

village NEWSLETTER

www.ridgefieldpark.org

VOL 38 NO 5

Ridgefield Park, N.J.

DECEMBER, 2022

LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER

PRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

HEY, IT'S DECEMBER --- ALREADY!!

The lyrics of The Vogues song goes
"January to December - We'll Have
Moments To Remember."

And, it is true. So much happens in a year;
and we need to pause for a moment, and
think back on this past year - or past years.
Good events and not so good events. They
are all part of our lives. Too
philosophical? Probably.

December is here again: Get ready for
Winter, Cold Weather, Snow, Ice,
Christmas, Hanukkah, Seasonal Concerts,
Holiday Shopping, Family Gatherings ,
New Year's Eve, Parties, Sleigh Riding, Ice
Skating, Hot Chocolate, Apple Pie,
Skiing, Snow Shoveling (Ugh!!), and so
much more.

Take A Moment To Appreciate The Good
Things In Your Lives. Friends, Family,
Kids, Old Folks, Christmas Movies, TV
Specials, Fun Things To Do, Fun Places To
Visit, Etc. You will never be this age
again. So, Enjoy it!!!

The **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING** is on **Sunday, Dec 4th - 5.30pm**
in front of the Municipal Building on Main
Street. A short service in memory of the
bombing of **PEARL HARBOR** will take
place on Dec. 7th at 7pm on Euclid Ave -
just north of Mt. Vernon St. The Library's
FESTIVAL OF WREATHS is on Dec. 9th
at 7pm. There will be Two (2)

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS - Dec. 2nd
and Dec. 22nd - both at the Civic Center at
7pm. Municipal Offices will be closed on
Mondays - Dec 26th and Jan 2nd - in
honor of Christmas and New Year's.

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
Happy New Year!!**

William Gerken, Commissioner

Adam MacNeill, Commissioner

Mark Olson, Commissioner

Wanda Portorreal, Commissioner

John Anlian, Mayor



BOARD OF RECREATION

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

Archery Clinic - Open to those 6 years old
and up. Archery Clinic - Open to those 6
years old and up. The spring session will
run from April - June 2023, 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. Watch for the flyer on the Village
website.

T2S Basketball - The skills program is run
by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. For
further information, interested people can
email t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com or
on Facebook: [@t2sbasketballacademy](https://www.facebook.com/t2sbasketballacademy).

Basketball - Check
<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/>
for up-to-date information for this
activity. The program runs December - March.

Tree Lighting - If you have not brought
your child to one of these, you're missing
out on the holiday fun. It may be cold as
heck, but it does not stop us from
celebrating the season. There are holiday
songs as well as a raffle for a special prize
and a summer camp enrollment and a jolly
old man in a red suit will be helping to
light the village Christmas tree!

It all happens on Sunday, December 4,
2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal
Building. Please check the website at
<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/news/tree-lighting-flyer-2022>.
and municipal message board for updated
information. This year's festivities include
Robert Bannon, Dickens Carolers to
entertain while you're waiting and then
songs from the high school chorus. Some
special guests will walk through the crowd
to take pictures with you too!!

Holiday Wish Tree - It is all about giving
not receiving and we sponsor this program
so that those who are fortunate enough to
give can give to those who need it. By
Thanksgiving weekend, you can select your
ornament at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A5AC23A0F8C07-holiday2>.

The tree is located outside the Clerk's
office, and you can also stop there for an
ornament. You need to return your gift by
December 14, 2022. Your gift will then be
delivered to a very appreciative child.
Thanks again for your assistance! To see
the flyer, go to:

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/>.

Holiday Display Contest - We review the
holiday display of those who choose to
participate and award prizes to the best of
the best! This year judging will be done
beginning at dusk on December 16, 17 &
18. Just a note for participants, photos are
kept of past winners. Decorations must be
changed significantly from the previous
year in order to receive a prize the
following year. The registration form is
available at:

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/news/holiday-display-contest-flyer-registration-form-2022>.



