

RETIRING BOROUGH CLERK HONORED FOR SERVICE



Mayor Paul Sarlo and the Borough Council honored Borough Clerk Diane Thornley on January 28 for 25 years of dedicated service marked by countless accolades. The Mayor and Council made a special presentation during the monthly Council Meeting, which was rescheduled from January 27 on account of a snowstorm.

"Diane has been an inspiration to her fellow employees," said Mayor Sarlo. "She has been the Borough Clerk for my entire time in office, and we are truly going to miss her."

Diane began her work with the Borough of Wood-Ridge as Assistant Municipal Clerk on November 13, 1989. She served as Borough Clerk

from July 1, 1996 to February 1, 2015. Diane's last day as Borough Clerk was January 30, 2015. Pursuant to a unanimous resolution by the Mayor and Council, January 30 became known as "DIANE THORNLEY DAY" in the Borough of Wood-Ridge.

In his capacity as State Senator, Mayor Sarlo also co-sponsored a Joint Legislative Resolution with Assemblyman Gary S. Schaer and Assemblywoman Marlene Caride that Diane be honored upon her retirement. The resolution was acknowledged on the floor of the New Jersey Legislature.

Both resolutions were presented to Diane with her family, friends and colleagues gathered during the meeting.

Councilman Ed Marino, who chairs the Borough Finance Committee, reports that Gina Affuso has been hired to serve as the new Borough Clerk. Gina's experience in municipal government includes working for the Paramus Borough Clerk's office and serving as Deputy City Clerk in the City of Clifton. She is a Certified Municipal Clerk and Certified Municipal Registrar. Gina has lived in Wood-Ridge for 18 years, and is married with one child.

WOOD-RIDGE NEWSLETTER



2015

EDITION #1



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

CHALLENGING WINTER FINALLY OVER IN WOOD-RIDGE

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Borough newsletter and the first edition of 2015.

The feature article of this edition details the Borough's comprehensive plan for snow and ice removal during winter storms, overviews the challenges faced by the Department of Public Works this particularly tough season, and outlines ways that residents can help during future winter weather events.

I commend the DPW for their tireless efforts during another long, tough season in keeping our roadways plowed and salted, bus stops and sidewalks around public buildings safe and passable, and the entire Borough of Wood-Ridge operational.

Also in this edition, we acknowledge the careers and lifetime achievements of several special individuals who have dedicated themselves to serving their Wood-Ridge neighbors.

I often say that Wood-Ridge is a special place to be mayor of, and looking at the past accomplishments of these individuals, as well as ahead to community events, infrastructure improvements, and continued successes for the Borough this year, I am confident that Wood-Ridge and its residents are moving together down the road to progress.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

A benign early winter concluded with the Wood-Ridge Department of Public Works having fought through a record-setting season of nearly 20 winter snow or ice events, which required approximately 400 tons of rock salt.

"Extremely cold temperatures, often in the single digits, for prolonged periods of time, made keeping roads ice-free very difficult, even though we treated them with rock salt," said Council President Ezio Altamura, who also serves as Liaison to the DPW. "What is important to realize is that in order for rock salt to be effective, temperatures have to be above 20 degrees with sunshine. We had very few days in February that met those criteria."

At the time of this publication, 15 days in January, 22 days in February, and 5 days in March had recorded temperatures lower than 20 degrees. [Source: Weather Underground, a service of The Weather Channel].

Adding to the difficulty this year, Wood-Ridge acquires its salt from a Bergen County cooperative which distributes to Wood-Ridge and neighboring towns. A statewide shortage affected the cooperative's available salt for the winter season.

Altamura explained Wood-Ridge's comprehensive snowstorm strategy. Wood-Ridge makes its first priority to salt steep hills and heavily trafficked roads.

During the storm, snowplows plow and salt all streets. Once the roads are cleared, passable and safe,

the DPW turns its attention to shoveling all sidewalks surrounding public buildings, schools and parks.

In the days after a storm, the DPW shovels out bus stops and removes snow from crosswalks and corners to open up major streets such as Valley Boulevard and Hackensack Street for pedestrians.

"As in other years, the vast majority of our residents were cooperative and understanding of the time it took to deice the roads and remove the snow this winter," said Altamura. "This good neighbor spirit in Wood-Ridge gets us to the spring every year."



Plowing and salting roadways and steep hills and shoveling out public buildings like Wood-Ridge High School are among the first priorities in the comprehensive plan the Borough implements each time winter weather strikes.

\$400K GRANT TO FUND CONTINUED WR ROADWAY RESURFACING PROGRAM

Wood-Ridge will begin upgrading a series of roadways this spring as part of the Borough's comprehensive roadway improvement program, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who also serves as Liaison to the Community Development Committee.

Malboro Road, Windsor Road, Innes Road, and Sussex Road from Valley Boulevard to Hackensack Street will be upgraded, along with Ryerson Avenue and Wood-Ridge Street north of Moonachie Avenue.

The improvements, which will include repaving, new curbs, trees,

sidewalks and associated drainage, will be partially funded by a \$400,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Additionally, 4th Street and Moonachie Avenue will be resurfaced and will receive new curbs and sidewalks in a joint effort between the Borough, Bergen County, PSE&G and United Water.

Work on the roadways will begin in the spring, and is expected to last through the summer.

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Changing seasons mean outside fun. Keep reading for spring events.

