

# village NEWSLETTER

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VOL 38 NO5

Ridgefield Park, N.J.

JUNE, 2022

## ROLL OUT THOSE LAZY CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

SUMMER IS HERE - which is fairly obvious by just walking out our front doors. School is out. Time for vacations, staycations, walking, The Jersey Shore, baseball, softball, summer gardens, boating, kayaking, swimming, etc. The Village Pool is now open ( You can still join!). The July 4th Independence Day Celebration is almost here. Get more details of the celebration on our Village Website and in the July 4th program which will be distributed during the coming days.

During the course of our July 4th parade, you will see the members of our volunteer emergency services - Fire Dept., Ambulance Corps, and Rescue Squad. Please give them a big cheer when they pass by. They are a critical part of our Village. Each year, our new tax bills get delayed due to the delays in the State Budget approval and the County approving its budget. So, we are sending out estimated tax bills by mid-Summer; and then we will send out the final bills once the State and County get their ducks in a row. Third Quarter tax payments are due August 1st.

A new idea for the Village is "Busking" which allows musicians and singers to perform in the Main Street Business District. More information inside. Stop down on Main Street over the summer and enjoy some nice entertainment. And ---- -- we have an expanded Summer Concerts Program. The full schedule was sent out in a separate mailing.

Enjoy Your Summer.

**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](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation) for all registration forms and current information. Have a question? Send us an email and we'll 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.

Upcoming Board of Recreation activities are as follows:

**Archery Clinic** - Open to those 6 years old and up. The program will run April 9, 2022 - 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 next session. Held behind the DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue.

**Basketball** - Early registration will again be offered until August 15 only. Early registration fee is \$50.00 for first child, \$40 each additional child. Registration fee for any form RECEIVED after August 15 will be \$55/\$45. Early registration forms should be mailed to the Village Clerk's office. Registration will be held at the Civic Center in the fall. Registration forms are available at

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/board-recreation> or found at the Clerk's Office and the Public Library. The Board of Recreation is also looking for qualified referees for the basketball program. If you would like information on being a possible referee, please send a letter or email to the Board indicating your experience and availability (@ 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park). Also, anyone (adults included) in at least seventh grade (as of September) who is interested in training to be either a timer or scorekeeper for next year's basketball

season should email their info to the Board Board indicating your experience and availability (@ 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park). Also, anyone (adults included) in at least seventh grade (as of September) who is interested in training to be either a timer or scorekeeper for next year's basketball season should email their info to the Board of Recreation. Regular registration will still be held on September 23 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and September 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Registration fees in September will be \$55.00. Just a note for prospective coaches for next season - for the safety of our youth, all Board of Recreation coaches have some mandatory requirements before they can coach. You can complete the requirements now if interested in coaching.

1) Background checks - paid for by the Board of Recreation and only take a few minutes to complete.

2) Certification - you may attend a fall class offered by the Board or schedule a class at your convenience at: <http://youthsports.rutgers.edu/> (you will be reimbursed after submitting a copy of your card and paid receipt).

3) Online Concussion course - view the video at

<http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>.

Submit certificate of completion to Board.

4) Protecting Our Children Videos - These videos are required by the Village insurance carrier.

Links: <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-nstitute/model-policies/protecting-children-videos/>  
<https://njmel.org/?s=Building+a+Safe+Workplace%3A+Anti-Harassment+and+Discrimination>.

Submit certificates of completion to Board.

**Tennis** - The program will run on Thursdays, June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 at Fellowship Park. Cost is \$85.00. Residents may contact Barry Ruback at [barrys10s@gmail.com](mailto:barrys10s@gmail.com) or 201-568-3946 with any questions. Adults and children are welcome to join in the fun.

