 23
May	7 and 21
June	4 and 18
July	9 and 23
August	6 and 20
September	3 and 17
October	8 and 22
November	5 and 19
December	8 and 22

2020 Regular Meeting Dates:

March	10 and 24
April	14 and 28
May	7 and 26
June	9 and 23
July	14
August	11
September	8 and 22
October	13 and 27
November	10 and 24
December	3 and 17

The Caucus Meeting of May 7, 2020 will begin at 6:00 PM with the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2020 immediately following.

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

Failure to comply can result in your event being shut down.

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

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 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**

CIVIC CENTER UNDERGOES TRANSFORMATION

The building that we now call the Ridgefield Park Civic Center has had an interesting and varied history. It was originally built and was the home of the Union Church more than 125 years ago. In the 1940s, it was transferred to the Village ownership, and became a Civic Center which was the focal point for civic activities and a meeting place for community groups. Expanded about 45 years ago to also house

**DRIVERS — YIELD
TO PEDESTRIANS IN
CROSSWALKS!**

our nutrition center, it still provides a place for local groups to meet and enjoy their many activities,

More recently, under the guidance of Commissioner Adam MacNeill, the old “church section” of the civic center has been renovated and rehabilitated and is now being used as the Village’s Youth Center. That part of the building is now ADA compliant, has accessible WiFi and Cable TV, is Firewall protected, and has closed circuit cameras for security. This new feature of the Civic Center provides a place for our youth to meet, study, read, play games, watch TV and have fun after school. It is open from 3pm to 7pm for grades 7 thru 12 — with parental consent. If you have a teenager in the family, please stop by and take a look.

VILLAGE’S FINANCIAL RATING INCREASED

With significant improvements in our Financial and Administrative Office, the Village’s financial rating has been increased by Moodys Investors Service. On December 18th, Moody’s issued a press release upgrading Ridgefield Park’s general obligation rating to AL This was based upon a marked improvement during the past 2 years which has raised the Village’s financial position with strong financial reserves and liquidity.

NATURE PRESERVE TO SEE NEW TRAIL AND BOARDWALK

Through the efforts of Commissioner John Anlian and Environmental Commission Chairman Steve Quinn, the Village’s Nature Preserve will see the development of a new trail and boardwalk system during the coming year. The Village has been working on this project for some time, and with a \$200,000 grant from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, the nature trail and boardwalk will become a reality within the next year.

The nature preserve, which is located north of the High School, has been created by the Village acquiring various parcels of land during the past years with the purpose of preserving a little bit of Ridgefield Park in its natural state. Steve Quinn said that “it contains three different natural land zones — woodland, marsh, and field.” and Anlian noted that “the trail and boardwalk will give residents a better opportunity to see these land zones and all of the flora and fauna that live there.”



GREEN TEAM. WHAT’S A GREEN TEAM?

A number of years ago, the State of New Jersey established a program called “Sustainable Jersey” which encourages municipalities to form “Green Teams” to make their communities more environmentally friendly, more aware of the talents of residents, and essentially make their towns more “sustainable” - meaning having the ability to sustain themselves without a lot of outside costs, products and influences without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Examples of Green Team projects are the two community gardens (in McGowan Park and Fellowship Park), expanded recycling, making the Village more electric car friendly, establishing an Arts Association, etc.

The State awards sustainability points for each successful project that a municipality completes, and when you reach a certain level of points, you are designated to be either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Sustainable Community. Through the leadership of Mark Olsen (the first Green Team chairman), our Village Green Team has achieved the Bronze Level and is building towards the Silver. The net result of all of this activity is that Ridgefield Park is becoming more “sustainable” and has brought in a multitude of new people who are now active participants in our community. If you are interested in joining the Green Team or in any of their activities, please leave your name and contact information at the Village Clerk’s Office.

VILLAGE GARDENERS

As you may know, a small group of residents plant flowers in the planters within the Main Street Business District and in the various neighborhood districts (Teaneck Rd., Ridgefield Ave., North Main St, and Central Ave). Our next planting will be taking place this Spring. If you are interested in helping, please leave your name and contact informa-

tion at the Village Clerk’s Office or you can e-mail your information to John Anlian at johndanlian@yahoo.com.

Early Spring planting will be in early April; and then the Mid-Spring planting will take place in mid-May. You don’t need to be an expert gardener. All you need is a little time and a spoonful of enthusiasm. Come on and join the fun!

RIDGEFIELD PARK: THE FUTURE OF OUR WATERWAYS IS IN YOUR HANDS

Most of the Village of Ridgefield Park west of the Turnpike is served by combined sewers, which carry a mixture of sewage and stormwater runoff during wet weather. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) discharge into local waterways during rain events, which takes place about 50 times in a typical year. Ridgefield Park has six CSO outfalls: four discharge to the Hackensack River and two discharge to the tidal portion of Overpeck Creek. Our Summer 2018 newsletter (<http://tinyurl.com/vrpscso>) covered the basics of CSOs in Ridgefield Park and how you can help reduce CSOs.

A public meeting will be held on May 26th at 7:30p.m. in the municipal courtroom (234 Main Street). All residents are encouraged to attend to hear how the Village plans to address these CSOs and to offer comments on how it may impact the Village.

The Village’s CSOs are regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) through a permit issued in July of 2015. The permit mandated that the Village prepare a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) by June 1, 2020 to reduce the occurrence of CSOs. Over the last year, the Village of Ridgefield Park, in collaboration with the Bergen County Utilities Authority and the engineering firm Mott MacDonald, has been working to develop and evaluate different approaches to reducing CSOs. These efforts are summarized here and described in a report submitted to the NJDEP which is available at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/cso-ltcsosubmittals.htm>.

Alternatives

Alternative approaches to CSO control were evaluated using a two-tiered process. First, a broad range of possible approaches were screened based on their logistical, technical and economic feasibility. Approaches which passed this screening were then fur-

ther developed into six control programs:

1. Using existing pipes to consolidate two outfalls to simplify other alternatives.
2. Two underground combined sewage storage tanks.
3. One combined sewage storage tunnel serving all outfalls.
4. Two CSO treatment facilities.
5. Installing new sewer pipes to separate sewage and stormwater into different systems.

Capturing runoff with “green infrastructure” (GI) which would infiltrate some runoff into the soil, rather than draining to the combined sewer.

Programs #2 through #5 were evaluated based on reducing CSOs from 53 currently in a typical year to 0, 4, 8, 12 and 20 overflows. Estimated (planning level) costs over a 20-year period are presented in the table below, including both capital (construction costs) and annual operation and maintenance costs over 20-years. Costs are expressed as “net present worth” to allow comparison. Costs are lowest for the Program #2 (storage tanks). It is important to understand that the costs will not be paid all at once, rather they will be spread out over as much as 20 to 30 years.

	Number of overflows per year				
	0	4	8	12	20
Control Program	Cost (Net Present Worth in Million \$)				
1) Eliminate Outfall 006	not beneficial; not considered				
2) Storage (Consolidated)	\$84	\$54	\$52	\$47	\$34
3) Tunnel	\$118	\$99	\$99	\$92	\$86
4) Treatment (Consolidated)	\$87	\$77	\$77	\$77	\$60
5) Sewer Separation	\$193	NA	NA	NA	NA

Green infrastructure (Program #6) alone is not able to reduce CSOs to the targeted number of events per year but could be employed to supplement another program. Accordingly, GI was costed based on its ability to manage stormwater runoff from

between 2.5% and 10% of the impervious area draining directly to the combined sewers. However, it is estimated that only 4% of the Village’s impervious area can feasibly be directed to GI. Again, costs include construction, operation and maintenance over 20 years expressed as net present worth.

