

# village NEWSLETTER

www.ridgefieldpark.org

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APRIL, 2023

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## ALWAYS SPRING FORWARD

Winter is gone; And Spring is here. Time to start putting away our winter coats and clothing; and get ready for the warmer weather. But, not so fast. On average, the last day of possible frost is around May 12th. It is time for more opportunities to spend time outside; spring sports; planning and planting our gardens; enjoy seeing our gardens awakening with spring flowers. The Village activities are starting to move outside - such as the Easter Egg Hunt (March 30th), Arbor Day (April 27th); Earth Day (May 11th), Nature Walks and Talks at the Nature Preserve, Picking out your spot in the Community Gardens, Memorial Day ceremonies (May 27th), etc., Easter is early this year. And the Easter Lilies and other Spring Flowers will be available at the IGA, This & That Hardware, Dayle's Flower Shop, and The Blu Florist (formerly House of Flowers). They all will have some very good deals. As you may recall, the Village will be planning the complete rehabilitation of Veterans Park with the \$20 million dollars that the County will be giving Ridgefield Park as a result of the settlement of the lawsuit with the County of Bergen. We will be asking the public for your input as to what should be included in the new Veterans Park facilities. Look for notices for our public meetings to get your ideas and suggestions on our website, Facebook, and Instagram.

During the coming months, you will see construction activity in the northwestern part of the Village as we commence work on our sewer system so that the sanitary sewers and storm water sewers are separated. In this way, the sanitary sewer flows will be sent to the Bergen County Sewer Authority in Little Ferry; and the storm water run-off will empty into the Hackensack River. This is quite a big project which will take place over a few years.



Fortunately, we will be receiving millions of dollars in grant money through the State and Federal governments. Don't forget - 2nd Quarter Real Estate Taxes are due on May 1st. And when you are stopping in at the Municipal Building, why not sign up for the VILLAGE POOL. The temperatures may be mild now, but the hot summer weather will be here before you know it. There is nothing like getting home from a long hot work day, changing into your bathing suit and splashing into the pool. What a great feeling! On the last Monday in May (May 27th) we will again be celebrating MEMORIAL DAY; and the ceremony will take place at 11am at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street. We hope to hear the great voices of the Royal Scarlets Choral Group from the high school with us again at this event.

FLAG DAY is on June 14th. Don't forget to proudly display our American Flag. Take a look at our website: RidgefieldPark.org, follow us on our FACEBOOK page at [www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj) and on INSTAGRAM at [www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj](https://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknj) to see other information and news.

## Happy Spring!

**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](https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation) for all registration forms and current information. Have a question? Send us an email (fastest method) and we will respond as soon as possible. Email: [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto: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.

All of our activities are also posted on the town's official social media accounts. Follow us on Social Media:

Instagram Facebook [Linktree @ridgefieldparknj](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj).

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

Upcoming Board of Recreation activities are as follows:

**Ping Pong** – open to adults. The program is run in 10-week sessions. The cost is \$150.00 for the ten-week session. The instructor will supply paddles and balls. Sessions are scheduled for Mondays @ 6:30 P.M. at the civic center. Questions, contact Sue Chak at 201-755-8847. Registration forms are online.

**Archery Clinic** – Open to those 6 years old and up. The spring session will run from April 13– June 22, 2024, (no archery on 5/25 Memorial Day Weekend), Saturday mornings in three sessions: 9:00 – 9:45 10:00 – 10:45 11:00 – 11:45. Registration fee is \$25.00 (includes shirts); \$15.00 if you already have a shirt. Bring your registration form (download) and fee to the first session. Held behind the DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue. We need more volunteers to help out. If you have some time and can volunteer, let us know at [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org). We will provide all the training you need. Opening of the longer range coming soon.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2024, 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 rain or shine (or snow!) event. Don't forget a basket to carry your eggs! Remember this is a dog-free park and dogs are not permitted to enter the park.

**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, Session One: May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1. 2:00 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8 years old; 3:00 - 4:00 pm 9 - 11 years old; 4:00 - 5:00 pm 12 years old and up; 5:00 - 6:00 pm Adults. The cost is \$90.00 per session. For more information, call Barry Ruback at 201-568-3946 or email: [barrys10s@gmail.com](mailto:barrys10s@gmail.com). Sessions run from the spring through fall.

