

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS
MAYOR WILLIAM PIKOLYCKY, WOODBINE
JANUARY 3, 2016**

- As I report to you the State of the Borough of Woodbine I also extend my wishes for the best in this New Year.
- In this **twenty-fifth** year of my administration, we have held the line on the local purpose tax rate, and hope to continue to do so in the year ahead.

Sustainable Government with sound fiscal policies

- Our ratable base has been stabilized.
- Our tax collection rate remains strong, currently at approximately 97%.
- Out of every tax dollar collected by the Borough only 17 cents in every dollar collected in taxes remains with the Borough. The balance is distributed to our school district and to the County.
- Woodbine continues to embrace the State's "Best Practices" in promoting financial accountability, sound management, sustainability, and transparency.
- "Best Practices" are taken into account when State aid is allocated.
- Another way we hold the line on our local purpose tax is through partnerships and shared services.
- The Borough continues to engage in shared services including with Woodbine's Authorities, the Woodbine Developmental Center, the Woodbine School District, Middle Township Court System, and with both Cape May County and the State of New Jersey.
- Our relationship with the county and the Freeholders has resulted in cost savings in a number of ways but most importantly through working with them on such pending projects as:

Open Space Cape May County Park in Woodbine

- This environmental educational interpretative site is being developed in collaboration with the County of Cape May, the Cape May County Technical School, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (now Richard Stockton University), and other partners.
- We are working toward developing our environmental educational outdoor classroom & park on 25 acres of land adjacent to our Community School Complex/County Library Branch and a short walk from Stockton's Woodbine site.

Roads

- The County has awarded two road projects to an engineering firm to upgrade the heavily traveled Route 550. These include road reconstruction and traffic calming in our downtown business & our main outdoor recreational area and improvements to Route 638 (Webster Avenue), which serves our Community School & branch library areas.
- This will address an area of safety concern given the foot and bicycle traffic, especially of our school children who have no courtesy bussing.
- Webster Avenue also has a New Jersey Transit public transportation stop and provides access to the Borough's extensive bicycle/trail system.
- **The County *INTERACTIVE COUNTY MAP BOOK* gives online access to information about points-of-interest throughout Woodbine & the other Cape May County municipalities.**

Woodbine County Library Branch

- This summer saw challenges to our local branch of the Cape May County Library. The resolution of these, spurred & bolstered by support from the community, not only saved our Saturday opening but extended the branch's Saturday hours.
- We thank the County Freeholders and Library Commission for stepping up and recognizing the importance of this branch to Woodbine and the surrounding community/area.
- **Our library is both a resource for many forms of media. It also serves as a gathering place for members of the community, young & old alike, who find this a comfort zone as well as an educational & informational resource.**

- **I also thank all those users of our branch who came forward during these concerns and remind them to maintain attendance, especially on SATURDAYS, as the library budget is again under review and we could become a target for cuts in our hours during the inevitable budget squeeze.**
 - Hands on workshops this year included: A four-session crochet workshop , and workshops on mosaic tray making, beaded flag bracelet, mosaic fish suncatcher, paint a seashell, macramé beaded bracelet, and gourd centerpiece.
 - Our branch also hosts an annual spring herb demo and autumn decorating with nature demo, both of which have become a branch tradition.
 - We are especially proud of the poetry reading done here at our local branch by local poet Safiyah Givens.
 - Woodbine was honored in November to be one of the only two branch libraries in Cape May County to be the site for the four-Saturday “NaNoWriMo: Come Write-Ins” for National Novel Writing Month.
 - In addition, the County has held numerous free children’s, and now also teen’s, programs at our branch.

Infrastructure

- Woodbine is embarking on two major projects:
- The first one is to improve our physical water treatment plant and water distribution system. Towards this goal, we are making application to USDA for approximately \$4 million in grant funding.
- This also will enable the Borough to continue to achieve higher scores for our residents and businesses under the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Public Protection Classification rating for their insurance premiums.
- The second is preparing a pre-application to USDA for approximately \$6 million for a comprehensive sewer collection system program for the Borough.
- These projects are being undertaken in cooperation with the County Municipal Utilities Authority and the New Jersey Department of Human Services (WDC).

- An example of this is the partnership between the Cape May County MUA, the Woodbine Developmental Center, and Woodbine's own MUA who are working together with the USDA in taking a regional approach in addressing current and future wastewater needs.

Locating Compressed Natural Gas Station

- Woodbine is set to be the home for Cape May County's first public-use Compressed Natural Gas Station. I applaud the efforts of the County MUA in working with my office to site this \$2 million facility here in Woodbine. We are pleased to welcome the Clean Energy Corporation, a nationally recognized leader in this field, who will own and operate this facility.

