

WOOD-RIDGE

GRASS CUTTING REGULATIONS BEING ENFORCED; RESIDENTS REMINDED TO FOLLOW ALL REGULATIONS

As spring turns to summer, Borough officials have noticed an uptick of residents not properly maintaining their lawns. These violations are unsightly to neighbors and are also a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects that can transmit diseases.

The Borough of Wood-Ridge encourages residents to upkeep their properties in order to preserve property values, eliminate safety hazards and protect adjoining properties in the neighborhood from nuisances.

Councilman Philip Romero, who chairs the Public Works Committee, noted that Property Maintenance Code Officials will be stepping up enforcement of the Borough Code in the months ahead to prevent violations.

In extreme cases, violations could lead to municipal court action, which could result in the Borough DPW maintaining properties, which could in turn result in tax liens on private properties.

TIPS FOR PROPER MAINTENANCE OF GRASS, WEEDS AND VEGETATION :

- Do not permit grass, weeds or other vegetation to grow in excess of six inches.
- Trim the edges of grass and shrubs so that they do not block, cover or obscure sidewalks, curbs or streets.
- Grass clippings may never be dumped or blown into the street, or put in plastic bags.
- Grass clippings should be put curbside in receptacles or biodegradable brown bags.

WR HONORS ITS VETERANS & COMMUNITY LEADERS



MEMORIAL DAY 2016



Despite predictions of tropical storm conditions on Memorial Day which cancelled Wood-Ridge's annual parade (as well as parades across the State) this year, residents came together at the Wood-Ridge Senior and Civic Center on **MAY 30** to honor the men and women who served the cause of freedom. This year's Grand Marshals were George Santos and Frank Matera, Sr., both of whom served in World War II. This year's honorees were Loretta DeVoursney and Gloria Freeman, who served their country on the homefront at the same time, and for many years after through civic activities in the Wood-Ridge community. Mayor Paul Sarlo noted the contributions of each individual, and the examples each set throughout their lives. Local civic groups placed wreaths around the Veterans Walk of Freedom in honor of all veterans from Wood-Ridge who served their country.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*. In this edition, we highlight the lush green spaces in Wood-Ridge that continue to 'grow' with new parks and recreation facilities such as the Highland Avenue Playground, which will be the largest in town, and continued enhancements to existing parks like William Kour Park on 13th Street.

As I have said before with pride, with each park enhancement, each improvement to our schools and infrastructure, and each investment made by property owners on their own private homes, Wood-Ridge continues as a community on the road to progress.

That's why we celebrate in this edition the coming together of our community for Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day, an annual event where groups and individual residents pitch in to keep our streets, sidewalks and public parks clean, green and beautiful.

We ask our residents to cooperate throughout the year by observing the Borough's Property Maintenance Code and taking care of their own homes and yards.

Finally, we honor our Veterans and those Wood-Ridge citizens who have served our country and our community. Your spirit of civic duty is an example to us all.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

ALL-NEW HIGHLAND AVENUE PLAYGROUND WILL BE LARGEST IN WOOD-RIDGE

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has unveiled plans for a new playground to be built on Highland Avenue, adjacent to Catherine E. Doyle School. The playground at Doyle will include two sections with jungle gyms and equipment tailored respectively to children ages Pre-Kindergarten and 5-12 years old, a new basketball court, a new outdoor classroom with seating for 70 under a covered pavilion, a newly graded and sodded open field, and new landscaping throughout.

"With Veterans Park in high demand, we had been looking for an opportunity to increase our playground space," said Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee. "When we learned that parents and the Board of Education were interested in constructing a playground at Doyle School, we took on the

project to provide the maximum benefit to the entire Wood-Ridge community."

DiMarco noted that the existing grass area of the current grounds, which is rocky, uneven and improperly sloped, will be enhanced with proper grading, a retaining wall, new top soil, sod and a sprinkler system which will make it lush for schoolchildren to use at recess, as well as for Recreation programs that use the field for practices.

A buffer of evergreen trees will be planted to shield the backyards of 10th Street homes from the playground.

During school days, the Highland Avenue Playground will be limited to use by students. However, it will be open to the public in the evenings, on weekends, and when school is not in session.