**T2S Basketball** – The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. For further information, interested people can email [t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com](mailto:t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com) or on Facebook: [@t2sbasketballacademy](https://www.facebook.com/t2sbasketballacademy). Check the website for upcoming info on summer clinics.

**Adult Yoga** – The Board of Recreation is happy to announce free yoga instruction for those age 16 and older. The program will be held at the library on Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Classes will be 45 minutes long and run from 3/12/24 – 6/4/24. Please bring water, a mat, and a blanket. Watch for details on the community message board, online and social media [@ridgefieldparknj](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparknj). All Board of Recreation meetings are open to the public. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is welcome to attend any meeting. Info or questions: [boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org). Voicemail: 201-641-4950 ext. 610.



## 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 2024. 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 2024 Meetings:

April	4 and 18
May	9 and 23
June	6 and 20
July	9 and 18
Aug.	8 and 22
Sept.	5 and 19
Oct.	3 and 17
Nov.	7 and 26
Dec.	5 and 19

### 2024 Caucus Meeting Dates:

April	9 and 23
May	9 and 28
June	11 and 25
July	9
Aug.	13
Sept.	10 and 24
Oct.	8 and 22
Nov.	12 and 26
Dec.	10 and 30

### 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](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/lgcc)  
**RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH RAFFLE YOU CONDUCT.**

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

**THE LEGALIZED GAMES OF CHANCE CONTROL COMMISSION IS ACTIVELY ATTENDING RAFFLE EVENTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE – FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN RESULT IN YOUR EVENT BEING SHUT DOWN**  
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## EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR MAY 11

The Village of Ridgefield Park's Every Day is Earth Day celebration is set for Saturday May 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Riverfront Park, located behind the Department of Public Works building located at 24 Industrial Avenue.

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

The fun continues with eco-cruises from the Riverkeeper along the Hackensack River, all-day music provided by Mark Rust, face painting and environmental exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. Neighborhood Compost, a New Jersey subscription-based compost pick-up service and circular home shop will be providing demonstrations throughout the day and encouraging additional Ridgefield Park residents to sign up for the Village's pilot compost program.

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

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

"The day is all about raising awareness concerning environmental issues that are affecting our community as well as encouraging all residents to enjoy and take advantage of the environmental treasures that are all available here in Ridgefield Park," he said. "The Environmental Commission continues to tackle important issues and has introduced new programs and ideas that have and will continue to transform Ridgefield Park into a more sustainable community. This also includes the grand opening of the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve, which we celebrated last June." Joining the celebration this year will be the Sea Turtle Recovery of West Orange. Returning interactive shows include Snakes N Scales, Mad Science, and the Tenafly Nature Center.

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



## VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP NATURE PRESERVE

Big thanks to our amazing team for lending a hand in sprucing up the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve on February 4th. Special shoutout to Dominic Melchione for leading the charge. We're excited to organize more clean-up events! Grateful that mother nature gave us a beautiful morning! Remember, let's all do our part to keep the preserve pristine.

More recently, over 70 enthusiastic students from the RPHS Key Club and other Key Clubs from around Bergen County participated in a major Nature Preserve Clean Up Event. Thank you to all of you for your help. "Many hands make light work". Keep a look out for our next event at the Nature Preserve

Next time you visit, bring along a bag to pick up any litter you spot. Every little action counts in preserving the beauty of the preserve and safeguarding its wildlife habitat. Follow

[instagram.com/ridgefieldparknature](https://www.instagram.com/ridgefieldparknature) and [facebook.com/ridgefieldparkenvironmental](https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparkenvironmental) to stay up to date on our environmental initiatives. You can also contact [envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org) to be added to our mailing list.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

The Community Gardens are Waking Up!

Our two community gardens are getting greener by the day as Spring begins.

We have plots available at no cost to residents. Each gardener gets a 10x4 foot plot, access to water and tools, free of charge. In exchange, gardeners attend work sessions to maintain the common areas. The gardens are located at McGowan Park, 149 Bergen Turnpike, and at Fellowship Park by the corner of Hobart Street and Bergen Avenue.

