



Upper Saddle River Borough Bulletin

www.usrtoday.org

September/October 2019

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Mayor and Council Message

Update Regarding Orchard Ridge: Orchard Ridge is a development which occupies the former Apple Ridge Golf Course. The 110 acres, half in Mahwah and half in Upper Saddle River, are currently under construction by Toll Brothers. The half in Mahwah was approved for remediation and development of homes. **The half in USR had been zoned as a scarce resource in the early 1990's – as a part of the Borough's affordable housing settlement in Round One. As a result, the developer filed an application for 353 townhomes with 70 low/moderate income units on the USR side. The Governing Body settled to allow 44 single family homes on the property and contracted with Bergen County Housing Authority to build the low/moderate income units on Borough land.**

Prior to being a golf course, the property was an apple orchard which utilized pesticides. Environmental studies were performed by a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) who determined lead and arsenic existed onsite above allowable concentrations. The LSRP prepared the requisite studies and was directed by the NJDEP to utilize a method known as soil blending to remediate the site for residential use. **Municipalities do not have jurisdiction over remediation activities. The entire process is overseen by the Project LSRP and the NJDEP. The NJDEP conducted a comprehensive review of the reports and activities before concluding the remediation was successfully completed on December 22, 2017.**

The clearing of the entire acreage for the remediation at one time was a decision made by the NJDEP. Neither municipality had any authority to override this decision.

Shortly after the start of construction activities in early 2018, there were several incidents of soil and sediment leaving the site in an uncontrolled manner. In January, 2018, a Stop Work Order was issued by Upper Saddle River after unacceptable levels of sediment drifted in a wind storm onto nearby properties. **A municipality has authority to issue a Stop Work Order when debris enters the roadway. Not when soil runs into the streams – that is under the jurisdiction of the NJDEP, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, US Department of Agriculture and the Bergen County Soil District. Again – a municipality cannot override federal or state agencies.**

The Borough immediately conferred with the NJDEP to determine if this sediment constituted a health concern relating to the remediated arsenic and lead. The Borough received multiple written assurances that the remediation was successfully completed. **Upper Saddle River also initiated testing of the waterways within the Borough. All of the test results were shared with the NJDEP who confirmed their prior position. Of 90 tests, 88 surface water readings were within the NJ drinking water limit. The others were within the federal drinking water limits.** The samples were surface water – the readings were within safe drinking water limits. The results, and the NJDEP's findings, continue to be posted on the Borough's website, www.usrtoday.org.

After numerous reassurances, **the NJDEP concluded 'The matter is considered closed.'** However, due to continuing concerns raised by some residents, and despite these assurances, Upper Saddle River continues voluntary testing the affected streams within the Borough. Another test was performed on 8/14/19 and again the results are within NJ drinking water limits. **Public health and safety are always our first priority.**

The environmental permits granted for this project not only require controls to be installed that are shown on the approved plans, they also require the developer to confer with regulatory agencies throughout the construction phase and institute additional measures pursuant to the NJDEP Best Management Practices regulations. Representatives from both municipalities and the developer **continuously confer** with the Bergen County Soil Conservation District, US Department of Agriculture, NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and NJDEP and **continue to conduct numerous site inspections.** They recommended, and the developer installed, many additional soil erosion measures to address the soil erosion concerns noted at the site.

The 2018 Stop Work Order was reduced in scope and, ultimately, rescinded as the additional site controls took effect.

The NJDEP required the restoration of the Pleasant Brook, which runs the length of the property. NJDEP required the removal of multiple dams and the planting of wetland vegetation to improve the habitat onsite. Again, the municipalities had no jurisdiction over this. The disturbance of the dams and the brook has been contributing to the soil runoff within the stream. The work on the brook is expected to be completed soon. As a result of the Borough's requests, the NJDEP, NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, US Dept of Agriculture, and The Bergen County Soil District have been to the site, walked the stream and downstream to inspect the runoff multiple times and have raised no concerns.