	Percent of Impervious Area Managed			
	2.50%	5%	7.50%	10%
Control Program	Cost (Net Present Worth in Million \$)			
6) Green Infrastructure	\$2.7	\$5.8	\$8.8	\$11.6

Note: Green Infrastructure alone is unable to meet the requirements of the permit and an estimated maximum of 4% of the Village’s impervious area can be directed to GI.

Each alternative program was scored on the six criteria below on a scale of 1 (lowest performance) to 5 (highest performance).

- Cost per unit volume reduction of CSOs
- Reduction volume of CSOs
- Reduction in the frequency of occurrences of CSOs

• Institutional feasibility (e.g., the difficulty in obtaining permits from regulatory agencies to construct facilities)

• Technical feasibility (e.g., probability that unexpected conditions such as poor soil or underground utilities could disrupt con-

struction plans)

- Public acceptance

Each criterion was assigned a weighting to determine an overall, weighted-average score for each program, as shown below.

NEXT STEPS

During the coming months, the Village will determine the target level of control

(i.e., number of overflows or volume per typical year). Then, the Village will select and plan specific projects to be implemented over the next 20 to 30 years to achieve the target. The report detailing this plan must be submitted to NJDEP by June 1, 2020.

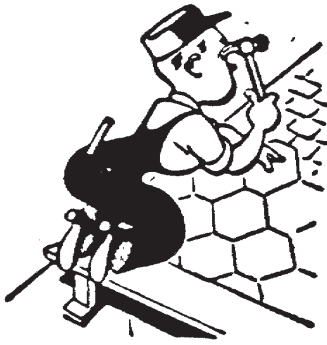
HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

You have the opportunity to influence what control programs and facilities will be planned. First, you can read the details of each alternative control programs in the full report, which includes a five-page executive summary, available at the URL above. The Village has also set up a Supplemental CSO Team consisting of Village officials and residents, which provides advice on the CSO control project. You can read minutes of and presentations given at previous meetings of the Team on the Village’s CSO webpage at <http://tinyurl.com/vrpsos>.

Be sure to attend the public meeting about the proposed plan on May 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal courtroom at 234 Main Street.

You can email your comments or questions to john.dening@mottmac.com, please include “VRP CSO Public Input” in the subject line.

Control Program	Cost per CSO volume reduction	CSO Volume Reduction	CSO Frequency Reduction	Institutional Issues	Implementability	Public Acceptance	Weighted Score
1. Eliminate CSO-006A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2. Consolidated Tank Storage	4	5	5	4	3	3	4.0
3. Tunnel	3	5	5	4	2	2	3.5
4. Consolidated End of Pipe Treatment	4	5	5	2	3	2	3.6
5. Sewer Separation	2	5	5	3	2	2	3.1
6. Green Infrastructure	1	1	1	5	4	5	2.7
Weighting	25%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	100%



BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION

When do I Need a Building Permit?

You must obtain a permit from the Building Department before doing the following work:

Any addition, interior alterations, constructing a deck, enclosing a porch, installing a dishwasher, most electrical work, finishing your basement, central air conditioning, installing a swimming pool (above or below ground), new furnace, new boiler, new hot water heater, fence, fireplace, sheds, underground sprinkler system, driveways and sidewalks.

This is a partial list, when in doubt, call the Building Department.

Can I do the Work Myself?

Carpenters do not have to be licensed in New Jersey, however, Plumbers, Electricians and Fire Alarm contractors are required to have a State License.

Homeowners of an owner-occupied single family home may do their own work. They may not have a friend, relative or neighbor do the plumbing or electrical work; the homeowner must personally do the work. A Permit is Still Required From the Building Department.

Any other structure, including owner-occupied two family homes, require all plumbing and electrical work be performed by NJ Licensed contractors.

When do I Not Need a Permit?

For ordinary repairs and maintenance work, including exterior and interior painting (C-1 Business Zone requires a review from the Historic Preservation Commission for exterior painting). Wallpapering, installation or repair of any interior finish of less than 25% of the wall area in any room. (Paneling shall not be considered an ordinary repair and requires a permit.)

The installation of any door, window or garage door, in the same opening without altering the dimensions of the framing

of the original opening. The repair of any non-structural member such as a partial railing or kitchen cabinet. The replacement or repair of any interior or exterior trim or molding.

The installation of any flooring material. In a commercial building carpeting requires a permit.

Replacing a roof.

Installation of siding.

Replacing a faucet, as long as the plumbing does not have to be rearranged.

Check With the Building Department Before You Start, to Make Sure.

WHAT IS THE 2020 CENSUS?

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

Each year, Census data informs federal funding for more than 100 programs, including school lunches, highway construction, and education.

The United States population grew 9.7% between 2000 and 2010, from 281,421,906 to 308,745,538. As a result of population changes between 2000 and 2010, eight states gained seats in the House of Representatives and 10 states had fewer seats in the House of Representatives.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

Online.

By phone.

By mail.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with

detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. Everyone living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census.

Getting a complete and accurate census count is critically important. That's why your response is required by law. If you do not respond, the U.S. Census Bureau will follow up in person to collect your response.

Why is the census so important?

The results are used to determine how much funding local communities receive for key public services and how many seats each state gets in Congress. State and local officials also use census counts to draw boundaries for congressional, state legislative, and school districts.

And while you are required by law to participate, the Census Bureau is also required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information.

The Census Bureau will continue to conduct other surveys, like the American Community Survey, during 2020. If you are contacted about another survey, it is very important to participate. But you will still be required to respond to the 2020 Census even if you participate in another survey.

Census takers will visit homes in April to conduct quality check interviews, and then in mid-May to help collect responses.

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo. If you still have questions about their identity, you can contact your Regional Census Center to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

Starting in mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The best way to avoid a visit from a census taker is to fill out the 2020 Census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail as soon as you receive your invitation to participate.

Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a web-

site that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware.

It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

Your Social Security number.

Your bank account or credit card numbers.

Money or donations.

In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Impact in Your Community

School lunches. Plans for highways. Support for firefighters and families in need. Census results affect your community every day.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Think of your morning commute: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.

Or think of your local schools: Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

Did you know...

Census results affect planning and funding for healthcare—including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, State Children's Health Insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Census results affect planning and funding for education—including programs such as Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, rural education, adult education, and grants for preschool special education.

Census results affect planning and funding for infrastructure—including programs for highway planning and construction, Section 8 housing, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.

Census results affect planning and funding for employment and training—including programs for vocational rehabilitation state grants, dislocated workers, and American Indian and Alaska Native employment and training.

So, remember, fill out your census as soon as you get it. If you need access to a computer, stop at the library or the Senior Center or email greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org and someone will help you complete your census or gain access to a computer. There's three ways to respond: online, by phone or by form.

BOARD OF RECREATION

Just a reminder to everyone, the Board of Recreation is made up entirely of volunteers who generously give their time to run various programs and activities for the residents of the Village. It operates on a small budget provided by the Village and assists hundreds of residents in various activities. You may contact the Board of Recreation by either email at boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org or calling voicemail at (201) 641-4950 ext. 610. Information on all Board of Recreation activities is available at www.ridgefieldpark.org. Please remember volunteers run these programs and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Not all activities are run by the Board of Recreation and the Board will not be able to answer your questions on these activities. To make sure you are calling the right number for assistance, please remember to check our website to see what activities the Board sponsors. Not all sporting activities are run by the Board of Recreation. Baseball, football, wrestling, softball and soccer, for instance, are all run by private organizations and unfortunately, we are unable to answer any questions concerning these activities. The summer concert series is also not run by the Board.

Please also 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.

Upcoming Board of Recreation activities are as follows:

Adult Women's Slow-Pitch Softball – Completed registration packets are due by March 31. 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 \$90.00 per player (with shirt).

Tennis – The Board of Recreation sponsors a tennis program run by Barry Rubach. Registration forms are distributed in the schools. 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. Session 1 April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, Session 2 May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13.

