

village NEWSLETTER

www.ridgefieldpark.org

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DEC, 2021

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IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON...

The arrival of December can mean different things to each of us. But, the one thing that is certain is that it is getting colder outside. Time to get out your winter hats, scarves and gloves; and get ready for snow. It's the holiday season; so most of us will be rushing around doing our Christmas shopping and getting ready for the many holiday events. The Village Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on Sunday - Dec. 5th at 5.30 pm in front of the Municipal Building. The Municipal offices will be closed on Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st. Put out your bird feeders for our feathered friends. Remember that newspaper recycling will be only once per month starting in January, 2022. Take a moment or two to watch our yards and parks transform into the winter landscape. Appreciate the fact that we have central heating systems; we can have a hot bowl of soup when we come in from the cold; and enjoy basking in the warmth of friendship and love from friends and family.

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 WHAT DO WE DO? LET US TELL YOU!

Information on all Board of Recreation activities is at www.ridgefieldpark.org. and is constantly updated. Please check the website and/or municipal message board frequently for updated info. All registration forms are available on the website. Questions: boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org. Please remember volunteers run these programs and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please also be on the look-out for registration forms and news from the Board of Recreation on the school district website. A link has been created for community flyers. All forms are distributed electronically now so you can print it from there or on the Village website. You can also pick up a copy in the hallway of the Clerk's office.

Basketball - Check www.ridgefieldpark.org and click on Board of Recreation for up-to-date information on all programs.

Tree Lighting - The Board of Recreation annual tree lighting will take place on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Robert Bannon and Dickens carolers will provide some Christmas songs. There will be a bicycle raffle courtesy of Vorhees-Ingwersen Funeral Home along with some surprise basket raffles. We hear a jolly old man dressed in red will be stopping by with some friends. Please check the website and message board for information.

Holiday Wish Tree - The Holiday Wish Tree gives residents the opportunity to purchase a holiday gift for a less fortunate Village child. If you would like to participate, there are two ways to get your ornament. You can visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a5ac23a0f8c07-holiday1> and sign up online for an ornament or you can stop at the Welfare Dept. to select an ornament. Please return your gift by December 17, 2021, to the tree in the hallway at the Clerk's Office. Your gift will then be delivered to a very appreciative child.

Holiday Display Contest with a twist -

The annual Holiday Display Contest will be held on December 17, 18 & 19, 2021, at which time registered Village homes and businesses will be judged and prizes awarded. Judging will begin at dusk. After the contest, check for winners on www.ridgefieldpark.org. To make judging easier and to ensure that your home or business is included, you must register for the contest. Registration forms are available at www.ridgefieldpark.org or at the municipal building. You must register by December 15 to be included in the contest. There will be a contest for both residential and businesses. You can email your information to: boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org.

YOU MUST REGISTER IF YOU ARE RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHECK ONE:

_____ Residential Entry

_____ Business Entry

This year's twist in judging involves YOU - CITIZENS' CHOICE AWARD - chosen by village residents.

The addresses that are entered in the contest will be posted on the internet or you can pick up a form at the Clerk's Office on December 17. Here are the rules:

1. Only houses registered for the contest are eligible for a prize.
2. You may judge any of the participating addresses beginning at dusk on December 17, 18 or 19,
3. You get ONE vote per household no matter how many in your family judge.
4. You must email, mail or drop off your vote for your choice (ONE ONLY PLEASE) by Monday, December 20, 2021. Email: boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org or drop off at Clerk's Office, 234 Main Street by 4:00 p.m. on December 20.
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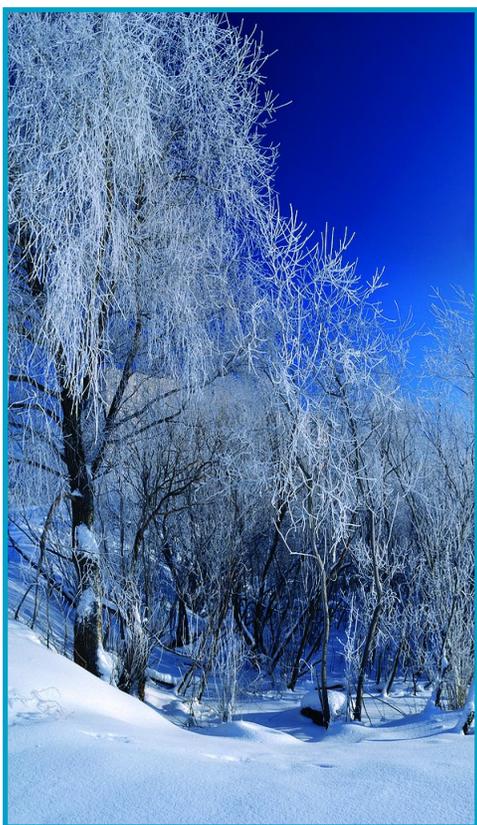
5. You may only send in one ballot for your choice for Citizens' Choice Award.
6. You must put your name and contact info on your ballot.
7. Prize will be awarded to the address with the most votes.

