

# village NEWSLETTER

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VOL 38 NO4

Ridgefield Park, N.J.

MARCH, 2022

## SPRING IS HERE - ALMOST

Whether you abide by the predictions of the Groundhog or just take a look at the calendar to see when March 21st arrives, you can be sure of one thing - it is getting warmer outside. Time to get ready for Spring Cleaning, backyard clean-up, planting the early Spring garden, and changing your wardrobe from those heavy winter clothes to lighter wearing apparel. Palm Sunday, Passover, Easter, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Memorial Day are all quickly approaching holidays.

As you will see in this Newsletter, Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 30th and Earth Day on May 21st. The proposed Veterans Park rehabilitation is now in the environmental review stage to make sure that we don't have any underlying problems. The nature trails and boardwalks in the Nature Preserve may be completed by Summer. . The Village is still dealing with the loss of tax revenues due to the large land grab of the Skymark properties by New Jersey Transit. Memorial Day will be celebrated on May 30th at 11am at Euclid & Mt. Vernon St. A reminder that the 2nd Quarter real estate taxes are due on May 1st.

There are many people who have moved to warmer climates; but when you live in New Jersey, you get to experience and appreciate the change in seasons. Now we will again see spring flowers, trees leafing out, singing songbirds, and your neighbors emerging from hibernation. So, enjoy each and every day of Springtime.

**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. Please check the website and/or municipal message board frequently for updated info. All registration forms are available on the website. Questions: [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org). Please remember volunteers run these programs and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

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. 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. Please remember to check 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:

**Archery Clinic** - Open to those 6 years old and up. The spring session will run from April 9 - June 25, 2022, on 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. There will be no archery on April 16 because everyone will be at the Easter Egg Hunt. There will also be no archery on May 28 for Memorial Day weekend.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2022, 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! Please remember this is a dog-free park and dogs are not permitted to enter the park.

**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 \$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 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4. Cost is \$85.00.

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
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Adults

For more information, call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or go to [www.allprotennis.net](http://www.allprotennis.net) 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](https://www.facebook.com/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 more than welcome to attend any meeting. Info or questions: [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org) . Voicemail: 201-641-4950 ext. 610.

## RIDGEFIELD PARK PREPARES FOR NJ PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT

New law bans plastic and paper bags, foam and limits straws

Ridgefield Park prepares for the implementation of the NJ's Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, which was signed into law by Governor Murphy in November 2020. The state acted after more than 130 municipal ordinances were passed tackling disposable, single-use plastics.

Through the law, single-use plastic bags, as well as disposable food containers and cups made out of polystyrene foam, will be banned beginning in May 2022. Paper bags will also be banned in supermarkets over 2,500 square feet. Restaurants and food service businesses will be allowed to provide single-use plastic straws only upon request starting November 2021.

The Plastic Pollution Reduction Act represents a comprehensive plastic policy and is a major step to reducing litter that threatens vulnerable wildlife. When fish and other wildlife mistake plastic for food, intestinal blockage and death can result. What's more is that the chemicals used to manufacture plastic transfers to fish tissue, and eventually enter the human food chain.

New Jerseyans use 4.4 billion single-use plastic and 1,300 football fields of trees worth of paper bags every year. The law will reduce the use of these products and in turn protect the state's 130-mile coast line and open spaces. This may all seem to be a real hassle and headache. But, that is what some people said when we started recycling. We urge all residents of Ridgefield Park to start preparing for the change now with simple swaps. In the long run, we will have a cleaner and less polluted home.

Tips to break the plastic habit:

### Straws:

- If dining out, simply tell your server "no straw, please" when you order your drink. When the law takes effect, you'll be used to your drink, sans straw! Expanded Polystyrene Foam (commonly known as Styrofoam):
  - Bring your own clean takeout containers with you, preferably glass
  - Bring your own reusable thermos or water bottle with you

### Bags:

- Use what you have. If you've already got a closet full of bags, try them out. That may be all you need.
- Think inside the box. Consider reusing cardboard boxes or a crate to carry your groceries.
- Pick a durable bag. If you are in the market for a new reusable bag, keep in mind that they typically need to be used hundreds or thousands of times to offset the carbon footprint from their manufacture.
- Find a bag you love. There are many different styles out there, so be sure to prioritize a bag you'll be proud to carry with you.
- Consider your lifestyle. Need one that fits in a pocket or in your trunk? Lugging your groceries home by foot or loading them into your car? Pick a bag that will serve your needs.
- Go recycled. Bags made from recycled plastic typically have a low carbon footprint; however, pollution is still a concern with any plastic product.
- Understand cotton. Canvas is a delightful natural product, but since cotton has a high carbon footprint, look for bags made from recycled material (eg, old jeans).
- Bring it with you. While this might seem obvious, for many of us, it's not easy. Be sure to try out different strategies until you find a habit that sticks.