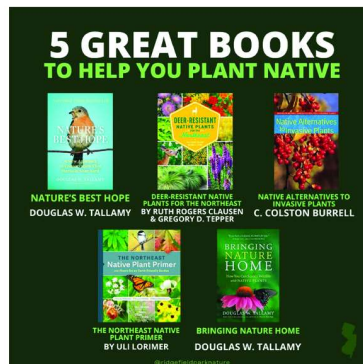
Beginner gardeners get lots of support from fellow gardeners. You'll be growing your own fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers in no time! Most of our gardeners keep their plots for years and greatly enjoy the satisfaction of growing their favorite fresh produce each year and always trying something new. We learn from each other.

Our community gardens are a place of friendship. We enjoy the camaraderie of meeting fellow gardeners, sharing tips, and working together during our work sessions. They are also a place of beauty for the public to enjoy. They offer some of the most picturesque and peaceful spots in Ridgefield Park. Bring your coffee, sit on a bench and enjoy the pretty views.

We also grow fresh produce for the public in public plots. If you visit the gardens, look for beds on the outside perimeter. Look for peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes and more in Spring.

We invite you to join us. To apply for a plot, please visit our website and fill out an application form at

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/community-garden>. We'd love to see you there!



## DON'T GET SCAMMED!

The saying goes "A sucker is born every minute". But, you don't have to be a sucker to get scammed. The con artists and scammers prey upon everyone from all walks of life - young or old; rich or poor. In the old days, the scam would usually be perpetrated in-person, by mail, or by a landline phone call. Today, it is done via the internet or on our cell phones.

The typical con is that you get a call on your phone; and -if your cautious and look at the caller ID, the call looks legitimate. But, it's not. The scam artist can change his caller ID so it looks like some other number than his own. The number may even match a real telephone number of the bank or credit card company number. But, it's not.

Then they will give you a story that someone may have illegally used your bank account, credit card account, etc.; and they are checking with you to verify whether you had ordered a product, service, etc. And, at some point, they are going to ask you to send them money. They may ask you to go to a local store (such as CVS, Walgreens, 7-11, etc.) and purchase a cash card (MoneyPak, Vanilla Card, etc.). Then, they will explain that the funds will be refunded to you or will be sent to a charity; or that they will be sending you a product, etc.

Maybe they will convince you to go to your bank to withdraw the funds and send the money to them via some "secure" method. Once you send the money- in whatever process - the money is gone.

Similarly, you may get a call from the IRS or the Social Security Administration; and they say that they need to verify your personal information (SS#, Date of Birth, etc), it probably is a scam. You may get a call from someone who says that you have to act quickly or make the payment as soon as possible. Ask for their number so that you can verify who you are talking to; or then talk to your local police department. You may get similar requests on your email; and the email may look legitimate; but it is not. When you have doubts, contact the sender through the contact information that you already have. Contact telephone numbers are on your bank statements, credit cards, etc.

You may say to yourself that you are smarter than the victims of these scams. Maybe you are. But, there are so many smart and sophisticated people who have fallen for these con artists.

Don't allow yourself to be scammed. There was an old Television show entitled "RACKET SQUAD" from the 1950s which provided re-creations of real scams, frauds and con games. At the end of the program,



the host would always say the following:  
"Remember, there are people who can slap you on the back with one hand, and pick your pocket with the other. And, it can happen to you."

If they want you to send them money,  
**JUST TERMINATE THE CALL.**

The Social Security Administration has taken the initiative to warn the public about these types of scams: Slam the Scam. Visit [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam) for more information and follow SSA OIG on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to stay up to date on the latest scam tactics. Repost [#SlamtheScam](https://www.facebook.com/SlamtheScam) information on social media to keep your friends and family safe.

## WINTER SOWING OF NATIVE PLANT SEEDS AT LIBRARY

Hosted by Sustainable RP and the Environmental Commission

We had a wonderful night learning about native seeds! Thank you to Tammy Laverty and Linda Quinn for sharing their wisdom, along with all who attended.

We can't wait to see your gardens this spring!

If you want you can combine with this: Couldn't make it to our seeding event? No worries! Here are five great reads you can check out from the library, or pick up at your favorite independent bookstore:

- Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy
  - Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast by Ruth Rogers Clausen & Gregory D. Tepper
  - Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants by C. Colston Burrell
  - The Northeast Native Plant Primer by Uli Lorimer
  - Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy
- Happy reading!



