

The community newspaper serving the residents of Ridgefield, New Jersey

# THE RIDGEFIELD CANVAS

March 2007

www.RidgefieldCanvas.com

## Relocation of Borough meetings

Please take note that all meetings of the Mayor and Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board are now taking place at the Ridgefield Community Center, located at 725 Slocum Avenue (see photo below). For more information about board and commission meetings dates and locations, please visit the Ridgefield Borough web site at [www.ridgefieldboro.com](http://www.ridgefieldboro.com).



## Baseball Opening Day on April 14

Come celebrate the 56th Opening Day of the Ridgefield Boro Athletic Organization (R.B.A.O.) on **Saturday, April 14**. The parade will begin at 12:00 noon by the Ridgefield Community Center, with the ceremony following at 1:00 p.m. at Five Firemen's Field in Veterans' Memorial Park. (Rain date: Sunday, April 15 at 12:00 noon).



## Candy Bouquet celebrates one-year anniversary

Owned and operated by Ridgefield residents, Candy Bouquet celebrates its one-year anniversary with a special event on Sunday, March 25 from 12 noon to 4 pm. Located at 547 Shaler Boulevard, Candy Bouquet offers delectable gourmet chocolates, candies, and cookies, all beautifully presented in a handmade floral-like arrangement that will not fade or die.

Candy bouquets are suitable for any special occasion, and make the perfect corporate gift or group fundraiser idea. Fresh fudge, gourmet chocolate covered pretzels, centerpieces, party wands, character balloons and the popular Webkinz are all available. Stop by for a cup of gourmet coffee with franchisee owner Toni Jesuele, a free sample, and enter a drawing for a chance to win your very own candy bouquet.



## Holiday Egg Decorating on 3/28

In addition to the Holiday Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 31 (see right), children in grades Pre-K through 3rd are welcome to come to the Community Center on **Wednesday, March 28** from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to decorate eggs. (Please bring no more than 4 hard-boiled eggs.)

## Fall soccer registration is on!

Registration for Fall 2007 soccer will be held from **March 19 to May 11**.

**In-Town** girls and boys soccer will begin in September. This program is available to children in grades K-8 (as of September 2007). Games are played on Sundays. The registration fee is \$30.

**Travel** girls and boys soccer will begin in September. This program is available to children ages 8-14, subject to being chosen at tryouts. Games are played at home and away on Saturdays. You must register to tryout (tryout information will be on the registration form). The registration fee is \$20 - this fee is in addition to the In-Town fee of \$30 (refunds will be issued to everyone not chosen for a travel team).

All participants must play in-town in order to play on a travel team, with the exception of Division 3 (7th and 8th graders). This division pays a flat fee of \$30 and only travels. All travel teams will require a \$30 uniform deposit at a later date.



## Holiday Egg Hunt on March 31

On Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m., the Ridgefield Recreation Department's own bunny will be on hand to supervise an egg hunt and to give out candy to all children in grades Pre-K through 3 at the Pool Complex (rain or shine). There will also be 10 "lucky" eggs, worth an additional prize - a goody-filled Easter basket!

## Bergen County Household Hazardous Waste Management & Disposal Program

The Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) is pleased to announce the Household Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal Program schedule for 2007.

The BCUA will conduct seven (7) household hazardous waste collection events in 2007. These one-day events will be held at different locations throughout Bergen County on weekend dates throughout the year.

The 2007 household hazardous waste collection events are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

**LOCATION:** Bergen Comm. College  
400 Paramus Road, Paramus  
Sunday, March 25, 2007  
Sunday, June 24, 2007  
Sunday, October 21, 2007

**LOCATION:** BCUA  
Foot of Empire Blvd., Moonachie  
Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Saturday, July 21, 2007

**LOCATION:** Campgaw Mountain Reservation  
200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah  
Saturday, May 19, 2007  
Saturday, September 8, 2007

*\*Please note: the Mahwah location has changed*

All event hours are 9AM-3PM rain or shine.

The household hazardous waste management program offers Bergen County residents the opportunity to properly dispose of household hazardous waste items such as aerosol cans, paints, pesticides, solvents and many other hazardous items commonly found in a home. These events are available free of charge to all Bergen County residents.

Small businesses can also deliver up to 220 pounds of hazardous waste to the collection events for a predetermined disposal fee. Pre-registration is required for small businesses.

Residents and interested parties can contact the household hazardous waste management hotline, 201-807-5825, or visit [www.bcua.org](http://www.bcua.org) any time of day for a scheduling of events, a listing of household waste products we are collecting, or to receive a hazardous waste registration and service inventory form.

