

SENIOR AND CIVIC CENTER RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

Among the proudest accomplishments in the upgrading of the Wood-Ridge Civic and Senior Center are complete compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, reported Councilman and Building and Grounds Chairman Joseph DiMarco.

According to DiMarco, the building now has an elevator, ADA-accessible bathrooms and automatic entry doors on both floors. The complex has also received an extensive interior overhaul to maximize its value as a space for seniors and recreation

groups who use it for meetings and activities throughout the year.

The building's retrofits include new ceilings and floors, lighting and fresh paint. Passersby will also notice all-weather siding replacing the Civic Center's dated wood panels, as well as new windows.

The renovations were funded by a Community Development Grant. A ribbon-cutting is being planned for the fall. Please check the Borough website, www.njwoodridge.org, for an official announcement.



Senior and Civic Center renovations include new conference spaces and a lounge furnished with media, games, and couches for seniors to enjoy.

WR REC BOASTS A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

The Wood-Ridge Summer Recreation Program was held for five hot weeks June 25th through July 27th, with a record **415** boys and girls participating, 36 part-time seasonal counselors comprised mostly of Wood-Ridge high school and college students, and an incoming group of high school students volunteering 885 total hours of community service.

Highlights of this year's program included trips to the movies, arts-and-crafts, group and solo performances by campers, a room-size Twister Board, and Water Slide Splish-Splash Days at both the Civic Center and Wood-Ridge High School.



CONGRATULATIONS TO WOOD-RIDGE'S CHAMPS!!!



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo.

The Borough congratulates its 10 Year-Old Little League All-Star Baseball players for winning the District 5 Championship. The Wood-Ridge Blue Devils defeated the Hasbrouck Heights Aviators in a final 10-5 home game in early July. The 2012 winners circle includes players: Drew Packen, Liam Winslow, Anthony D'Amico, Matthew Gibney, Philip DeCresce, Eric Drotos, Christian Jones, Dylan Pachon, Nick Aversa, Christopher Hargrave, Ricardo Vera and Drew Tomat. The coaching staff was made up of coaches Bob Packen, Mike Gibney, Tim Winslow and Felix D'Amico.

A RUNAWAY SUCCESS RETURNS THIS OCTOBER



The Third Annual Wood-Ridge Mayor's 5K run is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2012, said Councilman and event chairman Ed Marino. In addition to providing an enjoyable event for residents and visiting competitors, the Mayor's 5K has also raised nearly \$20,000 to date for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Tomorrow's Children Fund. To sign up to run in the 2012 race, visit www.raceforum.com/wood-ridge.

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WOOD-RIDGE

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WESMONT'S 1ST
RESIDENTS MOVE IN
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NEWSLETTER

2012 EDITION #2



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*.

In this edition, we overview a number of improvements to the Borough's facilities and infrastructure which have been undertaken in recent months, and thank our councilmembers for their dedication in leading two special committees that will help steer Wood-Ridge's continued progress.

Councilman Edward Marino will lead the Special Redevelopment Committee on Recreational Facilities, created to coordinate between the Wesmont Station redeveloper, the Recreation Commission and the Borough. Serving with Councilman Marino will be Councilmembers Ezio Altamura and Thomas Gonnella.

Councilman Joseph DiMarco will lead the Special Redevelopment Committee on Educational Facilities, created to coordinate between the Wesmont Station redeveloper, the Board of Education and the Borough. Serving with Councilman DiMarco will be Councilmembers Dominick Azzolini and Catherine Cassidy.

Also in this edition, we report that through the intelligent and professional administration of grant applications, we have been able to

move Wood-Ridge forward in leaps and bounds.

Among these measures have been handicap accessible enhancements to Borough buildings, continued progress on our comprehensive road repaving plan, and construction currently underway to open the renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School by September 2013.

Underpinning these government efforts is a spirit of civic engagement from our residents, who got their hands dirty together for Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day's thirteenth consecutive year. We thank residents of all ages for their assistance 'spring cleaning,' which left a visible impact on our community throughout the summer.

We are excited to see our community now expand, with new residents moving into the first two buildings of the Wesmont Station redevelopment, and two additional buildings scheduled to begin construction by the end of the year. Construction of single-family homes is scheduled to begin in 2013.