5:00 - 6:00 pm 6 - 8 years old  
6:00 - 7:00 pm 9 - 11 years old  
7:00 - 8:00 pm 12 years old and up  
8:00 - 9:00 pm Adults

**T2S Basketball** - The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez and held at Veterans Park, 10 Morningside Lane. Their Summer Clinic will run: Week 1: June 27 - July 30 (Rain date: July 01); Week 2: July 05 - July 07 (Rain date: July 08;); Week 3: July 11 - July 14 (Rain date: July 15); Week 4: July 18 - July 21 (Rain date: July 22) Week 5: July 25 - July 28 (Rain date: July 29); Week 6: Aug 01 - Aug 04 (Rain date: Aug 05). Pavilion available for shade & hydration. FEE: \$175 per week (\$50 OFF Sibling Discount); Multiple Week Registration Fee: \$150 per week. Applicants must register online at [www.t2sba.com/register](http://www.t2sba.com/register). Info: [t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com](mailto:t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com).

**Big Mike's 3 v 3 Co-Ed Basketball League - Fall 2022 Season** - This is a new adult activity named in honor of Mike O'Neill who was a pillar of this community and spent many years on the sidelines and fields of RP giving of his time to coach his children as well as many others. Eligibility: Men and women 25 years and older / Must be a Ridgefield Park or Little Ferry resident  
Game Nights: Mondays @ Lincoln School gym  
Game Times: 6:30 / approximately 7:15 / approximately 8:00 and approximately 8:45pm [8 team league]  
Game Structure: Each game will be 4 quarters, 8 minutes in length.  
Regular Season Dates: September 12, 19, 26 October 3, 10, 17 and 24 Playoff Dates: November 7 and 14  
Roster Size: 5-7 Players - We encourage each team to have at least one woman participating.  
Cost: \$350 Per Team - Payment to be made via check made out to Board of Recreation. This can be mailed to 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park or dropped off at Town Hall at same address. Payment due no later than Monday, August 29.  
The first 8 teams to sign up will be the participants for our inaugural season.

**Ping Pong** - this is a new activity the Board is trying to start up for adults. Look out for information on a weekly open session for adult ping pong fans to meet at the Civic Center and play a game or two. No cost to participate!

**Adult and Family Events** - keep checking our page for updated info on available group tickets that may come up throughout the year. Tickets to a Devils game will be available next season including a chance to take a shot on the ice!

**Halloween Rag-A-Muffin Parade** - Mark your calendars for some fun on Saturday, October 29 starting at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate the spooky season with a costume contest for the kids including goodie bags, food carts, DJ and a magician!! Come have some fun with us!!

**Summer Recreation** - This program is completely separate from the Board of Recreation. It is run by Daina Scheideler. For any information check the Summer Recreation website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rpsummerrec/201-Voicemail:641-4950x615> or email [summerrec@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:summerrec@ridgefieldpark.org).

Summer Concerts - These are not run by the Board of Recreation. Check out <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture> or email [concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org). Sign up for the mailing list <https://ridgefieldpark.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=6cff8f10b94df8ed98b34e25d&id=2ed9223a79>

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.

## MARK THIS GREEN TEAM EVENT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Annual Green Fair & Clothing Swap on Saturday, September 24 (rain date Sunday, September 25) in Brewster Park. Details will post on the Village's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofRPNJ/> Have a Question? Email us at [greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org)

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

Ever been strolling down the street or hiking in the park, see something that grabs your attention and wonder hmm - What is that unusual plant, prehistoric looking insect, or colorful bird? Well, "There's an app for that".

Identify your wild plant, animal, or fungus using - iNaturalist  
iNaturalist is an online community uniting Naturalists all over the world to share their observations.

On iNaturalist, you can:

- CONTRIBUTE TO CITIZEN SCIENCE!
  - Share your observations of wild organisms
  - See what other naturalists have found nearby
  - Get identification help
  - Keep a life list
  - Expand your nature knowledge
  - Upload a picture of any wild plant, animal, or fungus
  - iNaturalist's community and image recognition software will help you identify it
  - Help out other naturalists by identifying their observations
  - Every observation becomes part of a growing record of Earth's biodiversity
- iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. The data base observations are used in hundreds of scientific publications. It's considered the model tool for recording valuable open data for scientific research.
- Also, many high school and college-level instructors have used iNat app to engage students with nature using mobile and web technology.
- Getting started is easy. Download the free app, register, and start to identify and contribute to science.
- Tips for using iNaturalist:
1. Take several pictures of your specimen, trying to isolate it from other species. Example: close-up of flower, leaf, underside of the leaf, bark, etc.
  2. Upload the clearest 2 or 3 pictures of the specimen
  3. After a few moments, the app will give you its best possible guesses

