

A Garden Will Rise when Charity Halloween Show Comes to Bianchi House Park Oct. 22 and 23



Haunted Hill House volunteers will scare up funds for the Wood-Ridge Historical Society Oct. 23 and 24.

As Bianchi House Park nears completion with paved walkways, plantings and irrigation this October, local theater troupe Haunted Hill House will preview the site with an original Halloween tale of monsters and mayhem.

"The work that has been going on at Bianchi is creating a park for all Wood-Ridge residents to enjoy, and we look forward to this opportunity to give the community a first look at the improvements," said Councilwoman and Historical Society Liaison Catherine Cassidy.

The "Garden of the Dead" tells the story of an evil Groundskeeper and his plans to feed the earth with all who visit the property. Scenes will include the Groundskeeper's Lair, man-beast Fluffy's Pen, the Prison Guards' Break-Room, the Asylum, and the Vampire Buffet Line.

The outdoor walk-through and performance will be held on Friday October

22 and Saturday October 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. October 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. will serve as a rain date.

The event is family-friendly and will be held in all-but-inclement weather. Proceeds from \$5 ticket sales will benefit the Wood-Ridge Historical Society's continued efforts to preserve local artifacts and locales. Seasonal refreshments will be served thanks to the generosity of neighboring merchants.

Bianchi House Park surrounds the 130-year old Arnault-Bianchi House, which was bequeathed to the Borough of Wood-Ridge for historical preservation. The site took its place on the National and State Historic Registers after grants were used to restore the house's roof and eaves. Additional grant funds have been utilized for the greening of the surrounding property. The Wood-Ridge Historical Society will continue to use the house for hosting public events and meetings the second Wednesday of every month.



The Friends of the Library Need Your Help!
The Friends of the Wood-Ridge Library meet the third Monday of each month. The organization provides programming and also contributes to the purchase of special books and academic materials. It is currently seeking new members and volunteers of all ages to staff three Annual Book Sales and other special events. For more information, stop by the Wood-Ridge Library.



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Welcome to the Fall 2010 edition of the Wood-Ridge Newsletter. Within these pages, you will find news and events that make it an exciting time to be a resident of Wood-Ridge.

Community spirit has been at an all-time high this fall, with great turnouts for the Mayor's 5K Run and to support the Blue Devils at home football games. We look forward to continuing this trend with two major events planned for Halloween, the annual Ragamuffin Parade and the "Garden of the Dead," an inaugural public event to open the new Bianchi House Park site.

From a financial perspective, Wood-Ridge received high marks and a vote of confidence from Standard & Poor's on its financial management, a sign that the Finance Committee and administration are weathering the economic storms of our times skillfully and responsibly on behalf of our taxpayers.

And with an eye on continuing to improve our municipal infrastructure and parks, we target Borough-wide improvements this season including the completion of Bianchi Park and projects at Veteran's Park, the Library, Senior Center and Civic Center. We also look forward to seeing nearly 1/3 of Wood-Ridge's roads newly-repaved within the next year's time.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Standard & Poor's Gives Wood-Ridge High Marks And Increases the Borough's Bond Rating 3 Levels

The Borough of Wood-Ridge recently completed a bond sale to refinance its debt. As part of the bond sale, Standard and Poor's, a national credit rating company, increased the Borough's bond rating by 3 levels to "AA-."

This rating lowers the interest payments of Wood-Ridge by 20%, which will save the Borough nearly \$600,000. As a result, the Borough has been able to refinance its debt at an interest rate of 3%, and will be completely free and clear of debt within 16 years.

"S&P credited the Borough administration's sound financial management for saving Wood-Ridge money," noted Finance Chairman and Councilman Dominick Azzolini. "Our bond rating increase is directly attributable to the aggressive operational restructuring begun three years ago by this Mayor and Council."

The restructuring included the increased utilization of shared services and outside contracts, reduction of the workforce by 11 employees, decreased employee benefits, paying down of debt, elimination of short term borrowing, and reduction of budgetary growth. Also, the Borough has successfully increased its positive cash flow and fund balance.

The biggest concern cited by S&P when making its rating was the fact that the State of New Jersey continues to severely cut Wood-Ridge's State Aid. In 2010 alone, New Jersey cut both Wood-Ridge's Municipal and School aid by a total of \$1 million, causing a 4.6% tax increase which equates to \$28 per month on the average home.

Without these drastic cuts, the tax increase would have been only a half-percent, or \$3 per month, on the average home.



Saturday Night Lights

The Wood-Ridge Blue Devils hosted their first-ever night football game October 09, facing off against North Arlington under rented lights at Donna Ricker Field. Pee Wee, Junior, and Senior levels all won their games. The field was completely renovated in 2009, with all-weather turf, a rubber track and a new field house.