For a full-color, downloadable version of this paper, go to [www.RidgefieldCanvas.com](http://www.RidgefieldCanvas.com)

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Anthony R. Suarez  
604 Broad Avenue  
Ridgefield, NJ 07657

It is my pleasure to address you in this edition of the *Ridgefield Canvas* and to bring you up to date on the important issues that are ongoing in the Borough of Ridgefield.

## EXPANSION OF SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

I am happy to say that an issue I have been personally working on for more than a year will now be put into practice this summer. As many parents know, the summer camp program currently does not have a rain site. A number of parents have found it difficult to pick up their children once their workday begins, the children are at camp, and it begins to rain, necessitating the cancellation of the program for the day.

One problem with a rain site is location. The schools, which were once considered, are being used for their own programs over the summer, which leaves the Community Center as the only possible site in town. Over the past few years, we have had as many as 400 children register for summer camp. With that high number of children, it would be impossible to conduct summer camp in the Community Center due to the limited space and other programs going on at the same time indoors.

This year, the Borough of Ridgefield will offer a rainy day guarantee to parents who rely upon the camp being open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The rainy day guarantee option would be offered at a higher rate than the rest of the participants in the summer program. The current rate is \$50.00 for the summer (six weeks); the guarantee would be at the rate of \$100.00, and be limited to the first 75 people who register for this option.

When camp is cancelled in the morning due to rain, the participating parents in the guarantee program will be instructed to drop their children at the Community Center. One issue that is presently being worked on is possibly having the town to provide bus transportation on occasions when it starts raining in the middle of the day and the camp is cancelled, so that the children do not have to walk to the Community Center during the inclement weather. The indoor guarantee would also apply in conditions wherein the camp is cancelled due to extreme heat.

The program has already taken into consideration the fact that the senior citizen lunch program takes place during the summer, and will not be affected by this program.

I am happy to say that the council followed my lead and passed by a unanimous vote the ordinance putting this program into effect at the last meeting when it was introduced for adoption.

Lastly, I would like to thank Recreation Director Ray Ramirez and Assistant Director Meri Harbour, along with the Recreation Commission, for all of their support in this regard.

## BOROUGH HALL

At the present time, the new majority, after terminating the architect, Martin Santini, who was selected through a fair and open bidding process last year in order to prepare plans for a new Borough Hall, rehired Mr. Santini and authorized him to proceed with plans for a new facility or in the alternative, a modification of the existing facility. I am happy that the new majority have decided to stay with Mr. Santini since he has no political or personal connection to any member of this year's Mayor and Council or last year's administration. He was selected because, quite frankly, he was the most qualified after a lengthy search was conducted for an architect and proposals were received by applicants, interviews were had and the appointment was made.

At the February work session of the Mayor and Council, Mr. Santini presented the options that were requested of him by the Council along with cost estimates. The first option was only for the addition of an elevator to the present building, at a cost of approximately \$3,300,454.00; the second option includes an elevator and additional room for the building along with a parking deck at a cost of \$10,829,777.00; the third option was for a new building and parking deck at the present site at a cost of \$17,864,025.00; and the last option was what had been recommended by all of the architects who provided proposals last year, which is a new facility on Shaler Boulevard where the garages are across the street from the Nature Center at a cost of \$11,549,797.00.

At the present time, I support the Shaler Boulevard site since it is not only millions of dollars cheaper than the other proposal for a new town hall on the present site, but it also allows the Borough to sell the present site to a builder, where we could realize millions of dollars in revenue to offset the cost of the new facility, bringing down the cost significantly. Furthermore, the old site could be sold to a developer who could construct affordable senior citizen housing at the location. Finally, as most of our residents know, the Borough was sued by a handicapped veteran in the mid 1990's and the prior administration settled the case with the understanding that

there would be the construction of a new town hall or the purchase of a new town hall. As such, the only options the Council should be looking at are the new building on the present site or on the Shaler site. What must also be taken into consideration is the fact that if we were to build a new building at the present site, all municipal functions would have to be relocated for almost two years while the new facility is being constructed. If town hall were built on Shaler we could operate the Borough's functions while construction is ongoing, at no additional cost to the taxpayer, as opposed to renting a facility while the building is being completed.

I hope the Council makes the right decision, as my request to be on the new building committee was turned down. The committee consists of Councilman Blackley and Councilman Vincentz. The new majority has to realize that this issue cannot wait any longer and we must proceed due to the handicap access issue at Borough Hall. A decision must be made and we must move forward. In the past, a number of proposals have been offered by myself and, for one reason or another, rejected. I hope that the recent lawsuit against the town makes the new majority realize that we cannot play politics with this issue and we must make a decision in the Borough's best interests.