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 1 BLOOD DRIVE AT THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE K OF C

The Ridgefield Park Green Team is asking individuals, other Village organizations and groups to join in with us on a blood drive with the American Red Cross on October 1 at the lower level of the K of C (106 Bergen Avenue) from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. So far, we're working with the K of C and the Future Health Professionals Club at the high school to hold a blood drive. We'd love for any interested group, organization or individual that wants to help our efforts to reach a goal of at least 40 pints of blood to contact us at [greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org).

There's another way individuals can help our efforts and that is to become familiar with what is known as a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component, and therefore the most needed. Donors can maximize their donation and help more patients with a Power Red donation.

What is Power Red donation?

During a Power Red donation, a donor gives a concentrated dose of red cells, the part of the blood used every day for those needing transfusions as part of their care. This type of donation uses an automated process that separates red blood cells from the other blood components, then safely and comfortably returns plasma and platelets to the donor.

Why are we promoting Power Red donations?

- It allows donors to maximize their donation and help more patients with one scheduled appointment.
- Helps us reach our blood drive goal by maximizing each person's donation.
- A smaller needle is used than with regular blood donation.
- The donor is asked to donate less often.
- Depending on your blood type, it's almost like doubling or even tripling your donation!!

Who is eligible?

- Donors who gave blood 56 days ago or Power Red 112 days ago.
- Donors with type O negative, O positive, A negative or B negative blood are strongly encouraged to consider giving a Power Red donation.
- It is recommended that females wait until age 19 or older to give a Power Red donation.



## Power Red Requirements

Minimum height Male 5'5" Female 5'1"

Minimum weight Male 150 lbs.

Female 130 lbs.

We will be releasing a QR code, hyperlink and telephone number where individuals can register to donate blood during the summer. If you plan on doing a Power Red donation, the American Red Cross will need to know in advance because your donation will be done using a Power Red machine. Please consider signing up to donate blood and also consider being a Power Red donor. Remember, it takes only about an hour (actual donation takes about 6-8 minutes) to donate blood and each blood donation can help save up to three lives. If you are at least 17 years old (you can donate at 16 with parental permission), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in general good health and feeling well on the day of donation, you may be eligible to give blood. Eligible blood donors can give every two months (Power Red every 112 days). So, mark your calendar for October 1 and plan to visit our Health Fair held upstairs at the K of C and think about donating blood downstairs to help Ridgefield Park reach its goal to pay it forward. If you'd like to join in our efforts or have any questions, email: [greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org). We gladly welcome either donation - traditional blood donation or Power Red donation - we are greatly appreciative of you helping out!

## LEAVE THE GRASS CLIP-SHEET

- Grass clippings are 75% to 85% water, are quick to decompose and release nutrients to fertilize the lawn.

- They can supply up to one-third of a lawn's nitrogen fertilizer needs can save time and money and help protect the environment.

- Lawns stay greener and healthier when clippings are left on them. Grass clippings on your lawn can generate up to 25% of the lawn's yearly fertilizer needs and reduce the amount of time and money you spend fertilizing and bagging.

- Clippings shade grass roots, cool the soil, return moisture, add moisture holding organic matter, and so reduces lawn watering needs.

- Clippings can also be used as mulch to provide weed control and prevent moisture loss around flower beds, trees, and shrubs.

Befriend the earth and think twice about bagging up those clippings.

## IT'S NEW...VILLAGE BUSKING PROGRAM

On a nice Thursday or Saturday evening you may have seen artists performing near the public seating area on Grove Street. They are part of our new busking program. Buskers are allowed to have a "tip jar" or other means of accepting donations like Venmo, Zele etc. If you are interested in being a busker send an email to [concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:concertsartsculture@ridgefieldpark.org) Buskers will have a small sign detailing who they are and the time they will be performing.