This year, we're continuing the Citizens' Choice Award where the winner will be chosen by the residents of Ridgefield Park. Here's how it will work. Those homes participating should have their display lit on December 16 -18. The Board of Recreation will supply the addresses of all participating in the contest to any resident who would like to be a "judge". After viewing the entries, the "judge" must send in their vote (you can only vote once) by December 19. Email us for the addresses entered in the contest. For the flyer, go to: <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation/news/citizens-choice-award-flyer-2022>. After the contest, check for winners on <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation> and the community message board. You must register by December 14 to be included in the contest. Email, drop off or mail the forms to the Board of Recreation at 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park. **YOU MUST REGISTER IF YOU ARE RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS.**

Adult and Family Events - keep checking our page at

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation> for updated info on available group tickets that may come up throughout the year. We're working on a winter trip right now!!

Ping Pong - this is a possible activity the Board is trying to start up for adults. Let us know if you're interested in an adult session for ping pong fans to meet at the Civic Center and play a game or two. No cost to participate!

DON'T FORGET: All Board of Recreation meetings are open to the public. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center at 159 Park Street. Anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is more than welcome to attend any meeting.



WHY DON'T "THEY" DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Many people complain about all types of problems and issues. But, few volunteer to help solve those problems and issues. Part of being an American is taking action and participating in your community to make it a better place to live. So, here is your opportunity to "do something about it".

There are many organizations that need volunteers. Here are three important groups that need YOU!!

THE RIDGEFIELD PARK

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

There are six (6) fire companies that make up the RPF. You are welcome to stop into any one of their firehouses and discuss in more detail as to what they do and the amount of time commitments required to become a fire-fighter. You can also leave your name and contact information by calling the Fire Dept Chiefs' Office at 201-641-5088

- Ladder Fire Company One 42 Garden St.
- Ladder Fire Company Two 93 Hazelton St
- Hose Fire Company One 65 Mt. Vernon St
- Hose Fire Company Two 45 Euclid Ave
- Hose Fire Company Three 83 Hackensack Ave
- Hose Fire Company Four 125 Teaneck Rd

RIDGEFIELD PARK VOLUNTEER

AMBULANCE CORPS

50 Main St

email: cnagurka@ridgefieldparkvac.org

RIDGEFIELD PARK RESCUE SQUAD

Brewster Park

Tel: 201-641-6242;

SECTPHRS530@verison.net

If you don't have enough time to commit towards these emergency service organizations, then volunteer your time towards one or more of these other Village groups: Shade Tree Commission, Board of Recreation, Board of Health, Rent Board, 4th of July Committee, Environmental Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Friends of The Library, Village Gardeners(They plant flowers in the planters around town), Sustainable Ridgefield Park(formerly The Green Team), The Community Gardens, Historic Preservation Comm. If interested, leave your name and contact information at the Village Clerk's Office - 201-641-4950 Ext 101; or go to the Village Website - Select Forms & Applications; Village Clerk's Office; Citizen Leadership Form, and drop off the form at the Village Clerk's Office or send via email: togrady@ridgefieldpark.org.

ARTS ASSOCIATION IN 2023

The leaves have fallen from the trees and winter and the holidays are just around the corner. The Ridgefield Park Arts Association has just successfully held its third Holiday Market in Fellowship Park, MC'd by our very popular Joe Kenney. This Market enjoyed 20 local artists and vendors displaying and selling their art work and crafts. Many village residents and those from neighboring towns visited our market, creating a wonderful parade of happy families, inquisitive dogs, and curious shoppers. We thank all of you who visited and supported our Holiday Market. We look forward to seeing you again at our 2023 Market.

Looking ahead in 2023, we will be hanging a new exhibit at the Village Art Exhibit in the Municipal Building, featuring talented photographers from the Ridgefield Park Arts Association. Exhibits are displayed on the second and third floor in the Municipal Building and are available for the public to see during the building's regular operational hours. Also, mark your calendars, with a Save the Date: Saturday, February 11th at 7pm, Civic Center for the RP Arts Association Valentines Concert. Ticket prices and performers to be announced in January. Please check our website and the municipal buildings electronic board for updates-ridgefieldparkarts.org

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association is a 501c3, supporting all art forms in the village including the fine arts, music of all styles, the literary arts, theatre, dance, and all forms of creativity. We are a group of residents who love and enjoy art. We realize the importance of incorporating the arts into our community and our daily lives. The enrichment the arts offer is essential for the health and well-being of our community and to the education and development of our children. You don't have to be a concert violinist or an Edith Wharton to join our organization. You just need to be a curious and interested resident of Ridgefield Park. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at the Civic Center. Please contact us at ridgefieldparkarts@gmail.com if you are interested in attending a meeting. Everyone is welcome!



