

MANY HANDS WILL KEEP WR BEAUTIFUL

Councilman Ezio Altamura and the Keep-Wood Ridge Beautiful Committee have announced the annual Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day for Sunday, **JUNE 5**.

As a new feature this year, a mobile paper shredder will be available to residents from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Volunteers will gather at 1 p.m. at the center and pick up litter along Hackensack Street, Valley Boulevard, and the on and off ramps near Moonachie Avenue. Groups will also plant new annual flowers at the parks.

Last year's groups included the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus St. Anthony Council, Wood-Ridge High School students, the Police Department Auxiliary, Volunteer Firefighters, EMS personnel, and families from throughout town. Through the public-private efforts of the Borough and its residents, Wood-Ridge has remained one of the cleanest towns in the area, and a National Arbor Day Foundation "Tree City" for more than 20 years. To find out more information, log on to www.njwoodridge.org.

MARCHING ONWARD TO HONOR VETERANS

Wood-Ridge's Annual Memorial Day Parade will alter its route this **MAY 30** in order to culminate with a rededication of Veterans Park.

"Improvements including new recreational facilities, walkways and plantings at this centrally located park serve as a reminder of the freedoms we enjoy," said Councilman Thomas Gonnella. "These would not be possible without the sacrifices of our veterans, and we look forward to honoring them once again as a community this year."

Units from the American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, Fire and Police Departments, and other local groups will gather at the Senior Center parking lot at 10 a.m. for services. At 11:30, the parade will march north on Hackensack Street, making a left onto Innes Road. The parade will make a final left turn onto Valley Boulevard and stop at Veterans Park for the rededication.

All Borough residents and families are encouraged to attend.

SPRINGING TO LIFE

New sod was rooting and shrubs and trees had buds by the end of March at Bianchi House Park. This spring will be the first season where the park, which also features benches and walking paths wrapping around a 130-year old historical site, will be open to residents. Councilwoman Cathy Cassidy, the Mayor and Council, and the Wood-Ridge Historical Society encourage residents to enjoy the tranquility of Bianchi House Park, which was paid for with an Open Space Grant from Bergen County.



CASSIDY & DIMARCO SWORN IN



Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy and Councilman Joseph DiMarco were sworn in for three-year terms at the Borough Reorganization Meeting on New Year's Day. Councilwoman Cassidy will continue to serve as liaison to the Police Department and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Committee. Councilman DiMarco will serve as liaison to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

5K Race Date Set

Councilman Ed Marino and the Mayor's 5K Run Committee have announced that due to the success of last year's inaugural event, the race will return on Sunday **OCTOBER 9**. The 2010 race drew more than 400 runners, including recruits from the Bergen County Police and Fire Academies, U.S. Marines, and Wood-Ridge residents of all levels of conditioning and skill.

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NEWSLETTER

2011 EDITION #1

WESMONT STATION CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Wood-Ridge officials and residents gathered on March 23 for the groundbreaking of Wesmont Station, a mixed-use redevelopment of the former Curtiss-Wright industrial site on the west side of town.

The Wesmont Station redevelopment, which will include apartments, retail, townhomes, single family homes, walking paths and public spaces, earned Wood-Ridge a spot on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* as a community "on the right track."

"Having been born and raised in this community, I remember this site as an eyesore for a long time, and an economic drain. Frankly, I was embarrassed for Wood-Ridge. But today I am pleased to put a shovel in the ground and mark a new beginning," said Mayor Paul Sarlo. "I look forward to welcoming to Wood-Ridge this new community, and its residents as friends and neighbors."

Previously, the Wesmont Station property was being restored from the legacy of a foregone era of Curtiss-Wright airplane construction. Several years of environmental site remediation were required to clean and prepare the 70-acre property for residential use.

The redeveloper funded and completed



Somerset Development President Ralph Zucker, Wood-Ridge Councilman Ezio Altamura, Councilman Dominick Azzolini, Mayor Paul Sarlo, Councilman Thomas Gonnella, Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy and Avalon Bay Communities Vice President Ron Ladell at the Groundbreaking.

remediation, graded the site, and installed sewers lines, water lines, and other utilities.

Immediately following the groundbreaking, construction began on the first two luxury apartment buildings, which will be developed by nationally-recognized Avalon Bay Communities. The Borough Council is currently negotiating with lead redeveloper Somerset Development and Pulte Homes for the remainder of construction.

The initial two apartment buildings, and a new train station, are set to open in 2012. New Jersey Transit will build the station and the redeveloper will fund construction. The new station will be three stops from Penn Station and eleven miles from midtown Manhattan. Wood-Ridge New Jersey will become one of the few municipalities in New Jersey to have train stations on two different lines, one on each side of town.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*. Inside the pages of this newsletter, you will find information on continued enhancements to the infrastructure of our community, including the installation of a new electronic billboard, comprehensive road repavings and sidewalk replacements, and new features at our public parks for all residents to enjoy.

Perhaps the most sweeping advancement in our Borough comes with the announcement that Wesmont Station construction has begun. This mixed-use project will turn the former Curtiss-Wright airplane factory, a blighted industrial site on the western edge of town, into an economic boom for Wood-Ridge with high-end rental units, single family homes, retail stores and a new New Jersey Transit Train Station.

As we begin to 'thaw out' from a tough winter and look forward to community events such as Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day and the Memorial Day Parade in the months ahead, I want to take a moment to personally thank our Department of Public Works, Fire Department, OEM Coordinator and Borough Administrator for all of their efforts during the barrage of snowstorms that hit our community hard this year. Because of their dedication, Wood-Ridge remained clean, safe, and passable for merchants, schoolchildren and residents. We are fortunate to have such professionals working for us when the weather turns inclement, and all throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

WRDPW TAKES WINTER BY STORM



(Above) Doyle School remained clean and safe for passage, thanks to an ongoing shared services agreement between the Borough and the Board of Education; (Right) A new snowplow rolls out with the WRDPW fleet.

