

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS... TO WOOD-RIDGE



Neighbors gathered to share in the joy of the season on November 28th as the switch was flipped by the Wood-Ridge Mayor and Council and the towering Veteran's Park fir tree became brightly illuminated. The 2014 holiday season was heralded by carols sung by the Wood-Ridge High School Choir, refreshments and a toy drive organized by Councilman Joseph DiMarco. As in previous years, the Wood-Ridge Fire Department successfully located Santa and brought him to Veterans Park just in the 'Nick' of time. On December 5, Mayor Sarlo hosted local senior citizens at the 15th Annual Holiday Pasta Dinner at the Senior Center. The event featured singing by local Girl Scout Troops. On December 6, Santa made an appearance at the Wood-Ridge PTA breakfast at the Fiesta. On December 7, the Borough Historical Society celebrated Wood-Ridge's 120th Anniversary since becoming incorporated and the ceremony featured music by the Buckshot Band. Santa came to town once again on December 14 to join families at the Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585 Pancake Breakfast, held in the Wood-Ridge Intermediate School cafeteria.

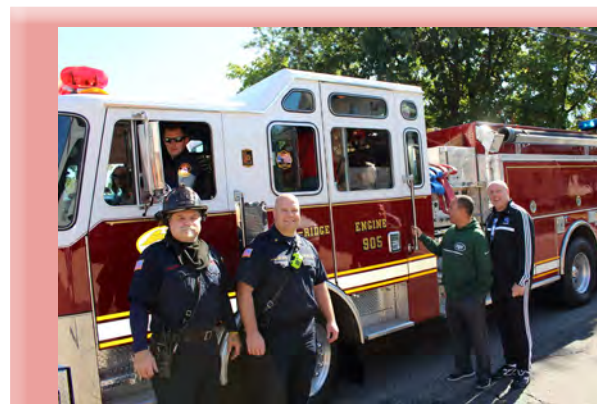
MAYOR'S 5K RACE TURNS FIVE YEARS OLD

Runners and walkers of all ages hit the streets of Wood-Ridge on Sunday, October 12 for the Mayor's Annual 5K Race.

From curb to curb, the roads were filled with runners looking for a challenging course, a good time, and a chance to benefit charity – the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Event Chairman and Councilman Ed Marino thanked all volunteers of the race and those staffing the runner resource stations at Donna Ricker Memorial Field.

In its five years, the Mayor's 5K has raised more than \$35,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Wood-Ridge held its annual Fire Engine Rides for Kids event on Sunday, October 5 as part of National Fire Prevention Month, helping to raise awareness about fire prevention and safety while also offering children a chance to see the smokehouse and take a ride in trucks driven by Wood-Ridge Volunteer firefighters. Pictured are WRFD volunteer firefighters and Councilman Ezio Altamura, who organizes the event each fall.

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

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WOOD-RIDGE NEWSLETTER



2014 EDITION #4

VOTERS APPROVE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PLAN 3 TO 1

NEARLY 75 PERCENT OF VOTERS SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Borough newsletter and the final edition for calendar year 2014.

In this edition, we announce that the Borough of Wood-Ridge is moving ahead with continued improvements to WRHS, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools which will provide for safer and more comfortable learning environments for students and teachers. These improvements were made possible through an outpouring of support by Wood-Ridge's voters in a special referendum on a bond measure held in September. Wood-Ridge residents showed their support by authorizing such improvements as needed window, boiler, and roof replacements, science lab upgrades, new air conditioning and security enhancements at the three schools.

Much of the funding for these improvements comes from state grants, and ultimately, the improvements will be paid for by new revenues generated by Westmont Station's rapid expansion. Seeking out grants and forming strategic partnerships for private investment in Wood-Ridge have long been the philosophy of the Mayor and Borough Council, and I am proud that this edition of the newsletter also notes newly-resurfaced roads, parks and recreation improvements, and the preservation of historic resources in our Borough as it celebrates its 120th Anniversary this December.