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How lovely are your branches!"

As some of the above lyrics from a traditional German carol remind us of the beautiful trees trimmed at the holidays, remember the Village shade trees which bring delight year round and need continual care. The winter season especially with snow and ice creates big problems for trees. To prevent damage to trees:

Avoid piling snow against the trunks. A heavy layer of snow and ice against the bark can create freeze cracks from alternate thawing in sunlight and freezing again at night.

Avoid de-icing salts. Use coarse sand to make sidewalks and driveways less slippery.

Flush out salt. If soil around trees has taken in too much road salt over the winter, flush the soil in the spring when it thaws. This flushing should send salts beyond the trees' root zones, where they can't harm the trees.

Spring Planting

Although spring seems a long way off, the STC is compiling the planting list and will place tree orders with nurseries in January. Homeowners with requests for a tree, please contact the STC so the request can be added to the order.

Join the Shade Tree Commission

The STC needs members who could devote time on work such as choosing tree sites, ordering trees, preparing planting lists, notifying utility companies and property owners about planting sites, attending state tree conferences, and planning programs such as Arbor Day. The work is varied and interesting; the reward is a great feeling of accomplishment in the spring seeing the early leaves open, in the summer being cooled in the shade, and in the fall enjoying the beautiful foliage. For more information, the STC can be reached at shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org or at 201-641-4950, ext. 640 or attend a meeting. The STC meets in the third floor conference room of Town Hall at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month except for December when the meeting is the second Monday.



Featured Tree-Western White Fir
Back to the Christmas carol's lyrics-
"O Christmas tree... Each year you bring to us delight With brightly shining Christmas light!" How true, especially when the Village lights its Western White Fir on the Town Hall front lawn. The Western White Fir (*Abies concolor*) is an ornamental tree native to the mountainous region of western U.S. that grows to 120-180 feet; some reach the age of 350 years. With silvery, blue-green, 2-3 inch blunt needle and cones that sit upright, it makes a good Christmas tree. Enjoy the holidays and enjoy all the wonderful Village trees!

OH CHRISTMAS TREE! O CHRISTMAS TREE?

As you all know, the Ridgefield Park - Bogota Rotary Club has been holding its annual Christmas Tree Sale for decades. Unfortunately, due to the high inflation rate and the rising costs of gas and transportation costs, the Rotary has decided to suspend its Christmas Tree sale for this year. As mentioned by Wayne Boyd of the Rotary - "It breaks our hearts that we will not be seeing our friends, neighbors, and family at the Christmas Tree Sale this year; but, we hope and pray things get better for 2023." And, we hope so too. And, we do thank the Rotary for their 55 years of providing our community with beautiful Christmas Trees at reasonable prices.

*Thanks
55 Years*



ARCHERY PROGRAM

The longer archery range is nearly operational. It is 40 yards and meant for more advanced archers. The Saturday morning archery program through the Board of Recreation is meant for beginners.

Use of the longer range will be through the Board of Recreation. Those who wish to use it can do so during supervised Board of Recreation sessions or in the case of advanced archers, who are approved by the Board of Recreation, there will be the possibility you can use the range unsupervised. The Board of Recreation is working on the schedule and procedures which will be made public as soon as they are finished.

For now, the Board of Recreation asks for your patience and a little help. The Board of Recreation would like to have some bows for supervised sessions run on the longer range. If you have a bow and would like to donate it, please let us know. We are looking mainly for recurve bows, both left and right-handed, from 25 to 50 pounds. If you have one you would like to donate, please email boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org.

CONCERTS, ARTS & CULTURE

The village would like your feedback on the concerts last summer. Please send us what you like and what you think can be improved. Having movies instead of some of the concerts is being considered. How did you like the busking (street musicians) who where on Grove Street from time to time? Please send comments and ideas to ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org. If you would like to help also let us know that. There will be an initial planning meeting on Wednesday January 4th at 7:30 in the Civic Center. All are invited to take part.