For more information about the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, visit [www.NJNOPLASTICS.org](http://www.NJNOPLASTICS.org)



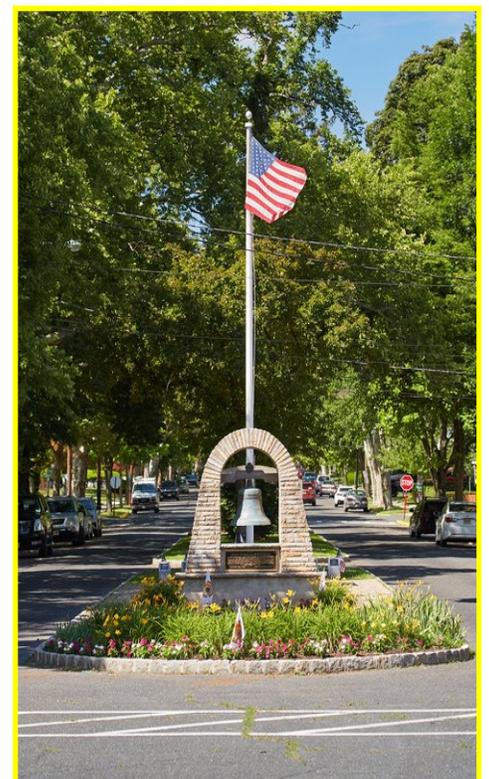
## WANTED: VILLAGE GARDENERS

During the spring and fall of each year, a group of residents get together to plant flowers in the various planters on Main Street and in the neighborhood business districts on Teaneck Road, Ridgefield Avenue and other locations around our Village. They are known as the Village Gardeners. We are looking for more residents to join The Village Gardeners in this effort to keep Ridgefield Park beautiful.

If you are interested in joining, please leave your name, telephone number and address at the municipal building. You can also send this information to us via e-mail at: [wgerken@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:wgerken@ridgefieldpark.org). You don't need any prior gardening experience. Each planting event will take about 2 hours on a Saturday morning or on such other day that you might have available.

You don't need a green thumb to be a Village Gardener, just some time and enthusiasm to Help Keep Ridgefield Park Beautiful.

JOIN THE VILLAGE GARDENERS!!!



## CELEBRATE THE TREES!

Join the celebration! It's time again for the annual Arbor Day festivities which this year will be held at the Ridgefield Park Public Library, 107 Cedar Street, on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Library personnel and Shade Tree commission members together are planning the program. As usual it will include Village children who this year will receive white dogwood saplings to take home and plant, with accompanying instructions for care. The program time will be posted on the Village website and the digital bulletin board outside Town Hall. In 1872, the nation's first tree planting holiday was celebrated and then a century later the Arbor Day Foundation was launched. So this is a special year!!! This is the 150th anniversary for Arbor Day, the 50th anniversary for the Arbor Day Foundation and the 43 year for the Village's Arbor Day celebration. All states have Arbor Days and the mission for all is the same: "inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees."

Good news for trees, and consequently for all humans and living creatures, in this celebratory year! Globally in the past four years, over a million trees have been planted by nearly 12 million volunteers. The effort was launched by the Arbor Day Foundation with funding from 18 corporations such as Bank of America, FedEx, Target, and Verizon.

Fortunately in Ridgefield Park, there are many people inspired to help! Town officials, residents, and the DPW combine efforts to plant trees as well as to care for existing trees. The Shade Tree Commission, which was established in 1979, to plant and care for the "shade trees, and shrubbery upon and in the streets, highways, public places, parks, and parkways," encourages residents to join. There's always rewarding work to be done; STC meetings are the fourth Monday of each month, except in December the second Monday, at 7:30 pm in the 3rd floor conference room in Town Hall.