## NEW LOCATION OF MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETINGS

In February, I directed that all Mayor and Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings take place at the only handicapped accessible location in town, the Library. This was done immediately after the proper permits were issued allowing the accommodation of the number of residents to attend these meetings at the Library.

Also in February, our Borough Administrator brought in, at no cost to the Borough, an expert in ADA compliance, who toured the Community Center, and made a list of items that needed to be addressed to bring the Center into handicap compliance.

I am happy to say that the work has been completed at the Community Center, and we held our first Mayor and Council meeting at the facility on March 12, 2007. The DPW Department did a great job in creating an area where the meetings can be held, and Joseph Silvestri, who is the Communications Director for the Borough, and had the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 >>

For more from Mayor Anthony Suarez,  
visit [www.MayorSuarez.com](http://www.MayorSuarez.com)

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**SUBMISSIONS:** The *Ridgefield Canvas* welcomes relevant submissions from Borough residents. Please submit only Ridgefield-related events or feature stories. Items chosen for publication may be edited for length and/or content. Submissions should be faxed or mailed to the above address, or e-mailed to [staff@DeMarcoCommunications.com](mailto:staff@DeMarcoCommunications.com). The *Canvas* also publishes an online version at [www.RidgefieldCanvas.com](http://www.RidgefieldCanvas.com).

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# TOWN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Ridgefield Town-Wide Garage Sale

The Ridgefield Town-Wide Garage Sale will be held on **Saturday, April 14** (rain date: April 21). Please help support the Ridgefield Memorial High School Class of 2007 Project Graduation. The Project Graduation Committee does all of the advertising, including ads in local papers and on cable TV. They will provide you with balloons and a certificate of appreciation that you should display on your house. Maps and a list of all addresses participating will be given out at the High School on that day.

*New way to participate:* Don't want to have it at your home? Buy a table at the Community Center. You are responsible for bringing your stuff there and taking anything you do not sell home with you.

The fee for participating is \$20 per house or table. Please make checks payable to "Project Graduation 2007".

If you would like to participate, please fill out the following form and return it with your payment by Monday, April 9, to: Linda Apkarian, 722 Clark Avenue, Ridgefield, NJ 07657. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 201-943-7248. The Project Graduation Committee thanks you for your participation!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will have it at my home (  )      I would like a table at the CC (  )

## Ridgefield Cleanup Day

The Ridgefield Environmental Commission is sponsoring the Third Annual Ridgefield Cleanup Day on **Saturday, March 31**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

All interested volunteers are requested to meet at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, at 9:45AM on March 31. (The rain date is Sunday, April 1, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.) Items needed for the cleanup will be supplied. Refreshments will be available at the Community Center following the cleanup.

Please contact the Environmental Commission with any questions, at 201-943-5215 Ext. 353. Take pride in your community by making Ridgefield clean and green!

### THE LOCAL SCOOP

#### ICE CREAM



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201.943.9009 FAX-201.943.9099**

## Ridgefield Announces Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week, which is observed this year during the week of March 18-24, is an effort to draw attention to the fact that each year over a million cases of accidental poisoning occur, approximately 1,200 of which will be fatal. Tragically, about 1/3 of these deaths involve children under five years of age. Most of these cases could have been prevented if parents and guardians had exercised care and common sense in the storage, handling, and keeping of many common household items such as cleaning fluids, aspirin, perfumes and cough syrup, Borough Health Officer, Jad Mihalinec noted.

Most accidental poisonings take place in the most dangerous room in the house-the kitchen. The major trouble spot is the catch-all storage area under the sink where many people do not realize that many of these products are so powerful that even one teaspoonful swallowed by a child will severely burn the mouth, the throat, and

even the stomach lining.

If this condition exists in your home, now is the time to change your storage habits. Place your pots and pans under the sink and remove all hazardous household chemicals to out of reach storage areas or locked cabinets.

Numerous accidental poisonings occur each year because many poisonous products, such as insect or rat poisons or gasoline, are stored in empty soda bottles or other familiar food containers. To a child, this is a familiar container that is used for soda or food and no matter how horrible it tastes or smells, he or she will drink or eat it none the less. All of these products carry identifying labels on their original packages and warnings regarding their use, but they are of little value to a child who can't read or a senior citizen who has failing eyesight or is forgetful.