How did you like the public seating area on Grove Street? Did you like the buskers (street musicians) who played there from time to time? Did you like the concerts there? Would you like to see other events there? Are you part of an organization that would like to have a cultural event there? For 2023 the village is thinking about expanding the pedestrian use of this area. If you have any ideas or comments please email them to ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org



NATURE NEWS!!!

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission is pleased to announce that, though spring plantings and some trail and ground work continue, the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve is ready for visitors!!! Trails are open from dawn to dusk, weather conditions permitting. You may park in the special Nature Preserve parking lot near the R.P. Junior-Senior High School parking lot, and enter the trail at, either, the base of East Grand Ave. (the main entrance) or at the north end of North Overpeck Avenue. Please stay on the trails. Pets, bicycles, and motorized vehicles are NOT permitted.

A formal opening of the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve will be held sometime next Spring - a date will be determined and publicized soon.

Please consider joining the newly formed Ridgefield Park Nature Association if you are interested in the outdoors and the natural world and would like to participate in the care and nurturing of our Nature Preserve. Membership is free, so watch for future meetings or contact envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org or leave a message at the Clerk's Office at (201) 641-4950 if you would like to join or be notified about upcoming events!



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

2022 Caucus Meeting Dates
December 8 and 22

2022 Regular Meeting Dates
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/lgcc

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

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

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

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Property Tax Payments can now be made online using a debit/credit card, or your bank account information. There will be convenience fees charged for this service. The convenience fee is charged by the provider and not the Village. To make a payment, visit the Village website: www.ridgefieldpark.org 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.**

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Who can believe we just celebrated end of our 5th season of the community garden? We marked this milestone with delicious cake and pictures from the past 5 years. We have been asked some questions lately, and this article is a great opportunity to explain.

You can find the application on the village website under the community garden heading. There is no monetary fee to join, however, there are some requirements we ask in return for the use of the plot. One of the most important requirements is to help maintain the public sections of the gardens. In addition, we also help to maintain the food pantry garden.

You can request a specific location, either at Fellowship Park (by the tennis courts) or at McGowan Park (next to the Gazebo) but we can only honor that if we have room at the particular garden location.

The plot will depend on what is available as many of our gardeners keep their plots from year to year. The plot comes filled with soil but we recommend that you fertilize it primarily with manure or other natural/organic products. Gardeners are responsible for the cost of the fertilizer and the plants/seeds that you decide to plant.

If you have visited or passed by either garden, you will see that both are surrounded by planting beds with lattice backs. These are what we call our public plots. What that means is we plant and maintain them, but the public is welcome to take some lettuce or a cucumber or a tomato. We ask that they always be considerate of others don't take a lot at one time.

The inner plots don't have the lattice backs. These are the private plots for the gardeners. They are off limits to the public, except to admire.

Sadly, we have a few visitors who are taking vegetables from the private plots. We are adding more signage, as well as speaking to those we catch. More action will be taken if it continues.

As we enter into year six, we will be working on some needed repairs at both gardens. They are always evolving. If you would like to garden with us, fill out an application and email or you can drop it off at the municipal building. No experience needed! Come join the fun as you are "never too old to play in the dirt"!



THIRD CONSECUTIVE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY SILVER CERTIFICATION FOR THE VILLAGE

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Village of Ridgefield Park was again awarded Silver recertification for our sustainability efforts and honored at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon held during the New Jersey League of Municipalities in Atlantic City. We are one of eleven municipalities in Bergen County to achieve Silver.

Recertification is required every 3 years. We have chosen to recertify every year. This is the approach of the most successful municipalities in the Sustainable Jersey program and why we have been able to make such progress.

The Sustainable Ridgefield Park (RP) Committee is a volunteer group of thoughtful committed citizens that drives the certification process. We thank those in the municipal departments, municipal organizations and civic groups for their continued partnership.

WE'VE CHANGED OUR NAME!

We started the Green Team to get the Village of Ridgefield Park Sustainable Jersey certified. Since then we certified six times, the last three as Silver.

We're proud of how far we've come, but what excites us is what we're going to accomplish in the future.

Many people found the name Green Team confusing because we have a very good Environmental Commission. Some people initially think we have two Environmental Commissions.

For these reasons we have changed our name to...

Sustainable Ridgefield Park (RP)

LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative has declared this month as Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Lung Cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and New Jersey accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 29,905 new lung cancer cases and 17,858 deaths because of lung cancer between 2015 and 2019 in New Jersey. The 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is ~60%, yet only ~24% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage. Screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives.