2:00 - 3:00 pm 6 - 7 years old

3:00 - 4:00 pm 8 - 10 years old

4:00 - 5:00 pm 11 years old and up

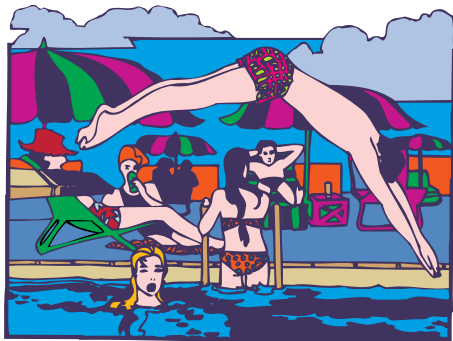
For more information, call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or go to www.allprotennis.net or email: barrys10s@gmail.com. Sessions run from the spring through fall.

T2S Basketball – The Board sponsors a basketball specific performance enhancement training program to students in grades 2-12 run by T2S Basketball Academy. There is ongoing registration at: www.t2sba.com for registration online using the registration tab on the website. For further information, interested people can email t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com or on Facebook: @t2sbasketballacademy or follow T2S on Instagram for updates on scheduled training sessions, packages and locations.

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 Municipal Building on the third floor in the Dare Room. Anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is more than welcome to attend any meeting. Anyone needing to speak to the Board of Recreation may call (201) 641-4950 ext. 610 and leave a message on the voice mail. If you wish to send a letter, please address it to the Board of Recreation at 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park. For any information concerning Board of Recreation activities or to get a registration form, please go to www.ridgefieldpark.org. If you prefer to send an

email, the email address for the Board of Recreation is boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org.

The Board of Recreation is always welcome to hear your comments.



JOHN B. DAVIS POOL

Although the thermometer may be dipping into freezing temperatures, it's time to start thinking about fun in the sun at the John B. Davis Municipal pool of Ridgefield Park. This facility is located at the foot of Hobart Street and offers everything you would want in a community pool. In addition to our three pools, we offer swim lessons and a competitive swim team for the children and a lap lane for the adults — there is something for everyone. The pool is open weekends from May 23 through June 21 and daily from June 22 through September 7. Membership is limited to Ridgefield Park, Little Ferry and Bogota residents, as well as employees and volunteers from these towns. In addition, members can sponsor Bergen County residents for full membership.

Anyone interested in information regarding membership fees or rules and regulations, please contact us at 201-641-4950 X100.

Don't miss out on the summer fun! You can also visit the pool for one of our Open houses.

Please check our website later in the spring to check for dates.

SUMMER REC.

In an effort to provide an affordable solution to meet the needs of the community, the Village of Ridgefield Park offers a Summer Recreation Program for a full day to children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. The program is a structured and safe environment that allows children to enjoy outdoor games and activities under the supervision of high school and adult counselors. The program includes twice a

week pool visits, theme days, and competitions. The program will run from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday for 6 weeks from June 29 through August 7. **New for the Summer of 2020 will be a program for children entering 7th & 8th grade. This program will take place at the newly renovated Youth Center. The program will include pool visits, outdoor and indoor activities. The program will run from 10:00am – 2:00pm Monday – Friday for 6 weeks from June 29 through August 7. **

Daina Scheidel

RP Summer Recreation – Director



YOUTH CENTER

"It takes a Village..." and Ridgefield Park has always been a stellar example of this fact. I am very excited to announce that the RP Youth Center is now open and students are enjoying the after-school space known as "the LOFT". The Youth Center is located on the top floor of the Civic Center on Park Street and serves as a safe and supervised place for students of the village from 7th-12th grade to "hang out" after school. It is open Monday-Friday from 3pm to 7pm, when school is in session and offers things like homework help, crafts, video games, movies, board games and snacks (for a small fee). A "FriendsGiving" dinner was held and students brought donations for the St. Francis Food Pantry. The RPHS Honor Society hosted a pizza and movie night. There will be other special programs for the teens throughout the year.

Registration is always open and the program is free-so if your teens haven't registered yet they can do so at any time. Talk with your children-ask them what they would like to have at the Youth Center and encourage them to attend. Please watch for notices being sent home with your children, as well as announcements on Facebook and Instagram.

Your assistance in making the RP Youth Center a success is much needed and greatly appreciated. You can contact me at 551-404-2418 or RPYouthCenter@ridgefieldpark.org

Daina Scheidel

RP Youth Center-Director



You're Invited!

WOMANS CLUB

The Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park is celebrating its 107th year as a member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs and we invite you to join us as we begin our 2020 season.

Would you like to learn more about what we do? Make new friends? Share your talents and ideas? Help make your community a better place to live? Interact with children, seniors, and lend a helping hand to those in need? Then this is the perfect place to join hands with the members of the Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Ridgefield Park Civic Center, 159 Park Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660. Enjoy fellowship, friendship and refreshments at every meeting.

We invite you to come and meet the ladies who make up our wonderful group of volunteers — those who are committed to serving our friends and neighbors.



@ YOUR LIBRARY

Book and Bake Sale

The Friends of the Library's semi-annual Book and Bake Sale will be held 4/16, 4/17, 4/18! Books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, and home baked sweets at bargain prices with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Library. The library will begin accepting donations of gently used materials for sale on March 1. Please do not donate magazines, encyclopedias, outdated non-fiction, or materials that are in poor condition. We are now accepting textbooks! Those inter-

ested in volunteering to help with the book sale should call the library at 201-641-0689.

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.

Go Beyond Your Imagination this Summer!

Summer is right around the corner, and with it comes the library's excellent array of summer programs for readers of all ages! We have a wide variety of reading incentives and prizes to give away, so be sure to check our calendar at www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org frequently for details. While you're there, please consider signing up for our electronic mailing list so that you'll receive our monthly newsletter highlighting the programs we offer. We promise not to clutter up your mail box with a slew of emails and we definitely never share your email address with any company, agency, or person—your privacy is very important to the library. Registration for programs begins on 6/18 for children and young adults, and 6/22 for adults.

Program Highlights

A full listing of our programs appears at www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org. This is also where program registrations are accepted.

Toddler Storytime—Wed., 4/1, 4/8, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 10:30–11:15 a.m. This storytime is developed specially for children ages 2–4 and their parent/caregiver. Enjoy 45 minutes of books, songs, rhymes, socialization, and a craft with other young children and their parent/caregiver. Each session of toddler storytime consists of a variety of activities that incorporate reading, talking, writing, singing, and playing. Registration is required.

Knights of the Reading Table—Wed., 4/1, 4/15, 4/29, 5/13, 6/3, 6/17, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Create a character and take part in an epic RPG adventure. Build alliances, battle monsters, and embark on an awesome quest. For 7th grade and up.

Citizen Scientist Club—Thurs., 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 3:30–4:00 p.m. Children in 5th and 6th grade can become citizen scientists for



NASA. Each week children will use their smartphone or one of the library's iPads, in order to make environmental observations that will be uploaded to NASA. This information will be used to help study the Earth and the global environment. Children will be required to upload the free GLOBE Observer Land Cover App on their smartphone and register. You can find more information about land cover science at observer.globe.gov. Weather permitting: In the event of rain or snow, this program will be cancelled. Please call ahead of time – (201)641-0689. We will meet in the lobby in the children's department.

Anime Daze—Thurs., 4/2, 5/28, 6/25, 3:30–5:00 p.m. Fans of Japanese cartoons and comics join us for anime viewings, discussions, and snacks. Doesn't matter if you're an otaku or a newbie! For 7th grade and up.

Pajama Storytime—Thurs., 4/2, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/28, 6/4, 6/25, 7:00–7:30 p.m. A wonderful way to end the evening! A relaxing storytime geared towards school aged children in grades 3rd–6th. Feel free to wear your pajamas and enjoy a story, craft and a snack. This is a drop-in program. No registration is required.