Winners will be posted at www.ridgefieldpark.org on December 21, 2021.

NOW GO OUT AND HAVE SOME HOLIDAY FUN!!

Ping Pong - You asked for it and it's back! Open to Grades 1 - adults. The Ridgefield Park Board of Recreation, in collaboration with KiddieGym USA, is offering Table Tennis lessons for kids & Adults. Along with Table Tennis training, Fun with Ping Pong program offers unique feature of i-learn session, where everyone gets an opportunity to have an interactive session playing with ROBOT- 'i Pong'. Table Tennis paddles, balls will be provided by KiddieGym USA for the training purpose. Email boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org for more info.

Devils Hockey - We're happy to offer something new to our RP residents, a night of Devils hockey. Thursday, March 10th the Devils play the Winnipeg Jets and we are happy to offer tickets in the lower bowl at Prudential Center for only \$67 per ticket. The cherry on top is the opportunity to join all the other RP folks who purchased that evening to be able to set foot on the ice where each of you will get a shot on goal from the blue line. Check the website or email us for info. Deadline to order tickets



LIBRARY WINTER VILLAGE 2021

Program Highlights

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

Doodles and Desserts for Teens--Thu., 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Like drawing? Like desserts? Stop by the library to destress with some snacks and coloring pages! For grades 7 through 12.

Girls Who Code--Wed., 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Girls Who Code aims to close the gender gap in technology by encouraging young girls to learn more about the field. For kids in grades 3-6, this club will introduce basic coding skills and activities to build a community of young coders.

Family Spanish Storytime--Sat., 1/15, 2/26, 3/19, 11:00-11:30 a.m. Es una hora de cuentos para los niños en la biblioteca de Ridgefield Park Public Library! Bring your whole family out to enjoy a story & craft that supports early literacy development and help foster a love of books and reading. Sharing the wonders of books with your family helps increase children's learning and reading skills. For children of all ages and their parents or caregivers. This program includes a story in Spanish and English. This program is great for children who are learning English as well as Spanish. Registration is required.

Celebrate Lunar New Year--Sat., 01/29, 11:00-11:30 a.m. Happy New Year! Lunar New Year is an Asian tradition welcoming in a new year and honoring ancestors. Join us in a special storytime. Afterwards, children will take home a craft to make in celebration of this special day. Registration is required. Space is limited.

Monday Craft for Teens--Mon. 2/7, 3/7, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Come create with us! On February 7, we will be making Valentine's Day Cards using cupcake cups, and on March 7 we'll be making blackout poetry! Snacks will be provided.

Cooking with Erika--Thurs., 2/17, 7:00-7:45 p.m. Join ShopRite of Hackensack dietitian Erika for a kids virtual cooking class! Your junior chef will have all the ingredients needed to participate in this flavor fiesta!
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Parents/caregivers will receive the Zoom link 24 hours before the event. You will be contacted to pickup your free Kids Kit provided by ShopRite 1 week before the event. If not picked up, by February 16th your registration spot will be cancelled. For children ages 6 - 12. Limited space. This program is sponsored by The Friends of Ridgefield Park Public Library.

Anime Daze--Thurs., 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Fans of Japanese cartoons and comics join us for anime viewings, discussions, and snacks. We will be meeting once a month to watch Anime chosen by club members. For 7th grade and up.

Makers Day! Button Bonanza--Sat., 3/26, 11:00-2:00 p.m. Join us in celebration of NJ Maker's Day and create an awesome button. This program is for village residents of all ages.



