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Proposed rendering of the
new Recreation Center.

WOOD-RIDGE MAYOR AND COUNCIL INVITE RESIDENTS TO SECOND "TOWN DAY"

Mayor Paul Sarlo and the Wood-Ridge Borough Council are pleased to announce the return of two hugely successful events this year.

The first is Wood-Ridge Town Day, which will be held on **SUNDAY, JUNE 9 FROM 2-7 P.M.** The street festival will take place on Valley Boulevard, rain or shine, and will feature free rides and other amusements for children, food stands, a tiki bar, and live music by New Jersey's own *The Nerds*.

The Mayor and Council also announce the return of the Wood-Ridge Food Truck Festival, which will be held on Wesmont Drive on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, FROM 1-6 P.M.** The outdoor event will also be rain or shine, and will feature food trucks, a beer garden, and live music by Bruce Springsteen tribute band *The B Street Band*.

"Based on the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural Wood-Ridge Town Day and Wood-Ridge Food Truck Festival, we are looking forward to sponsoring these events again to welcome our residents to two great days of fun," said Councilman Dominick Azzolini, who along with Councilman Phil Romero, chairs the events.



WOOD-RIDGE NEWSLETTER 2019 EDITION #1

NEW
WR ATHLETIC
COMPLEX
PLANS
INSIDE



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
DESK

NEW ATHLETIC COMPLEX ANNOUNCED FOR WR

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Wood-Ridge Newsletter*. In this edition, we make a major announcement about increasing the Borough of Wood-Ridge's recreational facilities with the addition of an all-new Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex at the Wesmont Station redevelopment site.

As it comes online in several planned phases, the all-new Athletic Complex will provide new facilities for high school and recreational sports programs. The Athletic Complex will also have walking paths, playgrounds, dog runs and restrooms that will be open to the public.

With our gaze ever set to progress, we also announce road repavings and sidewalk enhancements.

Also in this edition we announce the return of two popular community events we began last year - Wood-Ridge Town Day and the Wood-Ridge Food Truck Festival - and we celebrate the spirit of our community with such events as the Blue Mass for Police.

As always, it is a great time to be in Wood-Ridge.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

Mayor Paul Sarlo and the Borough Council announce that a new Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex for use by Wood-Ridge High School teams, Wood-Ridge Recreation teams and the public will be built at Wesmont Station.

"We are pleased to announce a major addition to the Borough of Wood-Ridge's infrastructure, one that will enhance our sports programs, improve property values, and beautify an underutilized portion of property in line with the continued improvements we have seen related to the Wesmont Station redevelopment," said Mayor Sarlo.

The Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex will include a new soccer field, two new baseball/softball fields, an indoor recreation center with two gymnasiums, a playground, walking paths, a concession stand, a dog run, green and open spaces, and much more. All outdoor fields will be turfed and have permanent field lighting.

In addition to increasing the inventory of recreational spaces for use by the Borough, the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex will tackle a number of challenges facing the ever-growing athletic programs in Wood-Ridge.

For example, a new soccer field at the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex will mean that teams will no longer need to rely on Pomponio Field for games, explained Councilman Ezio Altamura, who is also a former Recreation Soccer coach and current WRHS Girls' Varsity Soccer volunteer assistant coach.

"Pomponio Field is on wetlands and has been historically subject to flooding, causing cancellations," said Altamura. "With the new field coming online, soccer teams will be able to trade cancelled games at Pomponio Field for the use of a reliable, turfed, state-of-the-art facility."

A second problem that the new fields at the Athletic Complex are expected to solve is scheduling conflicts. One of the goals of the Athletic Complex fields is to eliminate scheduling conflicts with Donna Ricker Field at Wood-Ridge High School, which is shared by several high school and Recreation sports programs during the fall and spring seasons, said Councilman Ed Marino, who is liaison to the Board of Education.

When the new soccer field is completed at the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex, Wood-Ridge High School Football and Cheering will continue to use Donna Ricker Field. The Blue Devils Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams will use the new soccer field afterschool, followed by Recreation Soccer in the evenings. The soccer field is expected to be completed by September 2020.

When the baseball and softball diamonds are completed at the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex, Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball, Recreation Girls' Softball, Little League Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball, will all have access to two additional fields.

(continued on inside pages)

BLUE MASS HONORS POLICE

The Church of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady invited the men and women of law enforcement to attend the annual Police Blue Mass on **SUNDAY, MAY 19**. The Mass recognized the sacrifice and dedication of all those individuals serving in law enforcement capacities, both in Wood-Ridge and in surrounding towns. Mayor Paul Sarlo addressed the officers, families, and residents gathered at the Mass, and thanked Councilman Ezio Altamura, who also chairs the Police Committee, for organizing the event.