Spring 2022 planting plans are underway, but there is still time to contact the STC to request a tree for this year; email [shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org) with your name, address, and phone number or email. Any tree that was removed by STC will be replaced. Currently, there's a nursery order list of approximately 60 beautiful trees including; dogwoods, red buds, maples, elms, zelkovas, oaks, and Yoshino cherries.

### Sewer Lines

Tree roots do not crack sewer lines, but if old clay sewer lines crack, tree roots might invade the line.

Any questions about a sewer should be addressed to a professional such as a plumber. Here are some suggested approaches from experts, but always follow manufacturer's directions: Robic foaming root killer (Root X is one brand) or copper sulfate; both of which have to be used regularly and work best when roots haven't clogged the lines. The Robic foaming root killer claims to kill roots that may be in upper and lower portions of the sewer lines due to its foaming action. Copper sulfate claims to kill roots growing along the bottom of sewer lines. These are said to be essentially preventive treatments.

Once the lines are clogged by roots, experts say the lines might need to be snaked with a root cutting head.

### Featured Tree Species

Since the Library and STC will distribute white dogwood saplings to the children at the Arbor Day Celebration that species is highlighted in this issue. Dogwood trees are widely appreciated for their delicate beauty and the white dogwood, *Cornus florida* L., is no exception. It is a small to medium sized tree with large white blossoms in the spring followed by red fruits that with small twigs are important foods for numerous song and game birds, rabbits, and squirrels. In autumn, the leaves are a spectacular show of scarlet, orange, or purple.

HAPPY SPRING and enjoy the beautiful trees along the Village streets, yards and parks.



The Ridgefield Park Police Department is anticipating the arrival of Body Worn Cameras in March 2022. The Police Department has been operating with Mobile Video Cameras in their patrol vehicles for the past twenty years. All equipment has been updated and will be utilized in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Body Worn Camera Policy.



## LIBRARY 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A full listing of our programs appears at [www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org)

This is also where program registrations are accepted.

**Yoga Time With Jaime**-Tues., 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. This virtual yoga class is designed to enhance health and well-being while boosting your immune system. Namaste

**Rain Garden**-Weds., 3/23, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Presentation on the benefits of rain gardens as well as the design process, installation, and maintenance.

**How to Promote Native Plant Species and Avoid Invasives?**-Weds., 4/13, 7:00-8:00 p.m. An informative presentation on the importance of planting native plant species and controlling invasives. Will cover how to remove invasive plants, NJ native plant species, biodiversity and resources available.

**Hand Building Pottery**-Tues., 5/3, 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.

## COMING SOON! RIDGEFIELD PARK'S OWN NATURE PRESERVE!

Construction on the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve is nearing completion and, If all work goes as planned, it will be ready for opening ceremonies by late spring or early summer!! This was partially made possible through a \$299,000 grant that the Village received from The Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund for the purpose of preserving open space.

The Nature Preserve is, approximately, 13 acres of woodlands, open fields and wetlands that supports a variety of plant and animal life. It will feature an interpretive nature trail through these various habitats so that visitors can experience and learn about the natural world that thrives there. The trail will include educational exhibit panels that will describe the natural history of the Preserve and a floating boardwalk made from recycled plastic that will allow for accessing the Preserve's open wetlands. A large section of the trail and boardwalk will be handicapped accessible and allow for wheelchair access.

Along with providing Village residents with the opportunity to simply go for a pleasant stroll in nature, The Nature Preserve will provide many opportunities for all of us to learn more about our environment here in Ridgefield Park. Watch for future announcements of programs and events to be held at the Nature Preserve such as opportunities for bird watching, tree and wildflower identification walks, and hikes to study the Preserve's wildlife and habitats! Our Village schools and scouting groups can also look forward to utilizing the Nature Preserve for conducting environmental studies and outdoor science club activities!

So stay tuned for the future announcement of the opening of the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve and join us for a celebration of the great outdoors right here in our Village!! Those interested in receiving news about the opening of The Nature Preserve and upcoming events, please send us an email at [envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org) so we can put you on our email list.