The Busking schedule is at [ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture/pages/busking](http://ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture/pages/busking) where you will find the latest update. Stop by and enjoy. Then thank them with applause and donations.

## BUY LOCAL AND SHOW SUPPORT

We at the Ridgefield Park Green Team are dedicated to helping local small businesses in the Village thrive and survive. In order to do that they need the support of this community.

Here are some ways you can show your support.

- Make an effort to buy whatever you can, groceries, household items and gifts. You can also buy local produce and goods at farmers' markets.
- Support your local doctor, dentist, dry cleaner, automobile repair shop, furniture upholstery shop, lawyer, accountant helps to keep those businesses afloat.
- Dine locally. Restaurants, cafes, delis, bakeries are some of the most common small businesses in any community whether they are dine in or take out. They provide jobs for residents and contribute to the local economy.
- Try to attend a local event where possible when you are looking for something to do.
- If you are happy with a local business, tell somebody. When you take the time to write an online review you're helping that business reach more customers.
- Giving back to the community is another way of showing support. It could mean volunteering your time or donating money to local charities. Becoming a mentor or providing internships. When you give back, you make it a better place.
- Get involved in local politics. Come to a commissioner's meeting, write letters. Use your voice to bring attention to things that matter to the community's future.
- Preserving local history is another way to provide support. You could work to preserve a local landmark or offer to help the local historian.
- Try simply spending more time in your community. Shop at local businesses, eat at local restaurants and participate in local events.

## THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The commission was formed in November 1996 by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. The HPC consists of five regular members and two alternate members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The mission of the HPC is to review and oversee changes in the architectural appearance of buildings within the Village's Central Business District; and to assure that the appearances of these structures, and the district as a whole, is preserved and enhanced.

The Village's Central Business District is roughly along Main Street from Summit Street to the Post Office at Pine Street and along Mount Vernon Street from Herbert Street to near Bergen Avenue. Some side street sections, such as along Spruce Street are also within the district.

The buildings and architectural appearance of our business district possesses a certain character upon which the HPC would like to preserve and improve. Architectural Guidelines have been prepared for reference when properties or businesses decide to make changes affecting the facades of the buildings in the district. The commission reviews applications for all proposed changes within the district using these established Guidelines.

Anyone who is altering, renovating, or otherwise changing the exterior of a building or property within the district must apply before the Historic Preservation Commission. Work may include, but not be limited to, signs, awnings, lights, storefronts, sidewalks and painting. It is incumbent upon all property owners within the district to advise potential tenants that they must apply for approval from the Commission for any changes to the exterior of the building, including the space immediately inside a glass storefront. It should also be noted that, where building exteriors are deteriorating or are in need of maintenance, approvals may be granted contingent upon the building owner making necessary improvements.

The HPC meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the municipal building. The HPC is looking for Interested residents or business owners who would like to serve on the HPC. If interested, please email the HPC at: [historicprescomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:historicprescomm@ridgefieldpark.org) or mail/leave your info at the Clerk's Office at 234 Main Street. You can also call and leave your info at the Clerk's Office (201) 641-4950 and someone will get back to you. We'll gladly answer any questions you may have.

## MAY THE 4TH OF JULY BE WITH YOU

The Ridgefield Park Fourth of July Parade and Celebration will be held on Monday, July 4th. The parade was founded in 1894 and is one of the oldest continuous parades in the United States. The Ridgefield Park Fourth of July Citizens Committee prepares for the Day's event months ahead of time. Many organizations, schools, churches, and families also plan for the day's activities. Invitations are sent to organizations in and outside the community to participate.

Emergency Service Units prepare for every possible occurrence so that residents and visitors to the Village can relax and enjoy the day. The Mayor and Commissioners welcome all to our Village for these events. Our day begins at 7:30am at Euclid Ave. and Mt. Vernon St. with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and then at 7:45am, the Flag Raising Ceremony by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. At 8am the Fire Department presents its personnel and equipment for inspection and honor the milestone anniversaries of their members ( at Euclid Ave and Cedar St).