Reduce the risk of a poisoning accident, Mr. Mihalinec said, by

following these five basic safety precautions:

- Never put a poisonous substance in a familiar food container, such as a soda bottle or candy box.
- Never keep insect or rodent killers around food.
- Handle pesticide and rodenticide in accordance with manufacturer's directions and store them under lock and key.
- Store medicines and aspirins out of reach of children and never give or take any medicine in the dark.
- Be sure to return all hazardous substances to the proper place after use.

If an accidental poisoning does occur in spite of your safety efforts, it is extremely important to act quickly. Don't wait for symptoms to occur; call your family doctor or the New Jersey State Department of Health Poison Control Hotline immediately. The poison control center provides specific information and treatment procedures on a wide variety of poisons that are of great help in any accidental poisoning. The toll free number for the center is 1-800-222-

1222. This telephone number should be displayed prominently near your telephone.

## Cell Phone Drive

Join the Great Cell Phone Drive! Donate your inactive cell phones now through May 2007. (No accessories, charges, etc.)

You'll be helping:

- Ridgefield Memorial High School
  - Project Graduation 2007
- Bring your OLD cell phones to:
- Ridgefield Memorial H.S.
  - Ridgefield Community Center
  - Ridgefield Public Library
  - Slocum-Skewes School
  - Shaler School
  - Bergen Blvd. School

For more information, please call Lauren Larkin at 201-945-8796 or 201-906-5159.

**MORE EVENTS ON PAGE 6 >>**

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Part time to 24 hr dog sitting. In home medicine administering.

## UNICO Rummage Sale

Saturday, March 31 -  
Sunday, April 1  
9am-4pm

**Ridgefield Community Center**  
725 Slocum Ave.



EVENING SPECIAL (AFTER 5 PM)

### 2 LARGE 16" PIES \$14.99





Hot Dogs • Burgers  
Steaks • Fries • Gyros

### CHEESESTEAK COMBO

CHEESESTEAK FRIES  
21 OZ. SODA

## \$7.50

Reg. \$9.50



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# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

To have your group/organization featured here, please call us at 201-585-0500 x2

## Ridgefield Health Department observes "National Wear Red Day for Women"



Above: Ridgefield Mayor Anthony Suarez observing "National Wear Red Day for Women" with the Ridgefield Health Department staff on Friday, February 2, in an effort to raise awareness of the number one health threat facing women today - cardiovascular disease.

Pictured from left to right: Jad Mihalinec, Health Officer/Administrator; Branka Durovic, REHS; Elaine Deramo, PHN; Mayor Anthony Suarez; Gerome Ranieri, Board of Health President; and Nives Beretin, CMR.

## UNICO helps the handicapped



On March 18, 2007, Mayor Anthony R. Suarez, assisted the members of Ridgefield UNICO at the Community Center, where a party was provided for handicapped individuals, which included food and music. Pictured in the front are some of the attendees of the party. In the back from left to right are Mayor Suarez, Nick Greco, Pearl Greco, Claire Sahagian, Joe Shiel, George Meglio, Vincent Tabbachino, Annette Tabbachino, Carol Licata, and Angela Meglio.

## Pink flamingos nest on resident's front lawn!



Ridgefield resident Lauren Larkin woke to find a flock of pink flamingos gracing her front lawn. After some investigation, she discovered that the flock was placed by Ridgefield Memorial High School's Project Graduation Class of 2007.

Mrs. Larkin paid a \$20 relocation fee (donation) to Project Graduation 2007 to have the flamboyant flocked removed. The flock will be migrated to a Ridgefield residence of Mrs. Larkin's choice.

If you happen to see this wild flock of pink flamingos in your neighborhood, please support Ridgefield Memorial H.S. Project Graduation - Class of 2007.

## Turkish-American society follows centuries-old tradition



The Hudson Turkish American Association celebrated a centuries old tradition by giving out "Noah's Pudding" at town hall. Pictured are Mayor Anthony Suarez with Borough Administrator Roberta Stern and Deputy Chief of Police Richard Stoltenberg, along with members of the Association.

## Read Across America



Above: Ridgefield school children enjoying storytime with Mayor Suarez

## BIG BAND ERA

by Joe Shiel

**Duke Ellington**  
**Started First Band - Early Twenties**  
**Where - Washington D.C.**  
**Theme Song - "Take The A Train"**

Born in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 1889, he was studying piano by the time he was seven years old, due to the encouragement of his mother. By the time he graduated from high school, he was earning a living from music, and very quickly became an entrepreneur, supplying small bands for private and public dances in the manner of Meyer Davis. Other people were in the same business in the Washington area, but Ellington attracted the most attention by buying a telephone directory ad larger than those of his competitors.