## 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 2022. 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 2022 Meetings:

2022 Caucus Meeting Dates:

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

2022 Regular Meeting Dates:

March	8 and 22
April	12 and 26
May	10 and 24
June	14 and 28
July	12
August	9
September	13 and 27
October	11 and 25
November	10 and 22
December	13 and 27

### 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) 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](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.**

### MUSICIANS & ARTISTS NEEDED!

The Village will be showcasing more public art performances this year. In addition to our summer concerts at McGowan, Grove Street and Ferris Park we will be having busking in some of our outdoor public spaces. Busking is the act of street performing done for exposure and in hopes of voluntary donations.

Though the weather indicates otherwise, summer is fast approaching and musicians are needed to make it memorable. From opening acts for our summer concerts to our newly established busking program opportunities for musicians and artists to perform in our outdoor public spaces, will be available!

For our summer concerts, we are seeking bands as opening acts. Whether you're a newly formed band or a student band, all acts are welcomed! Preference is given to Ridgefield Park residents but anyone is able to participate in our summer concerts.

Alongside some other municipalities in the county Ridgefield Park will now allow busking. Busking is not just music. It includes visual and performing arts. Quality of life improves and communities are strengthened wherever busking is permitted.

Busking will occur in designated areas within our several business districts, and some parks. As with concerts, Ridgefield Park residents are given priority. As long as you have talent, you can apply for our busking program.

Whether you are a student, upcoming musician, or a professional artist, all talents are welcomed in our community. For more information regarding performing at our summer concerts or participating in our busking program contact: [concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org)

## GREEN TEAM AND SECOND CHANCE TOYS COLLECTION

Ridgefield Park Green Team needs your help gathering hard plastic toys for our Second Chance Toys Collection on Saturday April 23rd. We will accept plastic toys that are clean, in working order, and have no missing or small parts. Battery-operated plastic toys will be accepted, but you must put new batteries in prior to donation. Our goal is to prevent these plastic toys from going into a landfill and give children in need new toys to play with. We're looking for hard plastic toys like play sets and activity centers, Fisher-Price toys, plastic cars and trucks, plastic doll houses and dolls. Games and puzzles that are intact are also accepted. Bring your hard plastic toys, games and puzzles to the DPW on Industrial Avenue between 10 am - 12 noon on Saturday April 23rd, rain or shine! For more details contact Leslie Olson at [leslie-olson@verizon.net](mailto:leslie-olson@verizon.net) or call on 201-741-0774.

### Recycling Plastic and EPS (styrofoam)

Single use plastic bags, plastic wrap, bubble wrap and EPS packaging should be brought to the Recycling Center Monday - Saturday from 9 am - 12 noon. You can't just toss them in with the bottles and cans for the Wednesday recycle pick up. Stay informed about how and what we recycle at: <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works>

### Go Reusable Today

Starting this May, NJ law bans grocery stores from providing plastic and paper

## PLEASE MAKE ROOM IN YOUR GARDEN FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Our birds depend on native insects. Our native insects, bees and butterflies depend on native plants. We depend on native plants. Please Plant Native Plants!!! Please Plant Native Pollinator Gardens!!! If you do, you will be doing great things for our native birds, butterflies and bees; and for yourself too! Some sources for native plants:

1. Prairie Nursery - <https://www.prairienursery.com>
2. Toad Shade Nursery - <https://www.toadshade.com/toadshade.htm>
3. Prairie Moon Nursery - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
4. Rohsler's Allendale Nursery - 100 Franklin Tpk., Allendale, NJ -201-327-3156 - [info@rohslers.com](mailto:info@rohslers.com)
5. Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery - 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA - (610) 395-2570 - [edgeofthewoodsnursery.com](http://edgeofthewoodsnursery.com)



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

## Resident Vehicle Awareness

We would like to ask all of our Village residents to please be vigilant and alert for suspicious behavior during the late night hours. If you happen to be awake or are woken up from your sleep and witness suspicious behavior, please call Police Headquarters. There has been an uptick in catalytic converter thefts throughout the county as of late. Normally the subject(s) will either crawl under a vehicle or use a jack to lift the vehicle before using a sawzall to remove the catalytic converter. These sawzalls are fairly loud, but are only operated for a few seconds. We ask that you contact Police Headquarters immediately if you hear power tools being operated during the late hours of the night. The subject(s) can arrive, remove the catalytic converter and leave the area within a matter of minutes so a fast response is crucial.