The Borough, from its young students attending schools, to its property owners, to its new and long-established business partners, is certainly traveling down the road to progress together. On behalf of the governing body, thank you, and we wish you the very best of holiday seasons.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

Wood-Ridge Voters supported a bond measure by a vote of 744 to 204 on September 30 that will allow for continued upgrades to Wood-Ridge High School, Greta R. Ostrovsky and Catherine E. Doyle Schools.

"We were pleased to see overwhelming support in the form of nearly 75 percent of voters favoring investment in our Borough's educational infrastructure," said Mayor Paul Sarlo. "These improvements will help our students and ultimately, benefit taxpayers through the continued increase in their property values."

Following the installation of an all-new roof at Wood-Ridge High School this past summer, window replacements for the three Borough schools are scheduled for the summer of 2015. Among other benefits, the new windows will reduce heating and cooling costs and increase efficiency. All three schools will receive security doors and emergency alarms linked to the Borough Police Department. Doyle and Ostrovsky schools will also receive partial roof replacements and the high school will receive state-of-the-art science labs. A new boiler will be installed at Doyle School, an improvement that Council President Dominick Azzolini noted was sorely needed.

"When designing a schedule of improvements for the schools, we targeted the areas most in need to give our students safer and more comfortable learning environments, and one of these was definitely the Doyle School boiler," said Azzolini, who also serves as liaison to the Wood-Ridge Board of Education. "The project architects and engineers agree that the Doyle School boiler is on its last legs, and they don't think we can get another winter out of it."

By 2016, Wood-Ridge High School, the High School gym, Ostrovsky and Doyle Schools will all have new heating and air conditioning systems.

Installation of the systems will occur over a two-year

period, Azzolini explained, to accommodate use of the buildings by students and teachers when school is in session.

The next round of improvements are being supported through the successful September 30 voter referendum. The improvements mark the continuation of Phase I enhancements which began in 2014. Phase I was fully funded through revenue from the Westmont Station redevelopment project.

Phase II is being funded by \$4.8 million in state Regular Operating District grants secured by Mayor Sarlo through collaboration with state officials, the Department of Education and the Schools Development Authority.

Wood-Ridge voters' favorable support of a \$7 million bond on September 30 provides the matching funds to ensure Wood-Ridge receives the grants.

Ultimately, future revenues generated by Westmont Station redevelopment are projected to repay any new school debt related to the improvements.



A comprehensive series of improvements at Doyle, Ostrovsky and Wood-Ridge High Schools will bring enhanced security, comfort, and educational resources to the three buildings during 2015-2016.



THE ROADS AHEAD

Borough roadwork is wrapping up at the end of 2014 with a new round of projects planned for next year, reported Councilman and Finance Chairman Ed Marino.

Significant sections of Wood-Ridge Avenue, Columbia Boulevard, 12th Street and 7th Street were resurfaced during the fall.

“As in the past, we are glad to report that much of this roadwork has been financed with grants to the Borough coupled with

careful financial administration, a consistently low materials cost and interest rates which we have taken advantage of,” said Marino.

Working with its engineer, the Borough has targeted Marlboro Road, Windsor Road, Innes Road and Sussex Road from Valley Boulevard to Hackensack Street as next for improvements in 2015.

The remaining sections of the roads will be upgraded in subsequent years as part of

Wood-Ridge’s continuous resurfacing program, which has seen a comprehensive overhaul of roadways, sidewalks and related infrastructure since 2008.

Grant applications are currently pending for 6th Street, Ryerson Avenue, Humboldt Street, Charter Oak Street, Rose Street, Wood-Ridge Street north of Moonachie Avenue, Union Avenue and Center Street, both from 4th Street to Hackensack Street.

INVESTING IN WOOD-RIDGE

Spencer Savings Bank opened the doors of its 19th branch location at an all-new facility at the corner of Wood-Ridge Avenue and Valley Boulevard.

