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## WR'S FINEST MAKE WR ONE OF NJ'S SAFEST



The Borough of Wood-Ridge has been named the #20 safest municipality to live in the State of New Jersey by the National Council for Home Safety and Security (NCHSS), announced Councilman Ezio Altamura, who serves as Liaison to the Police Department.

"Just one year after our Police Department received New Jersey Police Chiefs Association Accreditation for being one of the best-trained professional departments in the State, we are honored by this award, which shows the efficacy of their efforts to keep our community safe," said Councilman Altamura.

To identify the safest cities in New Jersey, the NCHSS reviewed the most recent FBI Crime Report Statistics along with population data and internal research. Municipalities were ranked based on the number of reported violent crimes and property crimes per number of residents. Wood-Ridge, with a population of approximately 8,000 residents, earned its high rank among some 565 municipalities in the State of New Jersey.



## Wesmont's 200+ Space Lot Nearly Complete

The pavement is laid and construction is nearly complete on a 215-space parking lot adjacent to the Wesmont Train Station, with a target opening date of July 1. Commuters will be able to purchase daily or monthly passes for parking on weekdays, and parking on nights and weekends will be free.

"This parking lot will increase the convenience of our tremendously-successful new stop along the Bergen Line branch, which services hundreds of riders daily," said Mayor Paul Sarlo. "We look forward to even more Wood-Ridge residents utilizing the train station for commuting to work, points-of-interest, and other destinations."

In other Wesmont news, luxury townhomes at Wright Place (a name honoring the redevelopment site's former aeronautical legacy) are continuing to sell at record pace, and it is conceivable that all of the townhomes at Wesmont could be sold within two years, Mayor Sarlo further reported.

"The rising values of townhome sales at the Wesmont Station redevelopment is a sign that the housing market in Wood-Ridge is speaking loudly, and saying that our Borough is a great place to both live and invest," Sarlo said, adding, "all throughout Wood-Ridge, we continue to see private property values on the rise."



# PARK & RIDE



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
DESK

## BRIGHT NEW PLAYGROUND ON HIGHLAND AVENUE COMPLETED

Welcome to latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*. The Borough is in full bloom in this edition with new enhancements to William Kour Neighborhood Park and the opening of the new Highland Avenue Playground behind Doyle School.

I am very pleased with the new playground behind Doyle, the idea for which was championed by the Wood-Ridge Education Foundation, which was jointly funded by the town and the school district. Also in terms of educational improvements, our comprehensive vision with the Board of Education to upgrade Wood-Ridge's public school facilities continues with three new science labs at Wood-Ridge High School, and air conditioning coming this summer to all of the schools.

Wood-Ridge is on the road to progress, and this is further evident in an all-new parking lot accompanying our Wesmont train station and new road pavings on the horizon.

The Borough has become a model municipality moving forward down this road together, receiving continuous accolades, including most recently the Bergen County Historic Society Preservation Award and the rank of NJ's 20th Safest City by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. These recognitions belong to every Wood-Ridge resident.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo  
Mayor

A brand new playground adjacent to the Catherine E. Doyle School building opened this spring, with multiple jungle gyms and creative play equipment tailored to children of different ages, a basketball court, a newly graded and sodded field with bleachers, and lush landscaping.

"The new Highland Avenue Playground is now the largest playground in Wood-Ridge, and we're proud to see it getting frequent use," said Councilman Ed Marino, who serves as Liaison to the Wood-Ridge Board of Education. Councilman Marino explained that the project was funded jointly as a shared service between the Borough and the Board of

Education.

The playground is open for residents when the after-care program at Doyle concludes in the late afternoon, on weekends, and during school breaks. Also featured at the site is a covered 70-person pavilion, built for students to use an outdoor classroom. The entrance to the playground on Highland Avenue was also renovated with new walkways, landscaping and fencing.



# KOUR PARK RENOVATIONS COMPLETED



William Kour Park on 13th Street is in full bloom this spring with new landscaping, trees, a sprinkler system, ornate stone walls, winding pathways and new benches and picnic tables, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who serves as the liaison to the Community Development Committee.

“Kour Park has been enhanced to a premiere green space on par with the others in our community, one that residents of all ages are invited to enjoy, whether taking a walk, appreciating nature, engaging in a conversation with neighbors or admiring the view of the setting sun to the west,” noted DiMarco.