Mayor's 5K runs smoothly

The first-ever Wood-Ridge Mayor's 5K Run saw 400 competitive runners and walkers taking to the streets Sunday, October 10, beginning near the Field House of Donna Ricker Field and stretching to the Carlstadt and Hasbrouck Heights borders. The event was chaired by Councilman Ed Marino, and sponsors included Harrah's Entertainment, Joseph M. Sanzari Highway and Heavy Construction, East Coast Toyota, Valley National Bank, and Williams Company. Among the entrants were 16 police recruits from the Bergen County Police and Fire Academy in Mahwah and several U.S. Marines stationed at the U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle near Colts Neck. Pictured participants ran or walked, either as individuals, or in teams.



Council President Ezio Altamura and Councilman Ed Marino coordinating the day's events.



A 'Free Ride' on Valley Boulevard

Valley Boulevard has been completely repaved this fall by Bergen County, at no cost to the Borough of Wood-Ridge or its taxpayers. The Boulevard, which is one of Wood-Ridge's major thoroughfares for commerce and commuting, can now be added to the 3 miles of recently repaved roadways in the Borough's inventory.

"This number represents one-sixth of all roads in Wood-Ridge, and we are excited to report that we will forge ahead next year with plans to pave an additional 3 miles on the central and eastern sides of town," said Mayor Paul Sarlo. "In total, we plan to improve a full one-third of Wood-Ridge's roads by the end of 2011."

Wood-Ridge's engineer is currently designing roads for the next phase of construction, including: Union Avenue, Andersen Avenue, Jefferson Street, Wood-Ridge Street, Madison Street, Hill Street, Main Avenue from Hackensack Street to 6th Street, 1st Street, 2nd Street, and 3rd Street.

Since 2009, roadways that have received milling, paving, drainage improvements and curb, sidewalk, and tree replacements as needed include the following: Center Street, Arnot Place, Jocelyn Avenue, Helm Avenue, Laurel Drive, Burnet Place, Palmer Terrace, 9th Street, 10th Street, 14th Street, and sections of 7th Street, Wood-Ridge, Main, North and Highland Avenues.

WOOD-RIDGE ROAD PROGRAM

2011 PLANNED PAVINGS

Union Avenue * Andersen Avenue
 Jefferson Street * Wood-Ridge Street
 Madison Street * Hill Street
 Main Avenue from Hackensack Street to 6th Street
 1st Street * 2nd Street
 3rd Street

WOOD-RIDGE ROAD PROGRAM

2009-2010 COMPLETED PAVINGS

Center Street * Arnot Place
 Jocelyn Avenue * Helm Avenue
 Laurel Drive * Burnet Place
 Palmer Terrace * 7th Street (sections)
 9th Street * 10th Street
 14th Street * Wood-Ridge Avenue
 Main Avenue (sections) * North Avenue (sections)
 Highland Avenue (sections) * Valley Boulevard

New WRFD Calendar to Include Recycling Info

The Wood-Ridge Fire Department has helped the Borough save more than \$10,000 in postage and printing costs this year by offering to incorporate important recycling information in their annual calendar.

In order to keep the calendars separate from the regular mail and to save the postage, members of the volunteer FD will be distributing the calendars in plastic bags looped through residents' door-knobs, said Councilman and Fire Department Liaison Thomas Gonnella.

So please keep an eye out and continue to support the life-saving efforts of the Wood-Ridge firefighters!

Signs of the Times: Improvements Underway throughout the Borough

Residents may have noticed a number of parks and public facilities around town highlighting improvements underway. At Veteran's Park, renovated basketball courts and bocce courts are being installed.

An electronic billboard will be installed to inform residents walking or driving by on Valley Boulevard about upcoming public events in the Borough, and the tot park will get new swing sets. The entire park space will be given landscaping treatment with new perennials, shrubs and shade trees.

"The Veteran's Park site has been an important center of Wood-Ridge recreational activities and community events for a long time," said Council President Ezio Altamura. "We're looking forward to using Bergen County Open Space Grants to give it a refresh for our community."

At the Senior Center, work will begin over the winter to replace the current manual doors with automatic ones. The adjacent Civic Center will receive new windows, an updated paint job for all rooms, exterior siding, handicapped bathrooms and an elevator. Both buildings will be revamped without any interruption of services.

At the Library, a request for proposals has been submitted for design on a new pitched roof for the Children's Room that will fix chronic leaks dating back to its initial construction. Also, the Borough has applied for a Historic Preservation Grant to fund future improvements to the Library.



WHAT'S GOING ON



The Annual Wood-Ridge Ragamuffin Parade will be held on Halloween, October 31. The Borough's young residents and children of all ages are welcomed to show off their scariest costumes on the march, which will begin 1 p.m. at the corner of Valley Boulevard and Sussex Road. Tickets are required for treat bags, and will be distributed at the following times and locations: Wednesday, October 20 from 7-8 p.m. @ the Civic Center and Saturday, October 23 from 2-3 p.m. @ the Civic Center. All students grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade are eligible for a treat bag.



The Wood-Ridge Fire Department will be hosting a Traditional Ham & Egg Breakfast at the Fire Headquarters at 85 Humboldt Street on Sunday, October 24 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person.

Also this fall..

Holiday Tree Lighting

November 26 @ Veteran's Park;

The Mayor's Senior

Pasta Dinner

December 3 @ The Senior Center. Updates at

www.njwoodridge.org.