Sing and Play Storytime—Fri., 4/3, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 10:30–11:00 a.m. After listening to a story, children will enjoy a fun time of singing and play in this interactive storytime. Children will also learn some simple songs, rhymes and fingerplay. No registration is required. This is a drop-in program.

STEM Bookclub—Fri., 4/3, 5/15, 4:00–5:00 p.m. This program is for village children in 2nd and 3rd grade with a focus on discussing nonfiction books and a corresponding craft. Registration and valid library card required for each session.

March Topic: Robotics

April Topic: Making Clouds

May Topic: Map Skills

Wellness Challenge Kickoff—Sat. 4/4, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Join our village com-

munity as we collectively become a healthier and happier community. This is a free 8-week challenge sponsored by Bergen Community Health Services and Holy Name Hospital. Each week we will provide various healthy free programs to add fitness and healthy food into our daily lives. Meet many of our sponsors today and sign up for the challenge. This challenge includes free programs such as yoga, walking club, and nutritional and health workshops to name a few.

Spring Recess Kid's Movie Day—Mon., 4/6, Tues., 4/7, Wed., 4/8, 1:00 p.m. Child-friendly movies will be shown and popcorn provided but you are welcome to bring your own favorites.

Parent Book Club—Mon., 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Do you love to read but don't seem to have that alone time? Why not join our parent book club. Each month we will discuss a book while your child enjoys playing in our Early Literacy room. This book club is specially designed for busy parents of young children. Pick up a copy of this month's book at the circulation desk in the adult department.

April Book: *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple

May Book: *Confessions of a Scary Mommy* by Jill Smokler

June Book: *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Basic ESL Class—Tue., 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/19, 10:00–10:30 a.m. Practice listening, speaking, reading and writing English for everyday needs with a certified teacher. For adults 16 years old or older. This program is provided in partnership with the Friends of Ridgefield Park Public Library.

Practique escuchar, hablar, leer y escribir en inglés para las necesidades diarias con un maestro certificado. Este programa es para adultos mayores de 16 años y se proporciona en colaboración con la Biblioteca de Friends of Ridgefield Park.

Baby & Me—Tues., 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 11:00–11:30 a.m. This Storytime is developed specially for infants to 2 years old and their parent/caregivers. This is an interactive program between you and your baby. We offer 30 minutes of books, songs, rhymes, fingerplay, toys, and socialization with other young babies. Afterwards, enjoy playing in our Early Literacy Room. Registration is required.

YA Game Day—Tues., 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 3:30–5:00 p.m. Teens gather at the library

for video games, board games, card games, snacks, and socializing. Bring a friend!

Awesome Book Club—Tues., 4/7, 4/14, 6:30–7:15 p.m., For kids in grades 3 - 6. Together we will read a novel while enjoying a slice of pizza.

Friends of the Library—Tues., 4/7, 5/12, 6/9, 7:30 p.m. Are you an adult who is looking for a fun social group or some excellent volunteer opportunities with like-minded individuals? Stop by for a Friends of the Library meeting. Discuss upcoming programs and earn rewards that benefit you and Ridgefield Park. Refreshments will be served.

Yoga with Jaime—Tues. 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 7:30–8:30 p.m. This program is for adults. Join Jaime Ressler, a certified Yoga Therapist, Yoga instruction for a six week yoga program. Please bring a yoga mat, a bottle of water and wear comfortable clothes. If you don't have a yoga mat, no worries, Jaime has one you can borrow. Registration is required.

Children's Author Visit—4/8, 7:00 p.m. Come join us for an exciting event, a visit with the children's author Sara Devine. Enjoy learning about her new picture book, Jared's Last Carrot written in English and Spanish. Enjoy an extra surprise of listening to a song from her children's album. It surely will be an event that will be enjoyed by children of all ages and their families. Registration is recommended.

Movies for the Over 18 Crowd—Thurs., 4/9, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4, 6/18, 2:00 p.m. All movies are on the first Thursday of the month starting at 2:00 P.M. So why not come by, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, a donut and a free movie on us.

Chef Storytime—Thurs., 4/9, 5/7, 6/11, 7:00–7:30 p.m. Enjoy listening to a story and creating a cool food based on the book read. This storytime is geared to children ages 5 and up. Parents/caregivers must attend with our young patrons under 8 years old. Registration is required. Space is limited. Please bring a smock. Food may contain nuts and/or dairy, so please inform librarians if allergies are an issue.

April: Applesauce

May: Rice

June: Blueberries

Come Read to Rosie—Sat., 4/11, 5/30, 10:00–10:40 a.m. Do you love to read? Would you like to practice your reading skills by reading to Rosie? Rosie is an awesome beagle, and certified therapy dog. Once you read a picture book, easy reader or a few chapters in a novel, maybe Rosie

will do some tricks for you. Registration is required since Rosie travels a distance to come here, check out a book in the children's department for the event, Rosie loves books about dogs, especially beagles!

Steps for Health—Sat., 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/30, 10:00–10:45 a.m. Join us each Saturday for a walk in the park for good health. We will meet at Overpeck Park at 10:00 a.m. and walk for 1/2 hour to 45 minutes weather permitting. Call the library if you are not sure. Registration is required.

Monster Chronicles—Fri., 4/17, 5/8, 5/22, 6/26, 3:00–5:00 p.m. Create a character and form a team to battle monsters in this RPG inspired by the likes of Supernatural and Stranger Things.

Family Storytime—Sat., 4/18, 5/9, 1:00–2:00 p.m., 6/6, 11:00–12:00 p.m. Join us for Family Storytime! This program includes an interactive story, activity and craft that will help foster a love of learning through STEM. Children of all ages are welcome, but note that the storytime will focus on Pre-K readiness. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

April: Horton Hears a Who

May: Bird Chirpin' Season

June: Under the Sea Storytime

Homework Help—Mon., 4/20, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 and Wed. 4/1, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 3:30–4:00 p.m. If your child needs help with their homework, this is the perfect place to learn and build confidence by talking with a peer. Teens can sign up to help kids with their homework. Register online. Great for community service hours!

Basic ESL Class—Weds., 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Practice listening, speaking, reading and writing English for everyday needs with a certified teacher. For adults 16 years old or older. This program is provided in partnership with the Friends of Ridgefield Park Public Library. It is a six-week workshop. Registration is required.

Practique escuchar, hablar, leer y escribir en inglés para las necesidades diarias con un maestro certificado. Este programa es para adultos mayores de 16 años y se proporciona en colaboración con la Biblioteca de Friends of Ridgefield Park.

Community Dialogue & Science Fair—Sat., 4/24, 4:00–5:00 p.m. Teachers and parents are invited to sit down and talk about the ways in which our library can help provide ongoing access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiences, resources and con-

nections to experts to help with these needs. Light refreshments will be served. Afterwards, check out the displays of some of our projects completed for Citizen Science Month by children ages 2–12. Registration is required.

Adult Video/Board Game Night—Fri., 4/24, 5/29, 6/26, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Need a night out? Do you like to play video games or board games? Why not come to the library? We will be hosting a video/board game night for adults only (18 and over), with refreshments. We will be playing video games and will also have some board games setup if anyone wishes not to play video games. Registration is required through our web site at www.ridgefield-parkpubliclibrary.org or call the library at 201-641-0689.

Adult Book Club—Fri., 4/27, 5/18, 6/29, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Join us the last Monday of the month for a fun and lively discussion of our book club pick. Check out the calendar for book selections.

DIY Smoothies for Teens—Thurs., 4/30, 4:00–5:00 p.m. Make your own smoothies from a list of recipes, or get creative and come up with your own! Learn about healthy snacking and the benefits of fruits and vegetables. All-natural, feel-good snack making at its finest!

Coder Dojo—Thurs., 4/30, 6/25, 7:00–9:00 p.m. Youngsters aged 9 to 17 meet with mentors to explore the world of computer coding.