THE RECYCLING SYMBOL DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN WHAT YOU THINK IT DOES

Many of the items we buy, and especially the plastic packaging items are shipped in, include the triangle recycling symbol and a number code that indicates which type of plastic the product is made of. Did you know that not all types of plastics are acceptable at the curb collection? Here in Ridgefield Park we accept plastic #1, 2, and 5 at the curb. Film plastic, including plastic bags, are collected separately at various locations around town by Green Team volunteers. EPS, the packing material you receive in shipments when ordering items online, should be brought to the DPW Recycling Center and deposited in the EPS/styrofoam recycling bin.

In theory the packaging might be recyclable, but if a recycling program or a recycling end market for the material doesn't exist in New Jersey it means the Village doesn't have a place to bring it.

What does that mean? It is not allowed in the recycle bin on your recycle pickup day. It may be confusing to know what goes where. We want to avoid our recycling stream getting contaminated with unacceptable materials (packaging, containers, plastics, etc.), and impacting how effectively the acceptable plastics are recycled.

When in doubt, check

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/department-public-works/pages/recycling-information> and download the Recycle Coach app at <https://recyclecoach.com/>

PLANT AND PROTECT THE VILLAGE TREES

After the fabulous fall foliage, the Village trees remain mostly leafless preparing for the cold winter months. Each of us has the power to help keep the trees healthy and beautiful with just a little effort all year round. Every season requires different approaches to sustain the trees which provide the very necessities of life...clean air, healthy water, and a tolerable climate.

In fall and winter trees need special care especially during ice and snow storms. The biggest concern is road salt which harshly affects trees. To prevent road salt damage:

Avoid de-icing salt. Use coarse sand to make sidewalks and sidewalks less slippery. If salt is absolutely necessary, use as little as possible, and use the least damaging salts.

Use only Calcium chloride. The harshest and most damaging salt is Sodium chloride. Calcium chloride comes in pellets, the best delivery method, so it does a better job and lasts longer than the others; it also is less harmful to plants.

Use mulch. A layer of only 2-3 inches applied correctly prevents water evaporation, which concentrates salt in the soil.

Flush out salt. If soil around trees has taken in too much road or walk salt over the winter, flush out the soil in the spring when it thaws. This flushing should send salts beyond the trees' root zones.

Don't pile snow and ice against the trunks. A heavy layer can create freeze cracks from alternate thawing in sun and freezing again. In addition to taking care of the trees, planting new ones is essential, too. The STC encourages residents to request trees for their properties and/or suggest sites on Village property: street planting strips, schools, and parks. Send sites to

shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org

Property owners may not remove or damage Village trees. Sidewalk work requires a permit from the Building Department and, any construction, curbing, paving, or repairing/laying of sidewalks that might interfere with or damage a Village tree, must also have the written permission of the Shade Tree Commission. Written notice must be given at least 10 working days ahead to permit time for the arborist to examine the site and give recommendations. Under Ordinance No. 3-79, violations carry fines. Recently fines were levied and paid; fines, which can be in the thousands, are related

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to the amount of damage and/or the arborist's assessed value of the tree.

Get to the Root of Root Problems

If old clay sewer lines crack, tree roots might invade (tree roots do not crack the lines!!). Here's suggested approaches, but do follow manufacturer's directions:

Robic foaming root killer (Root X is one brand) or Copper sulfate; both of which to be used regularly and work best when roots haven't clogged the lines. The Robic foaming root killer claims to kill roots that may be in upper and lower portions of the sewer lines due to its foaming action; Copper sulfate claims to kill roots growing along the bottom of sewer lines. These are essentially preventive treatments.

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

Featured Tree

Black Tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*, also known as the black gum is a native tree with beautiful fall color. Small white flowers emerge in spring while clusters of dark blue berries in the fall attract birds. The species tolerates a wide range of soil textures and drought conditions growing to 30-50 feet tall at maturity with a 20-30 foot spread.

STC meetings are held in the lower level of the Civic Center on the fourth Monday of the month, except for December when the meeting is the second Monday.