Lung cancer in never smokers is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of never smokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in never smokers is increasing in the US; and Lung cancer awareness continues to grow, thanks to a surge of scientific research and

aggressive public awareness campaigns about the harms of cigarette smoking and the health benefits of quitting. Understanding the causes of lung cancer, prevention strategies and recommendations for early detection are powerful steps in lowering your risk of the disease.

The best prevention for lung cancer is to stop smoking - or never start. Limiting exposure to radon is another prevention strategy. Surprisingly, exposure to radon is the second most common cause of lung cancer in the nation, after smoking. Radon comes from the ground and can seep into groundwater and into homes, through cracks in the foundation. Fortunately, radon test kits are readily available online and in some home improvements stores.

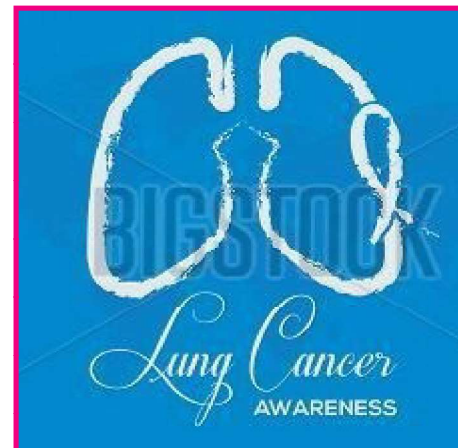
Lung cancer screening for people at high risk of developing lung cancer offers hope for early detection, when surgery offers a possible cure. When lung cancer is caught early, it's easier to successfully treat the disease using effective and appropriate treatment. Screening really is the best tool to find lung cancer before it advances into serious stages.

People considered at high risk for developing lung cancer:

- Have a history of heavy smoking (smoking at least one pack a day for 30 years).
- Are current smokers or former smokers who quit within the past 15 years.
- Are between the ages of 55 and 80.

If your doctor detects anything abnormal during a lung cancer screening, then diagnostic tests, including other scans and biopsies (lung tissue samples), are the next step. We encourage all citizens to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

Happy
Holidays



THE FESTIVAL OF WREATHS - THROUGH DEC 9

The Festival of Wreaths is in its final week at the Ridgefield Park Library. Local residents, artists, organizations and businesses design and make wonderful wreaths to decorate our homes. This year they have outdone themselves. The displays are truly dazzling, so be sure to get your choices in for your favorites now. Visit the library during regular day and evening hours to view these holiday treasures.

The process works like this: While making a donation to the library, visitors can place tickets into the basket adjacent to each wreath. One writes their name and contact information on the tickets, and then drops them into the baskets next to their favorite wreaths. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Library; and they use the funds to make our Library a better place to visit.

Mark your calendar now for these important dates.

December 5-9 - \$1 mornings for seniors.

9:30-noon each day. Grand Finale wreaths are not included in this special event.

December 9-Walk Through 9:30am-3pm.

This is the LAST CHANCE to Walk through the Library for those who will not be attending the Extravaganza. You can still purchase tickets for the Festival, take a walk around the Library to pick your favorites; and then drop in the tickets at the wreaths that you hope to win.

Friday, December 9, 7pm - The Extravaganza! Joe Kenney will be adding some holiday vocal magic and all wreath winners will be announced. Advance reservations are recommended for the in-person event, which will also be broadcast on the library's Facebook page. If you have any questions, call the **Library** at **201-641-0689**



HOW TO GET RID OF THAT STYROFOAM PACKAGING

After all the holiday packages are opened and the styrofoam packaging remains bring it to the Recycling Center located at 24 Industrial Avenue Monday - Saturday from 9 am - 12 noon.

Please do not toss it in with the curbside bottles and cans weekly pickup or the garbage pickup in your area.

Keep informed about how and what we recycle <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works>

RIDGEFIELD PARK DPW

As 2022 comes to an end, the DPW would like to inform residents of the upcoming changes to our cardboard, newspaper, and bulk trash pickups. These changes will begin as of January 1, 2023. Each resident will be given a color-coded map with some basic information on it. We encourage everyone to start using our website to answer any questions you may have. To find our department, please go to <http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works>.