Game Time!—Fri., 5/1, 5/22, 3:30–4:30 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fun playing board games like chess, trouble, Monopoly or even Uno. Play an old favorite or learn a new game. Board games can expose children to important skills needed to learn in the 21st century, including critical thinking, collaboration & creativity. Many board games also expose children to mathematics. Bring your friends and meet some new ones. Each week we will vote on a board game to play. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Ridgefield Park Public Library. Snacks are provided. For school kids of all ages.

Introduction to Genealogy—Thurs., 5/7, 7:00–8:00 p.m. "Introduction to Genealogy, a family history, it's records, and the stories behind them." By using his own family, Steven Gabai of the Genealogical Society of Bergen County will show and explain genealogy records, its research and what you can learn by researching your family history. This 90-minute slide show presentation tells the

stories behind those records and research, as well as breakthroughs, frustrations and brick walls that go along with it.

Mr. Gabai started researching his family history over 20 years ago. He is a member of the Genealogical Society of Bergen County and has been a Trustee on the board since 2015. With his two genealogy programs — Introduction to Genealogy and Internet Genealogy — his objective is to motivate others to research their family history and to offer assistance.

Eating for Your Brain—Fri., 5/8, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Join ShopRite of Hackensack's store dietitian, Erika Lannaman, to talk about brain food! Learn which foods you should start or keep eating to keep your mind sharp! Registration is required.

Teen Game Tournament—Fri., 5/8, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Join us for a night of knock-out round gaming! Winner gets a prize! Do you have what it takes to be the last one standing?!

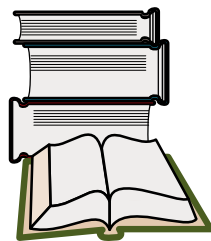
Hand Building Pottery—Thurs., 5/14, 2:00–3:30 p.m. Hands-on demonstration and help, plus all tools and materials, conveniently brought to your location. Sessions are lively and satisfying. The finished, fired and glazed product makes a great keepsake or gift. Develop the artist within you or lead your group in a constructive, positive experience.

Bibliocon—Sat., 5/16, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Teens can come in dressed up as their favorite characters from books, movies, comics, or whatever else they can imagine for an afternoon of games, snacks, trivia, crafts, and a truly terrible film.

Hand Building Pottery—Thurs., 6/4, 7:00–8:30 p.m. Hands-on demonstration and help, plus all tools and materials, conveniently brought to your location. Sessions are lively and satisfying. The finished, fired and glazed product makes a great keepsake or gift. Develop the artist within you or lead your group in a constructive, positive experience.

Teen Social Hour—Fri., 6/5, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Feeling stressed out after finals? Need a place to relax? Come hang out at the library for Teen Social Hour! Play games, listen to music, have some snacks, color, or simply enjoy some downtime.

Eating on the Run—Thurs. 6/11, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Nurturing your body on a busy schedule can be a challenge. Join ShopRite of Hackensack's store dietitian, Erika Lannaman, to learn about the basic nutritional needs of your body and how to



meet those needs while on-the-go. Come ready to learn and ready to talk about quick and easy snack and meal ideas! Registration is required.

Beyond Imagination Summer Reading Program for Children—Registration begins 6/18, and continues through the summer. Children will get a Summer Reading kit and a guided level booklist to aid in their summer reading. Our main goal is to help you maintain and improve your child's reading level, and have fun! As children read throughout the summer, they will earn points towards prizes and raffle tickets, for a chance to win one of the grand prizes to be raffled off at the end of the summer reading party with Jumping Jamie on Thursday, August 13. Reading is a skill your child will need to succeed. Let us help them have fun practicing. This is for children of all ages up to 6th grade.

Beyond Imagination Magic Show., 6/18, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the summer reading program at our Universe of Books Magic Show with Brian Richards. Summer reading registration will be available before the program. Children will receive their summer reading kit and a guided level booklist to aid in their summer reading. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Ridgefield Park Public Library.

Teen Summer Reading Kick-Off—Mon. 6/22, 3:00–5:00 p.m. Come in, learn about our Teen Summer Reading Program, and enjoy a classic fairytale film based on this year's theme!

Summer Packet Help—Fri., 6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 3:30–4:00 p.m. Need help with your math or reading summer packets? Teens and librarians will be available to help you out. Registration is required. Space is limited.

Witch and Wizard Workshop—Sat., 6/27, 11:00–12:00 a.m. Do you have what it takes to be a wizard or a witch? After assembling and decorating our very own pointy hats, children will be awarded with their very own wand and create a unique potion. This program is for children in 3rd through 6th grades and they must register online to attend.

RIDGEFIELD PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Do you have stray crayons lying around your house? We bet you do. And whether they're still unopened, used or broken, we're happy to take them off your hands.

And take heart, knowing that your crayon donation will soon brighten the day of a child in need of a pick-me-up.

Our mission is recycling used and unwanted crayons to preserve our environment and enrich the lives of hospitalized children through art and imagination.

More than a half-million pounds of crayons are discarded every year, turning into a waxy sludge that clogs our landfills. This motivated the Crayon Initiative to create a program that recycles used crayons and sends them to children's hospitals across the U.S. Now here's your chance to ShareYourColors!!! For more information visit: thecrayoninitiative.org@thecrayoninitiative.

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission is joining in this effort but needs your help. Drop off boxes are located at Grant School, Lincoln School and Roosevelt School. There are also boxes at the library and municipal building.

So the next time you're ready to throw out a broken crayon, please remember to just drop it in the box and help recycle while also brightening the day of a child who could use a smile!

HAVE FUN & ENJOY NATURE! YOU CAN BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST!

Ever been strolling down the street or hiking in the park, see something that grabs your attention and wonder hmmm — What is that unusual plant, prehistoric looking insect, or colorful bird? Well, "There's an app for that" Identify your wild plant, animal, or fungus using — iNaturalist

iNaturalist is an online community uniting Naturalists all over the world to share their observations.

On iNaturalist, you can:

CONTRIBUTE TO CITIZEN SCIENCE!

Share your observations of wild organisms

- See what other naturalists have found nearby
- Get identification help

- Keep a life list

Expand your nature knowledge

Upload a picture of any wild plant, animal, or fungus

iNaturalist's community and image recognition software will help you identify it

Help out other naturalists by identifying their observations

Every observation becomes part of a growing record of Earth's biodiversity

iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. The data base observations are used in hundreds of scientific publications. It's considered the model tool for recording valuable open data for scientific research.

Also, many high school and college-level instructors have used iNat app to engage students with nature using mobile and web technology.

Getting started is easy. Download the free app, register, and start to identify and contribute to science.

Tips for using iNaturalist:

Take several pictures of your specimen, trying to isolate it from other species. Example: close-up of flower, leaf, underside of the leaf, bark, etc.

Upload the clearest 2 or 3 pictures of the specimen

After a few moments, the app will give you its best possible guesses

Decide what the specimen is, or take different pictures, to see if you can get more definitive answers. Uploading your information publicly gets more help by letting others with more knowledge share their thoughts.

Another fantastic Citizen Science project is contributing to the knowledge base held by our local Bergen County Audubon Society. Their observations started before the advent of smartphones & apps and continues each and every year!

Join them on the special projects listed below:

December – Christmas Bird Count (since 1948)

February – Great Backyard Bird Count

May – Spring Fundraiser Count

And new this year the great comeback of Eagles Count in January!

BCAS works with National Audubon & Cornell Lab of Ornithology to build an important data base of birds in our environment.

By satisfying your own curiosity, you will be expanding the knowledge of both the scientific community and the data base in your own brain!

Now let's go out and have fun!

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

<http://bergencountyaudubon.org>

BRING YOUR OWN BAG — BYOB

Switching to reusable bags has a lot of advantages.

- **Help animals and the environment.**

Using your own bags means more plastic bags won't end up in a landfill or other places where wildlife can become entangled in them or eat them.

