

BACK TO SCHOOL AT ALL NEW WRIS



Wood-Ridge's students entered the classrooms of the completely-renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School the morning of September 3rd with a special first day that included a ribbon cutting ceremony, walk-thru, and multimedia presentation chronicling the building's two-year renovation.

Councilman Dominick Azzolini, who serves as liaison to the Wood-Ridge Board of Education, reported that the new WRIS features 12 classrooms, two small group instruction rooms, a media center, art room, cafeteria and gym. Renovations include new windows, ceilings, colorfully-tiled floors, cabinetry, air conditioning, a central elevator, state-of-the-art technological improvements and new security systems.

Wood-Ridge Intermediate School's Gymnasium was dedicated to beloved teacher and coach John H. Bischoff on Back-to-School night September 26th as parents, students, faculty and residents

joined Mr. Bischoff's wife Jackie and his daughters, Nikki and Kelly, to honor the late educator's memory.

John Bischoff was a graduate of the Wood-Ridge High School Class of 1981 who left private sector employment to pursue his passion for teaching and taught History, Economics and Current Issues at Wood-Ridge High School for 12 years. He also coached varsity football and baseball.

A plaque in the new school's Gymnasium was unveiled by Mayor Paul Sarlo and Mr. Bischoff's family. The Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution formally dedicating the John H. Bischoff Memorial Gymnasium before the dedication ceremony.

"Mr. Bischoff was a skilled and inspirational teacher who earned the respect and admiration of his community, his fellow teachers, the students he taught, and the student-athletes he coached with tireless dedication," said Councilman Azzolini.

The Borough recently announced its annual **KEEP WOOD-RIDGE BEAUTIFUL DAY** will be held on June 1, 2014. Wood-Ridge will provide everything neighbors need to pitch in and lend a hand, including gloves, brooms, garbage bags, and a free t-shirt and lunch, said Councilman Ezio Altamura, KWRB Chairman. Individuals and groups will gather at the Civic Center and take to the streets from 1-4 p.m. The Civic Center will have a large-capacity paper shredder available to residents earlier in the day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the meantime, Wood-Ridge residents are encouraged to lend a hand to the DPW as winter winds down by picking up any loose debris or litter they see on the streets. Anyone seeking more information on Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day should contact Councilman Altamura at (201) 531-0259.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

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

Eight months ago we unveiled the completely renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School, a first-of-its kind collaboration between the Borough, the Wood-Ridge Board of Education, and Wesmont Station redeveloper Somsert Development.

With the opening of WRIS' doors, 4th, 5th and 6th graders and their teachers gained access to a state-of-the-art educational facility. But WRIS was just the beginning.

Immediately after the school opened, I went to work with state officials to ensure that the other schools in our community - Wood-Ridge High School, Ostrovsky School and Doyle School - would not be left behind.

I am happy to report to you success in this effort, with nearly \$5 million dollars in grants now available to upgrade those school facilities with new roofs, windows, air conditioning and heating systems, and modern security systems.

Upgrading these school facilities is critically important because it keeps Wood-Ridge moving steadily ahead on the road to progress. With every milestone, whether it be upgraded schools, a new train station underway at Wesmont Station, expansion of the redevelopment to Phase II townhomes, continued repaving of our roads, or something as simple as street signage, improvements to the Borough's infrastructure increase the value of everyone's homes.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

WRHS, DOYLE, OSTROVSKY NEXT ON LIST FOR UPGRADES

Mayor Paul Sarlo recently announced that he has successfully worked with state officials, the Department of Education and Schools Development Authority to secure \$4.8 million in New Jersey Regular Operating District (ROD) grants for upgrades to the Borough's three original school buildings.

"By collaborating with the State, the Board of Education and the Wesmont Station redeveloper, we have been able to develop a plan to raise funds for badly-needed upgrades at our schools and to begin work in 2014," said Mayor Sarlo. "Having opened the renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School last September, we immediately turned our attention to ensuring that all of the Borough's facilities match the caliber of WRIS."

The first phase of the improvements includes replacing the roof at Wood-Ridge High School and installing new windows at the High School, Greta R. Ostrovsky Middle School and Catherine E. Doyle Elementary School.

Phase two includes the installation of air conditioning and upgraded heating systems at all three schools and the WRHS Gym, new state-of-the-art science labs in WRHS, partial roof replacements at Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools, and enhanced security systems at all three buildings.

"I think we can all agree that our students would learn better if they weren't sweltering in 85-degree June heat, or being distracted by leaking roofs," said Sarlo.

Mayor Sarlo noted that improvements to the facilities have many beneficiaries - not just the students, but also, taxpayers.



Wood-Ridge High School will be upgraded with new roofing, heating, air conditioning, windows, science labs and security systems.

"The improvement of our school facilities marks another chapter in moving the Borough of Wood-Ridge forward and keeping it on the road to progress. By continuing to invest in our public infrastructure and facilities, we are ensuring that our home values will increase and that our residents will continue to receive outstanding services," said Mayor Sarlo.

The state grants constitute between 30-40% of the project costs and require the local community to provide matching funds for the remainder. The Mayor reported that matching funding for the first phase of renovations is fully-funded by new revenue from the Wesmont Station redevelopment. Funding for phase two improvements will require a voter referendum, although ultimately, future revenues from Wesmont Station are projected to repay any new school debt related to the project.

In advance of the referendum, Mayor Sarlo will unveil a public information program that includes meetings and workshops open to all residents.

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'ALL ABOARD' FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WR'S NEW TRAIN STATION

New Jersey Transit and Wesmont Station redeveloper Somerset Development broke ground on the new Wesmont Station Train Station on March 11. The Station is expected to open by the end of 2015, reported Council President Catherine Cassidy.

