

# A BRIGHT SUMMER FOR WOOD-RIDGE & MOONACHIE'S BASEBALL STARS



The Wood-Ridge / Moonachie Little League and Babe Ruth Teams had a very successful All-Star Tournament, reported Councilman Phil Romero, who is also President of the Wood-Ridge / Moonachie Little League and Babe Ruth programs. The Babe Ruth 13-15 year-olds won the District 4 Championship. The Little League 9 year-olds won the District 5 Championship and the Little League 12 year-olds won the District 5 Championship and the State Section 2 Championship. Congratulations to all of the young players, their coaches and their families!



## WOOD-RIDGE'S GREEN SPACES RECEIVE ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH GRANT FUNDING

Councilman and Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Joe DiMarco is pleased to announce that the Borough has been awarded grants to enhance its parks and open spaces. The playground at 14th Street Field will receive upgrades including new jungle gyms this year, thanks to an \$80,000 Bergen County Open Space grant.

In 2015, the Borough will utilize a \$150,000 Open Space Grant for the overhaul of dugouts, bleachers and fencing at the Wood-Ridge Little League Field on 6th Street.

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

POSTAL PATRON  
WOOD-RIDGE, NJ 07075

PRSRT STD  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
S. HACKENSACK, NJ  
PERMIT #1714



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Borough Newsletter. In this edition, we highlight the improvements already underway at three schools in the Borough of Wood-Ridge. Over the summer, contractors completed work on a brand-new roof on Wood-Ridge High School, and next they will replace the windows in Wood-Ridge High, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools in early 2015. This important work which benefits the learning environments of Wood-Ridge's students was funded through the collaboration of the Borough Council, the Board of Education and the Westmont Station redevelopment. Up next, we hope to install new heating, air conditioning and security systems in WRHS, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools and new science labs in Wood-Ridge High School, utilizing a \$4.8 million state grant that must be matched by a voter-approved bond scheduled for a referendum September 30. As with continued initiatives to improve Wood-Ridge's roads, drainage, parks and other infrastructure, investments made in Wood-Ridge's school buildings are similar to investments made to grow and improve a small company. The Mayor and Council run the Borough like it is a business, and each investment is made to yield returns to taxpayers in the form of quality public services, increased home values and affordable tax bills. Finally, I hope you will join me this month in celebrating the accomplishments of Little League and Babe Ruth baseball teams, whose players will be honored formally at a council meeting in the weeks ahead.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo  
Mayor

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS REFERENDUM SET FOR SEPT. 30

*\$4.8M STATE GRANT NEEDS VOTERS TO APPROVE MATCHING BOND*

Wood-Ridge will hold a voter referendum on September 30 to approve a bond to keep moving forward with needed upgrades to the Borough's three original school buildings.

"In order to continue to provide quality educational resources to the students of Wood-Ridge, the Council and Board of Education targeted declining infrastructure in the schools and set out a plan to ensure that it would be upgraded," said Mayor Paul Sarlo. "For the next improvements, we have secured a \$4.8 million grant from the state which requires voters to approve a matching bond."

Over the summer, the Borough launched Phase I of the comprehensive package of school upgrades, completely replacing the Wood-Ridge High School roof. Phase I improvements will continue in 2015, with the installation of new windows at WRHS, Greta R. Ostrovsky Middle School and Catherine E. Doyle Elementary School. Phase I improvements have been fully funded through revenue from the Westmont Station redevelopment.

Phase II of the school improvements, to be funded by a \$4.8 million state grant which requires a matching bond approved by voters, includes the installation of modern heating and air conditioning systems at WRHS, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools and the WRHS Gym, as well as enhanced security systems at all three schools linking to the Police Department's digital communications system, partial roof replacements at Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools, and new state-of-the-art science labs in the high school.

"While the improvements will certainly benefit students, who will no longer have to sweat through final exams in the early summer heat or miss an opportunity to do hands-on lab work, they will benefit all residents by improving

the learning environment in our educational facilities," said Council President Dominick Azzolini, who also serves as Liaison to the Board of Education.

In order to fund the package of improvements, Mayor Sarlo collaborated with state officials, the Department of Education and the Schools Development Authority to secure \$4.8 million in Regular Operating District (ROD) grants. The ROD grants constitute between 30-40% of project costs and require the local community to approve a bond for the remainder of the project. Voters are being asked to approve a bond of approximately \$7 million at the September 30 referendum.

Matching funds for Phase II would initially come from the bond to be approved, although ultimately, future tax revenues from Westmont Station are projected to repay any new school debt related to the project.

The referendum will be held from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at all regular polling locations in Wood-Ridge. The referendum is open to all Wood-Ridge residents who are registered to vote.



Heating and air conditioning for Wood-Ridge High School, the high school Gym, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools, as well as new security systems and science labs, are among the planned improvements.

# WORKING ON THE RAILROAD STATION



Construction is underway on a new New Jersey Transit station and stop at the Wesmont Station redevelopment, reported Councilman Phil Romero, who chairs the Land Use Committee.

The station will be equipped with elevators, automated ticket vending, 24/7 security monitoring, full handicap accessibility, and 215 parking spaces. From the Wesmont stop, a rider inbound to Manhattan would have a trip of approximately 25 minutes, as well as access to the Northeast Corridor, North Jersey Coast, Montclair Boonton and other transfers at Frank L. Lautenberg Station in Secaucus, and to the PATH train in Hoboken.