Recycling

- We continue to educate our local residents to the requirements of single-stream recycling as well as to other changes in recycling requirements as these occur.
- We just received word from NJ DEP that Woodbine has received an award of over five thousand dollars based on the amount of recycling as opposed to solid waste generated by the Borough.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Our public safety goals during this time-frame have been progressing on course.
- The most recent improvements to our Fire Station—a \$400,00 capital improvement to which an additional \$8,000 in funding was just added by Department of Community Affairs-- are nearly completed, giving our volunteer fire fighters a station designed for their needed functions.
- We have made additional improvements to our Public Safety/Emergency Management Building and have applied to the USDA for further funding.
- Woodbine's Public Safety building also serves as Food Distribution site.
- Woodbine again realized savings through our record of safety with the Joint Insurance Fund.

Vacant & Abandoned Structures:

- It is in the public interest for the Borough to establish minimum standards of accountability on the owners, creditors or other responsible parties of vacant and abandoned structures in order to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the Borough.
- We have imposed a fee in conjunction with registration of vacant and abandoned structures and require creditors to be responsible for the maintenance of abandoned residential structures under certain circumstances in light of the disproportionate costs imposed upon the Borough by the presence of these structures.

ISO Compliance Upgrades

- The Borough of Woodbine after requesting a review of its current rating has received notice from the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) that its Public Protection Classification rating has been upgraded effective March 1, 2016, following an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided by the Borough.
- The PPC is a rating system of Class 1 to Class 10. Class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates no recognized protection. Woodbine will be upgraded to a PPC of 5, which is an upgrade from its current PPC of 6.
- ISO is an independent organization that serves insurance companies, fire departments, insurance regulators and others by providing information about risk, collecting information about municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States and analyzing the relevant data and assign a Public Protection Classification (PPC).

A community's PPC depends on:

- Fire alarm and communications systems, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing and dispatching systems.
- The fire department, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic distribution of fire companies.

6 of 11 2015 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/4/2016 14:34:44 a1/p1

- The water supply system, including condition and maintenance of hydrants and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires.
- As I already mentioned, the Borough of Woodbine is currently pursuing funding for their ongoing plans to upgrade the water distribution system and renovating the water treatment plant, which will include looping of the water mains and could ultimately improve the ISO/PPC even further.
- I commend the time and effort of the Woodbine Volunteer Fire Company and the Woodbine Municipal Utilities Authority for their effort in participating in the ISO/PPC program which resulted in this Classification upgrade, which should benefit local homeowners & businesses alike.

State Police & Other Public Safety (Addendum)

- Our Woodbine State Police barracks continue their involvement in community activities, partnering with our business community, non-profits, and faith-based organizations in a number of outreach activities.
- They have also made some capital improvements to their facility such as a new garage for storing impounded vehicles for investigational purposes.
- Further State-requested safety upgrades to the station are under design.
- The Borough, in partnership with the Cape May County Animal Shelter Alliance, continues to promote the health and safety of the Borough's animal population, and to hold an annual rabies clinic.
- Also promoting our pets' health and safety is our Animal Control service, Shore Animal Control, who keep our residents updated with frequent bulletins in our local papers and who have contributed straw for winter bedding.

US Coast Guard

- Woodbine was an active participant in the successful effort to have Cape May County designated as a Coast Guard Community, which designation was celebrated this past May in the first of an annual County-wide Coast Guard Community Festival.
- The date of this year's County-wide Coast Guard celebration will be May 6 to 8.
- Woodbine is home to the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center.

7 of 11 2015 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/4/2016 14:34:44 a1/p1

- It is also hometown to two retired Admirals, who lent their support in obtaining the County's designation.
- Woodbine itself celebrated a very special event at the UDC with our June 29 "ADMIRALS DAY" at which time we honored Admirals Ciancaglini and Golove at the aforementioned Uniform Distribution Center where Mayor will also recognized Woodbine's partnership with the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center and a resolution to Captain Prestidge of the Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May.
- I want to thank the Cape May County Chamber for Commerce for recognizing the UDC by honoring it with complementary membership.

Community Forestry

- Woodbine was again chosen to be the distribution site for Cape May County municipalities under the State's Tree Recovery Campaign (& we have just been informed that we will be again in 2016) —proof of our valued relationship with the State Forestry Program.
- We also were approved for our fourth (five-year) Community Forestry Management Plan, the first municipality in Cape May County to achieve the distinction of that level of certification.
- In addition to those shared services already mentioned, our long-term relationships with Federal, State, and County agencies have resulted in our obtaining recurring grant funding for much needed and planned community and economic development projects.