His first trip to New York, to play with the Wilbur Sweatman Band, was not particularly successful and he returned to Washington. In 1923, he took his own group called "Duke Ellington and the Washingtonians" back to New York where they went to the Kentucky Club for an engagement that lasted four years. During that period they began to record, made their first radio broadcasts and adopted their first theme song - "East St. Louis Toodle-oo".

By the end of another four year run at the Cotton Club, where they started playing in 1927, Ellington's now ten-piece band had become of the most popular in America. His popularity was not limited to the United States. Europe was clamoring to see and hear the band in person. He made his first European tour in 1933, and the many appearances included the London Palladium. The second tour was made in 1939. In between, he traveled the States, made countless recordings, and penned immortal music.

When the country started latching onto the big band sounds in the mid-thirties, it was merely discovering the music that Duke Ellington and his band had already been

(continued on page 5)

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# BIG BAND ERA

(continued from page 4)

playing for close to ten years - but to none of the rewarding hoopla or fanfare that greeted appearances by Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey and the rest of the white swing bands.

Such idolatry heaped upon those "Benny-and-Artie-and-Tommy-come-Latelys" must have been discouraging for Ellington, whose orchestra, even then was regarded by most musicians and jazz followers as the best of all the big bands. For, though most of the swing bands could lay in fancy restaurants and hotel rooms, Duke's, like numerous other black bands of the thirties, was not accepted in most of such spots. How did he feel about that? "I took the energy it takes to pout," he said, "and wrote some blues."

The biggest influence on the popular swing bands was Fletcher Henderson, who had temporarily left his band to create Goodman's New Style. You know what, "my big ambition was to sound like Fletcher." He had such a wonderful band the solos - you know all the various stars we have had - always dominated everything.

Ellington has often credited his sidemen with the success of his band. But those who knew Duke and his music best - and this includes those very sidemen - was invariably tell you what has set the Ellington's apart from, and almost always above other bands,, is just one thing - the brilliant conductor-composer-arranger-pianist-bon vivant and leader of men, Duke Ellington himself.

A wonderful, warm and witty and urbane gentleman, the Duke was creating his own particular jazz sounds as far back as 1924, when he had organized his first small jazz band. Two ears later, it had developed into a twelve-piece outfit, playing music composed and arranged by its leader. And this was the role it was to play ever after, than of an interpretive instrument for the unique material that came from Ellington's fertile mind, material sometimes geared to the general public but often too advanced to be understood by those more readily attracted by Paul Whiteman and Rudy Vallee and the simpler swing bands that followed them.

The general public may have preferred the Duke's more commercial competition. Not so, thought the jazz musicians and the leaders of other big bands.

Outside America, Ellington has found even broader acclaim. There, no other band in the history of American music has ever been revered so warmly and so consistently. One reason for this, of course, is that jazz, as an art form, has generally found much readier acceptance abroad than at home. Certainly it is significant that long before Duke Ellington had ever been received at the White House, he had been accorded magnificent receptions by the leaders of numerous foreign nations, including the King and Queen of England.

If Ellington was all that great, why then were other bands more popular back home in America? How come he won England's Melody Maker Poll in 1937, while in the United States, Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw and others continued to top him?

Not being permitted to play in spots open only to white bands certainly was a big reason. White bands not only could play in person for more people in more places - hotels and theaters especially - but they also were given greater exposure on radio, both from the spots in which they played as well as on commercially sponsored series.

And there was another important factor - The Ellington Band's comparatively slight concern for the current commercial pop tunes, which meant so much to the average American. The image and the music of Ellington's

Band had been built around his own compositions and the band just wasn't especially interested in the era's musical trivia. Thus, for the many who insisted upon hearing most of the latest songs, Duke's Band was not entirely acceptable.

Not that Ellington refused to play pop tunes. He performed a select quota, including those - many of them exceptionally good - which he, himself had written. For he felt, that in order to develop, it is important not to close oneself in an ivory tower but, instead to try earnestly to communicate with people.

The chief planner of the Ellington Band has always been its leader. Without his men, though, he would be lost. Keeping then in his sixties who could easily afford to retire and live off the royalties of his recordings and many hit songs. "But," he explains, "without the men what could

I do? I could keep on composing, something I always intended to do, but then I'd have nobody to play the things I write so that I can hear what they sound like." Without his band, Duke Ellington would be a lost man. It was a luxury he could, fortunately for him and his loyal musicians afford to keep.