- **Sturdy transport for your precious cargo.** Cloth totes are much sturdier and less likely to cave under pressure than plastic or paper bags.

- **Less clutter.** They won't pile up in your cupboards.

Ridgefield Park has many bins to collect plastic other than clean, dry plastic bags like dry cleaning bags, sandwich bags, newspaper bags, plastic wrap, etc

Here are some of the bin locations: R.P. High School, Lincoln School, This N That Hardware, Public Library, The First Presbyterian Church (main floor and day care) The Marlboro House & the Recycling Center at the DPW (24 Industrial Ave.)

Life without plastic bags is possible.

THINK GREEN BUSINESS

Our Green Business Program shows our community that these businesses are committed to taking action and implementing some common practices that lead to conserving energy, reducing water use, using non-toxic cleaners, avoiding waste, recycling materials, hiring local vendors and employees.

A business can become certified green in many ways, here are a few examples: by using less toxic cleaning products, installing light timing sensors, recycling and not using styrofoam.

The benefits are simple. They excel above the competition and attract green customers while doing the right thing for the environment.

Know a business that might be eligible?

Reach out to Leslie Olson at

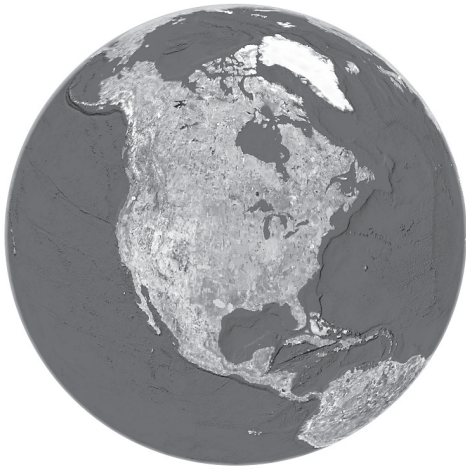
leslie-olson@verizon.net

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Monarch Butterflies are threatened by increased pesticide use and the disappearance of their habitat here and in Mexico where they spend the winter. Their populations have decreased by 80 percent over the last two decades! But you can help them by planting flowers in your garden that they and their caterpillars need to survive! Monarch Butterflies only lay their eggs on Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, and Butterfly Weed. By planting these plants in your garden you will be provided the food that Monarch caterpillars need to grow and mature into butterflies! Adult Monarch Butterflies also need nectar producing flowers to feed on during their epic migration from Northern Canada to Mexico. You can help them by planting Zinnias! Zinnias are super easy to grow and their many-colored flowers will look beautiful in your garden. They are one of the Monarch Butterfly's favorite food sources for nectar and attract hummingbirds as well! So let's all help the Monarch Butterflies that migrate through Ridgefield Park by planting the flowers they need to survive! And remember DO NOT use any pesticides in your yard or garden as this will kill any Monarch Butterflies you attract!

You might also want to attract hummingbirds to your backyard! One of the easiest ways to do this is to hang up and maintain a hummingbird feeder! The best hummingbird feeders are available from a company named Aspects at <http://www.aspectsinc.com> or from Wild Birds Unlimited at <https://www.wbu.com>. You can easily mix up the sugar water they love by adding one part regular table sugar to 4 parts of water! Boil this mixture then let it cool and fill your feeders with it. Be sure to change this mixture every week or so. Hang your feeder out in a shady spot in your garden in early spring (April) when hummingbirds start to arrive from the south. You might be lucky to encourage them to stay in your neighborhood for the summer if there are enough flowers and insects to support them when they nest and raise a family! Be sure to maintain your feeder once you attract them so they have a constant source of food while they are with you! And, again, NO pesticides as these harm hummingbirds as well!

**DRIVERS — YIELD
TO PEDESTRIANS IN
CROSSWALKS!**



RIDGEFIELD PARK EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR JUNE 13TH

This year's Village of Ridgefield Park's Earth Day celebration is set for Saturday June 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Riverfront Park, located behind The Department of Public Works building at 24 Industrial Avenue.

Hosted by the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission and Green Team, the day starts off with multiple Interactive Shows featuring lessons on different animal species and scientific demonstrations.

The fun continues with boat rides from the Riverkeeper along the Hackensack River, all-day music provided by Mark Rust, face painting and a Green Fair featuring local artisans, fauna, flowers, environmental exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. In addition to these activities, 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.

Commissioner John Anlian, who oversees the activities of the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission and Green Team said, "We are excited about this year's celebration and the activities that we are offering the residents of Ridgefield Park. It's going to make for a fun and educational day for all."

"At the same time we hope to raise awareness about environmental issues that are affecting our community and 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 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. This year's Earth Day Celebration is really all about bringing the community together to celebrate and enjoy the environment where we live."

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



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Joyously, spring is right around the corner! And with the warmer weather, longer hours of daylight brings budding plants, emerging leaves and the planting of new trees in the Village. The Shade Tree Commission welcomes all residents to participate and enjoy the trees. ..Here' how:

Request a tree... planting sites are being selected now so it's not too late.

Attend the Annual Arbor day Celebration to be held in conjunction with Earth Day on Saturday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m. in Riverfront Park, adjacent to the Department of Public Works ... students whose work won in the Arbor Day contest will be introduced and receive their cash awards.

Become a member of the STC or a Block Ranger (check trees in your neighborhood reporting important information to STC)

Last but not least, enjoy with all your senses the various species of Village trees!

Among the species ordered from the nursery for spring planting are: Hawthorne, Hackberry, White Oak, Service Berry, Hornbeam, Cherry Dogwood, Elm, and London Plane. In addition, a very special seedling from the famed Salem Oak will be planted in the Village. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

Catherine R. McCabe gave each of New Jersey's 565 municipalities a seedling to celebrate the 50th birthday and the 50th anniversary of America's first Earth Day on April 22, 2020. For more than 500 years the Salem Oak stood in the historic city of Salem and where, according to legend, Quaker John Fenwick signed a peace treaty with the Lenni Lenape Native Americans under its branches. Before it suddenly crashed to the ground in June 2019, it was one of New Jersey's best known and most celebrated trees; the majestic oak was more than 100 feet tall with a trunk circumference of approximately 22 feet and a crown span of 104 feet. Commissioner McCabe said she hopes that these oak seedlings "can create a lovely, lasting legacy."

The focus this issue is on the London Plane tree, *Platanus x acerifolia*. Wonderful examples of this species line Euclid and Grand Avenues with others scattered throughout the Village. London Plane trees are currently 6.5% of the Village planting stock. They have a massive stature, 70'-100' high, with wide spreading branches, 65'-80' wide, olive-to-cream mottled bark. Another very important attribute is that the London Plane is one of the most efficient trees in removing small particulate pollutants in urban areas.

If there is a concern about a Village tree, contact the STC either by letter addressed to 234 Main Street; phone 201-641-4950, extension 640; or by attending a meeting. Always provide your name, phone number, and concern along with the address of the tree. You will be contacted after a STC meeting; the STC meets on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:30 pm in the third floor conference room.

SIDEWALKS

The STC has the Sidewalk Safety Program for sidewalks that need lifting or replacing due to Village shade tree roots. Anyone interested in the program should obtain forms at Town Hall and return the completed forms to the STC to initiate inspection.

Currently, there is a waiting list, but submit your application now because work is done according to the date the application is received.

All reimbursable work **MUST BE PREAPPROVED BY A STC MEMBER** and done by a **STC APPROVED CONTRACTOR**. Property owners will not be reimbursed for work done without preapproval by STC or by a contractor who is not STC approved. Property owners are required

to pay the contractor and then submit the invoice to the STC for reimbursement.

REMINDERS

According to Village Ordinance 3-79 no one can fasten any sign...garage sale, lost pet, etc...to any Village shade tree.

ATTENTION ARTISTS, ARTISANS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association will be holding its first Art Crawl on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from noon to 6:00 pm. This event — which will be free to the public — is a self-guided tour featuring painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, music, quilts and more in participating venues throughout the Village.

If you are interested in either displaying your work (for viewing only or for sale) or in volunteering at the event, contact Leslie Olson at 201-440-5989 or leslie-olson@verizon.net.

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

ROTATING ART EXHIBIT

The Rotating Art Exhibit, overseen by the Ridgefield Park Arts Association, is located in the Municipal Building on the second and third floors. We invite Ridgefield Park residents and those who work or own businesses in the village to participate. Artists may submit original pieces of art to include photography, painting, sculpture, drawing, watercolor, graphics design, and ceramics. Our current exhibit runs from Feb through July 2020 and includes works by 13 participants. We are adding a new category called ever day art. This exhibit includes a unique display of wooden pepper mills. Make time to visit the exhibit. It is well worth it!

SAVE THE DATE

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association will hold its second annual Summer Arts Fest on June 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 at the corner of Grove Street and Main Street. Performing artists from the high school, our village, and neighboring communities will be featured. Come join us for an exciting evening of singing and dancing. Watch our participating artists sculpt and paint on site. Enjoy delicious food at our local restaurants. Join us for a fun filled evening as we celebrate the arts in Ridgefield Park!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Season 4 of the Community Garden is underway at both Fellowship Park and McGowan Park. A few gardeners have joined us this year at both locations. Anyone who is a resident, works or owns a business in Ridgefield Park is welcome to join. In lieu of a fee, gardeners are responsible to participate in communal work sessions. Many work sessions are scheduled throughout the season allowing gardeners the opportunity to meet the requirement. These sessions give us a chance to socialize and learn from each other - last season several of us learned how to plant asparagus and garlic!

Each garden location has signs indicating the public and private plots. While the inner plots are planted by individual gardeners and the produce is off limits to the public, both locations have an outer surround of public plots with trellis backs and small diamond boxes. These trellis-backed public plots are maintained by the gardeners and as the crops mature in the public plots, we invite you to pick from the public plots only. The diamond boxes on the outer garden rim contain mostly herbs which are shared by gardeners and the public. At times we will have a basket of veggies available — at the gardens and on concert nights at McGowan. We ask anyone taking vegetables from the public plots to be considerate and only take a few, leaving some for others.

The inner, private plots are for the garden members only. We ask that you respect their hard work and refrain from picking from these plots.

Anyone wishing more information on the garden, can find us listed on the village website or email us at communitygarden@ridgefieldpark.org.



RIDGEFIELD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Bureau News

The Ridgefield Park Police Department, in cooperation with the Little Ferry Police Department, will be conducting the 16th annual Junior Police Academy Program. The Junior Police Academy will be a five-day program and will be open to boys and girls who will be completing sixth, seventh or eighth grade in June 2020.

Goals of the program are: to expose Village youths to police work through an enjoyable but disciplined forum; to allow members of the police department to interact with Village juveniles in a positive way; and to reinforce the consequences of negative behavior, violence and substance abuse. The week will consist of physical conditioning, military drill, and various hands-on experiences. There will be guests from federal, state and county law enforcement agencies who will provide demonstrations of their expertise. A one-day field trip is also being planned.

The program is tentatively scheduled to run from June 22 through June 26. Applicants must be permanent residents of the Village of Ridgefield Park. Twenty-five juveniles from Ridgefield Park and twenty-five juveniles from Little Ferry will be chosen to participate in the program. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The applications will be distributed through the school system and will also be available at Ridgefield Park Police Headquarters in April 2020. Parents can contact Det. Robert DiStasi at rdstasi@rppd.org or stop in at police headquarters with any questions or concerns you may have.

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 PBA Local 86 and the Ridgefield Park Police Department Goodwill are the only organizations 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.

Motorized Scooters (GO-PEDS)

No person, except for an operator with

a mobility-related disability, shall operate a motorized scooter upon any public street, highway or sidewalk. Additionally, no person shall operate a motorized scooter on the property of another without the consent of the owner of that property or the person who has a contractual right to the use of that property. (39:414.12)

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. Please do not hesitate to contact the police department at any time, regarding any matter where you require assistance.

Autism and Special Needs Database

The Ridgefield Park Police Department maintains a database on all autistic and special needs residents. The database is voluntary and is designed for families who wish to complete a Hidden Disability Registration Form. The purpose of the database is intended to provide police officers with quick access to important information which can be used to aid in the recovery of a missing autistic person as well as the identification of a located person who may be autistic or have special needs. The information stored in this data base is for police department use only and shall not be shared with the public for any reason. www.rppd.org

RPPD Personnel

The Ridgefield Park Police Department would like to welcome 3 new officers to our ranks: Ptl. Nicholas D'Elia, Ptl. Christopher Dooley and Ptl. Graig Scherer. Ptl. Dooley has begun his training at the Bergen County Police Academy and is scheduled to complete his training in June. Upon completion, Ptl. Dooley will undergo field training at the Ridgefield Park Police Department. Ptl. D'Elia and Ptl. Scherer have already completed academy training and are currently undergoing field training.

Ptl. James Arnold recently resigned from the Ridgefield Park Police Department to accept a position with his home-town Rutherford Police Department. We thank him for his service to the Village and wish him well in his new position.

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK ANNOUNCES RAVE ALERT TO KEEP COMMUNITY INFORMED DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Public Safety Officials Encourage Residents to Sign Up For Local Emergency Notifications To Be Better Prepared for an Emergency

Ridgefield Park, NJ — 10/22/2019 — Public safety officials in Ridgefield Park are excited to announce that RAVE Alert is now available to all residents. RAVE Alert is a free service that allows individuals to sign up for notifications sent from state and local authorities. RAVE Alert keeps residents and travelers informed on potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic and other emergencies.

"RAVE Alert" enables authorities to notify the community in real time," said Michael Lauer, Emergency Operations Coordinator. "This service allows for critical communication with the public and provides individuals with the information needed to stay safe or take precautions during hazardous or emergency situations."

RAVE Alert enables residents and travelers to Ridgefield Park to sign up for free at

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=VillageOfRidgefield> to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts via email, text or voice message. They can also identify when and how they are alerted and communicated with before, during, and after emergencies.

Ridgefield Park residents and travelers can also download the Smart911 app to sign up for RAVE Alert to receive key information needed in an emergency. The Smart911 app provides enhanced functionality by sending targeted alerts based on the user's location. Smart911 app users will receive the highest priority National Weather Service alerts including tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, and severe thunderstorm warnings based on their real-time location. Download the Smart911 App on the Apple Store or Google Play or by texting "Smart911" to 67283.

"Community members will receive notifications that will improve safety in our city and help inform residents of potentially lifesaving actions they may need to take in an emergency," said Michael Lauer, Emergency Management Coordinator. "The information sent out through emergency

notifications allows both residents and first responders to be better informed in an emergency situation."

"When authorities have information about a situation, such as storm or emergency, they can be more effective in providing information to the public and appropriate assistance," said Michael Lauer, Emergency Management Coordinator. "We encourage all members of our community and their families' sign up for RAVE Alert in order to be prepared should an emergency occur."

RAVE Alert is trusted by thousands of institutions including state and local authorities, business and educational institution. RAVE Alert sends millions of messages daily and performs flawlessly in critical situations such as severe weather.