As always, we look forward to great things for the Borough and welcome your feedback and involvement.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

WR KEPT BEAUTIFUL, THANKS TO ITS RESIDENTS

More than 100 volunteers pitched in at the 13th Annual Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day this June.

Teams of volunteers removed all traces of litter from the ramps along the Moonachie Avenue and Route 17 intersection, as well as on Hackensack Street and Valley Boulevard. The Borough's young people planted flowers throughout public grounds and parks.

While cleaning and greening activities were in full stride, Bergen County also coordinated a shredding event at the Civic and Senior Center to encourage paper recycling.

Wood-Ridge volunteer groups including the Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Recreation teams, student groups, Police Department Auxiliary and Wood-Ridge Fire/EMS participated in the program. Individual families also took to the streets to bag curbside debris.

"On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I would like to thank all of the volunteers. Once again, the mission of raising environmental awareness and stewardship was



Councilmen Thomas Gonella, Ezio Altamura and Edward Marino leading a hand during the 13th Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day.

embraced by Wood-Ridge residents," said Councilman Ezio Altamura, who chairs the annual event. "Our town is a special place to live, and it was certainly evident in the friends and neighbors who showed their pride in the community by helping today."

Councilman Altamura also acknowledged the contributions of local businesses to the event's success, including ShopRite of Lodi and the Lyndhurst Pastry Shop, which donated food, and Tullo Ice of Hasbrouck Heights, which kept everything cool.

AAA of North Jersey loaned vests to volunteers, and the Bergen County Department of Health provided cleaning utensils.

INVENTORY OF REPAVED BOROUGH ROADWAYS GROWS



As forecasted at the beginning of 2012, Union Avenue, Floral Lane, 11th Street, sections of Main and North Avenues, Jefferson Street, Wood-Ridge Street, Madison Street, Hill Street and Andersen Avenue were repaved this summer.

“Our comprehensive road repaving plan these past several years has created safer conditions for motorists and pedestrians, and a better aesthetic for homes around the Borough,” said Council President Dominick Azzolini, adding, “but our plan runs deeper. With every road we repave, we also investigate the storm and sanitary sewer infrastructure, making sure the systems work properly, which reduces the chance of flooding and backups.”

Azzolini, who is also Chairman of the Borough Finance Committee, went on to discuss the details of the project. “Due to increased competition in this weak economy, we’ve seen record low prices from contractors bidding on this project. As a result, this project cost approximately 30% less than our engineer estimated,” Azzolini explained.

The Borough engineer is currently designing plans for the 2013 improvements, which will include 1st Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street and Main Avenue from 4th Street to Hackensack Street, as well as streets east of Route 17 including Berger Street, Oak Street, Union Street and Andersen Avenue.

BUSY OCTOBER WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTED BY NIGHTS UNDER THE LIGHTS SPORTS SHOWDOWNS



This October 18-20, Wood-Ridge teams will host a series of home games at Donna Ricker Memorial Field which will include a total of three “Nights under the Lights.” Come out and support the Blue Devils as they take on their rivals:

Evening of **THURSDAY, OCT. 18TH** - Recreation Soccer under the lights

Evening of **FRIDAY, OCT. 19TH** - WR High School Football under the lights

Morning of **SATURDAY, OCT. 20TH** - Recreation Soccer

Evening of **SATURDAY, OCT. 20TH** - Jr. Football & Cheering under the lights

BACK TO SCHOOL WOOD-RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY FOR 2013 GRAND OPENING

As students return to the halls of Catherine E. Doyle School and Wood-Ridge High School this September, construction is underway on the former Assumption School complex which will provide an additional, completely-renovated building for 4th, 5th and 6th graders.

The Borough Council closed on the former Assumption School site in July, purchasing the building and property for \$2.8 million from Assumption Parish.

The Council has awarded a \$4 million contract to the lowest bidder to begin a major overhaul that will transform the site into Wood-Ridge Intermediate School.

Upgrades include the school’s first-ever elevator, a heating and air conditioning system, window replacements, improvements to the gym, new ceilings and new floors.

“We are happy to report that all contractual documents with the Parish have been finalized, and that this project to expand Wood-Ridge’s school resources is progressing,” said Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who also chairs the Council’s Special Redevelopment Committee on Educational Facilities. “While modernizing the building for its new students, we are also preserving



a centrally-located school building that has had a long history of providing education in this community.”

