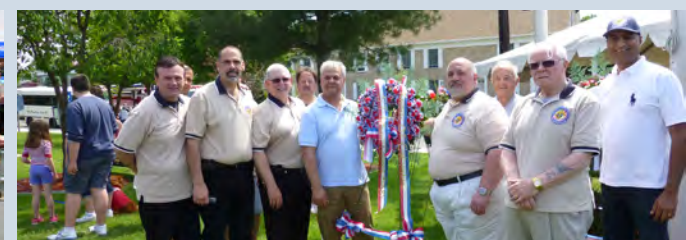


# A DAY OF HONOR, PATRIOTISM, & PRIDE - MEMORIAL DAY 2014



Wood-Ridge residents gathered together at the Veterans Walk of Freedom this Memorial Day to honor the local men and women who have served the country in various theaters of combat, some giving their lives, and others returning to continue to serve their communities. The annual Memorial Day placing of wreaths was followed by a parade, music and refreshments at Veterans Park on Valley Boulevard. Burt Alkin and Al Tomaszewski were the Grand Marshals of the parade. Chet Wasineswki, Yvonne Smith, Stan Dobek, and Ed and Lois Hornig were this year's honorees.

## BOROUGH PARKING LOT COMPLETED

The Borough recently opened a new parking lot across from the Senior Center and Civic Center. The parking lot's entrance is off of Highland Avenue. "Wood-Ridge residents using the Senior and Civic Centers and attending community events are encouraged to take advantage of this new parking lot, which provides 14 additional spaces for off-street parking," said Councilman Joe DiMarco, who serves as Community Development Liaison. The lot was funded through a Community Development Grant awarded by Bergen County.



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

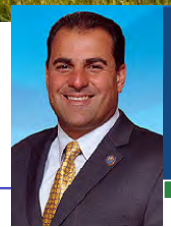
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# WOOD-RIDGE NEWSLETTER

2014 EDITION #2

FIRST RESPONSE  
WOOD-RIDGE FIRE  
POLICE EMS RECEIVE NEW  
COMMUNICATIONS / LIFE  
SAVING EQUIPMENT  
...INSIDE STORY



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Borough Newsletter. This edition details Standard and Poor's recent renewal of Wood-Ridge's "AA" bond rating and continued improvements to our Borough's school buildings, emergency response capabilities and other infrastructure. Thanks to sound financial planning and management, Wood-Ridge has been praised once again by S&P with a "AA" rating. Although our community is relatively small, we run it like a business, and look ahead to future prosperity for residents in the form of increased home values, continued outstanding services, and affordable taxes.

On the west side of Wood-Ridge, Wesmont Station continues to flourish with new Pulte townhomes and the NJ Transit Train Station being constructed. Revenue from the Wesmont redevelopment has helped purchase and fund renovation of Wood-Ridge Intermediate School, where 5th-8th graders just concluded a successful first year, and a badly-needed new roof at Wood-Ridge High School, which should be completed by the fall.

This edition also highlights town events that make Wood-Ridge a special place in which to live. Seeing people come together to pay respect to veterans, to volunteer, or even just to share in some refreshments are a constant reminder of what makes the people who live in Wood-Ridge not just residents, but neighbors. I hope you will join me as we continue together down the road of progress.

Very truly yours,  
*Paul A. Sarlo*  
Paul A. Sarlo  
Mayor

## NEW ROADS, HOMES TAKING SHAPE AT WESMONT STATION

National homebuilder Pulte Homes has broken ground on the roads, utilities, and townhomes which comprise "Liberty Square," the second phase of the Wesmont Station redevelopment, reported Councilman Phil Romero, who chairs the Borough's Land Use Committee. "We look forward to the opening of the next residential phase of this mixed-used neighborhood of homes and a train station coming in 2015," said Councilman Romero, referring to the New Jersey Transit Station and related amenities currently under construction at Wesmont. Pulte Homes is constructing 217 townhomes that will be available in models including the Lancaster, Granville, Davenport and Belwood when completed. The homes will be available

in a range of prices and floorplans, tailored to the lifestyles of their future owners. According to plans, the smallest of the Liberty Square townhomes will be approximately 1,100 square feet and feature two bedrooms, two baths and a one-car garage. Medium-sized townhomes will be either 1,700 or 2,000 square feet with two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, and a one-car garage. The largest-sized townhomes will be 2,100 square feet and offer three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, and two-car garages. A second major homebuilder is in the process of being chosen for the next phase of Wesmont Station's residential development.