The Borough Department of Public Works successfully kept Wood-Ridge from getting snowed under during one of the longest winters in recent history through hardwork and teamwork.

While DPW staff manned the Borough's fleet of snow removal vehicles, volunteer firefighters dug out bus stops and hydrants during storms that dumped nearly 70 inches on Wood-Ridge, according to the NJ State Climatologist's Office.

Honoring a shared services agreement with the Board of Education, Wood-Ridge's snow removal force plowed and shoveled parking lots and sidewalks of Doyle and Ostrovsky Schools, and Wood-Ridge High School, as well as businesses on Hackensack Street and Valley Boulevard.

"Ensuring that our children don't lose too many school days and that merchants can continue to operate is always a top priority in Wood-Ridge," said Councilman Ezio Altamura, Liaison to the DPW. "Wood-Ridge was one of the few area towns not only to address this issue, but to go even further with removal efforts after the storms, so schools and businesses had ample streetparking. I can think of few municipalities as small as our Borough that undertook as comprehensive an effort."

By far winter's hardest hit came at the beginning of the season, when a post-holiday blizzard dropped nearly 2 feet of snow on Wood-Ridge December 26 and 27. Following the storm, the Borough applied for FEMA reimbursement for approximately \$60,000 in expenses related to the storm. Using a FEMA formula as required by the federal agency, the Borough also documented an additional \$107,000 in operating and manpower costs for all DPW trucks, equipment and personnel.

"The full amount of money submitted to FEMA in no way represents our cash or out-of-pocket expenses, but instead it represents, as mandated by FEMA, an assessment of what the storm would have cost the Borough of Wood-Ridge if we had to rely only on outside contractors," said Council President Dominick Azzolini, who also heads the Finance Committee.

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WORD ON THE STREET

Wood-Ridge's electronic bulletin board on Valley Boulevard is wired into happenings throughout the community. Residents are encouraged to check it periodically for news from the Borough, its nonprofit and civic organizations, and announcements about the accomplishments and honors of Wood-Ridge residents.

Organizations can submit news about upcoming events and fundraisers to the Borough Clerk, either in person at 85 Humboldt Street, or electronically by e-mailing clerk@njwoodridge.org.

The new electronic bulletin board was erected as part of Veterans Park enhancements, which have included all-new basketball courts, new tot park equipment, and the installation of a bocce court. These improvements were made possible through the



securing of an Open Space Grant from Bergen County in 2010, said Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who is also Community Development liaison.

The former Wood-Ridge bulletin board was moved to the Senior Center, allowing for a second central location for Borough information to be shared.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: PRELIMINARY BUDGET HAS WR BELOW STATE CAP

Councilmen Dominick Azzolini, Ed Marino and Joseph DiMarco, who serve on the Borough's Finance Committee, recently provided a preliminary report on the 2011 Municipal Budget.

The working version keeps the budget below the state-mandated 2% cap. It also reduces discretionary spending and cuts back on employee benefits. A public budget presentation will be scheduled, and related documents will be posted to the Borough website www.njwoodridge.org.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: PAVING PROGRAM TO BEGIN WITH UNION AVE.

The Borough of Wood-Ridge will forge ahead with an ambitious road-repaving schedule this spring, with the entirety of Union Avenue first on the agenda.

"The Council has targeted Union Avenue because of drainage concerns for residents during heavy rains and snow melts," said Councilman Ezio Altamura, Liaison to the Department of Public Works. "As with other roads the Borough Council has authorized for repaving, Union will receive new catch basins and sidewalks in addition to new asphalt."

Enhancements to Union Avenue, which stretches for 1.2 miles from Arnot Place to Jefferson Street, will be paid for by a Bergen County grant of \$350,000.

As the engineer currently reviews bids for Union, the Council is preparing to authorize the next round of repavings of east side streets, including Jefferson Street, Andersen Avenue, Wood-Ridge Street, Madison Street and Hill Street.

In the next edition:
 A warm-weather look at Wood-Ridge's Parks

GRANTS HELP WRFD BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF



Members of the Borough Fire Department demonstrate the use of an automatic defibrillator and other equipment at the March 15 Council Meeting.

The Wood-Ridge Fire Department will be purchasing 36 new Scott Pack breathing apparatuses two years ahead of a federal mandate, thanks to a \$179,500 grant from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security.

"We are proud to be ahead of the curve in securing this technology for our Wood-Ridge firefighters, all of whom risk their lives as volunteers," said Councilman Thomas Gonnella, who serves as Liaison to the Fire Department. "These devices will help protect the men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect us."

The grants come from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, and Wood-Ridge was one of only nine of New Jersey's 566 municipalities to receive the funding.

The WRFD has been providing fire and rescue services to the Borough and surrounding communities since 1897. Under the leadership of Chief Paul Clemente, approximately 50 volunteers provide this service. The WRFD is also a member of the South Bergen Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association, which helps to coordinate multi-department responses to large-scale incidents.

CHANGE OF SEASON

Several teenage residents enjoy a game of basketball at the new Veterans Park.

PROUD MOMENTS

Coach Ed Rendizio '87 and the Wood-Ridge Varsity Blue Devils Basketball Team celebrate becoming North 1, Group 1 Sectional Champions after a victory over Cresskill March 8. Wood-Ridge defeated the Cougars 65-51.

Council President Dominick Azzolini proudly watches his son, Joseph, read a report at the Annual Youth Night Council Meeting March 15. Students from Wood-Ridge High School subbed for Borough officials to actively learn about local government.