WINTER BIRD COUNT SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 8TH

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission will be holding its 8th Annual Winter Bird Count on Saturday, January 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Residents of the Village and surrounding areas are invited to participate in the event. Stephen and Linda Quinn, members of the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission, will be leading the Winter Bird Count. There will be two locations in Ridgefield Park to observe and count the local bird population. The starting point will be at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park followed by the Amphitheater at Overpeck Park at 9:30 a.m. "Over the last eight years the Winter Bird Count here in the Village has attracted more children and their families. Of course, we are looking for more birders and students to join us this year. The return of the American Bald Eagle is one of the many attractions that participants might see during the bird count" said Quinn.

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"The exciting part of the Winter Bird Count is that it helps us take inventory of the local bird population," added Quinn. "I guess you can call it a wildlife census, which is essential to monitoring, tracking and assessing the bird population and trends in the area."

"This event is definitely the perfect gathering that brings together bird lovers, families and students who want to learn more about the birds in our area and make a difference for science and bird conservation," said Quinn.

Those interested in participating in the Ridgefield Park Winter Bird Count, should wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for winter weather conditions. In the event of rain, the Winter Bird Count will be cancelled.

(email: envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org if you want to confirm the count is on if the weather is bad). Participants should bring a pair of binoculars with them. There is no cost involved to participate. For additional information or to reserve a spot at the Winter Bird Count, email the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission at envcomm@ridgefieldpark.org.

In addition to the Winter Bird Count, the following events are also available to Ridgefield Park residents:
Sunday, January 9 @ 1:00 p.m. - Save the Eagles Day on Bell Drive in Ridgefield
Learn about the incredible comeback of our national bird and how to continue to preserve their habitat and keep them protected. Resident pair, Al and Alice will grace us with an appearance.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983
greatauk4@gmail.com
Sunday, January 16 10AM - 2PM - Eagle Festival at the New Overpeck County Park by the bandshell. Come celebrate all things eagles with eagle walks and talks, information on eagles and more. Join us to learn about the incredible comeback of these remarkable birds.





FROM THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

We would like to remind all residents to sign up for our Rave Alerts to stay in the know regarding emergencies, snow alerts, parking enforcements etc. To sign up, all you have to do is visit the Village's website, www.ridgefieldpark.org, and click on the "Stay in the Know" button at the bottom left of the homepage.

The staff at the Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Office of Emergency Management wish all of our residents a safe and healthy holiday season.

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 2021. 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 2021 Meetings:

2021 Caucus Meeting Dates:

November 4 and 18

December 9 and 23

2021 Regular Meeting Dates:

November 9 and 23

December 14 and 28

RAFFLES

All Clubs, Organizations, PTAs or Individuals that conduct 50/50's, tricky trays, basket raffles, bingo, casino nights, or any other type of raffle must register with the State of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Commission to obtain an Identification Number. Only after obtaining this ID number can you apply for a raffle license.

The State will not issue a raffle license unless you are a registered organization. To register: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/lgccc

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

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

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Property Tax Payments can now be made online using a debit/credit card, or your bank account information. There will be convenience fees charged for this service.

The convenience fee is charged by the provider and not the Village. To make a payment, visit the Village website: www.ridgefieldpark.org and click on the link: "Make online property tax payments"

When making tax payments, by mail or in person, please submit your entire tax bill for receipting purposes. If making payments by mail, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you request a receipt.

****THERE IS A DROP BOX LOCATED IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY FOR TAX PAYMENTS. PLEASE - NO CASH PAYMENTS.**



THE BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

The holidays are here and we would like to remind all residents about the dangers of candle use in the home. Never leave a candle unattended and never have them close to draperies, holiday decorations or Christmas trees.

Now is the time to prepare your house and property for a fire safe winter. Make sure your wood stove and fireplace chimney have been cleaned by a professional. The same for your boiler chimney. Have your boiler cleaned and serviced by a professional, before use.

Non-Owner Occupied Dwellings

The New Jersey Uniform Fire Safety Act (N.J.S.A.52:27d-192 et seq) places all non-owner occupied one and two family dwellings, under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, to enforce the provisions of the State Fire Code to provide a reasonable degree of safety from fire. Failure to comply with this State Law will result in Administrative penalties, collectable through the State Superior Court.

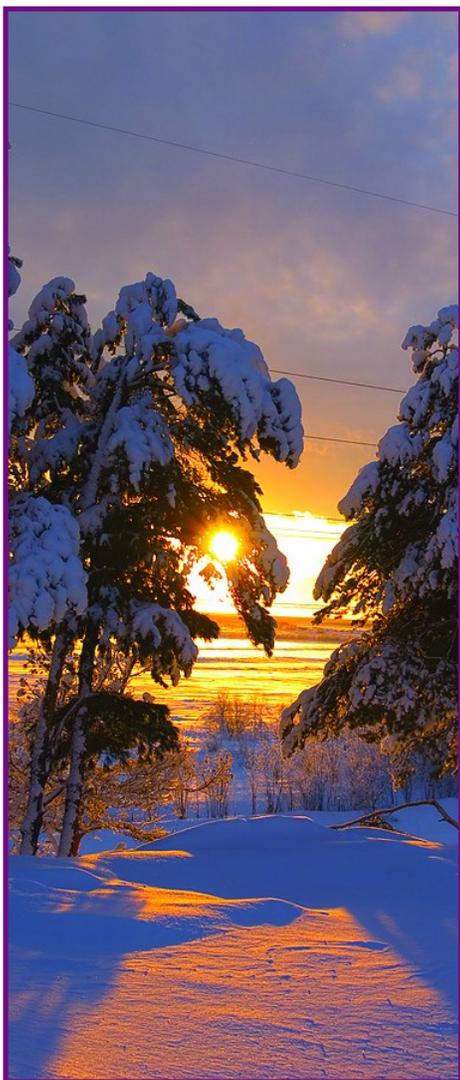
If you have not already done so, please contact us at 201-440-2570 to register your property.

Residential Properties

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors have a 10 year life, check the dates on your detectors, if they are more than 10 years old they need to be replaced. If they are still good, test them and make sure the batteries are replaced. Most hard wired smoke detectors today have battery backup, check them also. Any residential building that is a two family or more and equipped with battery operated smoke detectors must have them switched out to sealed 10 year detectors as per the new Fire Code. The Bureau is also highly recommending that all single family homeowners replace your battery detectors as well.

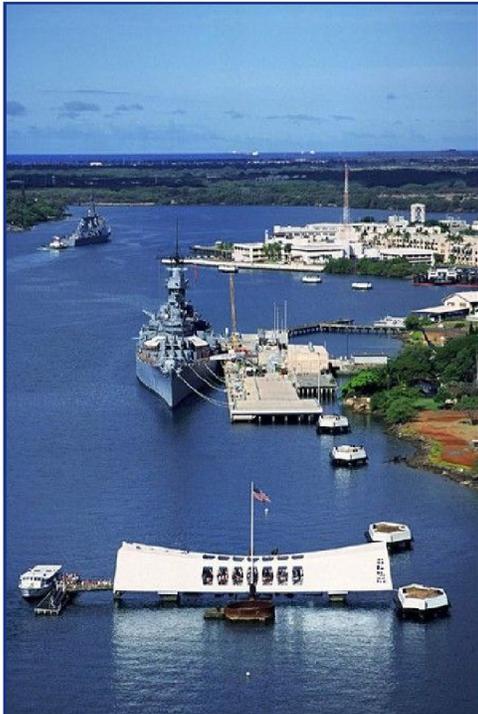
Have a fire drill in your home, making sure everyone in your family knows at least two ways out of every room. Designate a meeting place for everyone in your family to report to. Make sure all your important papers, ie. insurance, bank info, etc. are in a fire resistant cabinet.

We would like to remind all residents that open burning is not permitted in the Village and is prohibited by the State Fire Code. Please DO NOT burn garbage or leaves. Doing so can lead to fines.



**PEARL HARBOR
80TH ANNIVERSARY
DECEMBER 7, 2021 - 7PM**

As we have done now for the last 30 years, there will be a small ceremony to remember the sneak attack on our naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. During the course of our lives, there are some events that we frequently say "WE SHALL NEVER FORGET"; and this is one of them. We will be meeting at the monuments near the corner of Euclid Avenue & Mt. Vernon Street.



**CHIEF JOSEPH RELLA
RIDGEBURY PARK
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**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. 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.