Mayor Paul Sarlo and the Borough Council were on hand with several hundred residents and the bank’s staff at a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this year.

“The opening of Spencer Savings at the site of a formerly

blighted property is a sign of continued economic growth throughout our community. As other businesses have recognized, our solid AA bond rating, strong property values and vision for the future continue to make Wood-Ridge a lucrative spot for new and expanding businesses to invest,” said Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who chairs the Local Merchant Relations Committee.



PRESERVING ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

RESTORATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY AT THE BIANCHI HOUSE

Scaffolding in place around the historic Arnault-Bianchi House on First Street this fall indicates that the wooden clapboards are currently being restored to match the house’s slate roof and ornate eaves, reported Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy. Utilizing a \$221,000 Bergen County Open Space Grant, the Borough is moving ahead with the clapboard restoration as well as a new electrical system inside of the Bianchi House. As with previous work, all exterior beautification and improvement will be undertaken with an eye towards maintaining a historic style dating back to the 1880s, said Cassidy, who also serves as Liaison to the Wood-Ridge Historical Society.

The Bianchi House, and the surrounding public park, were donated to the Borough by the home’s last owners. In addition to public enjoyment of the grounds outside, the inside of the Bianchi House is used by the Borough Historical Society for meetings and events throughout the year.

This December marks the 120th Anniversary of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, and the Historical Society plans to bring the celebratory year in with style, said Cassidy.



WESMONT UNITS SELLING FAST: SALES PRICES INCREASE FOR THIRD TIME IN SIX MONTHS

Councilman and Land Use Committee Chairman Phil Romero reports tremendous success by national homebuilder Pulte Townhomes on Phase II of the Wesmont Station mixed use redevelopment project.

At press time for the *WR Newsletter*, 80 of the first 100 townhomes have been sold and 50 of the townhomes are already occupied. Pulte will construct another 115 townhomes in 2015.

“With a brisk sales pace, the values of the Wesmont townhomes are on the rise. The initial units were predicted to sell in the low \$300,000s, and now, the largest of the homes being built are valued in the low \$500,000 range,” Romero said.

A second national homebuilder, Highpoint Homes, will also break ground in 2015 on 80 new homes which will be the largest and most luxurious in the redevelopment so far. The homes will feature 3,000 square feet of floor space, high-end finishes, two-car garages, and expansive master bedroom suites.

In other Wesmont Station news, NJ Transit continues work on a new Train Station along the Main Line with a completion date of summer 2015. Around the same time, Highland Avenue will be extended to connect to Wesmont Station.



According to Councilman Romero, traffic calming measures on the existing Highland Avenue will precede the road’s expansion. The measures are currently being designed by the Wood-Ridge Borough Engineer for Highland Avenue’s intersections, notably 14th Street and 12th Street, to stagger traffic and slow down speeds. All improvements will be funded by the Wesmont Station redeveloper.

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE GYMS

GRANTS BRING NEW FUN AND GAMES TO BOROUGH PARKS

New jungle gyms were recently installed at the 14th Street Park. The installation is one of several improvements to the Borough’s parks and recreation being funded with an \$80,000 Bergen County Open Space Grant, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who also Chairs the Borough’s Building and Grounds Committee.

DiMarco also reported on several future projects, including the overhaul of bleachers and fencing at the 6th Street Little League Field, to be funded with an additional \$150,000 Open Space Grant from the county. Plans are also in place to upgrade Kohr’s Park on 13th Street in 2015.



The new jungle gyms being installed at the 14th Street Park are funded by grants.



(Clockwise from Main Photo) Wesmont Station’s luxury townhomes, currently being constructed, sold, and moved into under the direction of national homebuilder Pulte Homes; A view of the Highland Avenue extension into Wesmont, scheduled for opening in the summer of 2015 following traffic calming measures on the existing part of the roadway.