ROAD, CURB & SIDEWALK UPGRADES CONTINUE THROUGHOUT WOOD-RIDGE

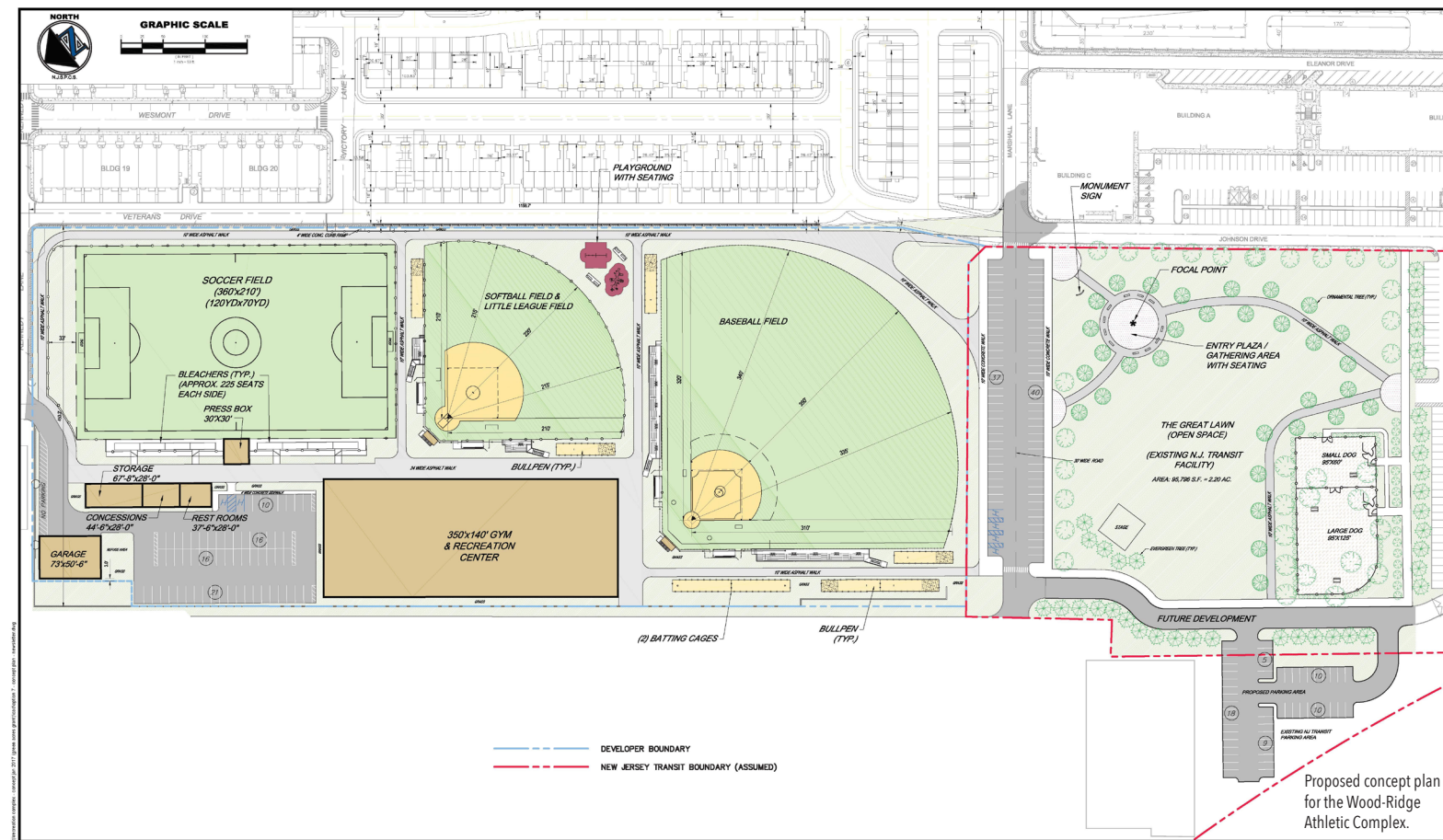
WR ATHLETIC COMPLEX : FIRST FIELDS SLATED TO OPEN IN TIME FOR FALL 2020 SPORTS SEASON

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has applied for and successfully received a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for road enhancements, reports Council President Catherine Cassidy.

The Borough will use a \$212,000 grant from DOT to pave the dead-end portions of Malboro Road, Windsor Road, Sussex Road and Innes Road by the end of July, having already installed new sidewalks and curbs last fall. Paving has been delayed because of the unusual amount of rain during April and May. Tenth Street will be repaved in the Fall of 2019 with funds from a second DOT grant, in the amount of \$192,000.

Additionally, new sidewalks and curbs are being installed along Hackensack Street in coordination with Bergen County. The east side of Hackensack Street received many new sidewalks and curbs in 2018, and the west side is receiving same throughout 2019.

The county is scheduled to pave Hackensack Street later this year.



(continued from cover)

“The addition of two new baseball and softball diamonds at the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex will ensure an end to scheduling conflicts, and give all of the Borough’s young athletes a chance to play at either the 6th Street Field, 14th Street Field, Donna Ricker Field, or the new Athletic Complex fields,” said Councilman Phil Romero, who is also President of the Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball programs.

The baseball and softball fields are slated for completion in April 2021.

Inside of the new recreation center, two gymnasiums will also aid with scheduling when the recreation center comes online, explained Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who chairs the Building and Grounds Committee.

“Presently, there is only one regulation-size gym in the Borough, located at Wood-Ridge High School, for use by the WRHS Boys’ and Girls’ Varsity Basketball and Junior Varsity Basketball programs, as well as the Recreation Basketball program. The new gym at the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex will free up space by

providing a new home for the Recreation Basketball program,” DiMarco said.

In terms of funding, Wesmont Station redeveloper Somerset Development will donate 12 acres of property to the Borough, pay for demolition and site work, and contribute \$4 million to the overall creation of the Athletic Complex, said Mayor Sarlo.

Mayor Sarlo is also currently negotiating plans with New Jersey Transit executives for the New Jersey Transit maintenance facility near the site of the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex to be demolished, and its land to be added to the project for use as open space.

“I am hopeful that the Murphy Administration, New Jersey Transit and the Borough of Wood-Ridge will be able to cooperate together in order to relocate the New Jersey Transit maintenance facility to an appropriate industrial area outside of Wood-Ridge,” said Mayor Sarlo. “As a result, nearly four acres of open space will be added to the Athletic Complex footprint for the use, appreciation and enjoyment of our residents.”