Reverse 9-1-1

The Reverse 9-1-1 system sends a specific message to all published telephone numbers of residents of the Village in the event of an emergency. The system is designed as a notification tool only and DOES NOT require a response. You will not receive a call if you have an unlisted number.
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If you would like to be notified through this system, please contact the Building Department and leave a message for the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator (O.E.M.) Mike Lauer at (201) 440-2570. You may also contact the O.E.M. if you prefer not to be contacted via this system.

Again, we would like to remind residents NOT to call police headquarters in response to the reverse 9-1-1 call. During any emergency, the police desk is already busy handling numerous emergency calls. Non-emergency and informational type calls are discouraged during this period. In the years since its inception, the Reverse 911 system has proven to be a useful tool in keeping residents informed of emergency situations within the Village.

**COUNTY WIDE TREE
DECORATING CONTEST
AT VAN SAUN PARK**

The Bergen County Executive's Office has invited every municipality to enter a Holiday Tree Decorating Contest at Van Saun County Park. The winning community will be awarded a Free Town Day at Van Saun's Winter Wonderland during open skate in either January or February. A group of residents - including members from RP MOMS - have decorated the tree designated for Ridgefield Park; and the Tree Judging is Saturday, December 4th at 7:30pm. All of the trees from the various municipalities will be on display through the holidays. If you have a chance, visit Van Saun Park in Paramus to see the beautiful Christmas Tree displays.

**ROTARY CLUB SALE -
CHRISTMAS TREES AND WREATHS**

As they have done for so many years, the Ridgefield Park - Bogota Rotary Club is selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths at Brewster Park. Beautiful trees and wreaths at reasonable prices. The proceeds from the sale are then used by the Rotary for public projects in Ridgefield Park and Bogota. A couple of examples: The Community Bulletin Board in front of the R.P. Municipal Building and the Big Clock in Brewster Park. THANK YOU to the members of our Rotary Club. Please Give Them Your Support! and Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

THE MONARCH PLEDGE

In our last Village Newsletter, there was an article about Gianna Terrarosa, a junior at Ridgefield Park High School who is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award. She created a small pollinator garden near the High School this past summer. This garden will help to attract, nourish and encourage native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. She also has created a website and a Twitter account (justoneplant.weebly.com and @JustOnePlant1) to encourage Ridgefield Park residents to plant their own pollinator gardens in their backyards or wherever else they can be planted. She has asked the Village to further support this effort to establish native plant gardens by taking the MONARCH PLEDGE.

Over the last few years, there have been more and more news reports of the rapid decline of the Monarch Butterfly (The butterfly that migrates from Mexico to the northern parts of the U.S.A. and Canada each year). Monarch butterflies' eastern U.S. population has declined by 90% over the past twenty years. So, it is imperative that communities are made pollinator-friendly, and residents are educated about how important pollinators are.

So, we are asking residents to TAKE THE MONARCH PLEDGE. This is more than taking action to support and protect the Monarch Butterfly; but it is asking everyone to do something to encourage and help support all native bees, butterflies and insects which are an important part of the "Web of Life" upon which all other species depend - including us humans.

In order to take the Pledge, you need to do the following:

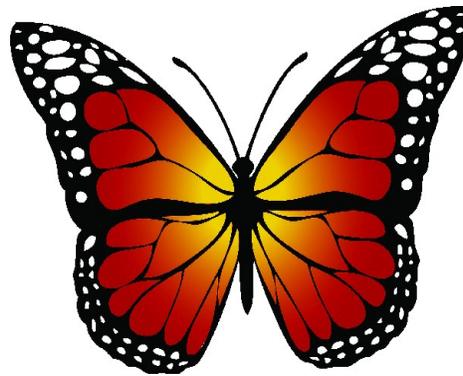
1. Place a sign in your windows or front yards that says "I have taken the MONARCH PLEDGE" or similar wording (Similar to what we did when we Thanked Health Care Workers, etc. during the pandemic); and
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2. Actually take some action to support the Monarch Butterfly and all other beneficial insects in our gardens and on our properties. You can find a long list of actions that you can take on the National Wildlife Federation Website under the section entitled The Monarch Pledge or the Mayors Monarch Pledge.

