

village NEWSLETTER

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Ridgefield Park, N.J.

SEPT, 2021

AUTUMN IS HERE

Everyone has a favorite season; and for many people, it is Autumn. Cooler weather, more colorful tree foliage, the World Series, Football, apples and apple cider, carving pumpkins, and that cool crisp feeling of the autumn air.

What is coming up in our Village? Planting fall vegetables, flowers and mums; Fall clean-ups; Decorating for Halloween; The Village Street Fair on October 30th; Veterans Day ceremonies on November 11th on Euclid Avenue (Let's always Thank our Veterans for their service); Thanksgiving; and the Village Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 5th (We know. That's still over 2 months away. Time moves quickly). Enjoy every moment of these up-coming autumn days.

Commissioner William Gerken

Commissioner Mark Olson

Commissioner Wanda Portorreal

Commissioner Adam MacNeill

Mayor John Anlian

CHANGE IN NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE CURBSIDE PICKUP

As most of us know, we do not subscribe to, nor purchase, newspapers or magazines like we did in the past. Compared to 10 years ago there has been a 70% drop in the amount of newspapers and magazines collected. The drop in the last 20 years has been 80%.

Beginning January 2022 the DPW will change to curbside pickup of newspapers and magazines just ONCE A MONTH. You can still bring your newspapers and magazines to the recycling center any time it is open. Recycling center is located at 24 Industrial Avenue and is open from 9:00am until noon Monday through Saturday.

Beginning January 2022 newspaper and magazine pickup will be:

North of Mt. Vernon -

Last Thursday of the month. January 27th.

South of Mt. Vernon -

Last Friday of the month. January 28th.

BOARD OF RECREATION WHAT DO WE DO? LET US TELL YOU!

Due to the current covid situation, many Board of Recreation activities have last minute changes. If you're unsure if an activity is taking place or if there are any changes to the activity, you may contact the Board of Recreation by either email at boardofrec@ridgefieldpark.org or calling the voicemail at (201) 641-4950 ext. 610. Information on all Board of Recreation activities is at www.ridgefieldpark.org. Please check the website and/or municipal message board frequently for updated info on activities. Please remember volunteers do this work and 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 under community flyers. All forms are distributed electronically so you can print it from there or on the Village website.

Archery Clinic - Open to those 6 years old and up. The fall session will run from September 18 - November 20, 2021 on Saturday mornings in three sessions: 9:00 - 9:45 10:00 - 10:45 11:00 - 11:45. Registration fee is \$25.00. Bring your registration form (download) and fee to the first session. Held behind the DPW at 24 Industrial Avenue.

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.

Ping Pong - The program is coming back but details weren't finalized in time for the newsletter's deadline. Check out our website or email us for info on this program.

Rag-A-Muffin Parade - Dress 'em up and march them down to the Fellowship Park tennis courts and we will celebrate the spooky season with a costume contest for the kids as well as food carts, DJ and a magician!! This year the parade is Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Registration is 10:30 a.m. Rain date Sunday, October 31 @ 1:30 p.m. Prizes to be awarded and goodies for every child!

T2S Basketball - The skills program is run by Larry Umana and Nate Lopez. For further information, interested people can email t2sbasketballacademy@gmail.com or on Facebook: @t2sbasketballacademy.

Basketball - Check www.ridgefieldpark.org for up-to-date information on this activity. Rec will be following state covid protocols if any are in effect. Registration Dates and Locations: Friday, Sept. 24, 2021 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center (upstairs) 159 Park Street.

Clinic is available for students in grade 2 and basketball teams are available for grades 3-8. Fee: \$55.00 per child; \$45.00 for each additional child. Fee for any registration submitted after Sept. 25 is \$75.00 each. Registration closes on October 25. Mail or drop off late registrations to the Clerk's Office at 234 Main Street. cont. on next page



Registration forms available at:

www.ridgefieldpark.org.

Evaluations will be at Lincoln School as follows: Mon., Nov. 1 - 3rd/4th & 5th/6th Boys at 6:30 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 3 - All Girls at 6:30 p.m.- 7:15 P.M. and Tues., Nov. 3 - 7th/8th Boys 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday Night Hoops - Late fall through late-winter the high school boys, 9th - 11th grade, can join the Rec basketball league for Saturday night games at the high school. Check our website for updated info.