**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 individuals claiming to work with the Internal Revenue Service. We would like to remind residents to be cautious when dealing with individuals soliciting private information via the telephone or internet. If you are unsure if the call is legitimate, ask for a contact name and information and inform the caller that you will be in touch with them at a later date and time.

Tax-related scams are extremely popular and are often recognized well after the fact. Remember — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you know of a tax fraud, you can report it to the IRS by sending completed Form 3949-A, Information Referral, which can be found on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). Information on how to submit the completed form can also be found in the instructions portion of the form.

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

While it is hard to investigate phone scams, you can report them to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). They will track complaints from consumers that will help detect patterns of fraud or abuse. Visit <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/> and click on the "Report Now" tab, in the top right corner, to report a scam.



Spring is upon us and we would like to remind all residents that yard waste pick up will begin again on Monday, March 18th. Yard waste **MUST BE** placed in a garbage can or in brown garden bags in order to be picked up. NO plastic bags will be accepted. NO waste is to be put into the streets or plazas. If you place debris in the street, you may be subjected to a fine. Leaf season will begin again in October.

We will be hosting a **FREE** paper shredding and hard plastics recycling day on Saturday, April 6th at 24 Industrial Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We would like to advise all residents that if you have a sewer issue in your home and if a plumber says it is a Village issue, please call the DPW while the plumber is onsite. If it is after hours or on a weekend, please call the non-emergency number for the police and they will contact us. The homeowner is responsible for any piping from the house to the main connection.

The DPW and Recycling Center will be closed on the following dates in 2024:

Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 19, 2024 for Presidents Day

Saturday, May 25, 2024 & Monday, May 27, 2024 for Memorial Day weekend

Thursday July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day

Saturday, August 31, 2024 and Monday, September 2, 2024 for Labor Day weekend

Thursday, November 28, 2024,

Friday, November 29, 2024, and Saturday, November 30, 2024 for Thanksgiving weekend

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 for Christmas

Please visit our webpage for the current calendar and updates.

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





## RIDGEFIELD PARK DOG & CAT OWNERS FREE RABIES CLINIC

Sponsored by: Ridgefield Park Health Department

Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Department of Public Works Building  
24 Industrial Avenue  
Ridgefield Park

Dogs must be secured on a leash and must be accompanied by a person over the age of 12.

Cats must be brought in a carrier.

**ONE ANIMAL PER PERSON**

Licenses for dogs and cats may be renewed at this time

\$10.00 – Neutered

\$15.00 – Not Neutered

Reminder: All pet licenses expired on December 31st and must be renewed.

New licenses may be obtained at the Health Department Office.

Proof of current rabies inoculation must be presented.

An additional late fee will be charged for pet license renewals after April 30th.



## SUMMER ARTS FEST 2024

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association will hold Summer Arts Fest 2024 on Saturday, June 8th from 4-9 pm. This free, outdoor event will be held on Main Street and Grove Street from 4-6 pm. Enjoy live music while dining on food and beverages from our Village food establishments. There will also be artists and authors offering their art and books for sale; some will demonstrate painting, woodworking, and other crafts. Mark your calendars to kick off summer in the Village at Summer Arts Fest!



## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

With sadness, the Shade Tree Commission commemorates George Gosen, an important and long time member, who passed away December 10, 2023. George tirelessly volunteered in Ridgefield Park organizations over 50 years: a founding member of the RP Coop Nursery School; a Trustee/treasurer for the RP Library Board; and Vice-chairperson for the STC. As a STC member, in addition to regular activities, he started the Sidewalk Safety Program whereby the Village pays to repair sidewalks damaged by Village trees. His work included doing sidewalk inspections, hiring and supervising private contractors to repair and replace sidewalks; and submitting bills for reimbursement. The STC appreciates George's hard work and professionalism; his friendly, funny, warm personality; and very importantly, his DELICIOUS food.

Private donations from family and friends in memory of George (to date, about \$4500) will be used to plant a grove of trees in the area above the High School track. The dedication ceremony will take place on ARBOR DAY on Saturday, April 27th at 9:30am. ALL ARE WELCOME.

