



(Clockwise from lower left) Construction is underway on Wood-Ridge Intermediate School's new entrance, elevator, classrooms, and storage spaces for student belongings and teaching materials. View more photos at www.njwoodridge.org.

WR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

WR ON THE ROAD TO PROGRESS

This spring continues the long-term planning of the Borough of Wood-Ridge to resurface its roads and upgrade related infrastructure.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Streets are being resurfaced, as well as portions of Main Street from Hackensack Street to Valley Boulevard and North Avenue from Hackensack Street to 10th Street. As each road is repaved, new catch basins are also being installed at strategic locations to reduce road flooding. The roads will receive new sidewalks and handicapped-accessible curb-cuts as well.

"As the comprehensive resurfacing program passes its five-year mark, improved roads throughout the Borough of Wood-Ridge have become the norm, rather than the exception," said Council President Catherine Cassidy.

"Low interest rates and competitive bidding have worked in Wood-Ridge's favor as we continue this program to benefit pedestrians, bikers, families walking their kids to school, and homeowners," said Councilman Ed Marino, who chairs the Finance Committee.



Improvements to 1st Street and North Avenue.

TAKING ROOT



Shade Tree Commission Liaison and Councilman Phil Romero reported 100 new trees were planted in Wood-Ridge this spring, replacing diseased and damaged trees which were removed by professionals or brought down during preparations for Superstorm Sandy.

New deciduous shade trees can be found along the Borough's recently-repaved roadways, and young evergreens have been planted at the corners of the ballfield on 14th Street.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Newsletter.

Driving or walking around our community, you may notice a lot of new improvements and projects underway. Wood-Ridge is on the road to progress. And the road to progress is always under construction.

This progress is largely thanks to grant funding and public-private partnerships with an eye on saving taxpayer dollars.

On Valley Boulevard, Veterans Park has received new jungle gyms, a pavilion with picnic tables, and a new gazebo. Our comprehensive road repaving and shade tree programs have added beauty to the community and helped to increase property values.

On First Street next to Assumption Church, we are preparing to open our third public school, Wood-Ridge Intermediate School. The project has provided us with a chance to undertake state-of-the-art renovations on an existing facility with funding from the redeveloper of Wesmont Station.

While we highlight these infrastructure improvements, we also honor the individuals who make Wood-Ridge special – the veterans who have fought for this country, the residents who volunteer as firefighters and pitch in at community cleanups, and the good neighbors who cooperate with borough officials as we undertake continued improvements.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

SUMMER SCHOOL-WORK WR Intermediate School Renovations On Schedule for September Opening

Work is underway at Wood-Ridge Intermediate School on First Street for a September opening. The renovated facility's 12 classrooms for 4th, 5th and 6th graders each have been upgraded with new windows, new ceilings, new colorfully-tiled floors, storage space for faculty, new cabinets, and air conditioning, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, Chair of the Council's Special Redevelopment Committee on Educational Facilities.

"The building will also have two new entrances, the first of which residents have probably noticed passing construction on First Street," DiMarco said. "The First Street entrance has been designed with an enclosed canopy. Once inside, students and faculty will be able to use a new elevator to travel between floors."

Also at WRIS will be two small group instruction rooms, a media center, art room, music room, central offices, and a fully-renovated cafeteria with modern appliances, tables and chairs. The renovated gymnasium will be the home court for Wood-Ridge's volleyball and basketball programs and will provide space for Summer Recreation programs, said Councilman Ed Marino, who chairs the Borough's Special Redevelopment Committee on Recreational Facilities.



A completed classroom awaits desks and students at the renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School, opening this

Wood-Ridge Intermediate School will stand at the site of the former Assumption School, which the Borough purchased from Assumption Parish for \$2.8 million last year. \$5 million of renovations have been undertaken. The project has been jointly financed by Somerset Development, which has transformed the closed and decaying Curtis Wright factory into the Wesmont Station mixed use redevelopment, and the Borough through a 15-year bond. Somerset Development will pay the first 11 years of the bond, with the Borough of Wood-Ridge paying the remainder.

Take a tour of the construction on the back cover of this edition and at www.njwoodridge.org.

A date for the grand opening of the school will be announced over the summer.

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MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES HONOR SERVICE

The streets of Wood-Ridge were lined with residents of all ages acknowledging veterans groups, civic organizations, and the Borough's emergency responders during the annual Memorial Day Parade May 27, chaired by Council President Catherine Cassidy and Councilman Ezio Altamura.

"This year's event was safe and successful, due largely to the efforts of the Wood-Ridge Police, who redirected traffic around key roads, and the Department of Public Works, who beautify and maintain Borough parks," said Councilman Altamura, who also serves as Liaison to Veterans Groups.

Under a blue sky and mild weather, services honoring men and women who served their country in various theaters of combat began at the Veterans Walk of Freedom outside of the Wood-Ridge Civic and Senior Center on Highland Avenue.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3616, the Ladies Auxiliary, and American Legion Post 97 marshaled the ceremonies, which included recitation of the names of Wood-Ridge's deceased veterans and the sounding of the Taps.

Mayor Paul Sarlo captured the spirit of the gathering by noting not only the bravery and sacrifices of military personnel abroad, but the call to civic duty many have answered upon returning home.