The Baby and Youth parade begins at 9am at Poplar St. and Euclid Ave and is led by the honor students. In honor of Star Wars' 45th Anniversary, the theme for this year's Baby & Youth Parade is "May The Fourth of July Be with You". The parade consists of village children and visiting children, who walk and ride in the decorated carriages, elaborate floats, or personally decorated bicycles. You will see red, white, blue along with Star Wars characters on this day. Prizes are awarded at the end;; and a fun time is had by all.

The Civic Parade steps off promptly at 11:30am at Preston St. and Hudson Ave. The parade route heads north on Roosevelt Ave. to Union Place where it turns left until it meets Main Street. Once on Main Street, the parade continues south to its end at Brewster Park. Fraternal and Village organizations, youth and sporting associations, bands and visitors march with pride. Village residents and visitors have enjoyed this event for over a century.

In the evening, the Village shall present a concert by the Rutherford Community Band at 7:30 pm followed by Fireworks.

See more information in the Fourth of July Program to be delivered separately. For updates you can follow the Ridgefield Park 4th of July Committee on Facebook; and check the Village Website: [Ridgefieldpark.org](http://Ridgefieldpark.org).

## IF YOUR DOG POOPED IT - YOU MUST SCOOP IT

There is nothing more irritating and frustrating when you find dog poop on your property or in the neighborhood where you live.

While most Ridgefield Park residents are conscientious about properly curbing their dogs on the street and picking up after them, sadly there are still those who don't think about where they curb their dog, and worse yet don't think it is their duty to pick up their dog's doody.

### The Scoop on Dog Poop

Besides being gross and unpleasant, there are health and environmental issues at stake.

**Health Risks** - When you leave behind dog poop, people, dogs and other animals are at risk of becoming infected with parasites from roundworm, hookworm and whipworm commonly known as gastrointestinal parasite that shed eggs in dog feces. Human activities such as gardening, walking barefoot in the yard, or playing sports increase the risk of disease from those parasite eggs and subsequent larvae. It's not uncommon to contract salmonella, E.coli or Campylobacter.

**Environmental Concerns** - Dog poop left on lawns and in the street can also find its way into storm sewers systems and freshwater resources, after a rainstorm. Dog waste contains nitrogen and phosphorous, which can deplete oxygen that kills fish and other water-based life. In addition, it can spur the growth of algae and weeds making water murky, green, foul and unusable for swimming, boating and fishing. It is also considered a significant source of pathogenic bacteria.

**Oh no it's not** - Some people think that dog poop is a natural fertilizer. Because dogs are meat-eaters and consume high protein meat products, their feces are supercharged with nitrogen and phosphorous that create brown or dead spots on lawns. Even if you are a homeowner that does not pick up after your dog, it has the same health risks and environmental concerns listed above. Don't equate dog poop with fertilizing manures, such as cow, horse, or sheep. All those come from plant-eating livestock and do not contain the acidic chemicals that are harmful to lawns.

**What to do?** - Start by picking up after your dog. If you want to do right by the environment you can research **compostable bags** to pick up dog waste. You can also compare to biodegradable bags, but it looks as if compostable bags may be the way to go.

**Doggie Septic System** - You can invest in a dog waste septic system. These devices work as a miniature home septic system. You can bury them according to instructions, add chemicals and water and place the droppings in them. The system liquefies/neutralizes the waste and passes harmlessly into the subsoil. The cost of units can run about \$35 to \$75.

And then there is the **Environmental Protection Agency** that endorses flushing as a safe way to dispose of dog feces, except it is not recommended with those who have septic systems.

Just remember, as unpleasant as it may be, properly cleaning up the mess your dog makes is a social obligation that will make for a cleaner and healthy environment for all to enjoy.