The new station is being constructed in the first public-private partnership of its kind between NJ Transit and Wesmont Station redeveloper Somerset Development. It is slated to open in 2015.



Map Courtesy of NJ Transit



# HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE; WORK PLANNED FOR WR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wood-Ridge has secured a \$240,000 grant from Bergen County Historic Preservation fund to make various structural improvements to the Public Library, repoint the Revolutionary war-era stonework of the building, and take other measures to ensure the landmark on the National Register of Historic Places endures for years to come, reported Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy.

A portion of the Library known as the "Brinkerhoff House" was constructed in 1780 on a sprawling 200-acre farm in the region of "Polify," more than a century before the incorporation of the Borough of Wood-Ridge. After several generations of ownership within the Brinkerhoff family, the building was converted to public use through the efforts of a group of concerned citizens in 1954. In July 2014, the Library celebrated its 30th year of being on the National Registry, said Councilwoman Cassidy, who serves as Liaison to both the Library Board and the Historical Society. In other Library news, the former Children's Wing was taken down this summer on account of damage from severe winter storms, persistent leaks, and condemnation by its insurer. The Borough Council is currently considering plans to replace the Children's Wing of the Public Library.

The Library reminds residents that September is sign-up month for new library cards.



# FALL EVENTS IN WR

Councilman and Public Information Liaison Ezio Altamura announces upcoming events including the Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585 **BLOOD DRIVE** the afternoon of **SEPT. 8** from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Bloodmobile will be stationed on Valley Boulevard, between Marlboro and Highland Avenues. Also on **SEPT. 8** at 8 p.m., the Borough will hold a **MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR THE HEROES AND VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001** at Veterans Memorial Park. On Oct. 3, Wood-Ridge Recreation will host the first of two **SPORTS NIGHTS UNDER THE LIGHTS** featuring night games at Donna Ricker Memorial Field. Recreation Soccer will play on **OCT. 3**, and Recreation Football will play on **OCT. 4**. The annual **FIRE ENGINE RIDES FOR KIDS** will be held from 1-4 p.m. on **OCT. 5** at the Wood-Ridge Fire Department as part of national Fire Prevention Month. Borough families are invited to bring their children to ride the firetrucks, see the smokehouse, and learn about fire prevention and safety. The Wood-Ridge Historic Society will host a free screening of **"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"** silent film on **OCT. 15** at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. **VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES** will be held on **NOV. 8** at 10 a.m. at the Veterans Walk of Freedom at the corner of Highland Avenue and Hackensack Street. All are encouraged to attend.

# WHERE THE ASPHALT HITS THE ROAD

2014 has marked another productive year in improvements to the Borough's infrastructure, reported Councilman Ed Marino, who also chairs the Finance Committee.

"We are happy to report that Wood-Ridge has consistently improved its roadways every year since 2008, and that these investments continue to yield immediate benefits to everyone using the roads and sidewalks, as well as long term benefits to property owners, whose home values are increased by the surrounding upgrades," said Councilman Marino.

Wood-Ridge has partnered with the neighboring Borough of Moonachie to install new curbs and sidewalks and resurface all roads east of Route 17 this summer.

The Borough is also currently repaving Wood-Ridge Avenue from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Hackensack Street, Columbia Boulevard from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Hackensack Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Street from Wood-Ridge Avenue to Highland Avenue, and 7<sup>th</sup> Street from North Avenue to Highland Avenue. The Borough has secured a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Transportation for the Wood-Ridge Avenue work.

The Borough has also redesigned the parking area of Catherine E. Doyle School, providing 30 off-street parking spaces along with other improvements. The new layout will improve pedestrian safety by providing a continuous walkway from the drop-off zone

# BORN TO RUN: MAYOR'S 5K IS BACK!

Runners will take to the streets of Wood-Ridge on **SUNDAY, OCT. 12** for a morning of exercise and fun at the Mayor's Annual 5K Race.



Onsite registration begins at the Donna Ricker Memorial Field of Wood-Ridge High School at 8:00 a.m. and runners and walkers will spring from the starting line at 9:30.

This year's charity partner is the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, according to Councilman Ed Marino, who has served as Event Chair since the race began in 2010. To date, the Mayor's 5K has raised \$35,000 for the foundation, which supports the development of new medications to treat cystic fibrosis, improve the quality of life of those who live with it, and find a cure.

Advance registration at <http://events.raceforum.com/events/7231> for a fee of \$20, or day-of-the-race for \$25.



Road paving throughout the Borough of Wood-Ridge continued this summer, and new parking lots were installed at Catherine E. Doyle School to relieve congestion and improve safety.

to the school entrance that does not cross through any parking areas, and will provide ADA-compliant access to the both the main entrance and the gym. Work on the parking lot and Wood-Ridge Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street sections adjacent to Doyle School will be completed before school reopens in September. The balance of the work is scheduled for completion by November 1.

# WESMONT STATION LUXURY HOMES RISING QUICKLY AT SITE

Councilman and Land Use Committee Chairman Phil Romero reports that Phase II of the Wesmont Station redevelopment rose from the site this summer as luxury townhomes constructed by national homebuilder Pulte Homes were erected. The 217 townhomes, which range from 1,100 square feet to 2,100 square feet, are available in a variety of floor plans tailored to the lifestyles of their future owners. Stay tuned for an announcement this fall of the company that will undertake construction of Phase III of Wesmont, to feature luxury townhomes as large as 2,600 square feet with two-car garages, gourmet kitchens and opulent master bedroom suites. Roads and utilities for Phase III are currently being laid at Wesmont Station.