* SEE INSIDE OF NEWSLETTER for architectural renderings of the new Highland Avenue Playground. *

WESMONT'S TRAIN STATION NOW OPEN



Councilman Dominick Azzolini reports that New Jersey Transit's latest stop on the Main Line, Wesmont Station, opened **MAY 15**, and Mayor Paul Sarlo took the first train ride to Manhattan. Riders can currently access the station via a temporary walkway off of Highland Avenue. NJ Transit is scheduled to begin construction on a 215-space parking lot this summer. While commuters will have to purchase monthly or daily parking passes to use the lot on weekdays, the Mayor successfully negotiated with the agency to secure free parking on nights and weekends, so residents can utilize the station for visiting Hoboken, New York and other destinations.



NEWSLETTER

2016 EDITION #2

SIGN UP FOR WOOD-RIDGE'S NEW COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEM:
WWW.NIXLE.COM

HIGHLAND AVE. PLAYGROUND PLANS



RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY AT WILLIAM KOUR PARK



William Kour Park on 13th Street is currently receiving upgrades which will include improved pathways, new landscaping, fresh trees, park benches, and a sprinkler system to keep the park green and vibrant, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who chairs the Community Development Committee.

“Wood-Ridge passive parks are a key component of our community, and we are proud to move ahead with renovations on William Kour Park, which has not been refreshed in nearly 40 years,” DiMarco said.

Funding for the project is being provided in part by a Bergen County Open Space Grant. To date, nearly \$800,000 in Bergen County Open Space grants have been awarded to Wood-Ridge, and applied to improvements to parks and recreation facilities including the 6th Street Field, 14th Street Field, 14th Street Playground, Bowman Park on Joceyln Avenue and Veterans Park on the Boulevard.

WRPD RECEIVES COVETED NEW JERSEY POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION

The Mayor and Council extend their congratulations to the Wood-Ridge Police Department for recently being accredited by the New Jersey State Police Chiefs Association.

“Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement for Wood-Ridge’s finest,” said Councilman Ezio Altamura, who serves as Liaison to the Police Department. “Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. Through self-analysis, goal setting, and review by independent assessors, our Police Department has demonstrated it is one of the best-trained in the State of New Jersey.”

According to the NJSPCA, the organization has developed a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program for New Jersey which has resulted in the formation of the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, consisting of commissioners with the overall responsibility of adoption of program standards, review of all assessment reports, and approval of all recommendations for the granting of accredited status of applicant agencies.

The program seeks to promote, and acknowledge, comprehensive and effective leadership through professionally-based policy development that is directly influenced by a law enforcement program that is thorough, complete, obtainable, and based on standards that reflect professional best practices.

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN WOOD-RIDGE



GRANT BRINGS NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO WR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Renovations funded by a Bergen County Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$240,000 are currently underway for the historic Brinkerhoff House portion of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library, which comprises approximately 50% of the Library, reported Council President Catherine Cassidy, who also serves as Liaison to the Library Board.



The house, which is believed to have been constructed in 1792 or even earlier, features some of the only remaining native hand-cut sandstone in the area. It was determined to be badly in need of structural improvements, including new foundation, new floor, and ceiling joists, repointing of all the stone work and refurbishing of all the windows. The improvements underway are likely to preserve this community resource and ensure the longevity of the building for generations to come, noted Cassidy.



‘SCIENCE PROJECT’ AT WRHS THIS SUMMER

Work has begun on the construction of all-new science labs at Wood-Ridge High School, reported Councilman Ed Marino, who serves as Liaison to the Board of Education.

The state-of-the-art science labs will enhance and expand academic opportunities for WRHS students. They are the latest step in a comprehensive, Borough-wide overhaul of school facilities envisioned by the Mayor and Council and Board of Education to upgrade Wood-Ridge’s existing school buildings for the next generation of students.

Earlier this spring, Wood-Ridge began installation of new windows at Catherine E. Doyle School, which at press time are complete. New windows are currently being installed at WRHS, and will be installed at Greta R. Ostrovsky School, with installations to be completed at these schools by the end of 2016.

Each of the school buildings will receive air conditioning, which is slated for completion by June of 2017.

“On behalf of the Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Committee, myself, and Co-Chair Councilman Ed Marino, thank you to the more than 150 volunteers, community groups, and local merchants who made this day an overwhelming success for the Borough of Wood-Ridge.”

Councilman Ezio Altamura
 KWRB Co-Chair

JUNE 5, 2016