### LATEST ADDITIONS TO RIDGEFIELD PARK'S GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Congratulations to the owners of Baked Meringue, Betsy's Bagels and The Brownie Bar Cafe for becoming the latest participants in the Ridgefield Park Green Business Recognition Program. Any business can apply. Any resident can nominate a business and its free.

The program is designed to encourage local business owners to employ green practices in their businesses. Making their business more sustainable means they look at what they do and how it impacts the environment. They know that even small changes can make a big difference. From recycling to hiring local to sustainable packaging and being styrofoam free, they are proof that attention to some very simple things can make a difference.

Stop in today and congratulate the new additions to our Green Business Recognition Program:

Baked Meringue 67 Ridgefield Avenue  
973-985-6293

Betsy's Bagels 192 Main Street  
201-853-9444

The Brownie Bar Cafe 423 Main Street  
201-983-0003

For nominating information email  
[greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org)



## YOU HAD A HAND IN OUR SUCCESS

The Green Team and the DPW thanks all those who participated in the April 23rd Declutter Your Home & Help the Planet event. The survey results collected told us that you want to see it happen again, so we plan on collaborating with the Village's paper shredding this Fall. Over 50 toys and games were collected for the Second Chance Toys initiative, 70+ pounds of Alkaline batteries and over 80 boxes of breakfast cereal for the Food Pantry. We appreciate your help making this a success.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Work is nearing completion on Ridgefield Park's own Nature Preserve complete with nature trails, a floating boardwalk, and educational exhibit panels.

Please remember that the area remains an active construction site and will not be open to the public until the ADA trails and the associated parking lot is completed.

Once these items are completed and the construction equipment is removed from the site, we will open the trails to the public and have a grand opening ceremony.

Thank you for your patience as we complete the final phases of this project.



### RIDGEFIELD PARK WELCOME GUIDE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREEN TEAM

The Welcome Guide is an online resource center where information about organizations, events, activities and more can be found.

It is a LIVE document and the most up to date version will always be available online.

Scan the QR code



Or visit the Welcome Guide at  
[https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif1121f/uploads/welcome\\_guide\\_version-2\\_2022.pdf](https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif1121f/uploads/welcome_guide_version-2_2022.pdf)

## VETERANS PARK REIMAGINED

Join Ridgefield Park residents and creative thinkers from other municipalities for a Strategy Lab to re-imagine Veteran's Park. This 2-hour interactive visioning session will focus on how the park can be transformed by the arts, recreational programming, and infrastructure into a walk-able and welcoming outdoor destination. Some ideas already suggested are exercise stations along walking paths, pollinator gardens, gathering areas, and story trails. Please come and contribute your ideas. When all of us contribute we will end up with a more vibrant park for all to use.

After ideas are gathered participants will then engage in exercises to explore strategies to organize open space and energize the park through public art, food, performance, music and more.

Over the past 3 years, the Village of Ridgefield Park has made great strides in public art and culture. Along with the things you see the Village's master plan now includes a public art element. We are also in the process of establishing cultural districts in the downtown and Ridgefield Avenue areas.

Come and get involved in this transformational work.

Monday, July 11 at 6 pm, rain date

Wednesday, July 13, 6 pm

Veterans Park - in the parking lot by the Little League Field

### SUMMER CONCERTS

This summer's concerts kicked off June 8th at Ferris Park with a special concert that featured three Nashville singer/songwriters. Performance starts at 7:00pm

There will again be concerts at Grove Street. These concerts start with "Summer Arts Fest" brought to you by the Ridgefield Park Arts Association. Performance starts at 6:00pm. This is a very special event showcasing the best in Ridgefield Park.

At McGowan we are doubling down on concerts. Not twice as many dates - 2 shows every time at McGowan! First concert is June 29th. Shows at McGowan start at 6:00pm

See you at the concerts!



## 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:

June 9 and 23

July 7 and 21

August 4 and 18

September 8 and 22

October 16 and 20

October 11 and 25

November 3 and 22

December 8 and 22

2022 Regular Meeting Dates:

June 14 and 28

July 12

August 9

September 13 and 27

November 10 and 22

December 13 and 27

### RAFFLES

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.

