

All Roads Lead to Improvement



Curb and sidewalk replacement on 13th Street in July; New sidewalks outside of Ostrovsky School in August.

Just in time for the first school bell at Ostrovsky and Wood-Ridge High Schools, Windsor Road from Hackensack Street to Wood-Ridge Street received new sidewalks and was repaved this summer. Additionally, all streets surrounding Ostrovsky School, Wood-Ridge High School, and Doyle School received new schoolchildren and pedestrian crossing signage under the direction of the Wood-Ridge Police Department.

“We are glad to have been able to undertake this important project at a time when it has the least adverse impact on traffic, and students and faculty using the school buildings,” said Councilwoman and Police Liaison Catherine Cassidy. “Everyone returning in September will have a cleaner, safer trip to school.”

Meanwhile, road upgrades continued on the west side of Wood-

Ridge as 13th Street, 12th Street from Wood-Ridge to Main Avenue, North Avenue from 14th to 11th Streets, Main Avenue from 12th to 11th Streets, and Wood-Ridge Avenue from 14th to 12th Streets received concrete work and repaving.

At the August meeting of the Mayor and Council, plans were discussed for repavings of selected roads in the central and eastern portions of town in 2010-2011. Engineering work for these projects is now underway.

“This continues to be a smart time to invest in our infrastructure, with record low bid prices and low interest rates for capital improvements,” said Mayor Paul Sarlo. “Our governing body’s investment in the Borough has time and again encouraged individual investments by homeowners, which raises the values of homes for everyone living in this community.”



On behalf of the Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Committee and the Mayor and Council, I would like to thank all the volunteers who came out on Sunday, June 6th for our eleventh annual Clean-Up day. Hackensack Street, Valley Boulevard and the ramps on Moonachie Avenue were cleaned while flowers were freshly planted at the Library, Civic Center, Senior Center and Veterans Park on Valley Boulevard. It was gratifying to see the collaborative efforts of many organizations in town including the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus Adopt-A-Highway Crew, WRHS students, Police Department Auxiliary, Fire / EMS Department, DPW, and individual families, all working together with enthusiasm and cooperation for the betterment of Wood-Ridge. Wood-Ridge is a special place to live and it was certainly evident that friends and neighbors take pride in our community.

- Ezio Altamura, Council President

Borough of Wood-Ridge
85 Humboldt Street
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

Bulk Rate

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WOOD-RIDGE, NJ 07075



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the Summer 2010 edition of the Wood-Ridge newsletter. Within these pages, you will find information about events and improvements throughout our community.

As I stated in the previous newsletter, the Borough is dedicated to maintaining services efficiently as we grapple with the state’s over \$1 million cut to our school and municipal aid. We have successfully reduced the 2010 municipal budget by \$500,000 by downsizing the borough’s workforce by 7 employees, including 3 police, 3 DPW and 1 administrative staff member.

We have also reduced employee benefits, selected a lower cost employee health plan, and entered into shared services agreements with the Board of Education and Bergen County. But despite these carefully thought-out strategies to save taxpayers money, the State of New Jersey has still dealt us a crippling blow by cutting state aid.

Had the aid not been cut, but kept the same as it was in 2009, the tax increase for residents would have been less than 1%. With the cut, it is 4.6%.

A report from Councilman Dominick Azzolini, Chairman of the Finance Committee, details the reduction on page 3.

The Borough Council and I continue to ensure that Wood-Ridge perseveres as a clean, safe, and warm community with quality services for its residents to appreciate and enjoy.

GREEN TEAM

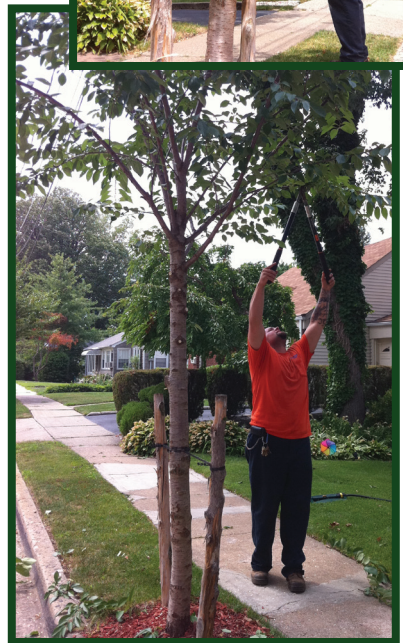
Borough Workers Keep Wood-Ridge’s Trees Growing Strong

Members of the Borough Department of Public Works were hard at work during the summer heat elevating trees throughout Wood-Ridge.