Many of them had been with him for many years. Harry Carney, the handsome, quite eternally youthful-looking baritone saxist joined in 1926. Two years later, dour-faced, whimsical Johnny Hodges brought his alto sax into the band. The following year, Cootie Williams, he of the famous growl trumpet, joined and in 1932, Lawrence Brown with his sensuous-sounding trombone

became a member.

The Ellington career, itself, has had so many highlights that it's just about impossible to list them all. One of them occurred in 1933, just before the Big Band Era began, when his band toured Europe. As Barry Ulanov wrote in A History of American Jazz (Viking, 1952), "Everywhere he went Duke was received with such adulation and ceremony he should rub noses (figuratively) and indeed play some Jazz (literally) with two future Kings of England, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York." (For a complete biography of Ellington through 1946, Ulanov's book, Duke Ellington, published by Creative Press, is highly recommended.)

At the time, the general public was becoming completely conscious of the Big Band sounds, Duke was recording his for Brunswick. During that 1935-1936 period, he had a wonderful, tightly knit group whose personnel varied very little and which produced such

works as Duke's "Reminiscing in Tempo", a two-sided recording that traced Ellington's interpretation of his musical history; "Clarinet Lament" and "Echoes of Harlem", two pieces that featured clarinetist Barney Bigard and trumpeter Cootie Williams respectively; and several more sides containing outstanding performances by Ivy Anderson.

In 1940, and during the next two years, the band recorded many of its greatest sides, including Ellington compositions like "Jack the Bear", "Cotton Tail", "All Too Soon", "Warm Valley", "Just a Settin' and a-Rockin'", "Perdido", "C Jam Blues", plus two Billy Strayhorn originals, "Chelsea Bridge" and "Take the A Train", which soon became Duke's theme. During this era, the band waxed two other Ellington melodies, "Concerto for Cootie", which, with Bob Russell's lyrics added, became more famous as "Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me", and "Never No Lament", which turned into "Don't Get Around Much Anymore".

Duke's output as a composer of hit songs was immensely impressive. In addition to hundreds of strictly instrumental compositions such as his early "Black and Tan Fantasy" and "Creole Love Call" and "The Mooche", all of which the band still plays, he also wrote "Mood Indigo", "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Aint Got That Swing", "Sophisticated Lady", "In My Solitude", "In a Sentimental Mood", "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart", "I'm Beginning to See the Light", "Satin Doll", "I Got It Bad and That Aint Good" and "Jump for Joy". What about "Things Aint What They Used To Be"? No, Duke didn't write it. But his son, Mercer, a quiet handsome, talented man who lived in the shadow of his father's brilliancy, did.

Probably, the most important work that Duke wrote in the early forties, and to some his important work of all, was a three-part suite called "Black, Brown and Beige". Subtitled "A Tone Parallel", it was debuted in a glamorous concert in New York's Carnegie Hall on January 23, 1943.

The band made practically no New York appearances for a couple of years before the concert, and so anticipation and interest ran high. Produced for the benefit of Russian War Relief, the affair attracted a capacity crowd, to which the band responded magnificently. "Black, Brown and Beige" lasted almost forty-five minutes. It featured just about everyone in the band. Ellington on piano, singer Betty Roche, saxists Hodges, Carney, Webster and Toby Hardwick, trombonists, Brown, Tizol and Joe (Tricky Sam) Nanton and trumpeters Rex Stewart, Harold Baker and Ray Nance. The great bassist, Jimmy Blanton unfortunately was not there; he had died a few months before at the tender age of twenty-four.

Barney Bigard, the fluent clarinetist, had also left before the concert, and during the months that followed, Webster Hardwick, Stewart and Brown also departed.



[www.gothamcitydiner.com](http://www.gothamcitydiner.com)

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# TOWN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

## Internet Safety Seminar on 4/9

The Ridgefield Elementary PTA would like to invite residents to a special presentation of "Staying Safe In Cyberspace: Internet Safety for Parents" which will be presented by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Ridgefield Memorial High School.

The program is a comprehensive examination of today's Internet and the dangers that lurk inside chat rooms, instant messages, e-mail and blogs. The Computer Crimes unit hopes to raise parents' awareness of online predators and the dangerous content that is only a mouse-click away from their child's grasp.

## Blood screening

The Cholesterol/PSA Blood Screening (SMAC) will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 from 7:00AM to 10:00AM at the Ridgefield Health Dept, 725 Slocum Ave. The cost for the Basic Blood Work is \$20. Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) for men over 40 will cost \$25. Make check payable to HUMC. Requirement: two stamped addressed envelopes, one addressed to yourself and one addressed to your doctor. To schedule an appointment, please call the Health Dept. at 201-943-6062.