Tree Lighting - If you have not brought your child to one of these, you're missing out on the holiday fun. It may be cold as heck, but it does not stop us from celebrating the season. There are holiday songs as well as a raffle for a bicycle and a jolly old man in a red suit will be helping to light the village Christmas tree! It all happens on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Please check the website and municipal message board for updated information.

Holiday Wish Tree - It is all about giving not receiving and we sponsor this program so that those who are fortunate enough to give can give to those who need it. Starting Thanksgiving weekend, you can select your ornament at <https://www.signupgenius.com/>. The tree is located outside the Clerk's office and you can also stop there for an ornament. You need to return your gift by December 20, 2021. Your gift will then be delivered to a very appreciative child. Thanks again for your assistance!

Holiday Display Contest - We review the holiday display of those who choose to participate and award prizes to the best of the best! This year judging will be done beginning at dusk on Friday, December 17. Check the webpage for a new twist in judging this year where YOU can also be a judge. After the contest, check for winners on www.ridgefieldpark.org.

Registration forms are available at www.ridgefieldpark.org or at the municipal building. You must register by December 16 to be included in the contest. Email, drop off or mail the forms to the Board of Recreation at 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park. **YOU MUST REGISTER IF YOU ARE RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS.**



RIDGEFIELD PARK DOWNTOWN STREET FAIR SATURDAY - OCT. 30TH

The 10th Annual Ridgefield Park Street Fair will be held along Main Street from Cedar Street to Park Street from 10am-5pm. Hosted by the Village of Ridgefield Park and the Ridgefield Park Business Association Main Street will be transformed into a giant town block party.

Many of the local merchants and businesses will showcase their shops and offer their special sales. There will be merchandise vendors, crafters, kiddie rides, great food, and entertainment all day long. This event brings the whole community together.

We also have The "Kidz Traveling Shindig" which is a section by Town Hall dedicated to children with kiddie bounce rides, slides and interactive blow ups, face painters, sand art & kids games just to name a few things.

Come hungry to the street fair and enjoy the delicious foods being served by local restaurants, gourmet food trucks and food stands.

Some of the foods being sold are gourmet empanadas, tornado potatoes, shish ka bob, gyros, chicken fingers & fries, hot dogs, hamburgers, fresh squeezed lemonade, ice cream & lemon ice, sausage & peppers, steak sandwiches and zeppoles, funnel cakes and more!

For your shopping pleasure there will be quality exhibitors selling their merchandise such as jewelry, handbags, sports collectibles, clothing, home decor and much more.

There will be live music all day at town hall with a DJ and local groups performing. Don't miss stopping by the many local merchants & civic organizations to see what goodies they have.

We hope that you'll consider joining us and we look forward to seeing you.

For more information please email: events@jcpromotions.info or call 201-998-1144. If there are any local people or groups that would like to entertain please call us.

THERE GOES THE JUDGE

Our Municipal Court Judge, F. Terrence Perna, has retired as of September 1st. Judge Perna presided over our court for the last 23 years; and prior to that he had been our Public Defender for many years. Judge Perna is a graduate of Ridgefield Park High School and has been an attorney for over 40 years. As magistrate for our court, he always carried out his duties and responsibilities in a fair, friendly, and honest manner. We THANK Judge Perna for being someone of whom we have been so very proud. Good Luck, Judge Perna.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

On September 1st, the Prosecutor of our Municipal Court, Thomas Quirico, became Judge Quirico. Mr. Quirico has been Ridgefield Park's Prosecutor for over 20 years. As with Judge Perna, Mr. Quirico is also a RPHS graduate. Thereafter, he served as a Police Officer for Orange, NJ; and later becoming a practicing lawyer here in Bergen County. In our municipal court, he has had a reputation of being a "common sense" prosecutor. And, we know that he will bring that "common sense" approach to his new position as judge of our Municipal Court. Good Luck, Judge Quirico

A NEW PROSECUTOR

With the advancement of Thomas Quirico to becoming our new judge, we were in need for a new prosecutor. In this regard, we have appointed Elsbeth J. Crusius as our new Prosecutor. Ms. Crusius is a very experienced attorney with offices in Hackensack, NJ; and is presently prosecutor in a few other local communities. We heartily welcome her to our Municipal Court team.



NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN AT HIGH SCHOOL HAS VILLAGE BUZZING

There's certainly a buzz in the air at Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School. Perhaps it is the new addition of a pollinator garden at the school that has everyone buzzing. Gianna Terrarosa - a Girl Scout senior from Troop 95252 who led the project - says. "Pollinator gardens are gardens made specifically to help, well, pollinators. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds - you name it, they like it." Located just north of the high school, the garden consists of mostly native plants - meaning those that are indigenous to our region of the United States. Native plants help out pollinators by providing them with a source of food - something plants that are non-native can't offer. Non-native plants are those that are added into an environment where they aren't originally from. This is harmful to both the ecosystem and the animals that live in it, as the non-native plants can take away the resources they need to survive. In order to get the pollinator garden started, Gianna first had to obtain approval from the school's administration. Once that was done, she acquired building materials from Home Depot. Ridgefield Park's DPW had dug out the ground for her, and a landscaping company filled it with dirt. After making the ground level, it was time to plant. "The flowers came from all over, really. They included species like swamp milkweed, wild bergamot, and joe-pye weed," says Gianna. "So many people pitched in and were willing to contribute. The Bergen County Audubon, This & That Hardware, and especially Linda Quinn, my project advisor, to name a few." Once the plants were in the ground, the DPW stepped in again and covered the garden with mulch. "Since the plants are native, maintenance isn't such a big deal," Gianna reports. "They're meant to be here. They need water for the first couple of weeks to get established, but after that they do just fine without much human interference." Gianna is planting this garden not only for the good of the environment - she's also doing it for her Gold Award. "Basically, a Gold Award is the equivalent of earning an Eagle Scout Award," Gianna explains. "It's the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. You have to put 80 hours of time into a project that will really help and change your community for the better, and last even after you're gone."

Why did she pick this specific project? "I've always loved the environment. We tend to overlook the fact that nature is a living, breathing thing that needs to be taken care of. Pollinators are in trouble because of human development. We take up a lot of space - and the more we take, the less the bees and butterflies of the world have. My pollinator garden is giving these creatures a safe space. Nature gives us so much, so it's only right we give it something back. That's why I've titled my project 'Just One Plant'. My goal is striving for everyone in Ridgefield Park to plant just one native plant. That's all that's really necessary to help out the pollinators." Every Gold Award Girl Scout works with a "project advisor" - someone who is an expert on the topic. Their job is to give advice and guidance throughout the process. "My project advisor is Linda Quinn. She, her husband Steve Quinn, and the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission have helped me so much over the past six months. There's no way I could have done this project without them." "This is such a huge undertaking for a student who truly cares about the environment," said Mayor John Anlian. "The pollinator garden that Gianna has created will help support and maintain pollinators by supplying them with food in the form of pollen and nectar."



This ensures that these important animals will stay in our area to keep pollinating our crops for continued fruit and vegetable production. I might add that the pollinator garden is strategically placed near the site of the Village's Nature Preserve where we will be building a boardwalk and nature trail - which we expect to be completed by next spring."

As far as future plans for the garden, Gianna says she has to focus on longevity. "I'm going to be doing a small educational program for younger Girl Scouts at the garden. I'll be teaching them the importance of planting native plants, and doing all they can to help out the pollinators. Also, once the garden really starts thriving, I'd like to give plants to the library, the elementary schools, and other public areas throughout Ridgefield Park.

When school begins, I hope to become an active member of the Green Team. Hopefully, students who are willing to take care of the garden after I graduate will join the organization with me. Since all of the plants are perennials, with the exception of one, they'd only have to do some basic maintenance. Then, who knows? I'd love to see the garden last for a long, long time." If you want to help out the Just One Plant movement, try planting just one native plant in your yard. For suggestions on which to plant, visit Gianna's website: <https://justoneplant.weebly.com/>

After planting, post a picture on Twitter and tag it #justoneplant. Gianna will repost it on her page (@justoneplant1) to show everyone how Ridgefield Park is helping out the pollinators!