“The comprehensive process involves going from tree to tree on a given street with pruning shears, poll saws, and other tools and removing the lower branches,” explained Councilman and DPW Liaison Ezio Altamura. “This is critical to ensure the success of curb-to-curb street sweeping, leaf collecting, and snow plowing throughout the year.”

The workers carefully clipped back lower branches, protecting cars from scratches and providing a clear view of the street to residents. The branches were then ground for reuse as mulch.

The town-wide initiative reflects just one of the reasons that Wood-Ridge has proudly remained a “Tree City USA” for the past 21 years. In order to qualify, a town must have plans in place for tree maintenance and be actively committed to replacing dead or diseased trees with healthy new saplings. Over 100 new trees were planted throughout the Borough last year and 75 more will be planted this fall.



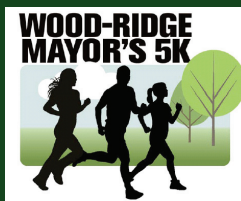
Residents, Civic and Volunteer Groups Lend Hand Keeping Wood-Ridge Beautiful
More on Page 4.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Mayor Paul Sarlo and the Wood-Ridge Borough Council will host a **9/11 Memorial Service** at Veterans Park on Valley Boulevard at noon September 11. Services will honor the fallen victims of the attack on America nine years ago, while also recognizing the solidarity of Wood-Ridge residents through the attacks and other difficult times. Working with Memorial Committee Chairman and Councilman Thomas Gonnella, Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585 has arranged for the Community Blood Bank to be outside the park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Any residents interested in donating blood are encouraged to stop by the blood mobile.

9/11 MEMORIAL

The first-ever Wood-Ridge Mayor's 5K run is on track for Sunday, October 10, with residents currently signing up at www.njwoodridge.org/5krace. The race will begin at 10 a.m. at Wood-Ridge High School. Features of the event, which is being chaired by Councilman Ed Marino, will include a "Kids Fun Run" at the Track of Donna Ricker Memorial Field, water-stops and music along the route, food and refreshments. Certificates will be awarded to the top 3 men and women who participate, as well as the top 3 teams. Please log on to the Borough website for more information or call (551) 486-6805 with questions.



The Wood-Ridge Emergency Medical Squad will continue to conduct life-saving courses for residents and neighbors from surrounding towns at the firehouse this fall, part of its ongoing mission of providing public education. According to Councilman and Fire Commissioner Thomas Gonnella, a 4-hour Heart Savers course certified its students in CPR, First Aid, and proper use of the Automated External Defibrillator this past July. Additional courses are currently being planned and residents should keep an eye on the town Bulletin Board or contact the WREMS at (201) 939-0476 for updates.

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE



WR Rec: A Cool Way to Spend the Summer of 2010

The Wood Ridge Summer Recreation Program was held for five fun-filled weeks June 28th through July 30th, with 380 boys and girls participating at the Civic Center and Wood-Ridge High School locations. The program also employed thirty-one part-time seasonal counselors, mostly college students, and a group of high school students who volunteered 1,000 hours of their time.

Highlights of the program included movie trips to see "Toy Story III", "Despicable Me" and "Ramona and Beezus." In an effort to save a little money and keep the campers close to home, Wacky Water Slide Wednesdays and Splash Days were held this year instead of bus trips to the lake. The events turned the Donna Ricker Memorial Football Field and Civic Center backyard into temporary water parks.

Also featured daily were arts-n-crafts, games and tournaments. The two locations each had a Field Day, where boys and girls competed in events and the day was topped off by Counselor Competitions including the Annual Tug-of-War.

Other specialty days included Crazy Hair Day, Proud to Be an American Day, Crazy Hat Day, Do You Wanna Be a Rock Star Day, Crazy Sock Day and Fanatic Fan Day.



The boys and girls won certificates and prizes for the best participation.

New to the Civic Center Program this year was Mystery Monday, in which the boys and girls picked a new counselor to surprise them for the day, and Fun With Food Friday, in which the participants learned about nutrition and made their own snacks to take home.

The Summer Recreation Program is funded largely from registrations fees, which reduce the cost to about \$5 per camper per day, making the program a lucrative value for an entire day's fun.

