



May 18, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

As our community and state start to gradually reopen, giving us more freedom to shop, go to the shore, and visit people we have not seen in a while, it is crucial that we continue to follow proper social distancing measures, wear masks, and wash our hands properly. None of us want to reverse course and return to stricter lockdown mandates. I have heard from many people that kids are congregating together on bikes and even in downtown. On the one hand, I don't blame kids for wanting to see their friends; yet, on the other hand, I do not want to end the school year with a medical tragedy. Please talk with your children and monitor where they are going when they are not in your care. At the very least, they should be wearing masks when outside of their house. This will be good practice for when we return to school because it is likely that wearing masks will be a necessary precautionary measure.

Finally, New Jersey public health officials are urging parents to immediately report if their child shows symptoms of a systemic inflammatory syndrome, for this has been reported in many states and is being investigated as a possible link to COVID-19.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE RESULTS

NEW BOARD MEMBERS - Congratulations to our new Ridgewood Board of Education (RBOE) members

- Saurabh Dani
- Hyunju Kwak
- Michael Lembo

RIDGEWOOD DISTRICT SCHOOL BUDGET WAS DEFEATED

- Over the next week or so, the RBOE and Village Council will meet to deliberate and determine what the new tax rate will be for the 2020-2021 school year budget. Once that rate is determined, both governing bodies must approve that rate at a public meeting.
- The defeated budget and the probability of a reduction of our anticipated state aid means there will most likely be restructuring within the district based on available funding.

MESSAGE FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

The New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) have produced a joint Public Service Announcement (PSA) targeting residents who may suffer a potential heart attack or stroke and might be reluctant to go to hospital Emergency Departments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PSA, which features Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli and NJHA President and CEO Cathy Bennett, was made following reports that residents may be delaying needed health care that they require



because of concerns of hospital safety and capacity amid coronavirus. The message reassures residents that hospitals and their healthcare teams are continuing to care for all patients in a safe environment.

We hope you can help us get this critical information out to your communities and New Jersey residents.

The press release is available at <https://www.nj.gov/health/news/2020/approved/20200505a.shtml>

The PSA can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aUDfZnI1WG4>

VIDEO MESSAGES FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Today's video messages are contest entries from two Ridgewood High School Applied Engineering Club invent teams who placed first and second in the national Thomas Edison Pitch Contest. The finalists were chosen from 180 teams in 21 states across the country who entered the contest this year. The RHS Solar Aqua Tech team won first place, and the Inhale Rite team won second place. Both RHS teams did a fantastic job presenting their projects via Zoom. Congratulations!

- Solar Aqua-Tech Video entry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Uy33IkWt5A&feature=youtu.be>
- Inhale Rite Video entry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optaog3vrq0>

RIDGEWOOD NEEDS YOUR HELP

While we can't get out and host a traditional fundraiser, we can still support our community. Below are links to help during this time of crisis. Please note these are community-based people or organizations who are working to help.

Blood Donations:

- The **Red Cross** is alerting everyone to blood and platelet shortage. Please donate if you can. <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. If you are having difficulty finding a Red Cross site to donate, look at <http://vitalant.org/>. They have a local office for donations.

Ridgewood Social Services Association:

- The Social Services Association of Ridgewood (SSA) continues to serve our community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. While their physical pantry is closed due to the shelter-in-place, SSA is still providing food security via grocery store vouchers and door-step deliveries. They serve over 400 individuals who are already financially devastated prior to COVID-19. See the link below for donations. <https://ssaridgewood.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=532accffb616cd716abce83de&id=4421d27480&e=fd87ce9123>

A message from SSA:

Even though the SSA Pantry is closed for donation drop-offs and client visits, we are still very active in creatively collecting donations in other ways, packing up bags of food, and delivering them to our clients.

We are asking our friends and neighbors to help out in a small way that is meaningful.

Whenever you go to the grocery store, pick up an item (or more) from the list in the red box below, and drop it at:

- Barb Crowe – 738 Hillcrest Rd. (bin on side porch)
 - Ann Levitan – 256 Ivy Place (bin on the front porch)
 - Martha Fickinger – 385 Beechwood Rd. (bin on the front porch)
 - Mary Barnes – 413 Meadowbrook Rd. (bin outside the front door)
- Items requested: Canned Tomatoes/Tomato Puree, Pasta Sauce, Canned Meats, Tuna, Rice, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Snacks, Canned Fruit, Boxed Milk, Coffee, Juice