## Used Clothing Drive starts 4/23

Project Graduation is sponsoring a Used Clothing Drive from Monday, April 23 through Monday, April 30.

They will be collecting wearable and usable clothing (men's, women's and children's); shoes; belts; handbags; linens; stuffed animals; and hard toys. Please put all items in well-tied plastic garbage bags.

The drop-off location is the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue. Drop-off times are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

For further information, please call Lauren Larkin at 201-945-8796.

## Authors visit the Ridgefield Library

The Library had a busy fall schedule with an author visit by Mary Jane Clark, bringing in almost 100 people to our beautiful new building. Because the visit was such a success and enjoyed by so many residents, the Friends of the Ridgefield Library will be sponsoring additional author's visits. Two local authors will start the 2007 author talk series: Georgianne Ensign Kent on May 21, and John Dublanica on June 18.

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Low income New Jersey seniors face the reality of having to pay for their rising utility costs. With that in mind, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has developed a program to educate seniors about the energy assistance programs available through the state and how to apply for them.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps directly pay for heating costs while the Universal Service Fund (USF) helps make utility bills affordable by providing a monthly credit on electric or natural gas bills or both. Receiving assistance from either of these programs will not affect the Lifeline benefit some seniors already receive. In fact, qualified individuals can receive all three!

These is one application for both USF and LIHEAP which can be downloaded at [www.nj.gov/dca/dcr/hea/index.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dcr/hea/index.shtml). The instructions cover how to complete the application and where to send it. There is an application deadline of March 31, 2007. Applicants can call DCA directly at 800-510-3102 with questions about the application process.

If you have any questions about this program or would like more information please contact the DCA office directly at (609) 292-6420.

## News from Aurora Fitness

Aurora Fitness Centers for Women announces their quarterly release of new music and choreography for the following programs:

- BODYPUMP- Saturday, March 24
- RPM - Monday, March 26th
- BODYCOMBAT - Tuesday, March 27

### BODYPUMP

Here's all you need to know to get into BODYPUMP. It's the fastest way to shape up and lose body fat. BODYPUMP™ is a toning and conditioning class and is for just about everybody. It's perfect for women who want to add strength training into their cardiovascular workout.





### BODYCOMBAT

BODYCOMBAT™ is a non-combat, martial arts-based fitness program with moves drawn from karate, tae kwon do, kung fu, kickboxing, muay thai and tai chi; providing an exhilarating exercise experience that delivers ultra-fast fitness results.

### RPM

Burn up to 800 calories while participating in our rock concert on wheels. New choreography and a phenomenal cycling experience - this class will take you on a journey of discovery and challenge through varied terrain and a diverse mix of musical styles. Riders will also get plenty of opportunity to discover their inner athlete through the combination of effort, recovery and resistance that lie at the heart of RPM™.

To have your non-profit, service organization, club, or group's - upcoming activities added to the Canvas's Calendar of Events, please call us at 201-585-0500 x2.

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

recording and amplification equipment ready for the meeting, which ran quite smoothly.

As such, all meetings of the Mayor and Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment will be held at the Community Center, until further notice. The Library meeting room, while a fine place for a meeting, was not large enough to comfortably accommodate the number of people we have in attendance at the meetings. This is being done due to the handicap accessibility problems at Borough Hall.

## REDEVELOPMENT

I am happy to say that it seems the members of the Mayor and Council will be working together in a bi-partisan manner on the potential new redevelopment which covers the Pfister Chemical site and the two properties to the south, including the former Lowe Paper Company location.

At a February Mayor and Council meeting, representatives of Tarragon, the appointed redeveloper, attended the meeting in order to put to rest concerns that the new members of the Council had regarding their project. The concerns raised by the Mayor and Council at the meeting included emergency equipment for the Fire and Ambulance Corps; transportation and traffic issues; the number of school age children that would result from the new residential units; and a new police sub-station at the site.

The redeveloper and their attorney immediately began to address these concerns, and representatives of Taragon have already toured our emergency response facilities in order to determine their needs in this regard, and decide what they could provide to the town. I truly believe that as

Taragon continues to work with the Mayor and Council that the skeptics will be happy with what is being proposed. It is the only way we can bring in new revenue and keep taxes stable.

At this point in time, a plan needs to be submitted to the Planning Board for approval and a Developer's Agreement still needs to be negotiated. In the agreement, I believe that considerations need to be given for all of our concerns. The concerns include the developer's paying for new police, fire and ambulance equipment; paying money for their share of any new children into our school district for a new facility or other use by the Board of Education; paying for all traffic and roadway improvements that need to be constructed as a result of the redevelopment; and providing parking facilities for people who use Willis Field, which was not done when the prior administration came up with the project.