### Featured Tree

The swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, is spotlighted this issue. A large, single trunk tree reaching 60 feet or more at maturity with a rounded crown about as wide as the tree is tall provides shade and plenty of acorns for a variety of birds and mammals to enjoy. Although needing space, it is very tolerant of urban conditions. The tree has large leaves, green on top and lighter color below, which turn yellow or orange-gold in the fall.

### Trees, Trees and Hopefully More Trees!

The STC has chosen many beautiful trees to be planted by the DPW along the Village streets and in the parks but also urges property owners to plant trees in their yards because of the many benefits of trees for people and the environment. According to an excellent article on the American Forests website, trees lower utility bills by shading the house in the summer and allowing the sun to warm it in the winter; trees clean the air and absorb storm water runoff; trees block out traffic noise; and trees help fight climate change. Interested, then go to their website,

<https://www.americanforests.org/how-to-choose-and-plant-a-tree/>, for specific information about tree selection-right tree, right place; choice of best spot to plant; how to prepare the plant site, how to plant the tree and how to mulch; and last but not least watering instructions. Interested but

least watering instructions. Interested but want to talk to someone regarding tree selection and planting, ask a STC member to help.

To contact the STC with a tree request, to volunteer, or to report an issue, email [shadetree@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:shadetree@ridgefieldpark.org); call 201-641-4950 extension 640, leaving name, tree issue with address of tree; or attend a meeting. The STC meets in the third floor conference room of Town Hall at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month except for December when the meeting is on the second Monday.

ENJOY THE TREES!



## SUSTAINABLE RIDGEFIELD PARK MOVING AHEAD

Sustainable Ridgefield Park  
<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/sustainable-ridgefield-park>

collaborates with municipal organizations and volunteer groups to bring about sustainable projects that help the community. We do this by blending environmental, civic and cultural activities and the Sustainable Jersey certification process pushes us to get them done to achieve statewide recognition.

### Here's what we did in 2023

- Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification at 420 points
- Received 2023 Creativity and Innovation Award from Sustainable Jersey with 7 other towns for improving communities through creative placemaking and support of the arts
- Launch of the EPS Densifier serving Bergen County communities
- Launch of Residential Food Waste Composting Pilot Program with Neighborhood Compost
- Participated at Earth Day and Street Fair/Jazz Festival
- Annual September Swap & Shop
- Annual October Health Fair and Blood Drive
- Continue single use plastic film/bag collection
- Continued recycling communication – how to efficiently bundle cardboard, what #1, 2 & 5 plastic goes in the bin, where to bring alkaline batteries, how to recycle sneakers
- Conducted two bulky rigid plastic collections and gently used toy collection with Second Chance Toys

### Diving into 2024

- Winter Sowing of Native Seed Planting with the Environmental Commission
- Sustainable Jersey Silver Recertification for the Village
- March EPS Recycling Drive co-hosted with Leonia
- No Mow May Campaign
- Participate in Mayor's Monarch Pledge
- Bulky Rigid Plastics Collection along with Paper Shredding in April at DPW
- Launch Healthcare Survey for residents, municipal and volunteer groups

The work that we do is not possible without the willingness of our members to give so freely of their time and service to help the community.

We appreciate and thank those of you for supporting our events and drives.

## GROWING FRESH PRODUCE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry Vegetable Garden is gearing up for another season of growing fresh produce and herbs to donate to our local St. Francis Food Pantry. The garden donated over 350lbs of fresh produce last year and we look forward to another successful season starting now.

The vegetable garden is supported by volunteers and the Ridgefield Park Department of Public Works. We have volunteer gardeners from the community and the local Key Club teens from the high school.

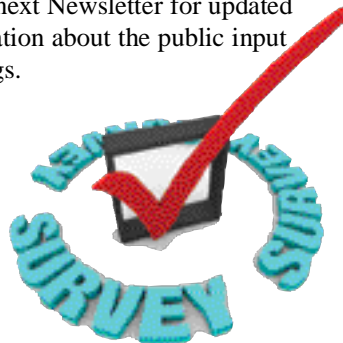
Garlic was planted last Fall and you can see the shoots peeking out now! The plot is visible from Euclid Ave. between Mt. Vernon and Park. The first spring planting goes into the ground in late March. We grow vegetables, herbs, as well as flowers to attract pollinators.

The Food Pantry serves over 300 local men, women and children each month.

For more information, contact Marian McKenna at [marian\\_mckenna@yahoo.com](mailto:marian_mckenna@yahoo.com) or 650-776-6543.

## PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Village of Ridgefield Park, Parks Department is thrilled to announce that we will be holding a Survey in early April for the Veteran Parks Project. After the survey, there will be 2 public input meetings potentially having in April and May. Your input is critical to the final design concept plan. We are working diligently together to continue to move this project forward in a timely manner. Please refer to the Village website at <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/> and/or next Newsletter for updated information about the public input meetings.



## CONGRATS TO JOE & DORIS LIPANE

The Fourth of July in Ridgefield Park is a much-anticipated event for our community. This especially rings true for the Lipane family, who have made it a tradition to gather together on Main Street and watch the festivities from the balcony of Joe and Doris's apartment at the Marlboro House. With an impressive 62 years of residency in Ridgefield Park, Joe and Doris Lipane are celebrating not only their 76th wedding anniversary on May 8, but also their upcoming 96th birthdays! The Lipanes have deep roots in the community, having previously lived on Webster Street and Third Street before settling on Main Street in 2006. Their close-knit family, which includes 7 children, 14 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, is a testament to their enduring love and commitment to family. The Village of Ridgefield Park extends a warm invitation to the community to join in commemorating these remarkable milestones achieved by Doris and Joe, whose love, strength, and commitment continue to inspire. Additionally, we express our gratitude to Joe for his service in the U.S. Air Force.

We will soon be getting ready for the 4th of July. Time flies. Let's cherish the traditions that bring us all together. Whether we're longtime participants like the Lipanes, or just beginning to forge new memories in our Village, we wish everyone a joyous celebration of all of the upcoming holidays - Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th and beyond.





# 2024

## BERGEN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

*Take your hazardous waste to a safer place!*

<b>PARAMUS</b> Bergen Community College 400 Paramus Road (Entry via Paramus Rd. ONLY)	<b>MAHWAH</b> Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation 200 Campgaw Road (Ski Area)	<b>MOONACHIE</b> Bergen County Utilities Authority Foot of Empire Blvd. (Entry via Empire Blvd. ONLY)
<b>SUNDAY</b> April 7 June 9 October 20 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<b>SATURDAY</b> May 11 July 20 September 7 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<b>SATURDAY</b> March 9 November 16 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All collection sites open (rain or shine) at 9:00 a.m. and close promptly at 3:00 p.m.

**FREE OF CHARGE FOR BERGEN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY - ID REQUIRED!**

**NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ALLOWED.**

*Absolutely no business or commercial waste will be accepted.*

**DO NOT BRING**  
electronics, paper  
for shredding, or  
tires to hazardous  
waste collections!!

Visit [www.bcuu.org](http://www.bcuu.org) for additional information.



Recycle!  
Printed on recycled paper.

**NO RETURNS.** This includes gasoline and motor oil containers. Please plan accordingly.

## ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR WASTE COLLECTIONS

- Aerosol Cans
- Anti-Freeze
- Batteries (vehicle & rechargeable only)
- Blacktop sealers
- Bug spray
- Disinfectants
- Drain Cleaners
- Fertilizer
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Gasoline
- Glue
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Kerosene
- Lighter Fluid
- Mercury Switches
- Oil Filters (used)
- Paints & Varnishes
- - All Types
- Pesticides
- Photographic Chemicals
- Propane Gas Cylinders (1 lb. and 20 lb. only)
- Solvents & Thinners
- Thermostats
- Thermometers
- Used Motor Oil

For a complete listing go to [www.bcuu.org](http://www.bcuu.org)  
Materials not in original containers must be labeled.

## Directions to Collection Sites

### Directions to BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

400 Paramus Rd., Paramus, NJ  
(Entry via Paramus Rd. ONLY)

#### From the North (via Route 17)

Turn right off Route 17 South onto Ridgewood Avenue (West) to Paramus Road. Turn left onto Paramus Road and continue approximately two miles to college; proceed around jug handle to main entrance.

#### From the East

Take Route 4 West to Paramus Road (Paramus Road is ¼ miles past Route 17 intersection.) Turn right onto Paramus Road and proceed north approximately two miles to Bergen Community College entrance on right.

#### From the South (via Route 17)

Take Route 17 North to Century Road exit, second exit to the right, proceed around cloverleaf over Route 17 onto Century Road (West). Continue to Paramus Road and turn right onto Paramus Road to college entrance on right.

