**Township of River Vale**
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey

## ORDINANCE #480-2026

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| Date of 1st Reading: July 13, 2026 | Motion to Adopt: Councilman Tolomeo |
| Date of Public Hearing: August 10, 2026 | Motion Second: Councilman Ben-Yishay |

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 225 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "TREE REMOVAL"**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that Chapter 225 of the Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 225 Tree Removal **& Maintenance**

§ 225-2 **Definitions.**

**STREET TREE**

**A tree growing within the public right-of-way in the Township of River Vale, property owners are responsible for the maintenance, including removal, of all trees within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.**

§ 225-4 **Permit required.**

B. (1)
A tree removal permit shall be required prior to the cutting for removal of more than one tree on a tax lot within any twenty-four-month period. Any tree removal ~~conducted in conjunction with the issuance of a soil moving permit or building permit~~ shall require the replacement of two trees for every tree removed regardless of the number removed. All tree replacement shall be in accordance with § **225-5D**. Donations to the Shade Tree Fund may be approved when the required replacement is not feasible.

C.
All tree removals on public lands, **including the public right-of-way**, shall be reviewed by the Enforcement Officer prior to cutting. At the discretion of the Enforcement Officer, the tree replacements as prescribed in § **225-5D** shall be provided. **Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, including removal, of all street trees within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.**

**§ 225-12 Permit required for certain activities.**

**No person, except Township employees acting under instruction from the Enforcement Officer, shall do or cause to be done any of the following acts within the Township of River Vale street rights-of-way and/or easement without a written permit issued by the Enforcement Officer:**

**A. Cut or trim any limb six inches or more in diameter, break, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of or otherwise injure or spray with any chemical or remove any living tree or shrub or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect such tree or shrub.**
**B. Plant any tree or shrub.**
**C. Fasten any rope, wire, electrical attachment, sign or other artificial device to a tree or shrub, except support ropes or wire.**
**D. Close or obstruct any open space provided about the base of a tree or shrub which will prevent access of air, water or fertilizer to the roots of such tree or shrub.**
**E. Pile any building material or dispose of any mortar or cement within six feet of a tree or shrub canopy.**
**F. Allow any herbicidal gaseous, liquid or solid substance to make contact with the stem or roots of any trees or shrub within the Township right-of-way.**
**G. Top any tree, "topping" being defined as the severe cutting back on limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the canopy and/or disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where normal pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the discretion of the Enforcement Officer.**

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

| Council Member | AYE | NAY | N.V. | A.B |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BEN-YISHAY | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| CRISCUOLO | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | |

| Council Member | AYE | NAY | N.V. | A.B |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SIEG | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| TOLOMEO | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ZICCARELLI | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

X - Indicates Vote A.B. – Absent N.V - Not Voting (Abstained or Excused)