For those interested in finding sources of native plants, the following websites may be helpful to you in your search:

Rohsler's Nursery
100 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ -
<https://rohslers.com/>
Metropolitan Farm - 119 Hickory Lane, Closter, NJ -
<https://www.metropolitanfarm.com/>
The Prairie Nursery
PO Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964
Tel: 1-800-476-9453
<https://www.prairienursery.com/>
The Prairie Moon Nursery
- 32115 Prairie Ln, Winona, MN 55987
Tel: 1-866-417-8156
<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

RIDGEFIELD PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NATURE PRESERVE - NATURE TRAIL

Construction has already begun on a nature trail and boardwalk in the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve which is located on approximately 13 acres of undisturbed land just north and adjacent to the Ridgefield Park Junior Senior High School.

The trail and boardwalk will cover just under one mile and traverse natural habitats of woodland, freshwater marsh, and open field. When completed, the trail will feature exhibit panels and displays that highlight the many plants and animals that live in the preserve and discuss its ecological importance to the community of Ridgefield Park. Special plantings will attract butterflies and pollinators, and feeding stations will attract the preserves many types of birds for easy observation. The Nature Preserve will provide many opportunities for special educational programs for the Ridgefield Park school system, especially the nearby Junior Senior High School, and also be available to Village scouting and civic organizations for programming. Most importantly, it will be available to ALL Village residents for taking a peaceful and relaxing stroll in nature!

Though not open to the public yet, we hope the trail and boardwalk will be completed by the spring of 2022, at which time we will be commencing a restoration of the native habitat.

VILLAGE "ADOPT-A-PARK" PROGRAM

Do you like being outdoors and want to help beautify our village but don't have a lot of time to commit to clubs and meetings? Then the Ridgefield Park "Adopt-a-Park" program could be for you! This program is for village residents who want to spend an hour or two beautifying our parks by doing fun projects like planting flowers, decorating a sign, cleaning a playground, or painting a picnic table. To find out more about how you can adopt a park this fall, email us at adoptapark@gmail.com.



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:

September 9th and 23rd

October 7th and 21st

November 4th and 18th

December 9th and 23rd

2021 Regular Meeting Dates

September 14th and 28th

October 12th and 26th

November 9th and 23rd

December 14th and 28th

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

This year Fire Prevention Week is October 3rd through October 9th. This year's theme is Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.

According to the latest NFPA "Smoke Alarms in the U.S." report, working smoke alarms in the home reduce the risk of dying in a reported fire by more than half.

However, almost three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarm or smoke alarms that failed to operate.

" When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, respond immediately by exiting the home as quickly as possible.

- * If your alarm begins to chirp, it may mean that the batteries are running low and need to be replaced. If the alarm continues to chirp after the batteries are replaced, or the alarm is more than 10 years old, it is time to replace the alarm.

- * Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.

- * If there is someone in your household who is deaf or hard of hearing, install a bed shaker and strobe light alarms that will alert that person to fire.

- * Know the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide alarm - three beeps for smoke alarms; four beeps for carbon monoxide alarms.



GREEN FAIR
Saturday - Sept. 25th
With A Swap & Shop Event
BREWSTER PARK
64 Main St.
11am to 3pm
For more info - go to
Ridgefieldpark.org

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION 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
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.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team has been busy. We met our second deadline for submitting Sustainable Jersey actions. Currently, we are one of 8 communities in Bergen County to have earned silver certification.

At the end of September, the Green Team hosted our first Green Fair held independently from Earth Day and the Environmental Commission. The premise was to recycle/re-use/re-purpose items that many might have discarded into the trash. The Green Team had educational tables set up to suggest ways to "green" our own homes from simple swaps to major ones. One example is using an old t-shirt as a cleaning cloth. The t-shirt rag gets washed and dried to be clean to use again while the wipes and paper towels get thrown out. Swap participants donated clothing and accessories to the event and were able to choose items new to them donated by others. A re-use section was also set up for household items, similar to what we have at the DPW recycle center. We had food vendors and tables set up so visitors and vendors could select from a varied menu. In keeping with the "greening" theme, only compostable and recyclable products were used for serving meals and snacks.

We have had several citizens inquire about joining our Green Team. Anyone wishing more information or meeting us are welcome to attend a meeting. Our meetings are in the Municipal Building Court Room on the 4th Thursday of each month (unless otherwise noted) starting at 7pm. You may also visit our webpage at www.ridgefieldpark.org and selecting GREEN TEAM.