We would also like to remind residents to remove key fobs from their vehicles and always lock their vehicle doors. A great deal of vehicle thefts have involved vehicles which have had key fobs left inside. Similarly, a great deal of vehicle burglaries have involved vehicles which had been left unlocked. These crimes often occur, but not exclusively, overnight. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behavior.

## RIDGEFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

As we celebrate our 5th year, we continue to attract new gardeners.

We are an eclectic group of people from many ethnic backgrounds, a variety of educational and career choices, singles, couples and families, homeowners as well as those who live in apartments, and novices to master gardeners.

We have two locations with private plots for our gardeners. McGowan is the larger garden with room for new members. It is located on Bergen Turnpike next to the Gazebo. Fellowship is just about full. It is located on Bergen Avenue and Hobart Street, next to the Tennis Courts. Both locations have public beds where we grow veggies, herbs and flowers to share with the public. We also maintain a small garden on the St. Francis Church property to help support the Food Pantry.

There is no monetary charge to join, but you will be asked to help with the upkeep of the gardens.

Those interested in gardening can find more info on the village website, at [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org). Our email is [communitygarden@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:communitygarden@ridgefieldpark.org). Applications are also available on this website, under the community gardening heading.

Come have some fun playing in the dirt!



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, WRITERS AND ART LOVERS

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association can be credited with much more than just the striking murals and sculptural installations you've noticed on Main Street and in our parks. Thanks to the organization's efforts, Village art enthusiasts can fill their agendas with a variety of upcoming events.

**A new Village Art Exhibit** opens on March 3 at the Municipal Building. The exhibit will showcase the talents of Dennis Bellars, Peggy Conversano, Jeff DeSantis, Mark Galasso and Mary Ellen Murphy. Be sure to come and support the creative endeavors of these Village artisans.

**Save the date for Summer Arts Fest**, to be held this year on June 11 at Grove and Main Street. This free annual outdoor event, which showcases art demonstrations and offers works for sale, also features musicians, singers and dancers. Summer Arts Fest is open to the public and is a wonderful way to kick-off the season. Bring your family and friends for a perfect evening of art and entertainment under the stars. "Local" cuisine and refreshments will be available for purchase from Village restaurants and shops.

In addition, plans are underway for a co-sponsored **Arbor Day Celebration** on Saturday, April 30 and the return of **Word On The Street** open mic night on Friday, September 16. Both of these outdoor events will feature immersive artistic expression and music and will be co-sponsored by the Library. Get the details at the library's website,

[www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org).

The Arts Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching life in the Village through art in all its forms. By promoting and supporting high-quality artistic events, projects and activities that encourage creativity and diversity, the Association aims to make Ridgefield Park a beautiful and vibrant destination for arts and culture.

You don't need to be an accomplished musician, writer or artist to play a role in these activities or join the organization! The only membership requirement is a love and appreciation of visual, performing and written arts. If you're interested in more information or would like to become a member, visit the Village website or email [ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.com](mailto:ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.com).

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR MAY 21

This year's Village of Ridgefield Park's Earth Day celebration is set for Saturday May 21 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.

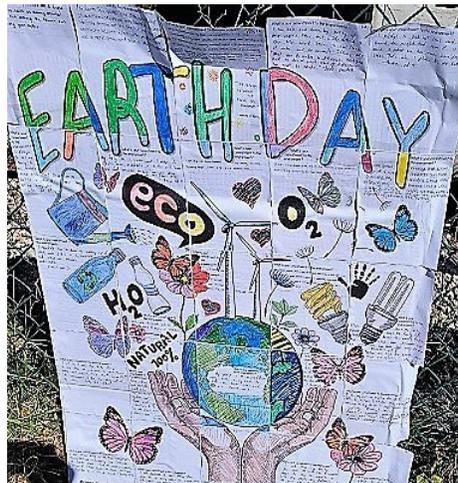
The fun continues with boat rides from the Riverkeeper along the Hackensack River, all-day music provided by Mark Rust, face painting and a Green Fair featuring local artisans, environmental exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. The Ridgefield Park Public Library will have a pollinator table, and Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School student Gianna Terrarosa will have a table encouraging residents to plant native plants to support her Girl Scout Gold Award project, 'Just One Plant', and participate in our town's Monarch Butterfly Pledge. 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, and the Board of Recreation will be offering a mini Archery Clinic throughout the day.