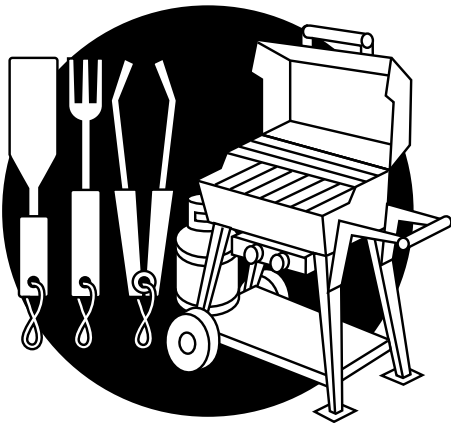
Community members are encouraged to sign up for RAVE Alert and input their information and notification preferences today at <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=VillageOfRidgefield>



FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

Please be advised, as per the State Fire Code, effective January 1, 2019 ALL non-owner occupied one and two family homes, multiple dwellings and any business which has a battery operated smoke detector MUST have the new 10 year sealed smoke detectors installed. The Bureau of Fire Prevention has been mentioning this during our inspections in 2019 and in 2020 we will start to enforce the new code. Be prepared before your next inspection!

If you have a business or a organization that wishes to be trained in Fire Extinguisher Use/Safety, please contact the Bureau to ask about scheduling a training session. Our number is 201-440-2570.



BACKYARD BARBEQUE SAFETY

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Because gas and charcoal grills cause an average of 1,500 structure fires and 4,800 outdoor fires in or on home properties, the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) offers these sensible outdoor grilling tips to help you keep your cookout safe and fun.

Getting Ready

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Declare the entire grill area a “kid-free zone” until the grill has completely cooled off.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- If you have a charcoal grill, purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- If you have a propane grill, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. Have leaking fuel lines repaired before using.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- If you are using fluid to start a charcoal

grill, use only fluid intended for this purpose. It is extremely dangerous to substitute any other combustible liquid to start the coals. This is especially true for gasoline, which can be ignited explosively by even a tiny spark.

- Apply starter fluid directly to the coals, then reseal and put away the can. Light the coals carefully, avoiding the flame flare-up. Store the can out of reach of children and away from heat sources.

- When you’ve finished cooking, keep an eye on the grill until it has completely cooled. Charcoal can be soaked with water to speed the cooling process, but use extreme caution to avoid the steam and splatters, which can cause burns.

A final word about cookouts: Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.

SPRING

Spring is arriving and your thoughts may be turning to that dreaded ritual of spring cleaning. With it comes a timely reminder to keep your home safe from the threat of fire. In an effort to make this “Spring Cleanup” a fire safe one, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue provides the following safety tips:

- Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- To help prevent nuisance alarms, gently vacuum your smoke alarm every six months or as needed.
- Change batteries in flashlights and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Keep outdoor debris or dead vegetation away from the house.
- Properly dispose of oily or greasy rags. If these items must be stored, they should be kept in labeled, sealed, metal containers.
- If you store gasoline, keep it outside your home in a shed or detached garage. Keep only small quantities in tightly sealed containers. Use gasoline only as a motor fuel — never as a cleaning agent.
- Use outdoor barbecue grills with caution. Place in a safe area away from building, windows, heating, ventilation and air conditioning units or places with high/dead vegetation.

- Never use gasoline to start the fire, and don’t add charcoal lighter fluid once the fire has started.

- Use barbecue grills outside only - not under overhangs or balconies, and away from combustibles.

- Check your propane barbecue grill hose for leaks and cracks; never store propane indoors.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Village of Ridgefield Park offers free immunizations to infants and school age children that are residents of Ridgefield Park. We contract with the borough of Ridgefield in order to provide this service to our residents.

Should you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact the Ridgefield Park Health Dept. at 201-641-9125.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FREE!**

**RIDGEFIELD PARK DOG & CAT
OWNERS RABIES CLINIC**

Sponsored by the **RIDGEFIELD PARK
HEALTH DEPT.**

**APRIL 30, 2020 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING
(DPW)**

**24 INDUSTRIAL AVE.
RIDGEFIELD PARK**

All dogs and cats that were inoculated in 2017 must be inoculated this year. Dogs must be secured to a leash and be accompanied by a person over age 12. Cats must be brought in a carrier. Licenses for dogs and cats may be renewed at this site.

\$10.00 - Neutered

\$15.00 - Not Neutered

**LATE FEE of \$10.00 will be charged for
animals licensed after April 30, 2020**

**JOHN H. ANLIAN
Commissioner**



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Recycling Center hours are Monday through Saturday, 9am-12 noon.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AFTER 12 NOON.

Even if the gates are open-it may not be safe for you to enter!



The following items are NOT picked up at the curb-You may bring these items to the Recycling Center:

- Antifreeze
- Car batteries (regular batteries go in household garbage)
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Cooking oil -Used
- Helium Tanks
- Motor oil and oil filters
- Propane Tanks
- Paint Cans
- Styrofoam

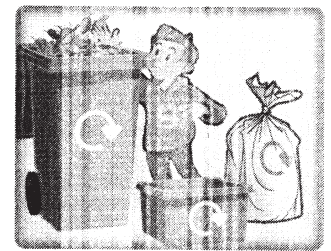
YARD WASTE pick up resumes on March 15th

Yard waste should be placed at the curb the night before collection.

- Mt. Vernon & South is picked up on Mondays
- North of Mt. Vernon is picked up on Tuesdays

Yard waste consists of weeds, grass clippings, branches twigs and clippings from bushes and flowers. Branches should be cut into 4 foot lengths and tied into bundles.

NO DIRT OR ROCKS! It must be placed in a dump able container (35 lb. limit) or a brown bag. **Please DO NOT dump yard waste in the street.**

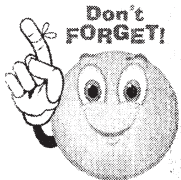


It is a violation of Village of Ridgefield Park ordinance to sweep, cast or throw anything into the gutter.

Yard Waste can be placed in a trash can or PAPER bags. Do NOT put Yard Waste in Plastic Bags.

DON'T FORGET...

You must call in the following items for "**White Goods**" collection by Tuesday for Wednesday collection.



- Tires
- Bicycle
- Lawnmowers
- Snow Blowers
- BBQ Grills
- Treadmills
- Air Conditioners
- TVs
- Computers
- Printers
- Stoves
- Refrigerators
- Dishwashers
- Hot Water Heaters
- Washers/Dryers

Your address will be added to a list. Place your items at the curb on Tuesday night and a special truck will pick-up on Wednesday morning starting at 6am. Call 201-440-4860

Please remember to rinse out your trash/recycling cans regularly.

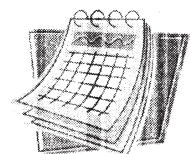
Dirty receptacles are unsanitary and attract pests!

Your Garbage crew thanks you!

Mark your Calendars ...

✓ **Paper Shredding - Saturday, April 25th 9am-1pm @ DPW**

Saturday, October 10th 9am-1pm @ DPW



Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help protect your family and friends in the Village of Ridgefield Park by becoming a member of the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department. The 100% volunteer department, staffed by men and women from Ridgefield Park, is in need of additional personnel. All training and equipment is provided to you by the department. The Department is a very progressive department with the latest in fire fighting technology to protect the citizens of Ridgefield Park. We respond to over 400 calls for service per year with a wide array of requests including vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, and structure fires. Active membership is open to residents age 18 and over with Junior Firefighter membership open to residents age 16-18.

The Department consists of six individual fire companies operating out of six fire houses. These companies are as follows:

Engine 1 – Located on Mt. Vernon Street
Engine 2 – Located on Euclid Avenue
Engine 3 – Located on Hackensack Avenue

Engine 4 – Located on Teaneck Road
Ladder 1 – Located on Euclid Avenue
Ladder 2 – Located on Hazleton Street

Some benefits of becoming a member include:

- Community service and helping others in dire need
- Become part of a team of fellow firefighters
- Retirement planning (LOSAP program)
- Training and experience
- Self pride

For more information visit your local firehouse or contact the fire chief's office at (201) 641-5088.

Website: www.ridgefieldpark.org/firedept.html Email: RidgefieldParkFireChief@yahoo.com

If interested in becoming a member, please fill out this information card and return it to any member of the department or mail to RPPD Chief's Office – 50 Main Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660:

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____