CHIEF JOSEPH RELLA RIDGEFIELD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



School is Open, DRIVE CAREFULLY

With Ridgefield Park Schools scheduled to open on September 9, we ask that all motorists be cautious with children attempting to get to school. Every fall, over 55 million children across the United States head back to school. With 13 percent of those children typically walking or biking to their classes, AAA warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians before and after school hours. The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous - over the last decade, nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. **Slow down:** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

Come to a complete stop: Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding. **Eliminate distractions:** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked vehicles. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.

Reverse responsibly: Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing. Please do not rely solely on a vehicle's back-up camera.

7th Annual Car Show

The Ridgefield Park PBA Local 86 will hold their 7th Annual Car Show on Sunday, September 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located at 100 Challenger Rd, the event is free for spectators or \$20 to register a vehicle. The first 150 registrants will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo. There will be plaques and trophies in 25 different categories. There will also be DJ music and food trucks on hand. A portion of the proceeds benefits the NJSPBA Survivor & Welfare Fund and a Mega 50/50 raffle ticket winner will be drawn. Please contact Nick D'Alto or Ken Van Sadlers for more information at 201-641-6400 and see any officer to purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket for \$20. Rain date for the event is set for Sunday, October 3rd.

R.P. SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Ridgefield Park Senior Activity Center is located in the Civic Center at 159 Park Street and is open to all vaccinated Bergen County Senior Citizens aged 60 and up through a shared service agreement between the Village of Ridgefield Park and The Bergen County Division of Senior Services/ Human Services.

Due to pandemic restrictions, we are currently operating with 3 daily sessions Monday - Friday except holidays. Our morning sessions are from 9am-11am, we have a pick up lunch program with a suggested donation of \$1.25 from 11:15-12:15 and an afternoon session from 12:30-3pm. We are required to clean in between sessions and seniors must exit the facility during cleaning times.

Our current programs include meditation, brain games, yoga, chair exercise, stretching, osteoporosis prevention exercise, movies, cards, and bingo. We can be reached for additional info by contacting 201-641-1220 during normal business hours or emailing

RidgefieldParkCenter@co.bergen.nj.us

SAVE THE VILLAGE TREE

The New York Times published an article "Trees Save Lives. Yet Cities aren't Saving Trees" which focused on the loss of tens of millions of US trees a year and the resulting negative impact on lives.

How true and how unfortunate that even in Ridgefield Park which has been a Tree City since 1980, there has been significant loss of healthy shade trees on private property; numerous large backyard trees, even one of the oldest and largest American Elms in NJ plus 14 magnificent scarlet maples, chosen to beautify the Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School campus, home of the Scarlets, are among the trees recently removed.

Although RP does not require a permit to remove trees on private property, as many towns do, the Shade Tree Commission urges property owners to keep, not remove healthy trees. Certainly if a tree is dead, dying or diseased and is a hazard to safety and property, it should come down...and then, hopefully, replaced. Concerned about a tree...have an arborist or STC member look at the tree.

The STC, DPW, and Commissioners work together to plant and care for trees because they are important to the residents in so many ways.

Please consider the positive impact each tree has before removing a healthy tree:

Provides shade-lowers temperature 10 degrees in towns and cities

Filters air pollutants

Lowers energy use-less summer AC

Reduces urban island effect(heat from concrete and asphalt coverage)

Manages stormwater runoff (flooding in communities after rain)

Reduces noise pollution

Provides habitat for wildlife

Note: Above information has been compiled from the NYT newspaper, Hackensack Times, a Hackensack Riverkeeper publication, and Arbor Day, an Arbor Day Foundation publication Homeowner Information

- * The public right-of-way extends several feet inside the sidewalks on most streets in RP. Trees within the right-of-way, either in the planting strip between street and sidewalk or inside the sidewalk, are owned by the Village of RP. Village trees are under the care and supervision of the RPSTC under ordinance 3-79.

- * Bushes and trees may not be planted in the public right-of-way without the approval of the STC. Plantings in the public right-of-way become the property of the Village. Planting strips can have grass, mulch, ground covers, herbaceous plants or even loose stones permitting water to penetrate. Planting strips may not be covered in cement, blocks, asphalt or wood preventing rain from soaking into the ground around the tree sites.