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.

### 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.**

### WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO THE UPCOMING HEALTH FAIR ON OCT. 1

There will be rows of tables with vendors, but that doesn't mean boring. Each vendor provides an opportunity to learn something new and sometimes it is something that you might never have been exposed to or something you wanted to know but were afraid to ask. Wondering what types of info will be there? Here's a few examples: nutrition, dental exams, vision, hearing, flu as well as pneumonia and covid vaccines, palliative care, wellness info, healthy cleaning products, mental health info.

**Demonstrations:** Foam roller demo, how to set up a first aid kit, physical therapy, asthma van, how ambulance equipment works, CPR sign-ups. For the kids: go inside an ambulance, see the equipment, meet the EMT and learn they're just another community helper!!

**Share:** It's a great way to meet new people and medical professionals both in traditional and non-traditional medicine. You may be able to get a fresh perspective on some issues and can present them to your current doctor opening possible new avenues to try. Plus make contacts who can lend an ear or give helpful advice when needed.

**Have fun:** You don't have to attend with a group, but it makes for a much more fun day when you bring friends, loved ones or even co-workers with you. You do it together or split up to go experience the different things you each enjoy and then we meet back up.

**Learn:** In about a span of a few hours, you can learn about different things that you can really apply in simple non-stressful ways. Freebies: Most booths or presenters may have something to offer up in the way of items or materials that you can really use. As part of this Health Fair we will also be hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross at the K of C building lower level which will run from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Questions: [greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org). Is there something you would like to see at the Health Fair?

Email us and we'll try to get it there. Come to our local Health Fair on October 1st at the Knights of Columbus, 106 Bergen Avenue. Sponsored by the Ridgefield Park Green Team together with St. Francis and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 2271

### JOHN B. DAVIS MUNICIPAL POOL

It's time to start thinking about fun in the sun at the John B. Davis municipal pool of Ridgefield Park. This facility is located at the foot of Hobart St and offers everything you would want in a community pool.

In addition to our three pools, we offer swim lessons and a lap lane for the adults - there is something for everyone. The pool is open on weekends from May 28 through June 26 and daily from June 27 through September 5th. Membership is limited to Ridgefield Park, Little Ferry; and Bogota residents, as well as employees and volunteers from these towns.

Members can sponsor Bergen County residents for full membership.

Anyone interested in more information regarding membership fees or rules and regulations, please contact us at (201) 641-5221 or visit us at

[www.ridgefieldpark.org/pool-Commission](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/pool-Commission),  
[www.facebook.com/John B Davis  
Municipal-Pool](https://www.facebook.com/John-B-Davis-Municipal-Pool)

You can also visit the pool with a day pass for \$20.00 per person. Don't miss out on the summer fun!



## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Have you seen the beautiful trees lining the Village streets? The lush greenery and pastel flowers are a welcome sight after the cold, dreary winter months. The display is a tribute to the Village's 33rd year as a Tree City USA, and its 43th year celebrating Arbor Day.

With great thanks to the DPW, spring planting of new trees throughout Ridgefield Park residential, commercial, and park areas was accomplished. Species include: London plane, Yoshino cherry, river birch, ginko biloba, red sunset maple, serviceberry, sour gum, red plum, dogwood, zelkova, greenspire linden, hop hornbeam, Eastern redbud, and red, swamp white, and willow oaks.

The new trees, as well as established trees, need care. For new trees, make sure the gator bags are filled with water. Place the hose in the opening at the top of the bag between the two plastic layers and fill the bag which will dispense the water slowly through small holes at the bottom. Older trees need water, too, if there's a drought. To prevent damage, keep lawn movers and weed whackers away from tree trunks. Mulch is essential but should only be three inches deep around, but NOT touching the tree trunk.

Two memorial trees were part of the spring planting. Visit Fellowship Park to see the new tree, a red oak, planted next to the Desert Storm plaque which replaces the tree damaged in a 2021 storm. Also, a memorial tree for Gloria Callahan Connors was planted near the Little League stand in Veterans Park. The dedication April 9, 2022 was well attended by her siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends. Residents are always welcome to request trees for special dedications.