SNOW SEASON IS COMING TIPS AND THINGS YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW

Before the storm starts, please remove your cars from the street. If there are vehicles parked on the street, it makes our job more difficult to make the streets safe. Streets that are tight and have plazas are especially hard when there are cars parked. Do not park within 50 feet of the corners, as this makes it harder for the plows to turn on and off the blocks.

DO NOT PUT SNOW IN THE STREETS

It is imperative that you do not put snow into the street. Please keep all fallen snow on your property. Do not shovel, plow, or snow blow any snow back into the street. This increases the workload for both the DPW and residents because the snow that is left in the street is then pushed onto someone else's property.

Our crews must plow curb to curb! This will ensure that emergency vehicles have enough space to respond and work at a scene to perform their duties. For example, opening a cabinet door to reach appropriate tools. This will also allow us to plow to the curb during any storms that may be back-to-back. Once the snow from the last storm freezes, we cannot push the snow curb to curb. When this happens, the police will

have no choice but to suspend all street parking which makes it inconvenient for everyone. Let's work together to prevent this from happening.

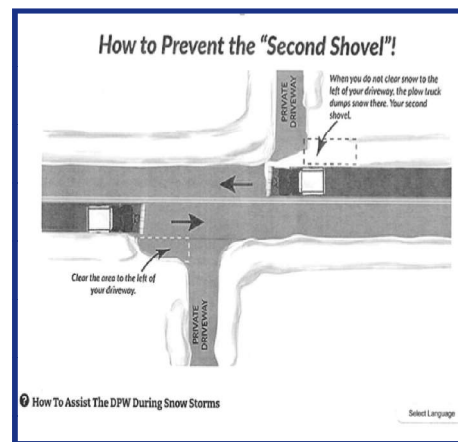
HOW TO PREVENT THE "SECOND SHOVEL"

Although storms may appear to be over, it takes us some time to finish each route, sidewalk, town building, municipal lot, and crosswalk. Please be patient with us.

If you need to shovel your driveway, here are two ways that may help you.

1 Shovel your driveway up to the street leaving about a foot of snow in the street to act as a barrier. This will prevent snow from being plowed back into your driveway, reducing the amount of your second shovel.

2. Please See below diagram.



UPCOMING CHANGES FOR 2023

1. As of January 1, 2023, there will no longer be a newspaper pickup each month. All newspapers can be brought down to our DPW recycling center Monday through Saturday, 9am-12pm.

2. Cardboard: As of January 1, 2023, will be picked up as follows. If your garbage is picked up on Friday mornings, cardboard will be picked up every Thursday. If your garbage is picked up on Thursday mornings, cardboard will be picked up every Friday. Please visit our website or call us at 201-440-4860 to answer any questions you may have.

WEDNESDAY

1. Bottles and cans will be picked up at the curb. Cardboard is no longer picked up on this day.

2. White goods must be called in and scheduled by Tuesday at 3pm.

BULK TRASH

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

- No house or apartment cleanouts.
- Large amounts of debris will not be accepted.
- We are no longer taking paint. Please call the Bergen County Utilities Authority at (201)-641-2552 for any hazardous waste you may have.
- Please do not put out appliances or electronics as they must be called in for Wednesday.
- No renovations will be picked up.
- If you have wood, please cut into 3 or 4 foot pieces and tie into bundles.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Let's celebrate the eagles (Al & Alice) that chose to make Ridgefield Park a place to raise their family.

Come hear the story of Al & Alice, see their nesting site, and show that you care :

Save The Eagles Day on Bell Drive in Ridgefield. January 8 (Sun.) 1PM

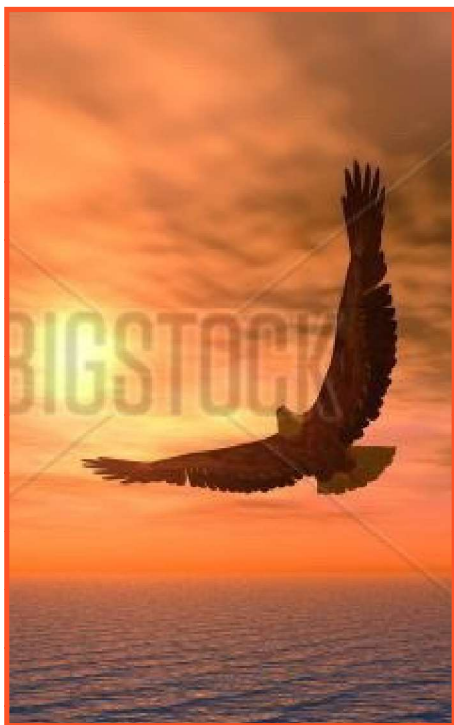
You'll be hooked to see more eagles and enjoy the fact that they have been making a comeback from near extinction in our area.