#### From the West

Take Route 4 East to Paramus Road (exit under overpass). Turn right onto Paramus Road and proceed north for approximately two miles to college entrance on right.

## UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR WASTE COLLECTIONS

- Any business or commercial generated waste
- Empty containers or hardened paint cans are garbage
- Alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V) dispose in normal trash
- Unlabeled waste or containers with unknown contents
- Regulated medical waste, sharps, radioactive materials, and explosives
- Containers larger than five (5) gallons
- Any compressed cylinders (e.g. oxygen or acetylene)
- Pressure-treated lumber or railroad ties
- Computers, electronics, and tires are NOT accepted at waste collections.
- Smoke Detectors
- Construction demolition debris

If you need help in the disposal of unacceptable waste, please call 201-807-5825 or visit us at [www.bcuu.org](http://www.bcuu.org)

### Directions to BERGEN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY:

Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie, NJ  
(Entry via Empire Blvd., Moonachie ONLY. NO entry via Meinhof Rd., Little Ferry)

#### Traveling Route 17 North

Exit at Moonachie-Wood-Ridge exit. Make right at light onto Moonachie Ave. Pass Teterboro Airport (on your left) and continue going straight until road ends into BCUA facilities.

#### Traveling Route 17 South

Exit at Moonachie-Wood-Ridge exit. (Exit is by The Fiesta.) Make left at light onto Moonachie Avenue. Pass Teterboro Airport (on your left) and continue going straight until road ends into BCUA facilities.

### Directions to BERGEN COUNTY CAMPGAW MOUNTAIN RESERVATION:

200 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, NJ (Ski Area)

#### Traveling Route 17 North

Take Route 202 (Morristown/Suffern) exit. Make left at stop sign. Pass Ramapo College on left. Make left onto Darlington Avenue; bear right at fork onto Campgaw Road. The Reservation is approximately 1.5 miles on the right.

#### Traveling Route 202 West

Take Rt. 202/Ramapo Valley Road North. Right onto Darlington Avenue, bear right at fork onto Campgaw Road. The Reservation is on the right.

## Village of Ridgefield Park Spring Upcoming Events



Good Friday	March 29	Municipal Offices Closed
Easter Egg Hunt	March 30	Veterans Park
Easter	March 31	
Rabies Clinic	April 25	DPW Building Industrial Ave
Arbor Day	April 27	Dedication of Trees on the hill above High School
Earth Day	May 11	Riverside Park -behind the DPW Building-Industrial Ave on the Hackensack River
Memorial Day	May 27	Ceremonies corner of Euclid Ave & Mount Vernon St.
Arts Fest 2024	June 8	Main Street & Grove St.
Flag Day	June 14	Display Your Flag
Independence Day	July 4	Two Parades & Fireworks!!

### VILLAGE WILL RECEIVE \$20,000,000 FROM COUNTY OF BERGEN

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Village of Ridgefield Park will receive \$20 million from the County of Bergen. This sum represents a years long negotiation by the Commissioners with the County of Bgergen to settle a long pending lawsuit involving the County's obligation to build a pedestrian bridge from the Ridgefield Park High School over Interstate Route I-95 to the Overpeck County Park.

This settlement will fund the complete renovation of Veterans Park which includes eleven (11) fields, playgrounds, and other amenities of approximately 29 acres of Village property. The \$20 million settlement is not a loan, but rather a payment made in five installments from the County, to be used to upgrfade long-needed renovations to Veterans Park.

If you are interested in a more detailed history of the litigation with the County of Bergen, you will find a link on the Village website that will include the history of this litigation that goes back over 30 years.

	<b>COUNTY OF BERGEN</b> DIVISION OF TREASURY HACKENSACK, N.J.	55-136 312	No. 0000000
<b>PAY</b> TWENTY MILLION and 00/100			
TO THE ORDER OF RIDGEFIELD PARK VILLAGE OF 234 MAIN STREET RIDGEFIELD PARK NJ 07660		DATE 11/30/2023	Amount ***20,000,000.00 *
* Five (5) payments of \$4,000,000 each - Per Consent Order Consent Order available at Village Clerk's Office		<b>County of Bergen</b> TREASURER	

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