On July 12, 2019, there was a thunderstorm which resulted in runoff leaving the site in an uncontrolled manner. A primary cause was noted to be straw and other stabilization measures clogging the storm drain system. Upper Saddle River demanded a meeting to address these deficiencies and additional measures and operations controls were instituted to address these issues. The storm system operated without incident during a thunderstorm shortly thereafter. Another storm occurred on 7/22/19 which resulted in additional discharges of muddy water from the site. This storm also results in the closure of East Saddle River Road as the rainfall was significant in a short time period.

Upper Saddle River issued a Stop Work Order the following day for violations of the Developers Agreement with the Borough. The Borough of Upper Saddle River also requested the Township of Mahwah to also issue a Stop Work Order since the flows from Mahwah affect the downstream properties in Upper Saddle River. Mahwah immediately complied.

(continued on page 2)

Mayor and Council Message (continued from page 1)

The Borough of Upper Saddle River held another meeting with the developer on 7/24/19. The Borough of Mahwah was invited and was in attendance. The developer was directed to provide and initiate a Corrective Action Plan to ensure future problems would not occur. The developer submitted a detailed proposal of additional measures and has since completed the majority of the items noted. Representatives from both towns, NJDEP, US Department of Agriculture, NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Bergen County Soil District conducted another site inspection on 7/30/19 to assess the overall site and recently installed measures.

An additional meeting was held with multiple representatives from these same agencies in Upper Saddle River on 8/2/19 followed by another site visit. The NJDEP, NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Soil District again reiterated that everything had been done in compliance and according to their requirements and under their jurisdiction. It was reiterated that this year's unusual amount of rain, along with two extreme storms, combined with the unusually fine soil on the site are complicating the project. The NJDEP again stated there is no concern regarding arsenic.

On 8/9/19 a follow up meeting was held with both municipalities, Boswell Engineering and Toll Brothers. At that time a review of the items

required for stabilization, allowed by the Stop Work Order, was done. As a result, some restrictions were reduced. On 8/13/19 all of the agencies toured the 110-acre site, along with representatives from the Borough of Upper Saddle River. They walked the Pleasant Brook again after the site visit. Again, state and county officials re-emphasized there was compliance on the part of Toll Bros.

Representatives from the NJDEP have again assured the Borough the discolored water which exited this site, at no point during the two-year tenure of this project, ever constituted a health concern for the residents of this community.

The Borough and its professionals have determined limited construction activities could resume at the One Lake Street project, effective August 16, 2019.

On August 19, 2019 Mahwah lifted the Stop Work Order on their portion of the project. Upper Saddle River will lift the Stop Work Order when we are satisfied that all required stabilization methods are in place and are working.

The Governing Body will continue to work with County, State and Federal agencies to ensure the health and safety of our residents and to hold the developer accountable. Updates and monthly surface water test results will be posted on the Borough website.

A MESSAGE FROM THE UPPER SADDLE RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

As we prepare for another school year to begin, the Police Department, USR School District and Mayor's Safety Committee will again participate in the AAA Northeast's annual School's Open - Drive Carefully awareness campaign. Increased police presence and traffic enforcement operations in the immediate vicinity of the schools can be expected. Please remember that school zones are considered a "zero tolerance" area. Officers will be focusing on identifying such things as distracted drivers, speeding, cell phone/texting while driving, drivers failing to stop for pedestrians within crosswalks, and drivers who fail to obey officers directing traffic.

Staying alert, being aware of your surroundings and properly securing your children in car seats and seatbelts are some of the best ways to help do your part in protecting yourself, your children, school staff and emergency personnel.

Parents are urged to review the USR School District homepage for general traffic information, which includes such things as specific drop-off/pick-up locations, along with maps that assist parents in navigating the school parking lots.

<https://www.usrschoolsk8.com/domain/1106>

Congestion around the schools is expected during the first couple of weeks and usually will dissipate once drivers become accustomed to the traffic pattern.

Please take note that prior to the end of last school year the Borough enacted a No Parking zone along West Saddle River Road in front of the Upper Saddle River schools. Parking is prohibited along the West Saddle River Road from the northerly entrance of Bogert/Reynolds School to the driveway of the Municipal Building. This ordinance was enacted in the interest of vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Information regarding the School's Open-Drive Carefully campaign can be found at the following website:

<https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/child-safety/schools-open-drive-carefully/#.XVW9o3spCUk>

This website also provides important information related to driver, pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Some suggestions for those who will be dropping off and picking up their children from school are:

- Be Patient, and take your time.
- Leave earlier for drop-off/pick-up.
- Try to car pool with other parents.