Stringing Together Ridgewood

- Some RHS students have come up with an idea for a fundraiser that can be done entirely remotely. They are selling friendship bracelets to raise money to be donated to Valley Hospital to help with COVID-19 relief. Please see the link below.
 - <https://sites.google.com/view/stringingtogetherridgewood>

Ridgewood Helps - Senior Citizen Help

- Right now, our senior citizens need our help. Below is a link to opportunities to help our senior citizens in Ridgewood. Please take a look at it and help in any way you can. If you have a neighbor who is a senior citizen, please check in with them. We must continue to look out for each other. Thank you in advance for all of your assistance.
 - http://mods.ridgewoodnj.net/pdf/covidinfo/RidgewoodHelpsV3.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2xLK5-VLkT7qz68jgdu8AcnQ50lNnTWuY9-Efoe_2v83AGtshg2p8m8sc

Feed the Frontlines Initiative

- *Feed the Frontlines Initiative* is a call-to-action to provide meals prepared by local Ridgewood restaurants to first responders and community groups during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is an organized way for people to help feed local healthcare workers and first responders while supporting local restaurants who have been hit hard economically. *Feeding the Frontlines* is made up of The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce, HealthBarn Foundation 501(c)(3), and many resident volunteers under the leadership of Mayor Hache. It is a creative solution to help where help is needed.
 - To donate: <http://www.healthbarnfoundation.org/donations/feed-the-frontlines/>
 - To help deliver: feedthefrontlinesvolunteer@gmail.com

T-Shirts for Valley UNITED

- A Ridgewood community member has created t-shirts that honor and memorializes this common experience we are all going through together. 100% of the proceeds go to Valley. <http://unitee.biz/>

Phone Chargers Needed

- The Junior League of Bergen County is collecting used/extra phone chargers and baby monitors on behalf of area hospitals, such as Holy Name Medical Center and Valley Hospital. Because most people who wind up in the hospital with the coronavirus are brought under emergency

circumstances, they come into the ER with only what is on their person. For most people, their cell phone is their only way to communicate with family, but people are not coming in with phone chargers. Due to overcrowding in area hospitals, the reality is that patients are often parked in hallways for hours on end before a dedicated room is able to be found for them. In many cases, their cell phone batteries are dying, and they have no way to recharge them. In the case of baby monitors, nurses are in need of these as a way to keep a closer eye on critical patients. If you have an extra phone charger or baby monitors that you no longer need, please consider donating them. The JLBC will wipe these items down with disinfectant and individually bag them to be donated. Items will be collected through May 31 and can be dropped off at 281 Spring Ave. in Ridgewood. There will be a box put out daily on the front stoop where you can drop off items. We appreciate your support!

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE - New Information

- This is important information from Bergen County Mental Health Division:
<http://www.bergenresourcenet.org/search/resources-to-maintain-wellbeing-and-balance-in-covid-19-times/#resilience>

GET INFORMATION FROM THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD AND THE RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Use the links below for important information from the Village and the district.

- Sign up for Village E-Notice System - <http://www.ridgewoodnj.net/village-info/enotices-and-alerts-registration>.
- Twitter Accounts - [@RwdPub Schools](#) and [@RWDSupt](#)
- District Facebook Page - [@RidgewoodPublicSchools](#).

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS


- **Go for a walk:** Next weekend, take a nice long, mask-wearing, socially distanced walk on the beach. Remember: Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day.
- Board Games: These are recommendations from *The Record*: Cinco Linko, Take Five, Splendor and Can't Stop
- Remember, the Ridgewood Public Library has online resources.
<https://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org>
- Movie/TV Fix for the Week - Academy Award Winning: *Free Solo*. This is for all of those people who said to themselves.... I would like to try rock climbing. On Memorial Day, **1917** would be a great movie to watch.
- Book Club Book 9 - *Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance* by Atul Gawande. Read in our RAHP Program.
- Bake/Cook: Memorial Day BBQ. <https://www.bonappetit.com/recipes/slideshow/grilled-steak-recipes>
- Home Project: Time to clean off the outdoor furniture.
- Call someone. I challenge you to call someone you have not spoken in years. College roommate, high school friends, etc.
- **REMINDER: Fathers turn away. Father's Day is June 21st. 35 days away.**

Keep supporting our local businesses. Restaurants have the process down. It is very easy. Many restaurants are offering curbside pickup and delivery. Here are some helpful tips (www.today.com) if you want something besides a home-cooked meal:

- Order from a restaurant you trust
- Order directly from the restaurant when possible
- Opt for contactless delivery or pick up
- Discard all packaging
- Don't share, and wash your hands before and after

I wish you good health, both physically and mentally!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Fishbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools