

TREE LIGHTING INCLUDES SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY AS WR RESIDENTS GIVE TOYS-FOR-TOTS



The Wood-Ridge Mayor and Council flipped the switch on the Borough's beloved fir tree in Veterans Park November 27, while residents sipped hot chocolate and children eagerly awaited Santa's arrival by fire truck. Never disappointing the crowd, Santa Claus came to town in full splendor, spending time with each good boy and girl in the Veterans Park Gazebo as they told the jolly elf their wishes. Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who served as Chairman for the ceremony, also organized a Toys-for-Tots Drive this year with the help of his family. Through the generosity of residents, toys were gathered during the tree lighting for donation to less fortunate children. Local Girl Scouts gathered for the lighting of a nearby blue spruce tree in Veterans Park on December 6. From suburban sidewalks where merchants brightly dress their windowpanes, to the red ribbons hung by Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585 along Valley Boulevard, to the front yards of residents, the Borough of Wood-Ridge wishes all a healthy and happy holiday 2015 season.

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

POSTAL PATRON
WOOD-RIDGE, NJ 07075

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FROM THE
MAYOR'S
DESK

ENHANCEMENTS TO WR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CONTINUE

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*. In this edition, we highlight the culmination of a year of projects improving recreational facilities, educational facilities, roads and other infrastructure throughout the Borough of Wood-Ridge.

Progress in Wood-Ridge has been steady in 2015, from the quickly-filling-up Westmont Station redevelopment on the western side of town to new merchants opening up shop on Valley Boulevard, to rising property values for our residents. We highlight just some of the many steps along our road to progress within these pages, including a refurbished gym at Wood-Ridge High School and all-new science labs on the way in 2016, upgraded recreational facilities at the 14th Street and 6th Street Fields, and renovations inside the Bianchi House which are transforming the historic property into an inviting community space.

With so much to see and enjoy in Wood-Ridge, it is no wonder that more residents than ever are coming out to participate in events, as seen this year in our Fire Engine Rides, Holiday Tree Lighting, and the new Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving Day. These are just a few more reminders of what a special place Wood-Ridge is to live in.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

The Borough of Wood-Ridge is completing enhancements to athletic facilities used by the high school and recreation teams as well as residents, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who serves as Liaison to the Community Development Committee.

Finishing touches are underway at the 6th Street Field, where grant funding has been used for new dugouts, fencing, bleachers and backstops, and the fieldhouses have received exterior improvements.

Construction is also occurring at the 14th Street Field, where two new batting cages are being installed and fencing is being redesigned to prevent foul balls from reaching the stands and the adjacent parking lot. 14th Street Field is also receiving the significant enhancement of artificial turf to replace the grass, a change which Council President Ezio Altamura, who serves as Liaison to the Recreation Commission, said will have numerous benefits.

"The turf solves two problems long vexing 14th Street Field. First, because artificial turf dries faster than grass does, the field will be playable much sooner after it rains. This means that fewer games will have to be postponed or cancelled," Altamura explained. "Second, the turf will end the problem of geese feeding and leaving droppings on the field."

Over the winter, field lights will be installed at Donna Ricker Memorial Field at Wood-Ridge High School, which will be operational by the Spring 2016 baseball and softball seasons.

The lights will be used primarily for games

and the Mayor and Council plan to adopt a policy of setting time limits for the lights prior to their use. Installation of the field lights is a response to growing participation in the Borough's Recreation programs, including soccer, track and field, cheerleading and football, and the growth of programs at Wood-Ridge High School, including the soccer program for girls and boys, and the recently-added freshman football team.

Earlier this year, the tennis court at Bowman Park on Jocelyn Avenue was resurfaced, and new jungle gyms were installed at 14th Street Park. In the past ten years, Wood-Ridge has received nearly \$800,000 in Bergen County Open Space grants to upgrade its parks and recreation facilities.



Enhancements to recreational facilities throughout the Borough of Wood-Ridge include upgrades to the 6th Street Field and 14th Street Field.

RENOVATIONS PROGRESSING AT WR SCHOOLS

Highlights include updated look, new features for 'home court' WRHS Gym



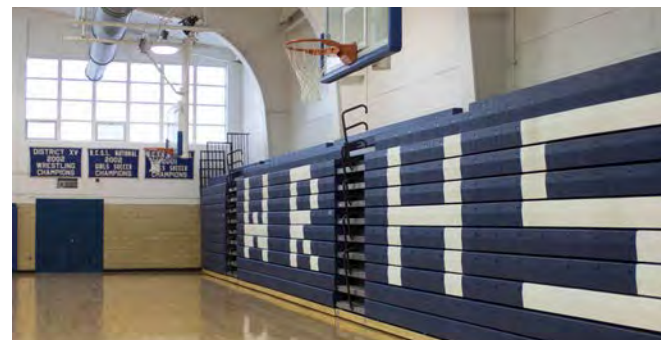
Renovations to the Wood-Ridge High School Gym include a refinished floor, new heating and air conditioning systems, and new bleachers on both sides of the gym.

School renovations are progressing, reported Councilman Dominick Azzolini, who serves as Liaison to the Wood-Ridge Board of Education. At Catherine E. Doyle School, the roof has been replaced, and a new heating and air conditioning system was installed this fall, including the replacement of Doyle School's obsolete boiler. All windows in the school's classrooms will be replaced in 2016. Work on the windows has been planned around school schedules, so that the windows will be replaced on a classroom-by-classroom basis afterhours and the work will not disturb students and teachers. Additionally, new security doors will be installed in 2016.

At Wood-Ridge High School, renovations to the gym are nearly complete.

"New bleachers have been installed on both sides of the gym, increasing capacity to provide seating for Blue Devils fans and visitors," said Councilman Azzolini. "We're excited about this because it means more fans can come out to support our student-athletes."

The gym floor has been completely refinished, the walls repainted, and new backboards and wall pads have been installed, all in bright Wood-Ridge blue and white.



Like Doyle School, Greta R. Ostrovsky School and Wood-Ridge High School will receive new windows and security doors in 2016. The science labs at Wood-Ridge High School are scheduled for replacement next summer, and will greet science classes when they return in September.

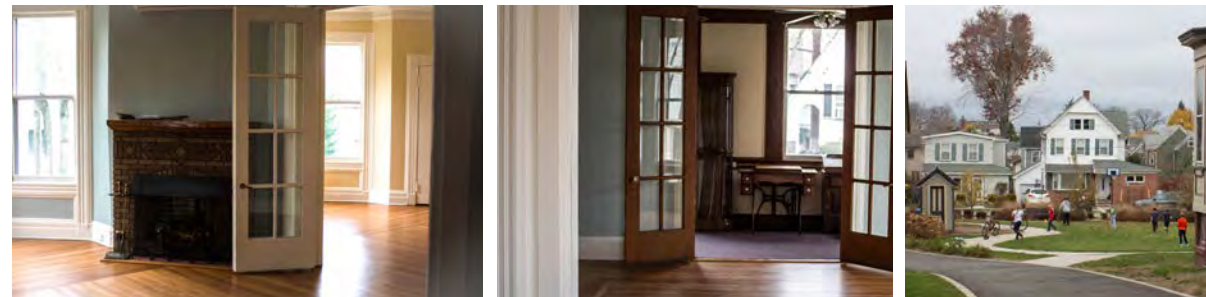
The comprehensive school renovations, envisioned by the Mayor & Council and Board of Education to bring Wood-Ridge's school buildings forward for the next generation of students, began with the installation of a new roof on Wood-Ridge High School last summer.

The improvements have been funded by revenues generated by the Wesmont Station redevelopment, nearly \$5 million in state grants, and the issuing of a bond to match the grants.

BIANCHI HOUSE: A WOOD-RIDGE TREASURE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

Inside of the Bianchi House, the first floor rooms of the more-than-100-year-old landmark were renovated this fall with refurbished floors and walls, fresh coats of paint, and renovated bathrooms. The electrical wiring has also been upgraded. Now that work is complete, the Bianchi House will host small children in age groups 1-3 and 3-5 as part of Wood-Ridge Memorial Library's "Story Hours," reported Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy, who also serves as Liaison to the Library Board and Historical Society.

"We are proud to see Bianchi House, which was donated to the Borough through the generosity of a local family, be restored both inside and out," said Cassidy. "By welcoming some of the Borough's youngest residents to enjoy the Bianchi House, we are fostering the ongoing appreciation of history and architecture, and celebrating



(Left to Right) Restoration work on the Bianchi House's interior rooms is nearly complete; local children play on the Bianchi House Park grounds.

a national and state historic landmark in our very own Wood-Ridge."

Programs hosted for children at the Bianchi House will also include a visit from Santa this December 22.

Outside during the fall months, young residents could

frequently be spotted enjoying Bianchi House Park, the surrounding grounds of the house, which provide open space for outdoor activities, games, taking a walk and appreciating nature.



On Thanksgiving Day morning, the Wood-Ridge Mayor & Council, Board of Education and Recreation Commission hosted a "Turkey Bowl" flag football game on Donna Ricker Field at WRHS that featured current Junior Football and High School Football players, Borough Officials, Board of Education Members, High School and Recreation Coaches and Wood-Ridge High School Alumni. BOE President Albie Nieves, who conceived the idea for the Turkey Bowl and organized it, reports 50 adults and 40 players participated in the inaugural event. Planning is already underway for an expanded Turkey Bowl next year!

Wood-Ridge officials and Board of Education members took the field in the Turkey Bowl. (Above Photo, Standing, Left to Right) Councilman Ed Marino, Borough Administrator Christopher Eilert, Mayor Paul Sarlo and his son Michael, BOE Member Joseph Biamonte and BOE Member Tom Schmidt; (Seated, Left to Right) Wood-Ridge Council President Ezio Altamura, Councilman Joseph DiMarco, Councilman Phil Romero, BOE President Albie Nieves and BOE Vice President Robert Valenti.

MOVING AHEAD ON THE BOROUGH'S ROADS

As 2015 draws to a close, the Borough of Wood-Ridge has accomplished another year of comprehensive road improvements through the utilization of grants and partnerships, reported Councilman Ed Marino, who also serves as Finance Chairman.

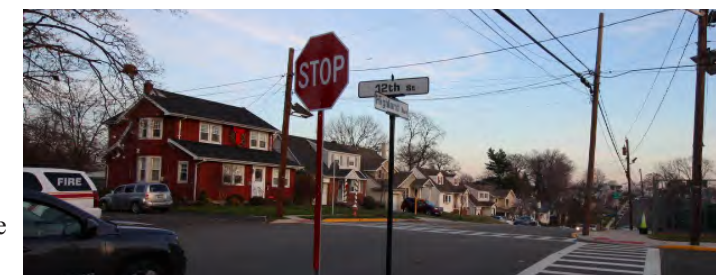
The Borough repaved Ryerson Avenue and portions of Wood-Ridge Street, Marlboro Road, Windsor Road, Innes Road and Sussex Road this year. Valley Boulevard from its beginnings as 4th Street in Carlstadt to North Avenue was repaved and given new sidewalks and curbs through a partnership between the Borough and United Water. Moonachie Avenue curbs and sidewalks were replaced by the Borough, and Bergen County will repave Moonachie Avenue in 2016.

6th, 8th, Humboldt, Charter Oak and Rose Streets, portions of Union Avenue and 9th, 10th and Center Streets and the remaining portions of Marlboro, Windsor, Innes and Sussex Roads will be repaved in 2016-2017.

The Borough has also installed traffic calming measures on Highland Avenue, adding 3-way stops at Highland and 12th Street and Highland and 14th Street. These measures are designed to slow vehicles approaching the Wesmont Station redevelopment, and to ensure the safety of motorists, residents, and in particular parents, teachers and school children near Catherine E. Doyle School, said Councilman Phil Romero, who serves as Chairman of the Law, Land Use and Code Enforcement Committee.



(Above) New curbs and sidewalks being installed on Valley Boulevard; (Below) Traffic calming measures installed by the Borough along Highland Avenue.



REMINDER: WORK TOGETHER TO HELP WR DIG OUT THIS WINTER

Councilman Phil Romero, who serves as Chairman of the Law, Land Use and Code Enforcement Committee, asks on behalf of the DPW, Police and Fire Departments and other Wood-Ridge departments that residents and local merchants be mindful this winter of the importance of working together to remove snow and ice during inclement weather events. To that end, the Borough offers the following tips:

- * Avoid parking on Borough streets to allow plows to clear the road.
- * When cleaning snow from your sidewalk and driveway, shovel or blow it back onto your own property rather than onto a street or public sidewalk.
- * Avoid parking directly across from an already-parked car. Cars parked directly opposite from each other make it difficult for large vehicles like snow plows, garbage trucks, fire trucks and ambulances to fit down the road. Cars parked in this way also obstruct two-way traffic.
- * If you live near a fire hydrant and are physically able, please shovel out the hydrant so that it is accessible to the Wood-Ridge Fire Department.
- * If you live near a crosswalk and are physical able, please clear a pathway to open up the crosswalk to pedestrians.

ENGINE RIDES FOR KIDS; LESSONS FOR ALL



The Wood-Ridge Fire Department hosted Fire Engine Rides for children on October 11, as part of National Fire Prevention Month, helping to raise awareness of both fire prevention and safety. Events were organized by Council President Ezio Altamura, Fire Chief Ronald Phillips, Jr., and the officers and members of the Wood-Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured (Left to Right) are Council President Altamura, Councilman Phil Romero, Mayor Paul Sarlo, Councilman Ed Marino, and Volunteer Fire Department Members Frank Materia and (in truck) Ronald Phillips, Sr.

NEW BOROUGH HALL PARKING LOT ON THE WAY

The Borough completed demolition of the former Mount Pleasant School building on Humboldt Street this year, paving the way for a new parking lot to be completed in 2016.

"The building had reached a point where it was a structurally unsound, and its takedown corresponded with an opportunity to provide needed parking for our police vehicles, volunteer Fire Department and EMS personnel, and residents coming to Borough Hall for local government services," said Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy, who serves as Liaison to the Police Department.

MILESTONE MOMENTS FOR WR COACHES

The Borough of Wood-Ridge offers its warmest congratulations to Wood-Ridge High School Boys Soccer Coach Alberico De Pierro for being named the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference "Coach of the Year," to Wood-Ridge High School Football Head Coach Charlie Trentacosti for being named NJIC "Coach of the Year" for the Patriot Division, and to Girls Volleyball Varsity Head Coach Andrea Marino for reaching the milestone of 400 career victories as a coach during this season. **Great job coaches!**