PATRIOTIC PRIDE



Pictured at the Veterans Park Monument conducting Memorial Day ceremonies are retired Councilman Ed Pfeifer, Council President Ezio Altamura, Councilman Thomas Gonnella, Mayor Paul Sarlo, Councilwoman Cathy Cassidy, Councilman Dominick Azzolini and Councilman Ed Marino. Local veterans took to the streets during the annual Parade.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Audit Gives Municipal Budget Stellar Review

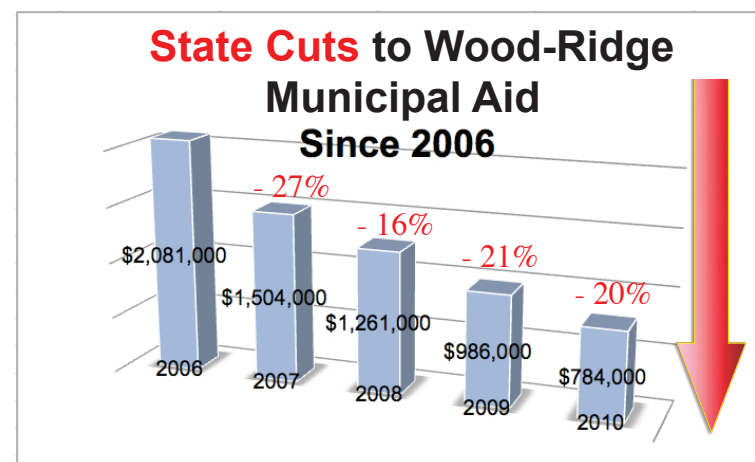
The Finance Committee, comprised of Councilmen Dominick Azzolini, Ed Marino, and Thomas Gonnella, is pleased to report that the Borough Auditor has completed the municipal audit and passed Wood-Ridge with flying colors, with only a few minor issues needing to be addressed.

In 2009, the Borough ended the year in the black with no over-expenditures, resulting in a small surplus. For the second year in a row, Wood-Ridge has had positive cash flow and did not use any short term borrowing to meet expenses. The Borough also paid off nearly \$900,000 in municipal debt.

Aid Cuts by the State to Blame for 4.6% Tax Increase

At the August meeting of the Mayor and Council, the governing body adopted the 2010 municipal budget. This year's budget is \$12,784,000 versus \$12,500,000 last year. This small increase of \$284,000 is only 2.3% more than 2009, which puts the 2010 municipal budget below both the tax levy cap and the appropriations cap mandated by the state.

"We were able to keep this year's budget increase to only 2.3% by cutting over \$500,000 from last year's budget," said Finance Chairman Dominick Azzolini. "These cuts included 7 employee reductions comprised of 3 police, 3 DPW and 1 administration. This is on top of previous reductions of 4



administrative employees, which has saved over \$100,000 per year."

Despite cutting \$500,000 from the municipal budget, the 2010 budget calls for a 4.6% tax increase for municipal, school, and county purposes. This equates to an increase of about \$28 per month on the average home.

The major reason for this tax increase is that the State of

New Jersey cut Wood-Ridge's school and municipal aid by over \$1 million dollars this year, and has reduced aid steadily each year since 2006 (a graph above illustrates the municipal aid reductions). Had the state kept Wood-Ridge's aid the same as last year, the tax increase would have been only 1/2%, or \$3 per month on the average home.

Youth Athletics Summer 2010



Recreation Track & Field

The Wood-Ridge 2010 Recreational Grades 5-8 Track & Field program recently came to a close with young athletes excelling in the Boys and Girls Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin, Shot Put, 1500 Meter Run, 800 and 1500 Meter Race-Walk and 100 Meter Hurdles. Members also competed beyond the season, earning top positions in regional meets throughout New Jersey. The Wood-Ridge team consisted of 73 athletes, ages 10-15, who competed on Sundays against 400 other athletes at locations throughout Bergen County. The coaches extend their congratulations to all athletes for another outstanding season!

Recreation Girls Softball

The Wood Ridge Girl's Softball program had another successful season, with Wood-Ridge well-represented in all three divisions of the South Bergen Girls Softball League. Wood-Ridge had four tee-ball teams and two transition teams traveling to different towns to play their games. Of the teams, Marese Heating and Cooling in the Junior Division stood out most of all, taking the Division Championship. Wood Ridge also provided four teams to the U-Gals Summer League. The U-12 team made it all the way to the championship, but lost a tough matchup to a worthy competitor from Rutherford.

Little League Baseball

The 12-year-old team finished their 2010 Season 3rd in the Districts, while the 11-year-olds owned 1st Place. The 10-year-old team went 4-2 in pool play and had the best ratio of runs, and the 9-year-olds played in two tournaments. The 8-year-old team came in 2nd place in their tournament.

Babe Ruth Baseball

The 16-18-year-old players won the Bergen County League Championship, while 14-15-year-olds made it to the Semi-finals of Districts and 13-year-olds held down a respectable 2-2 record in pool play.