DiMarco noted that the project was financed jointly with Somerset Development through a 15-year bond. The redeveloper, which recently turned a decaying factory site on the western slope of Wood-Ridge into the mixed-use Wesmont Station community expansion, will pay the first 11 years of the bond. The Borough will pay the remaining four years.

Wood-Ridge Intermediate School will open its doors in September 2013, for the start of the 2013-2014 academic year. Volunteer and civic groups will continue to have access to the facility after-hours and on weekends.

WESMONT STATION WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS TO WOOD-RIDGE



An iconic ‘Rosie the Riveter’ statue harkens back to the manufacturing past of the Wesmont Station redevelopment and welcomes residents to its future.

The first two buildings at Wesmont Station were completed and opened this spring, with 150 units currently occupied at the time of this publication.

“After decades of this once-factory site laying underutilized, we are now moving forward to foster a vision that always defined the Wood-Ridge community – one where residents could enjoy parks, services, and the company of their neighbors, while quickly and easily commuting to Manhattan to earn their livings,” said Councilman Edward Marino.

The website of property manager Avalon Bay Communities offers a glimpse into studio, one, two and three bedroom options housed within the two, soon to be four, mid-rise buildings of Wesmont.

An unveiling of a bronze “Rosie the Riveter” statue accompanied the opening of the first residential structures at Wesmont. Standing tall with riveting gun, bandana, lunch pail and Coca Cola bottle, the statue has been called an iconic tribute to the contributions of working women at the former Curtiss Wright aviation factory, which produced airplane engines for Allied Forces during World War II.

New Jersey Transit is currently soliciting bids from contractors to build a new train station at Wesmont Station. Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of this year. It will connect Wood-Ridge to New York City via the Bergen Line. Once operational, Wood-Ridge residents will benefit from two stations, with an existing station currently along the Pascack Valley Line, on the east side of town.

For the next phase of Wesmont, the Borough is completing negotiations with Pulte Homes for the construction of detached houses and townhomes. The first 40 units are scheduled for construction in the Spring of 2013.

The Borough is also in the early stages of planning an athletic complex for Wesmont, said Marino, who also chairs the Special Redevelopment Committee on Recreational Facilities. The complex would include a combined football and soccer field, fields for baseball, softball, and Little League, and a Recreation center featuring locker rooms, a gymnasium for basketball, and large activity rooms for cheerleading and wrestling. Fields would feature sports lighting for night games.

FIRE TRUCK RIDES TO MAKE SAFETY LESSONS FUN & MEMORABLE



Following the success of the idea of Councilman Ezio Altamura, Fire Commissioner and Councilman Thomas Gonnella, and Chief Paul Clemente last year, the Borough welcomes its young residents and their parents to the Humboldt Street Firehouse once again on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14** from 1-4 p.m. for lessons in fire safety and a ride in style in one of the Volunteer Fire Department’s trucks.

The fire engine rides, along with an instructive video and apple cider, are being offered for the second year as part of National Fire Prevention Month.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS SECURED FOR HISTORIC BIANCHI HOUSE

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has secured a grant to continue improvements to the Arnault-Bianchi House, reported Councilwoman and Historical Society Liaison Catherine Cassidy. The Bianchi House will receive new siding on its exterior, and upgrades to the electrical wiring within.

In 2010, structural improvements were made and the surrounding property received a comprehensive restoration including trees, shrubs, benches and walkways, opening the entire grounds up for public enjoyment.

Councilwoman Cassidy also reported that the Wood-Ridge Historical Society, which holds meetings and events at the Bianchi House the second Wednesday of every month, recently received a donation of an antique pot bellied stove from a local merchant. The organization will also partner with Haunted Hill House for a scary performance and walk-thru this **OCTOBER 26, 27 & 28**. For event details, visit www.iwontbeafraid.com.

CALENDAR OF FALL EVENTS

The Borough will hold a 9/11 Memorial Service on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9** at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park on the Boulevard.

The Board of Health will hold its annual Blood Screening on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**.

A special ceremony commemorating the transfer of Assumption School will take place at the former Assumption School / future Wood-Ridge Intermediate School site on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**.

For the latest updates and more Borough events, visit www.njwoodridge.org.