I will keep everyone apprized of this matter as it develops. I would like to have residents comment on the plan once it is submitted and will inform you in this publication when that is, and where it can be viewed.

## POLICE COMMENDATIONS

I would like to recognize the commendations given by our Chief of Police to a number of police officers in the Borough with respect to two instances wherein their conduct was exemplary.

On or about February 8, the Ridgefield Detective Bureau received a call from the Fairview Police Department, regarding a theft of credit cards which were used at locations in Ridgefield. Detective Sgt. Robert Williams and Detective Kevin Nebbia investigated the incident, interviewing the Fairview victims, obtaining bank statements and store

transaction records, and reviewing camera footage of the perpetrator using the cards. The Detectives identified the perpetrator - a career criminal who is about to be sentenced to prison on over 100 counts of theft, burglary and credit card fraud - and located him at his Wallington, NJ home. The Chief of Police has recommended Detective Sgt. Robert Williams and Detective Kevin Nebbia for commendations, which I announced at the March 12 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Secondly, on February 8, Police Officer John Scarola took a report of a theft from a resident on Sunset Terrace, who reported that base board heating units, metal pipe and scaffolding sections were stolen from the side of his home. Detective Brian Williamson was detailed to investigate the theft.

On February 9, Police Officer Joseph Castellitto was detailed to meet the Sunset Terrace resident in Cliffside Park to identify the suspect vehicle from the theft. On February 14, Detective Williamson interviewed a suspect, who had an extensive criminal record and admitted to the theft. The Chief of Police has recommended Detective Brian Williamson for a commendation and an assist to Police Officer Joseph Castellitto and Police Officer John Scarola for the arrest and apprehension in this case, which I announced at the March 12, 2007 Mayor and Council meeting. All detectives and officers are a credit to the Mayor and Council, the citizens of the Borough of Ridgefield, and the Police Department in which they serve.

## GREAT TREES OF RIDGEFIELD

In conjunction with the Environmental Commission, Ridgefield is sponsoring the "Great Trees of Ridgefield" search to locate landmark trees in the Borough. A landmark tree is a tree on public or private property of unusual size, shape, age and/or species. Residents are asked to nominate trees by calling the Environmental Commission at 201-943-5215, ext. 353 prior to May 31, 2007. Please leave your name, telephone number, and tree location. The Commission will determine whether the nominated tree qualifies as a landmark tree. All landmark trees will be designated on an official Borough map.

## MUNICIPAL RECYCLING GRANT

I am happy to announce that the Borough was the recipient of a 2007 Municipal Recycling Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$4,673.56. The grant was provided by the Bergen County Utilities Authority.

## CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank you again for electing me Mayor of this great Borough, and assure you that I am tirelessly working to keep the town moving forward in a positive fashion. God bless you and your families.

## Borough Directory

<b>Police, Fire, Rescue &amp; Ambulance Emergencies</b>	<b>9 1 1</b>
Administrator	201-943-5215 x307
Ambulance (non-emerg)	201-943-5946
Attorney	201-945-8812
Board of Adjustment	201-943-5215 x445
Board of Education	201-945-9236
Board of Health	201-943-6062
Borough Clerk	201-943-5215 x303
Building Department	201-943-5546
D.A.R.E. Unit	201-943-5210 x415
DPW	201-945-5319
Emergency Mgmt.	201-943-3600 x309
Environmental Comm.	201-943-5215 x353
Fire Dept. (non-emerg.)	
- Engine Co. No. 1	201-943-5290
- Engine Co. No. 2	201-943-5335
- Engine Co. No. 3	201-943-5894
Garbage/Recycling	201-945-5319
Health Department	201-943-6062
Library	201-941-0192
Municipal Court	201-943-7155
Planning Board	201-943-5215 x444
Police Dept. (non-emerg)	201-943-5210
Recreation Dept.	201-943-5342
Schools	
- Shaler Academy	201-313-2476
- Bergen Boulevard	201-943-1861
- Slocum-Skewes	201-943-4299
Tax Assessor	201-943-7676
Tax Collector	201-943-7676
Traffic Bureau	201-943-5210 x313
Welfare Dept.	201-943-7172
Youth Center	201-313-1940

To contact these and other Borough offices via e-mail, please visit the Borough's web site at [www.RidgefieldBoro.com](http://www.RidgefieldBoro.com)

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