"The new station makes Wood-Ridge one of the few suburban municipalities in New Jersey to offer access to two distinct rail lines, the other being the Pascack Valley Line on the eastern side of town," said Cassidy. "We're excited about the growing opportunities for transit-oriented development in our community."

The station is the first NJ Transit train station in history to be developed through a public-private partnership. Somerset Development is serving as construction manager, and NJ Transit will operate the station upon its completion.

The new station will connect to the Bergen County Line and is expected to generate approximately 800 daily trips, providing riders with a 25-minute commute inbound to Manhattan. The station will include an island and overpass and will be equipped with automated ticket vending, 24/7 security monitoring, and full handicap accessibility. Additionally, 215 parking spaces will be included on the site for commuter convenience.

TOWNHOME CONSTRUCTION MARKS PHASE II OF WESMONT



Milk & Honey market also recently celebrated its grand opening at Wesmont Station.

Redevelopment of the Wesmont Station site is on schedule with the construction of luxury townhomes by national home builder Pulte Homes. Once completed, the 217 townhomes will make up the "Liberty Square" portion of the 70-acre redevelopment site, joining the first phase of luxury apartments being rented at the site by Avalon Bay Communities.

Homes at Liberty Square will come in several sizes, ranging from 1,200 to over 2,000 square feet. Smaller homes will feature two bedrooms, one-and-a-half bathrooms, a one-car garage and storage space. Medium-size homes will be available with two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a one-car garage and a den. The largest of the homes will feature three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, walk-in closets, two-car garages and dens. All homes are being built with living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens.

In other Wesmont Station news, Milk & Honey, a market and café dedicated to "local sourcing with artisanal products alongside essential groceries" opened in Rosie Square over the winter. Councilman Joseph DiMarco, liaison to the Local Merchants Relations Committee, organized a grand opening with the Mayor and Council to welcome the new business to Wood-Ridge.

"We are proud to welcome this new business to our community and happy to see it open at Wesmont Station, nestled in a mixed-use redevelopment which has brought new housing, retail, and recreation opportunities to the Borough of Wood-Ridge, as well as new tax ratables," said Councilman DiMarco.

The Wood-Ridge Milk & Honey market is currently the largest of the Philadelphia-based business' locations.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES CAN BE SEEN AT WOOD-RIDGE INTERSECTIONS

The Borough of Wood-Ridge continues to replace its street signs with crisp new white-and-black signs that also pay homage to a historical look.

"These new street signs serve a functional purpose of providing uniformity throughout Wood-Ridge, matching the signs on new roads through the Wesmont Station redevelopment and safety standards set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation," said Councilman Philip Romero, who serves as liaison to the Traffic Safety Committee. "In addition to being brighter and easier to see, the signs also harken back to what road signs looked like when Wood-Ridge was first incorporated as a municipality, almost 120 years ago."

New signage can be seen where Wood-Ridge's roads have been, and where they continue to be, upgraded.



neighbors

(ABOVE) **Luck of the Irish:** The Knights of Columbus, Saint Anthony Council #11585 hosted their annual Cornbeef Dinner celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March to a record turnout of area residents, guests and supporters, reported Councilman Philip Romero, who also serves as liaison to the local K of C. Lucky Larry's Luncheonette on Valley Boulevard provided the traditional Irish fare, and the event featured live entertainment. (RIGHT) Mayor and State Senator Paul Sarlo presented a resolution on behalf of the Senate to Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda welcoming him to New Jersey on March 2 at the K of C breakfast at The Fiesta. Archbishop Hebda will serve the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. He is pictured with Mayor Sarlo and Councilman Ezio Altamura.



ROAD TO PROGRESS CONTINUES WITH PARTNERSHIP WITH MOONACHIE

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has secured a state Department of Transportation grant in the amount of \$300,000 to pay for a new round of roadway improvements, reported Councilman Ed Marino, who also serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Borough has announced a joint road repaving program with the neighboring Borough of Moonachie this spring. Streets on the border of the two towns – specifically Andersen Avenue, Berger Street, Oak Street and Union Street - will be repaved. All upgrades on the Wood-Ridge side will include new curbs, sidewalks and drainage. Moonachie Avenue, from its intersection with Hackensack Street to the Route 17 overpass, will be repaved by Bergen County.

The Borough is also continuing its road repaving program with a new round of streets to be enhanced later this year. Wood-Ridge Avenue from Hackensack Street to 12th Street, 12th Street from Wood-Ridge Avenue to Highland Avenue, and Columbia Boulevard from 10th Street to Valley Boulevard will all be upgraded.

WOOD-RIDGE SUCCESSFULLY WEATHERS A TOUGH WINTER

Wood-Ridge Department of Public Works personnel were hard at work in the face of state-wide salt shortage this winter, keeping roads safe and clear by ramping up plowing, reported Councilman Ezio Altamura.

"The Borough DPW has also been quickly filling potholes, which formed from the extreme cold and one of the snowiest winters in history," said Altamura.

Councilman Altamura encouraged residents to visit the Borough website, where they can report potholes in need of repair. Pothole fixes are one of numerous reporting services the Borough makes available through the "Resident Requests & Suggestions" section of Wood-Ridge's website, www.njwoodridge.org.

The form can be accessed by clicking the yellow button in the upper left hand corner of the webpage. Once inside of the form page, categories include, but are not limited to: potholes, parking, leaves and general property maintenance.

"This is an easy and efficient way for residents to contact Wood-Ridge with information our staff can use to address their concerns. We hope residents will continue to take advantage of the growing number of web-based tools we are incorporating into the management of the Borough," said Councilman Altamura, who also Chairs the Public Information and Events Committee.



SAVE THE DATE:

WOOD-RIDGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

MAY 26, 2014