Finally, we ask that you immediately report any dangerous conditions around the schools, at bus stops or other areas that children may use to get to and from school each day.

Thank you and have a safe 2019-2020 school year.

USR Fall Tennis Clinics Registration

Registration is now being accepted for the 2019 fall tennis clinics. There will be one 5 – week session to be held at the Wickersham Tennis Courts, located in front of the Reynolds School. The student's clinics will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's beginning on September 9th. Adult lessons will be held on Tues and Thurs beginning Sept 10th. The cost for the entire 5 week session is \$95. Registration forms are available at Boro Hall or on the Boro website at www.USRtoday.org. For more information please call the USR Recreation Department at 201-327-3634 or email at USRRecreation@aol.com.

Flu Clinic - Upper Saddle River

The annual Flu Clinic will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Borough Hall, 376 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ. Regular vaccination cost is \$39.99; High dose cost is \$69.99. Must bring proof of Medicare.

Emergency Services Night

Wednesday, October 9th - 5-8:30pm

Learn about your Emergency Services. Come out on Wednesday, October 9th and learn about fire prevention and meet your neighbors who also serve as volunteers with your fire department. There will be hands-on events for the kids, demonstrations, giveaways, and fire truck rides. Also learn more about the ambulance corp. and police department.

There will be a Smokehouse, Helicopter Landing and a Police Demonstration. Events will take place at the firehouse on W. Saddle River Road.

Save The Date . . . for one of the SRVJWC's most popular events, The Princess Ball, benefiting Mallory's Army and local families in need. Dads and daughters will enjoy a special night of dinner & dancing, raffle prizes and lots of tender moments. November 16th at the Crown Plaza, Suffern, NY.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., the Upper Saddle River Fire Dept. will be hosting a memorial service and candlelight vigil. The service will take place at the 9/11 memorial in front of the firehouse. All residents are invited to attend.



The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River

Save the Date! Sign up now! On Saturday, October 5th the Woman's Club will sponsor their 3rd annual Town Wide Garage Sale. If you haven't participated in the past, it is a good way to clean out, and support the Club's educational and charitable pursuits. For a nominal fee of \$30, we'll get the permits, advertise, and bring the buyers to town. **Your profits are your own!** Registration form and further details are on our website (www.usrwomansclub.org). Register by September 27th to be included on the map available to buyers. Rain date: Sunday, October 6th.

Club Meetings resume on Tuesday, September, 10th at 7pm in the Upper Saddle River Library. For further information on the Club or any events, please call Nona Maher at 201-934-9562.

News from The Upper Saddle River Historical Society

The Annual **HARVEST FESTIVAL** at the Hopper-Goetschius House Museum will be on Saturday, October 26, from 1 to 4 pm. (Raindate: Sunday, Oct. 27). Enjoy the petting zoo and pony rides as well as the blue grass music. Taste apple cider on our old-fashioned cider press in the Dutch barn, hear spooky stories in the schoolroom, visit the gypsy fortune teller in her tent, taste soup made over the open hearth in the outkitchen, and watch the blacksmith at his forge. Enjoy demonstrations of colonial crafts and tour the house and barn.

Entrance: Members Free - Non-members: Adults, \$5; Children 16 & under, Free.

Parking will be in Lions Park. Handicapped parking will be at the museum lot. The event is free to Historical Society members and children 16 and under.

THE LORE OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER: The updated history of Upper Saddle River, done in honor of USR's 125 Anniversary, will be available in October. It's a whole new format with many photos in color. For information, visit www.usrhistoricalociety.org

Library Events Coming Up!

Thank Goodness it's Friday the 13th! A Family Event · Friday, Sept. 13th @ 6-7:30 pm
Who says Friday the 13th has to be unlucky?! Gather up your family and friends for an after-hours party at the library where we will have a DJ, pizza, selfie station, and even an ice cream truck! Registration is required, all ages are welcome!

Look for our newsletter in the mail, with programs and activities for all ages.