Funding for the project was 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 the Borough and applied to the enhancement of parks and recreational facilities throughout Wood-Ridge, including the 6th Street Field, 14th Street Field Playground, Bowman Park tennis courts, and Veterans Park on the Boulevard.

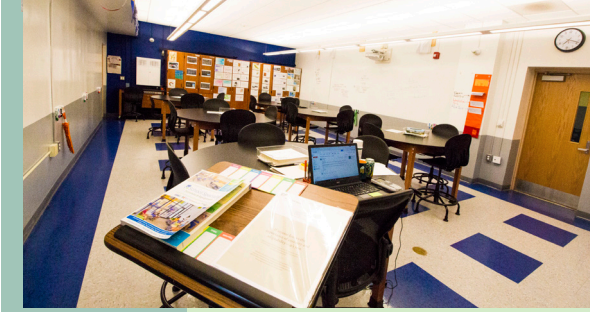
## NEW SCIENCE LABS OPEN A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR WRHS STUDENTS

Wood-Ridge High School is wrapping up its first year successfully utilizing all-new science labs as a result of a comprehensive, collaborative Borough-Board of Education overhaul of school facilities benefiting all grade levels.

“Each lab is used by all students at WRHS who are enrolled in either Physics, Chemistry, or Biology, and beginning with an inaugural class in September 2017, students enrolled in the Academy of Science and Technology,” said Council President Dominick Azzolini, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Education Facilities Special Committee. “Although the labs can be used interchangeably, each was designed in collaboration with the teacher of the specific discipline to cater to the laboratory needs of each scientific discipline.”

Among some of the labs’ most exciting technological features are a large format printer and a “3-D printer” which allows for the creation of a three-dimensional objects from digital files. The labs officially reopened at the beginning of 2016-2017 school year.

Part of a Borough-wide initiative envisioned by the Mayor and Council and Board of Education together to upgrade Wood-Ridge’s existing school buildings for the next generation of students, the lab renovations are part of improvements which have included installing new windows, security cameras and heating and air conditioning systems in all schools. Work at Doyle School was completed last year and work at the Jr.-Sr. High School will be completed by the end of this year. The renovations, which are partially funded by a \$4.8 million state grant, were overwhelmingly approved by the voters in a 2014 referendum.



## 2017 ROAD PAVING SCHEDULED

The Borough of Wood-Ridge announced that it has received \$165,000 in grant funding from the State Department of Transportation to be applied to road enhancements in the Borough. The Borough will use the funds to move ahead with paving Marlboro Road, Windsor Road and Sussex Road, all from Valley Boulevard to 10th Street, and 7th Street from Highland Avenue to Sussex Road. Work is slated to begin in August and be concluded by November.

“The Borough continues to be on track with a comprehensive road resurfacing program that has brought repaving, new curbs and sidewalks, and enhanced drainage infrastructure to nearly every road in the borough over the last 15 years,” said Councilman Phil Romero, who Chairs the Borough’s Public Works Committee.

# WR MEMORIAL LIBRARY EARNS PRESERVATION AWARD



The Borough of Wood-Ridge received the 2017 Bergen County Historic Preservation Award on May 4, 2017 for its Restoration of the Brinkerhoff House / Wood-Ridge Memorial Library. The Brinkerhoff House, built around 1784, was originally a farmhouse built from hand-cut native sandstone, and is the only surviving sandstone house in Wood-Ridge. Its storied history includes once crowning a 200-acre farm, being saved from demolition by a group of concerned citizens in the 1950s, and being repaired by Edgar I. Williams, architect and the brother of the late poet William Carlos Williams.

The Borough undertook the renovations utilizing a Bergen County Historic Trust Fund Grant, said Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy, who also serves as the President of the Library Board.

“The renovations included structural enhancements with a keen eye to preserving history for future Wood-Ridge generations and patrons of the library to enjoy,” said Cassidy, noting that Brinkerhoff House has received renovations to its roofing, drainage, siding, trim repair, masonry repointing, and an upgrading of its exterior lighting.

Pictured at the recognition ceremony, held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Englewood, are Bergen County Historic Preservation Advisory Board member Jeffrey Lahullier, Library Director Margaret Mellet, Councilwoman Cassidy, Library Board Members Linda Radulich, Judy Pepe, Ann Riccardella, Ronnie York, Lauren Magnusson and Pat Sloan, and Margaret Hickey and Tom Connelly of Connelly and Hickey Historical Architects.