## WR SENIOR BUS PROVIDES DOOR-TO-DOOR SHOPPING ACCESS

The Wood-Ridge Senior Bus is a free service for all Wood-Ridge senior citizens and residents living with disabilities. The bus has 24 seats and is equipped with a chair lift. It picks up riders at their front doors and makes weekly trips to Shop-Rite on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and on Thursdays at 9 a.m. Special trips to the Paramus Park Mall, Bergen Town Center, and Hasbrouck Heights Farmers' Market are also scheduled. A complete schedule of planned trips can be picked up at the Wood-Ridge Senior Center or viewed on the Borough of Wood-Ridge's website at [www.njwoodridge.org](http://www.njwoodridge.org).



To schedule a pick up, please call Jacki at the Recreation Office at (201) 939-7507.

# SCHOOL UPGRADES BEGIN

*WRHS Getting New Roof During Summer 2014*



Wood-Ridge High School is receiving a new roof this summer.

Contractors are currently installing a new roof at Wood-Ridge High School, the first in a series of comprehensive upgrades planned for WRHS, Greta R. Ostrovsky Middle School and Catherine E. Doyle School.

"After a successful first year for middle school students at the new Wood-Ridge Intermediate School was underway, the Mayor and Council recognized a dire need for upgrades to the Borough's three original school facilities," said Council President Dominick Azzolini, who also serves as Liaison to the Board of Education. "We turned our efforts towards establishing a plan to finance and implement these upgrades."

The new roof on WRHS marks the first phase of planned upgrades, with all three schools slated to receive new windows in 2015.

The second phase, which requires voters to approve a referendum, 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 at WRHS, partial roof replacements at Ostrovsky and Doyle schools, and enhanced security systems at all three buildings. The referendum is scheduled for September 30. It will be preceded by a public information program to be provided by the Mayor.

"We need voters to approve a referendum so that we can undertake phase 2 of the school improvements. By authorizing debt now, we can begin the improvements immediately. But in reality, the bonds for the project will be repaid from future revenues generated by the Wesmont Station redevelopment," explained Council President Azzolini. "This means that ultimately, there will be no impact on current taxpayers."

Earlier this year, Mayor Sarlo successfully collaborated with state officials, the Department of Education and the Schools Development Authority to secure \$4.8 million in Regular District Operating (ROD) grants to fund the package of upgrades. The grants constitute between 30-40% of the project costs and require the local community to provide matching funds for the remainder. Matching funds for phase 1 of the school improvements have already been fully funded with revenues from the Wesmont Station redevelopment. Matching funds for phase 2 would come from bonds to be approved through the September 30 referendum.

School construction referendum scheduled for September 30, 2014  
*\$4.8 Million in State Grants at Stake*

# S&P PRAISES BOROUGH'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Standard and Poor's has renewed Wood-Ridge's "AA" bond rating after reviewing the financial management practices of the Borough.

"We are proud to receive this rating from S&P, which acknowledges relatively low debt compared to the value of our tax ratables," said Councilman and Finance Chairman Ed Marino. "A healthy budget today ensures the Mayor and Council's long term plan for several more decades of growth with a comparatively moderate tax burden, increasing property values for residents, and continued outstanding services."

S&P's rating comes as high praise for the Borough, which recorded a \$1 million surplus in 2013.

Councilman Marino credited ongoing financial management strategies underway since before the Recession of 2008 for the rating, including renegotiated contracts, staff reductions, low debt, and measures to streamline costs while at the same time continuing to make capital improvements throughout the community.

# BOROUGH PURCHASES 28 NEW DEBRILLATORS; COACHES TO BE TRAINED IN FALL 2014

The Borough recently purchased 28 new defibrillators for its buildings, schools and parks, refreshing old equipment as well as adding additional defibrillators to make sure that all public places now have them.