USR WASTE COLLECTIONS - September/October 2019

Garbage:

September Every Monday & Thursday
October Every Monday & Thursday

NOTE: Must call by 10 a.m. the **NEXT DAY** to report missed Trash/Recycles.

NO garbage will be collected on Monday, Sept. 2, 2019 - Labor Day

Recycling:

September **West Side** **East Side**
Tuesdays, September 3 and 17 Tuesdays, September 10 and 24

October **West Side** **East Side**
Tuesdays, October 1, 15 and 29 Tuesdays, October 8, and 22

NOTE: Must call by 10am the **NEXT DAY** to report missed Trash/Recycles.

Curbside White Goods:

September Thursday, Sept. 12
October Thursday, Oct. 3

Call 201-327-2196 x221 to schedule appointment for the appliance at LEAST three days prior to the pickup date.

Curbside Bulky Trash:

Friday, September 13, 2019

BERGEN HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

How To Avoid Scams

The Upper Saddle River Senior Group invites all seniors age 65 and over to the session "how to avoid scams." One of the officers from the Upper Saddle River Police Department will give us a presentation and free lunch will be served. Join us on Thursday, September 12th at 11am.

Korean Cooking Class September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

We will learn how to make Jja-jang-myeon (Noodle dish with black bean sauce)

RSVP by September 15 \$20/person including dinner.

Call 201-327-3960 bergenhighlands@optonline.net

Household Hazardous Waste

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ and Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. The collection hours are 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., rain or shine. Free of charge for Bergen County residents, ID required. Visit www.bcua.org for additional information.

Paper Shredding

The USR shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m, rain or shine behind Borough Hall. This event is free of charge and for residents only.

Brush Pick Up Instructions

Municipal brush pick up will run every other week through October 31, 2019. Brush must be tied with string and in manageable bundles so that a single man can lift it over his shoulders to toss into the back of a truck. Brush shall be no longer than five feet in length. Questions can be emailed to dpwf@usrtoday.org.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 is the last day to register to vote in the November 5, 2019 General Election. Registration forms are currently available at the Borough Hall weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On October 15, 2019, registration forms are available at the Upper Saddle River Police Department from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., which should be completed and left with the Dispatcher. Call Borough Clerk Rose Vido (201) 934-3963 if you have any questions.

Note the following polling places.

District 1 & 2 - Cavallini School gym
District 3 - Borough Hall
District 4 & 5 - Upper Saddle River Public Library (Powers Room)

Coming up in September/October 2019

BOROUGH BOARDS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 18 (Rescheduled from Sept. 5)
Thursday, October 3
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, September 11 and Thursday, September 26
Wednesday, October 9 and Thursday, October 24
7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

SHADE TREE

Wednesdays, September 18 and October 16
7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library
Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library

BOARD OF HEALTH

Monday, September 16 - 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall

ADULT WALK-IN CLINIC

Thursday, September 26 and Thursday, October 24
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 12 and Thursday, October 10
7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall

*Municipal Court in Session, Borough Hall at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, September 10 and September 24
and Tuesdays, October 8 and October 22*

SERVICE GROUPS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meetings: Thursdays, September 5 and October 3
Drills: September 13, 18, 24 and October 11, 16, 22
at 7:30 p.m.

AMBULANCE CORP

Meetings: First Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.
Drills: Fourth Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Mondays, September 16 and October 14
11:30 a.m. in the Solarium of the USR Library
Book Sale - Saturday, September 21 - 10am-1pm

BERGEN HIGHLANDS ROTARY

Mondays, at 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at Houlihans in Ramsey.
No meeting on Federal Holidays and last Monday of
the month is a Breakfast Meeting that starts at 7:45 a.m.

SADDLE RIVER VALLEY LIONS CLUB

Tuesdays, September 3 and 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, October 1 and 15 at 6:30 p.m.
At Ramsey Golf and Country Club

WOMAN'S CLUB

Tuesday, September 10 - 7:00 p.m. at the Library
Tuesday, October 1 - 7:00 p.m. at the Library

SEPTEMBER MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The Mayor and Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2019 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 18, 2019. The Executive Meeting will convene at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Meeting will follow at 8:00 p.m.

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RESIDENT
UPPER SADDLE RIVER
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