- * Tree branches and tree roots on Village trees may not be cut without the approval of the STC. Property owners may not remove Village trees.

- * Any construction, curbing, paving, or laying of sidewalks that might interfere or damage a Village tree, must have the consent of the STC. Written notice must be given at least ten working days ahead of time to permit inspection of the site.

- * Nothing can be stapled or nailed to a Village tree.

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

RIDGEFIELD PARK ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Ridgefield Park Arts Association is a nonprofit 501c3 organization dedicated to enriching life in our community through art in all its forms. By bringing high-quality artistic events, projects and activities that encourage creativity and diversity, we aim to make the Village a beautiful and vibrant destination for arts and culture. We believe that the arts are essential to the health and wellbeing of all people.

The Arts Association is actively engaged in several projects to increase the presence of the arts. Past and current projects include classical and popular music concerts, a master level dance class, downtown art walks, a mural in Vogt Park and on Main Street, an outdoor arts festival (Summer Arts Fest), a rotating art exhibit in the municipal building, Holiday Market in the Park, and a Master Plan for Public Art.

As a volunteer-based organization, we are always seeking volunteers of all backgrounds to help us carry out our mission. We welcome anyone who has a desire to see the arts flourish in the Village. You do not have to be an artist or a performer to volunteer. For volunteer opportunities, email us at ridgefieldparkarts.com.

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE..."

and Ridgefield Park has always been a stellar example of this fact. I am very excited to be working with the Board of Commissioners as we move forward in RE-OPENING of the RP Youth Center. The Youth Center is located on the top floor of the Civic Center on Park Street and serves as a safe and supervised place for teens of the village to "hang out" after school. There will also be special programs for the teens throughout the year.

Outfitting such a program is a tremendous task. We are gearing up for the RE-OPENING in the early October. There will be several information/sign-up sessions for teens/parents/guardians. Talk with your children- ask them what they would like to see at the Youth Center -things like homework help, crafts, video games, movies, board games, and snacks.

Come and see the space - ask questions and register your teens.

Registration is required for all teen participants

- * Monday, September 27 6:30-8pm

- * Wednesday, September 29 6:30-8pm

- * Monday, October 4 6:30-8pm

- * Wednesday October 6 6:30-8pm

- * Located at the Civic Center

-2nd Floor @ 159 Park Street

PLEASE WATCH FOR NOTICES BEING SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANNOUNCEMENTS ON FACEBOOK, FOR THE RE-OPENING!

YOUR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THE RP YOUTH CENTER A SUCCESS IS MUCH NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT

RPYouthCenter@ridgefieldpark.org

WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS YOU HAVE.

DAINA SCHEIDELER

RP YOUTH CENTER-DIRECTOR





**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
201-440-2570**

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE FORM

The Village of Ridgefield Park has a Residential Special Needs Registry for residents who may require special assistance during an emergency. The provided information is strictly CONFIDENTIAL and will only be used by public safety personnel during emergencies.

NAME _____ **AGE** _____ **BIRTH DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

Describe your special need or assistance that may be required during an emergency (oxygen, medical device, etc.)

Is this need _____ permanent _____ temporary, until _____

Do you require electricity to operate a medical devise? _____ yes _____ no

In case of emergency, **please call:** _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

In case of emergency does anyone have a key to your residence? _____ yes _____ no

Name _____ Address _____

Phone: _____ Cell _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN TO: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, 50 MAIN ST., RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ 07660

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



Visit the DPW Website:

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

The RECYCLING CENTER

is located at 24 Industrial Avenue.

Residents can drop off recyclable items and trash from 9 AM to 12PM (NOON), Monday through Saturday. Only small amounts will be accepted and proof of residency is required.

***NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

***NO CONTRACTOR WASTE PERMITTED**

***NO HOUSE CLEAN-OUTS**



Leaf season begins October 15-January 15th

Please place **leaves ONLY** in street

or in biodegradable bags

on the NO PARKING side—**NO BRANCHES**

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

EPS- expanded polystyrene (packing material)
is now collected at the Recycle Center.

NO tape, staples or labels!

Packing peanuts, styrofoam plates/cups/take-out containers and should be put into regular trash.

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
 - **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 get collected on **Thursdays**- EXCEPT 1st Thursday/TRASH Day
 - **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