The devices will be on hand at all Wood-Ridge public buildings, including the Library, Borough Hall, Civic Center, Senior Center, Bianchi House, Little League Fields, Catherine E. Doyle Elementary School, Greta R. Ostrovsky School, Wood-Ridge Intermediate School and Wood-Ridge High School.

At the schools, the defibrillators will be mounted in all-weather cases that will be nearby to athletic fields to provide ready-access to coaches and first responders. The Borough's coaches will receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) this summer, months before a new state law, "Janet's Law," takes effect



that will require that all coaches across New Jersey be trained and all schools to have AEDs reasonably close by.

Additionally, the Borough purchased two "Lucas 2" machines, programmable machines that automatically assist with heart compressions in the event of cardiac arrest, for its ambulances.

# another 'beautiful' day as neighbors pitch in



The 15th Annual Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day was a community-wide success from the ramps alongside Route 17 to the newest streets at Wesmont Station, reported event Chairman and Councilman Ezio Altamura.

"It was gratifying to see the shared efforts of many organizations in town, businesses and individual families, all working together with enthusiasm and cooperation for the betterment of Wood-Ridge," said Altamura. "Wood-Ridge is a special place to live, and it was certainly evident as friends and neighbors took pride in our community."

The event included troops of volunteers who cleaned litter along the Borough's streets and planted fresh flowers at the Library, Senior Center and Civic Center and Veterans Park. A paper-shredding event was also held in front of the Civic Center.

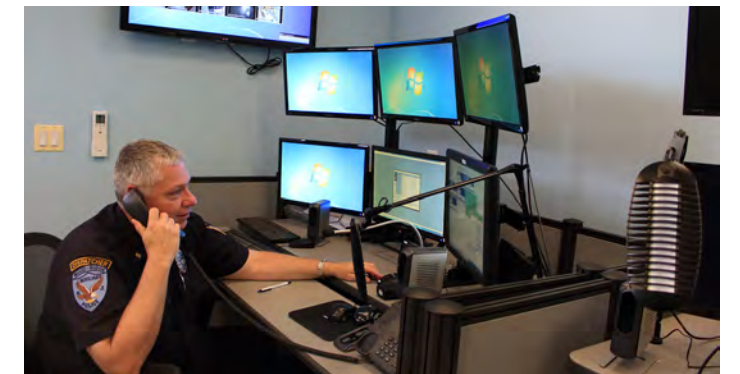
Refreshments were donated by the Lodi Shop-Rite, the Inserra Family, Wood-Ridge Pizza, Lyndhurst Pastry Shop and Tullio's of Hasbrouck Heights. Bergen County supplied the paper shredder in the morning, and cleaning utensils for use throughout the day. More than 100 volunteers received t-shirts with artwork designed by young resident Gabrielle LoPresti, who won the grades 5-8 art contest and a \$50 prize compliments of the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Altamura encouraged residents and business owners to keep the spirit of Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day alive throughout the year, and to be mindful, and helpful, when they spot loose litter.



# POLICE, FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVE UPGRADED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

*Fire Horn to be Reserved for Backup*



A new state-of-the-art communications system is up and running at Wood-Ridge Police Headquarters, said Councilwoman and Police Liaison Catherine Cassidy.

"New coordinated mobile technology, devices in all vehicles and with all personnel, and a centralized hub inside headquarters ensure that our first responders have the latest in communications tools to respond to resident calls and protect lives and property," Cassidy said.

As part of the complete overhaul of the Borough's communications equipment, which was funded with a \$538,000 Firefighters Grant from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, the new system functions using triangulated towers located throughout the Borough of Wood-Ridge.

Thanks to the new system, and after agreement from the Fire Department's Board of Officers, the Borough's fire horn will now be a backup system for use only in emergencies such as a working fire. The horn will continue to require a monthly test to make sure it is functioning properly.

"The Borough's well-known horn will remain online as a backup system only, reducing the noise for residents in the vicinity," said Cassidy. "The new computerized communications system will be the primary system used by first responders going forward."