Mayor John Anlian, said, "We are excited about this year's Earth Day celebration that 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 the Village has to offer."

"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. 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 following shows will be presented throughout the day and include: Mad Science - Earth Day Every Day - Interactive show - Start Time: 11:00 a.m.; Tenafly Nature Center-Endangered NJ Live Animal Show-Start Time: 12:00 p.m.; The Wild Life-Bats-past, present and future with NJ's Bat-Man, Joe D'Angeli-Live Animal Show-Start Time: 1:00 p.m.; and Tenafly Nature Center-Remarkable Raptors Show-Live Animal Show-Start Time: 3:00 p.m. 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](mailto:envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org). The Earth Day celebration will take place rain or shine.





## VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

Dear Resident,

The Ridgefield Park Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind you of the importance of maintaining working smoke detectors throughout your home or apartment. Smoke detectors are vital in alerting you and your family early should a fire occur in your home. Sadly, an average of 3 out of every 5 fire deaths in the United States occurs in homes without working smoke detectors.

Effective 2019, the NJ Uniform Fire Code requires that all battery-operated smoke detectors be sealed 10-year units, once these units are installed, they are maintenance free for up to 10 years with no need to worry about replacing batteries. Smoke detectors should be placed on the ceiling within 10 feet of all bedrooms and for added safety if possible should be placed in each bedroom. Detectors should also be placed on each level of your home, and also one at the top of each staircase. All smoke detectors have a lifespan of 10 years and any detectors more than 10 years old should be replaced as soon as possible, especially if they are the replaceable battery type. If you have older detectors (less than 10 years old) with replaceable batteries and cannot replace the detectors with newer sealed units, be sure to ensure the batteries are within 6 months old and never remove the batteries or the detectors due to nuisance alarms, i.e. cooking or smoking. If due to financial reasons you cannot afford to purchase smoke detectors for your home, the Ridgefield Park Fire Prevention Bureau in cooperation with the NJ State Division of Fire has smoke detectors available for residents free of charge, detectors are available at our office M-F 9am-3pm. Please keep in mind that if you live in a rental property it is the responsibility of the landlord to maintain your smoke detectors and if you feel that your landlord is not, or there is a problem with your smoke detectors and/or alarm system, contact the office and an inspector will check/investigate the problem and make the proper notifications to the landlord or building owner.

Finally, remember to test your smoke detectors once a month and if a detector starts chirping indicating a low battery, it is imperative that you replace the battery immediately, however it is preferred that you replace the detector. This is also a good time to discuss with your family an evacuation plan should a smoke detector sound in your home or you discover a fire. Your evacuation plan should ensure that all members of the home, especially your children know the importance of leaving the home immediately, having a meeting place somewhere safe away from the home or building and by no means should anyone ever attempt to re-enter the building for an item, toy or pet.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE REASSESSMENT FOR 2022

As you know, the Village conducts an annual reassessment of our property values. Each year, assessments will reflect the current year's real estate market's estimate. During the past year, real estate values have increased - especially for residential properties. So, naturally those increased values are reflected in the assessed value of your homes. Remember that although the new valuation of your home will be up, the tax rate will come down accordingly. In theory, if all other things remain equal, then your real estate tax bill should remain the same. BUT, if residential values increase more than the values of commercial properties, then there may be a shift in the tax burden from commercial properties to residential properties; or if the budgets for the Village, School District, or the County increase, then your taxes will naturally increase. We don't like having to raise taxes; but, that's the law.

Why do we do a REASSESSMENT every year?

The purpose of the reassessment is two-fold:

1. Keep assessments current, thereby receiving a 100% tax ratio from the state, and alleviating potential refunds on tax appeals.
2. Stabilizing the tax rate so the Village doesn't have large increases in valuations and taxes every five or six years.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FREE! RIDGEFIELD PARK DOG & CAT OWNERS RABIES CLINIC

Sponsored by the  
RIDGEFIELD PARK HEALTH DEPT.  
APRIL 28, 2022 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING (DPW)  
24 INDUSTRIAL AVE.,  
RIDGEFIELD PARK

Dogs must be secured to a leash and must 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 time.