The 43rd Annual Arbor Day was celebrated at the Ridgefield Park Library with involvement from many other Village residents and organizations. The Festivities from 9:30 am to 12:30pm began with greetings from STC Chairperson Florence Muller, an invocation by Pastor Guillermo Lopez-Acosta from the First Presbyterian Church, and the singing of "God Bless America" by Joe Kenney. After Head Children's librarian Ariel Barreras read the poem "Poet's Tree," she, with the help of the teen volunteers, distributed white dogwood seedlings to the children. The Community Gardeners distributed seed packs and had a

guest arborist for Q&A; the Friends of the Library had a book sale; artist George Cooke demonstrated wood carving; Commissioner Mark Olsen demonstrated wood turning; Library staff and teen volunteers helped children make buttons; the RP Arts Association distributed bookmarks; and last but not least food trucks from the Brownie Bar and Bob O's Cheesesteaks were there for good food. Thank you all for so generously sharing your time and talents. In addition special thanks go to the Mayor and Commissioners; DPW Superintendent Mike Monroe, DPW Assistant Superintendent and Shade Tree Liaison Rich Flynn, and DPW staff; Arts Association member Bob Sienicki; Young Adult and Reference Librarian Hayley Van Hoek; and former Children's librarian Deborah Fagnan.

### Featured Tree

River Birch, (*Betula nigra*), a wonderful and unique looking tree is in the "spotlight" this issue. The River Birch a fairly fast grower is a medium-sized tree, 40-70 feet high with a 40-60 spread at maturity. Its branches arch and sometimes arise from multiple trunks. It has small, inconspicuous flowers with large numbers of tiny, winged nutlets which provide plentiful food for redpolls, pine siskins, and a wide variety of other songbirds and mammals. The River Birch is easily recognizable by its bark which has distinctly paper-like curls as it matures. To contact STC with questions or concerns, email [shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org), or call 201-641-4950 ext. 640 leaving contact name and address of tree. You will be contacted AFTER the issue is discussed at the STC meeting; meetings are at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room in Town Hall the fourth Monday of the month, except for December when the meeting is the second Monday.

ENJOY THE TREES!



## JULY 2ND OVERPECK PARK ARMY CONCERT SHUTTLE SERVICE

The village and school district are partnering on shuttle buses to the July 2nd Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus concert at the amphitheater in Overpeck Park. Concert begins at 7:30pm and is free. Buses will leave from parking lots at the jr/sr high school - One Ozzie Nelson Drive, near the little league field - foot of Morningside Lane and the town swimming pool - at the foot of Hobart Street. First bus is at 6:00pm. Buses will pickup approximately every 15 minutes with the last pickup at 7:30. Return buses will leave immediately after the show until about 9:30.



## RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION IN NEED OF FACEBOOK MANAGER

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission is looking for a volunteer to manage our Facebook Page. We're basically looking for someone to post content, photos and articles about the environmental commission's activities, news and special events.

If you have a love for the environment and have the talent to help us improve our digital footprint, then please send us an email to [envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org](mailto:envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org) with your contact information and a brief introduction email on how you can help us develop a better Facebook presence in our community.

We hope to hear from you.



## The DPW needs your help is 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/departments-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:
  - o Appliances-Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Hot Water Heaters, Air Conditioners, TVs, Computers, Printers, Tires, Metals, BBQs.
- Newspapers/magazines get collected on Fridays- EXCEPT 1<sup>st</sup> Friday/TRASH Day-2022-last Friday each month
  - o **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 6a.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:
  - o Appliances-Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Hot Water Heaters, Air Conditioners, TVs, Computers, Printers, Tires, Metals, BBQs.
- Newspapers/magazines collected on Thursdays- EXCEPT 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs./TRASH Day-2022-last Thursday each month
  - o **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 6a.m. Call DPW @ 201-440-4860 with questions  
Check website or call for holiday closings

Please cut and save the schedule for your address