Projects Planned & Underway in 2016:

- Allow me to elaborate on some of the many projects planned, underway, or recently completed.
- And before I do, I would like to take this time to also thank our Legislators who, by recognizing the importance of our efforts, have assisted us in obtaining this necessary funding by endorsing and supporting these projects.
- Airside improvements to our municipal airport including rehab of runways & taxiways, improvement of safety areas, helicopter apron parking, removal of obstructive debris all continue to establish ours as a first-class general aviation airport.

- All this has been made possible with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration and New Jersey DOT Aviation Bureau—total amount funding this year was approximately \$ 2 million.

- I believe this cooperation and support is in recognition of the needs in our community but also of the opportunities that exist to create a sustainable economy built on a solid foundation of infrastructure, public facilities, and public services.
 - We have been awarded grant funding from the NJDOT Municipal Aid program of approximately \$3 million towards capital improvements such as streetscape, bikeways, road reconstruction, sidewalks, curbing, and enhanced drainage, thus addressing these transportation needs, without increasing the burden to local taxpayers

 - From NJDCA we have received or have pending project funding totaling \$500,000.

 - From NJDEP/NJ Economic Development Authority we have \$400,000 awarded or pending/under review.

- During 2015, Woodbine received or administered approximately \$ 3.5 million in grants for community and economic development projects as well as for our municipal airport and business park.

- Thus, including the USDA applications, there is over \$ 13 million in project applications pending or under review from various Federal and State agencies.

- New Jersey Economic Development Authority grants have enabled the Borough to continue to pursue both the closure of the former F&S landfill and an active redevelopment project on the horizon.

- **Comcast:** We are finalizing a lease with Comcast that will be to the benefit of the community, and include both educational & governmental access.

- This access will be shared in partnership with Dennis Township.

- The Borough continues to review its COAH obligations with the most recent Court action requiring municipalities to deal with its Court-appointed Master.

- Our Recreation Commission continues to provide both senior and youth-oriented programs.

9 of 11 2015 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/4/2016 14:34:44 a1/p1

- There have been a number of County-sponsored programs for seniors held at the Center, where our local AARP branch again meets.

- Woodbine Municipal Alliance also continues its anti-drug, tobacco, and other substance outreach throughout the community, with assistance from volunteers from many sectors of the community, all of whom we thank at this time as I also invite all those interested to attend the quarterly meetings and assist in these all-volunteer efforts.
 - A major Alliance project is the annual Park Cleanup event, one part of the “Revisit Lincoln Park” Initiative.
 - In 2015 our Sustainable Jersey Green Team was a major collaborator in this Park event.
 - The “painting the town red” Red Ribbon Week display of red ribbons throughout the town promoted drug prevention and violence awareness.
 - I would like to extend our gratitude to the peer leaders of Woodbine Elementary School for their help with the Municipal Alliance Lincoln Park cleanup, and their other beneficial activities throughout the community.
- I again thank the Federally-funded Experience Works Program for its continued involvement in our community in assisting seniors through its training program.
 - I also thank all the many Experience Work-ers who have labored in our community, especially those in our municipal buildings.
- I thank the Greater Woodbine Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them on the much better weather they had for third annual car show and wish them the same for this coming year.
- I would also like to recognize the Chamber for its commitment to promoting activities that will support business retention and new business attraction.
- Please check the Chamber out on their website.
- At this time, I want to announce that Woodbine has renewed its Sustainable Jersey accreditation and to thank our Sustainable Jersey Green Team for adding

their Green Fair to the events/festivities/activities held during the Chamber's annual event and to thank the Chamber for funding the awards for the Team's poster contest.

- Woodbine's Sustainable Jersey Green Team also partnered with the Cape May County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to establish a Community Garden at the Woodbine Community Center.
- Home Depot donated the lumber and soil and other materials and built the raised beds for the garden.
- Woodbine Seniors, who use the Center, are caring for the plants as they grow throughout this summer and into the fall.
- Benches made of sustainable materials were donated through the Green Team. These have been repurposed from another site. A table to accompany these benches was donated by the St. Casimir's Thrift Shop.
- I would also like to thank the Borough Council, appointed officials and members of our Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, first responders, Borough employees, and Borough professionals for their dedicated work for Woodbine and all those committees who volunteer their time and lend their experience, time, and talent. My thanks to all of you!