"Before enjoying a barbeque with family and friends or a trip down the shore or other start to the summer, we gather this morning to honor the men and women who have preserved these freedoms for us," said Mayor Sarlo, adding, "for those military personnel who return home, the call to service is often a deep and continuing one. We see veterans around us teaching in schools, joining the police force, volunteering with the local fire department, and coming out today to show solidarity."

Memorial wreaths were placed along the Walk of Freedom by civic groups.

Marchers then stepped off the corner of Hackensack Street and Highland Avenues and followed a starred-and-stripped parade route to the newly-renovated Veterans Park on Valley Boulevard.

There, a procession of veterans groups, scouting troops, emergency services personnel, the Wood-Ridge Fire Department fleet and military vehicles became one with a true scene of Americana. The Borough's youngest residents greeted the flashing lights of the trucks, waived flags, petted dogs, and chased each other around the park while their parents caught up. An eager line formed outside of an ice cream truck for the first sweet frozen treats of the season. Groups came together under the recently-added covered pavilion to enjoy refreshments and listen to the strolling musicians.

The park bearing the namesake of the Borough's veterans burst to life in celebration of them, and in remembrance.



WRFD HOLDS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual Wood-Ridge Fire Department Exempt Association Memorial Service was held on May 22, 2013. President Thomas Bischoff led the ceremony. Fire Department Chaplain Deacon Frank Matera gave the invocation and the benediction. Fire Chief Scott Russo, Fire Commissioner Dominick Azzolini, Mayor Paul Sarlo and Assemblywoman Marlene Caride all spoke at the service. Taps was played by Captain Elizabeth Ferry and 1st Assistant Chief Ronald Phillips Jr. played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. Twenty-three wreaths were placed at the bell outside of headquarters by the families of departed brothers and local organizations and the names of the 122 deceased firefighters were read and saluted. During the past year, no names were added to the list.

WR RESIDENTS THANKED FOR PATIENCE DURING IMPROVEMENTS TO ELECTRICAL GRID

Council President and Police Department Liaison Catherine Cassidy expressed gratitude on behalf of Wood-Ridge to residents who were patient during street closures for the laying of an underground conduit by PSE&G and its subcontractor during the spring.

"We are grateful to residents who stayed informed through questions to elected officials and eNews updates," Cassidy said. "This electric conduit was laid across the Borough as part of the Hudson Transmission Project between New Jersey and New York. The Project's contractor is repaving Union Avenue from Arnot Place to 14th Street, and all of Highland Avenue and 14th Streets. The Borough is overseeing the replacement of all affected sidewalks."

The conduit will reduce transmission constraints and improve power flow throughout New Jersey, especially during critical peak demand periods such as late afternoons in the summer months.

The Hudson Transmission Project will also provide redundancy during power outages, due to its capability to transfer power both to and from New York City via a new substation in Ridgefield.

SPENCER SAVINGS RISING ON BOULEVARD CORNER



Spencer Savings Bank is currently constructing a new location at the corner of Valley Boulevard and Wood-Ridge Avenue. The bank will occupy the site of a former service station, and feature an elevator between its first and second stories, as well as office space on the second floor.

EMPOWERING WOOD-RIDGE AGAINST FUTURE STORMS

The Borough has recently applied for federal grants for the purchase of new permanent generators for pump stations on 10th Street/Sussex Avenue and Andersen Avenue.

"These generators are a measure to build up Wood-Ridge's resilience in extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy, and will help prevent sanitary sewer backflows into residents' homes during torrential rains," said Councilman Dominick Azzolini, Liaison to Fire and Emergency Services.

The generators will be hooked up to fixed natural gas supplies, as opposed to relying on diesel. Azzolini added that the change in fuel makes the generators better for the environment and also more reliable, because power failures like those experienced during Sandy can also incapacitate gas stations.

NEW EQUIPMENT AND WELCOME SHADE REACH VETERANS PARK IN TIME FOR SUMMER



Veterans Park has received a notable refresh at the start of the outdoor season.

For kids, all new jungle gyms have been installed for various age groups. Among the brightly-colored pieces are a playhouse, pirate ship, bridges, slides, climbing bars and swings.

"Almost every parent and child who grew up in Wood-Ridge remembers a play date at Veterans Park, and the former jungle gym had a decade of steady use. Even though it wasn't dangerous yet, we responded to the advice of the insurer that it could become dangerous and replaced it," said Councilman Joe DiMarco, who also chairs the Building and Grounds Committee.

DiMarco added that the improvements were funded by \$60,000 in grants Wood-Ridge applied for from Bergen County.

Adults can enjoy a new roofed pavilion with seven tables, a new gazebo, and permanent chess tables. The new gazebo replaces one donated by the Wood-Ridge Lions Club, and a commemorative plaque remains acknowledging the organization's support of the park.

SMOKE-FREE ZONES EXPANDED

An amendment to Wood-Ridge's smoke-free ordinance has expanded areas where tobacco, pipe and other forms of smoke with adverse health affects are prohibited.



"This ordinance mitigates the dangers of second hand smoke to residents and especially to children" said Councilman Joe DiMarco, Liaison to the Board of Health. DiMarco added that all public facilities would be signed as smoke-free zones as part of the ordinance.

The ordinance covers all municipal "enclosed areas," all "parks and recreational facilities" including playgrounds, ballfields, parking lots and plazas, and all "buildings and grounds" either owned or leased by the Borough.

It extends the smoking ban to a 35-foot radius from the entrance to all public buildings.