\$10.00 - Neutered  
\$15.00 - Not Neutered  
WILLIAM GERKEN  
Commissioner

Reminder: Pet's license 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.

### CURB YOUR DOG - AND CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Some dog owners think that as long as they clean up after their dog, then it doesn't matter where the dog poops. That is not correct. When you are walking your dog, it is important to walk along the curb-line of the street so that your dog leaves it's "business" in the street & near the curb. Then it can be easily picked up by the dog owner and properly disposed of as required under the Pooper Scoop law. It is NOT acceptable to allow your dog to poop on the front lawn or on the planting strip (the area between the curb and the sidewalk) in front of someone's home. Please exercise common courtesy and CURB YOUR DOG - and CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG.



## The DPW needs your help to keep Ridgefield Park looking good.

- Follow the schedule below for your area for collections.
- **REMEMBER:** No special trash pick-ups or house clean-outs

### NOTE:

- **Free Paper Shredding - 4/23/2022**
- **2022 Newspapers/Magazines** will be picked up once a month on the last Thursday or Friday ONLY!

### 2022 HOLIDAYS

DPW/Recycle Center will be closed on the following dates:

New Years Day	4 <sup>th</sup> of July
MLK Day - 1/17	Labor Day - 9/3-5
Presidents Day - 2/21	Thanksgiving - 11/24-26
Memorial Day - 5/28-30	Christmas-12/26

### Leaf season begins October 15-January 15th

Please place **leaves ONLY** in street or in biodegradable bags on the NO PARKING side—**NO BRANCHES**

**Christmas trees will be picked up December 27, 2021-January 21, 2022**

**Do NOT put grass or leaves on the islands/plazas.**

### Visit the DPW Website:

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/department-public-works>



### Mt. Vernon Street & South Collections

- Household garbage (kitchen and bathroom) gets picked up on **Tuesday & Friday**.
- Recycling-(comingled) is picked up on **Wednesday**-place loose in garbage can-**NO PLASTIC BAGS!**
- Cardboard-(corrugated) is picked up on **Wednesday**-flatten and tied with string or place inside one of the boxes.
- **You MUST call** 201-440-4860 to schedule a **Wednesday** pick-up of the following:
  - Appliances-Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Hot Water Heaters, Air Conditioners, TVs, Computers, Printers, Tires, Metals, BBQs.
- Newspapers/magazines get collected -**2022-last Friday each month**
  - **NO Plastic Bags**. Tie in bundles or place in a container.
- On the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday** of each month TRASH is collected in your area. Trash includes furniture, mattresses, clothing, books, dishes, toys, etc. NO APPLIANCES /TVs/ACs
- Yard waste is picked up on **Monday**. **NO PLASTIC bags!** Use brown paper bags or place leaves and clippings in garbage can. Branches have to be tied in small 4 foot bundles.
- Place items at curb no later than 6 a.m. Call DPW @ 201-440-4860 with questions

**Check website or call for holiday closings**

### North of Mt. Vernon Street Collections

- Household garbage (kitchen and bathroom) gets picked up on **Monday & Thursday**.
- Recycling-(comingled) is picked up on **Wednesday**-place loose in garbage can-**NO PLASTIC BAGS!**
- Cardboard-(corrugated) is picked up **on Wednesday**-flatten and tied with string or place inside one of the boxes.
- **You MUST call** 201-440-4860 to schedule a **Wednesday** pick-up of the following:
  - Appliances-Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Hot Water Heaters, Air Conditioners, TVs, Computers, Printers, Tires, Metals, BBQs.
- Newspapers/magazines collected on -**2022-Last Thursday each month**
  - **NO Plastic Bags**. Tie in bundles or place in a container
- On the **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of each month TRASH is collected in your area. Trash includes furniture, mattresses, clothing, books, dishes, toys, etc. NO APPLIANCES /TVs/ACs
- Yard waste is picked up on **Tuesday**. **NO PLASTIC bags!** Use brown paper bags or place leaves and clippings in garbage can. Branches have to be tied in small 4 foot bundles.
- Place items at curb no later than 6 a.m. Call DPW @ 201-440-4860 with questions

**Check website or call for holiday closings**

Please cut and save the schedule for your address