Go to: [https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge/Mayors-](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge-Action-Items)
Monarch- Pledge-Action-Items

Most of the "Actions" mentioned in this program involve planting or encouraging the planting of native Milkweed (the Monarch's favorite plant) and other pollinator-friendly native plants in your yards, gardens, parks, public rights of way, and almost anywhere you can plant native plants. No space is too small.

We may be heading into Winter; but Springtime will not be far behind. Start planning your pollinator gardens now. And - Please Take THE MONARCH PLEDGE!!



PLANT A TREE? WE WILL PLANT IT FOR YOU!

If you would like to have a nice shade tree planted in front of your home, please leave your name, address and contact information (tel. number or email address) at the Municipal Building or contact the Village Shade Tree Commission at shadetreecomm@ridgefieldpark.org. The Shade Tree Commission will be preparing its Spring Planting List shortly. We will be happy to accommodate your request and plant a new tree.

THINKING ABOUT A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

As we approach the end of 2021, many people think about what they can do to make a difference in their lives in 2022. May we suggest volunteering for one of the many committees and organizations that are the life blood of our village?

Our EMS teams are always looking for new members for our Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, and Rescue Squad. If your interest is in sports, our youth football, basketball, baseball, and soccer organizations could always use more coaches. The Board of Recreation also sponsors many youth and adult activities throughout the year. If you are interested in the environment and sustainability, check out the Environmental Commission, Green Team, Shade Tree Commission, Community Garden, or Village Gardeners. And our well-known Fourth of July celebration is all run by volunteers. We currently have openings on our Health & Welfare Boards, as well as other committees within the town.

Please check out all of these Boards and Committees on our Village Web site - ridgefieldpark.org. If you have an interest in one or more of these groups, please find a contact on their web page and call or send them an e-mail. If you are not sure on how to get in touch with these committees, stop by or call the Village Clerk's office and they can assist you.

It has always been said that Ridgefield Park is a great place to live. But its greatness comes from the people who live here and their support of all of the village activities. Think about it. Help make the village even greater in 2022!



FALL-ING IN LOVE WITH PUBLIC SPEAKING! TOASTMASTERS IN RIDGEFIELD PARK

Fall is already here; and Winter is approaching. But, there are activities to do INSIDE where it is still warm and cozy. One of those activities is the local Bergen Toastmasters Club. This club hosts an inviting atmosphere for guests who want to develop their public speaking and leading abilities. It's a casual environment where speakers prepare speeches and present them to a gathering of their peers. Not only do people learn to speak better, they also get opportunities to evaluate other speakers and give feedback. It is a give and take experience with the care of a family. This club was founded in Teaneck originally as Teaneck Club. It later merged with the Paramus Club to become Bergen Toastmasters, and has been active for 57 years since it began in 1964.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

Bergen Toastmasters meets at the Ridgefield Park Civic Center on 159 Park Street, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, 07660 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, from 7:45 PM to 9:45 PM. The agenda includes informal speeches, formal speeches, snacks and awards! For those interested in gaining self-confidence, self-awareness, better competence in speaking English, building leadership skills, overcoming your fears in a supportive environment - Bergen Toastmasters may be of interest to Ridgefield Park residents. Being a member can help in maximizing your potential & personal growth, gaining competitive advantage in the workplace, expanding your network and improving presentation skills!

For more information stop by and attend a meeting, call Bergen Toastmasters VP of Membership at 201.952.4204 or email bergen.toastmasters@gmail.com.

Join their MeetUp.com page:
<https://www.meetup.com/Bergen-Toastmasters-Public-Speaking/>
Or connect with the club on social media:
Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/toastmastersbergen/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BergenToastM/>
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/BergenToastmasters/>
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@bergen.toastmasters?lang=en>



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

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

NOTE:

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

2022 HOLIDAYS

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

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

Leaf season begins October 15-January 15th

Please place **leaves ONLY** in street or in biodegradable bags on the NO PARKING side—**NO BRANCHES**
Christmas trees will be picked up December 27, 2021-January 21, 2022
Do NOT put grass or leaves on the islands/plazas.

Visit the DPW Website:

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



Mt. Vernon Street & South Collections

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

Check website or call for holiday closings

North of Mt. Vernon Street Collections

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

Check website or call for holiday closings

Please cut and save the schedule for your address