Other eagle-centric events sponsored by Bergen County Audubon are:

Eagle Festival at River Barge Park, Carlstadt January 15 (Sun.) 10AM-2PM
Rain/snow date January 22 (Sun.) 10AM-2PM

Annual Eagle Count January 21 (Sat.)
Times and locations TBA.

Contact: Don Torino greatauk4@gmail.com
(201) 230-4983



RPPD Personnel

The Ridgefield Park Police Department would like to congratulate and welcome its newest members:

Officer Braulio Montesino - A recent transfer, currently assigned to patrol.

Officer Sean Roberts - A new hire, soon completing training at the Bergen County Police Academy.

Best of luck to both officers in the future!

Snow Emergencies

Village Ordinance 197-25

With the winter approaching, we have once again reached that time of year when snow emergencies unexpectedly arise. The Ridgefield Park Police Department would like to remind Village residents to vigilantly observe snow ordinance signs when parking vehicles before, during and after a snow emergency. It is the responsibility of each resident to be aware of possible upcoming storms or severe changes in the weather by monitoring weather reports. It is suggested that you remove your vehicle from the snow emergency side of the street if weather reports indicate that there is even the slightest inclination that it may snow. Parking is permitted at the town pool if no other options are available to you.

Residents who will be on vacation or who will use public transportation should take special care to make arrangements with relatives or friends to ensure the prompt removal of vehicles during a snow emergency. Absolutely NO PERMISSIONS will be granted for any reason. Vehicles in violation must be removed for snow plowing and to permit emergency vehicles to move uninhibited throughout the village.

The Ridgefield Park Police Department may send out a reverse 9-1-1 message alerting residents that the snow ordinance is in effect. This is a courtesy notification and does not require a response. Please do not call Police Headquarters to confirm receiving the reverse 9-1-1, as our dispatchers could be fielding emergency calls. In addition, patrol officers may make announcements using their patrol vehicle's PA system to inform residents that the snow ordinance is in effect.

After the above methods have been exhausted, officers will commence issuing summonses to vehicles that remain in violation of VO 197-25. After a State of Emergency Declaration, vehicles will be impounded as authorized by VO 197-27. The Ridgefield Park Police Department reserves the right to keep parking restrictions in effect for as long as necessary to ensure the safety and security of all residents. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Over the past few years some residents have complained about the amount of garbage in the Main Street business area.

Monday through Friday the Main Street business district is cleaned and garbage cans are emptied. Additionally, on Sunday morning garbage cans are emptied.

Emptying garbage cans on Sunday morning was added in response to input from residents about the cleanliness of the business district. This has helped but it hasn't solved the problem.

The solution might be in another direction. Many parks and municipalities have removed garbage cans completely. They are "Carry in, carry out". The success of these parks and municipalities who have removed all garbage cans is impressive and has led us to consider doing the same for the Main Street business district.

We would like your opinion. Would you rather have the village continue garbage can emptying on Main Street 6 days a week or should we eliminate the garbage cans?

Please send your comments to DPW@RidgefieldPark.org

Board of Commissioners. Mayor John Anlian, William Gerken, Adam MacNeill, Mark Olson & Wanda Portorreal.



THE VILLAGE ARTIST THAT EVERYONE KNOWS

You may not know George Cooke, personally; but you know him.

Well, most likely you know him through many of his public art pieces that are on display throughout the Village of Ridgefield Park. His latest work **The Jacket** is on display in the window of Yun's Cleaners on Main Street, right across from the village post office.

According to George, who has lived in Ridgefield Park for over 50 years, The Jacket was created over a couple of months, while he worked on it sporadically. Inspired by similar pieces he saw on Instagram, George said "Since I belong to the Ridgefield Park Arts Association, I've been trying to create art pieces for the village. "

When a neighbor had a new roof installed, I got some of the leftover plywood and used that to construct The Jacket. The stand was made of oak that had been in someone's garage for many years and was given to me."