WINTER'S END



After a challenging snow season in the Borough of Wood-Ridge, Councilman Phil Romero, who also serves as Liaison to the Traffic Safety Committee, offers some helpful tips to help residents battle future winters:

- ❄️ 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 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 physically able, please clear a pathway to open up the crosswalk to pedestrians.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE / KEEP WOOD-RIDGE BEAUTIFUL DAY ANNOUNCED

The Annual Wood-Ridge Memorial Day Parade will be held on **MONDAY, MAY 25**, announced Council President Ezio Altamura, who serves as Liaison to the Public Events Committee. Services will begin at the Walk of Freedom at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m., with the parade beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The parade will step off from the corner of Hackensack Street and Highland Avenue at the Senior Center, and head south on Hackensack Street, turning right onto Union Avenue and heading west. The parade will continue north on Valley Boulevard, ending at Veterans Park, where festivities will include refreshments, strolling musicians, military vehicles and involvement from local merchants. All are invited to honor and celebrate our veterans by lining the parade route, and to welcome the summer season in by attending the free events in the park.

The "Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful" Committee will hold its 16th Annual Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day on **SUNDAY, JUNE 7** between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

"Individual volunteers and local civic groups are asked once again to help clean the Borough's shopping districts and raise awareness of the effects of litter," said Altamura, who also chairs the KWRB Committee. "Helpers of all ages are welcome to come together to make a visible



difference in our community."

The Bergen County Board of Health will provide cleaning utensils, gloves, brooms and bags. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Wood-Ridge Civic Center at 1:00 p.m. Hot dogs and other refreshments will be served after the cleanup.

To sign up for KWRB Day, please call Borough Hall at (201) 939-0202, extension 108, and leave your name and how many adults' or children's shirts should be ordered. For additional information, please contact Council President Altamura at (201) 531-0259.

CENTENARIAN ANTHONY 'TONY' GIUSEFFI HONORED FOR 100 YEARS WELL SPENT



The Mayor and Council formally honored Anthony "Tony" Giuseffi and gave him the key to the Borough at the January Council Meeting, acknowledging a lifetime of kindness and dedication to his work, family and Wood-Ridge.

"This beloved resident of the Borough of Wood-Ridge has exemplified the spirit of service and generosity of the people of our community," said Mayor Paul Sarlo.

Tony was born on January 31, 1915 and came to live in Passaic Park with his family in 1920, where he attended Passaic grammar schools. He graduated from Saint Mary's High School in 1936 and went on to graduate from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Tony married his high school sweetheart, Virginia, in June of 1940 and moved to what would become the couple's lifelong home on Windsor Road.

Around the same time, he started his career with Walter Kidde and Company, which manufactured firefighting and life-saving equipment.

When World War II broke out, the company focused solely on defense, and Tony was promoted to Assistant Director of Aerospace Systems. He went on to open his own consulting firm in 1967, which he sold before retiring in 1980.

In his 73 years in the Borough of Wood-Ridge, Tony held numerous community service positions, including member of the Wood-Ridge Police Marshalls, County Committeeman for the Wood-Ridge Democratic Party, member of the Welcoming Committee for New Wood-Ridge Residents, President of the Our Lady of Assumption Holy Name Society, Assumption Player, Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Charter Member of the Knights of Columbus.

Tony and his wife had five children, and they were very proud of their nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

The Borough Council's Resolution, in addition to recognizing Tony, declared his 100th Birthday on January 31st "**ANTHONY GIUSEFFI DAY.**"

WR POLICE CHIEF CHOSEN AS COUNTY CHIEFS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Wood-Ridge Police Chief Joseph Rutigliano was installed as President of the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association on January 17 at the organization's Annual Banquet at the Fiesta.

Chief Rutigliano was selected from among the chiefs of Bergen County's 70 municipalities. In his new role, he will work in cooperation with the other chiefs to prevent crime and increase police unity and efficiency across Bergen County.

"We are incredibly proud that our own Police Chief has been recognized for his service and leadership and given this great honor," said Councilwoman Catherine Cassidy, who serves as Liaison to the Wood-Ridge Police Department.

Mayor Sarlo swore in Chief Rutigliano and the other seven chiefs who will comprise his executive board. More than 300 guests were in attendance at the event, including all members of the Wood-Ridge Police Department who were not on duty at the time.

Chief Rutigliano recently announced that he will be retiring later this year.



(ABOVE) Mayor Sarlo congratulates Chief Rutigliano on his new position as President of the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association; (BELOW) Mayor Sarlo swears in Chief Rutigliano's Executive Board for the 2015 term.



NEW CHIEF TAKES REIGNS OF WOOD-RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

New chiefs and officers were sworn in at the Annual Fire Chief's Installation Dinner January 10, reported Councilman Dominick Azzolini, who also serves as Liaison to the Fire and Emergency Services Committee.

Congratulations to all of the new officers who were sworn in by Mayor Sarlo: Fire Department Chief Ronald Phillips, Jr., First Assistant Chief Kenneth Schulz, Second Assistant Chief Elizabeth Ferry, Captain Michael Cribben, Lieutenant William Bergner, Lieutenant David Potchoiba, Treasurer Ronald Phillips, Sr., Corresponding Secretary Gregory Gorab, Recording Secretary Thomas Bischoff, Jr.; Emergency Squad Officers Captain Anthony Pennisi, Lieutenant Dennis Kronyak III, Treasurer Stephen Sarracino, Corresponding Secretary Kevin Cribben and Recording Secretary Elizabeth Ferry. Justin Berta was added to the Fire Department's officers' corps. on March 2, 2015 to fill the rank of Lieutenant.

The Wood-Ridge Fire Department invites all to attend its Exempt Association Memorial Service, to be held at the monument outside of Borough Hall on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20** at 7:00 p.m.



Irish Knights. The Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585 hosted their most successful Saint Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner to date March 14, reported Councilman and K of C Liaison Phil Romero. Proceeds raised from ticket sales are returned to the Wood-Ridge community in the form of scholarships, sponsorship of Youth Recreation, WRHS Project Graduation and other programs.