George is no stranger to art and has been interested in woodcarving for most of his life. He was self-taught until he discovered his real passion for it when he attended the American Woodcarving School in Wayne, New Jersey, over 25 years ago, where he also taught classes for several years.

He further honed his skills and challenged himself by attending a variety of classes and seminars at the Geisler Moroder Woodcarving School in Austria, studying in Canada with Benoi Deschenes, and in Maine with British woodcarver Chris Pye. George later extended his artistic skill set by studying stone carving in New York City with Ailene Fields, and studying wood turning in Pennsylvania with David Ellsworth.

While on vacation in Italy, George saw examples of clothing carved from wood and thus began his fascination with representing every day, 'disposable' items in the relative permanency of wood and stone.

"George Cooke is a local treasure and our village is most fortunate to be the benefactor of his willingness to share his talent, time and artistry with our community," said Ridgefield Park Commissioner Mark Olson. "

We all know that arts celebrate nature and build awareness and appreciation for our physical environment, its beauty, fragility and its need for stewardship," said Olson. "George's artwork has enriched us all and is

giving village residents and visitors the opportunity to gather and engage in shared experiences, while helping us to foster creativity and innovation that transforms individual lives and our village."

In addition to The Jacket, other George Cooke's works of art displayed in the village include:

Fellowship Park at the Community Garden
Sunflower Art Wooden Sculpture
Freestyle Art Wooden Sculpture

Fellowship Park Art in the Park Multiple
Artist Installation organized by Art
Mora/Sunny Shin

Baseball Bat (made out of found wood)
Limestone Shovel with oak handle

Frank White Park
Stacking Wooden Blocks

McGowan Community Garden
Aeon (sculpted by George, designed by
Sung Ho Choi)

Freestyle Art Wooden Sculpture on Hops
Trellis

Limestone drapery sculpture
Rising Sun Academy Building (Main Street
side)

Crayons - wood

Ridgefield Park Library at front entrance
Stack of Books in stone.

Be sure to stop by and admire George's work, and by doing so you will get to know George Cooke - 2022 Village Artist Laureate.

WINTER CONCERT SCHEDULE AT THE CIVIC CENTER; 159 PARK STREET, 3RD FLOOR

Friday, December 2nd at 7:00pm
Christmas with Sweet Megg - Friday
December 2nd at 7:00pm. 3rd floor of the
Civic Center.

After returning from touring Australia as part of Post Modern Jukebox and with the release of her Christmas album Sweet Megg will be treating us to another fantastic concert. This will be her 3rd in Ridgefield Park this year.

Admission is free but tickets/reservation is required. To reserve email ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org. Include your name and how many tickets you would like.

Walk-ins will be admitted the night of the performance if there is room.

Thursday, December 22nd at 7:00pm
Christmas concert by several high school and college students.

From Ridgefield Park, Nicholas Schneider at the piano. Singing will be Mark Fabian, Olivia Locarno, Oliver Pashman, Chloe Umana. Mark Fabian and Oliver Pashman will also be playing guitar. From Oakland, Amanda Masefield, Anthony Masefield. From East Rutherford, Monica Rodriguez.

Admission is free but tickets/reservation is required. To reserve email ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org. Include your name and how many tickets you would like.

Walk-ins will be admitted the night of the performance if there is room.

Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00pm
Piano concert by Carolyn Enger with introduction by Nicholas Schneider. Carolyn is a professional pianist who has performed around the world. She lives in Englewood and held concerts on her front lawn for people during the pandemic.

Nicholas Schneider will be opening the evening with a special selection of classical music.

Admission is free but tickets/reservation is required. To reserve email ConcertsArtsCulture@RidgefieldPark.org. Include your name and how many tickets you would like.

The North Jersey Chapter of the American Harp Society held their pre-Christmas meeting and recital on November 20th. The Harp Society will be regularly meeting in Ridgefield Park. Meetings are typically a short formal meeting followed by a performance or lecture. Meetings and membership in the North Jersey Chapter of the American Harp Society are open to everyone. Follow the Harp Society of Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthJerseyAHS>

