

STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS
MAYOR WILLIAM PIKOLYCKY, WOODBINE
JANUARY 7, 2017

- As I report to you the State of the Borough of Woodbine I again extend my wishes for the best in this New Year on this Orthodox Christmas Day also known as “Little Christmas”, and the day after Los Tres Reyes, the Feast of the Three Kings, and welcome the Honorable Julio Mendez, who I again thank for swearing in our returning Councilpeople.
- Last year, Woodbine celebrated the Quasquicentennial of its Founding and held a special Borough Council meeting at the original Borough Hall.
- (For those of you who did not know, that means we celebrated the 125th anniversary of our Founding.)
- At this time, I wish to again thank the Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society for honoring me, and Woodbine, with its 2016 Legacy Award for our collaborations with historical societies and museums in the celebration of our Quasquicentennial.
- And I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Colby Schalek, whose Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated during our Quasquicentennial celebrations, on his Eagle Court of Honor which will be held later this afternoon.
- Our Volunteer Fire Department did a great job with our annual Christmas parade.
- The lighting of the Christmas tree was also done with the musical accompaniment of the Woodbine Elementary Band.
- In this **twenty-seventh** year of my administration, Council is hard at work on a number of issues and concerns.
- Most importantly, we have held the line on the local purpose tax rate, and hope to continue to do so in the year ahead.
- Our ratable base continues to grow as new businesses locate in town and existing businesses expand and upgrade.
- Our tax collection rate remains strong, currently at above 97%.

2 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- Out of every tax dollar collected by the Borough only 16 cents in every dollar collected in taxes remains with the Borough. The balance is distributed to our School District and to the County.
- Woodbine again realized savings through our record of safety with the Joint Insurance Fund.
- One way we hold the line on our local purpose tax is through partnerships and shared services which enable us to streamline many functions.
- The Borough continues to be proactive in shared services.
- Shortly, I will be informing you of an especially important initiative now underway in this respect.
- Speaking of shared services, Woodbine has entered into a Shared Services agreement with the County for the reconstruction of County Route 550.
- This is a long-awaited and much-needed capital improvement project, which will be broken down into two phases.
- The first phase is the reconstruction from Madison Avenue to the Airport Road Entrance, with traffic calming, islands, and crosswalks.
- This first phase is an approximately \$2 million project, with construction commencing this spring.
- Phase II, which will be from Washington Avenue to Madison, includes roadwidening and expansion of our bikeway island.
- In addition, reconstruction of County Route 638, will start at Webster & Washington and continue past the Woodbine Community School Complex (which includes our County Library Branch) and Open Space Park and end at the entrance of the Woodbine Developmental Center.
- The combined Phase I and Phase II and Route 638 projects totaling approximately \$3.5 million are derived from grants secured by the Borough and the County.
- All three phases of our Open Space project are under review by the Pinelands Commission and awaiting approval. A grant from the County Open Space Program totaling \$484,050 has already been approved and will be underway early in 2017. It is part of a \$1.5 million capital project.

- We anticipate a starting date for Phase I in the springtime.
- Our County Library Branch is a resource for many forms of media. As a main component of Woodbine's vitality IT serves as a focal point and gathering place for members of the community, young & old alike, who find this a safe zone as well as an educational & informational resource.
 - Woodbine was the host branch for a special poetry reading "Traditions In Transition", moderated by Chase Jackson.
 - Chase also facilitated a two-session workshop on how to preserve first person stories/memories.
 - Especially popular are the annual spring herb demo and autumn decorating with nature demo, both of which have become a Branch tradition.
 - In addition, the County has held numerous free children's, and now also teen's, programs at our branch, in particular a monthly teen bookclub.
 - One of these was a kick-off for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten project.

USDA PROJECTS

- Woodbine has embarked on two major projects:
- The first one is to upgrade our physical water treatment plant and water distribution system. Towards this goal, we will be receiving from USDA and the State of New Jersey approximately \$3 million in grant and loan funding.
- The second, for approximately \$4.8 million, is for the first phase of a comprehensive sewer collection system program to cover the entire Borough of Woodbine. It is currently under review for final approval by USDA.
- This is also a multi-phased project, which will total \$20 million.
- These projects are being undertaken in cooperation with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority and the New Jersey Department of Human Services (WDC), another example of the partnerships Woodbine has established with State & County entities.

4 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- USDA also provided an additional \$37,400 in funding for the Food Distribution Site at our Public Safety Building, making a total of approximately \$70,000 in funding received for that project.
- As you can see, USDA Rural Development has been an extraordinary partner with the Borough and has worked tirelessly to make available grants and very low interest loans without which these projects could not have occurred.
- Special thanks to State Director Howard Henderson who has been a friend for Woodbine. We wish him all the best in retirement. While we will miss you, Howard, we have complete confidence that this mission will continue with the other members of USDA's Team.
- 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.
- I would like to take this time to also thank our Federal and State Legislators and County officials who, by recognizing the importance of our efforts, have assisted us in obtaining this necessary funding by endorsing and supporting these projects.
- We continue with improvements to our Municipal Airport and Airport Business Park.
- These have been made possible with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration and New Jersey DOT Aviation Bureau—total amount funding this past year was approximately \$ 2 million.
- We continue to apply for funding from NJDOT, NJDCA, NJDEP, NJ Economic Development Authority, and USDA in the amount of \$10 million dollars in current requests.
- In this regard, I am happy to announce that Woodbine was just awarded a Small Cities grant in the amount of approximately \$400,000 for major improvements to our Head Start Center.
- Our thanks to NJDCA for recognizing the need for and value of providing a quality facility for our young children. This project was undertaken in partnership with Gateway Community Action Partnership which operates the Head Start program here in Woodbine.
- In addition, this past week we filed an application to USDA requesting \$50,000 for much needed equipment for our Volunteer Fire Department.

5 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- In 2005 the Borough designated the former F&S Landfill site on Fidler Hill Road as the Woodbine Landfill Redevelopment Area under the NJ Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.
- Since that time, the Borough has been studying the possible uses as well as the remediation requirements for this 100 acre site utilizing NJEDA and USDA grants that have been made available to us.
- I am pleased to report that with the help of another NJEDA grant in the amount of \$175,000, this effort was continued in 2016 and we are getting closer to being able to quantify the required remediation work.
- I anticipate that we will continue to seek additional grant monies this coming year so that this site can ultimately be redeveloped and placed on the Borough tax rolls.
- With the assistance of our special environmental counsel, Mitchell Kizner, we have also been pursuing the recovery of insurance proceeds from the Borough's insurance companies for reimbursement of past expenses, and perhaps more importantly, the payment of future expenses, relating to the assessment and remediation of the former Foundation and Structures Landfill on Fiddler Road.
- So far, it has not been necessary to file a law suit to resolve these issues with the insurance carriers in question and we are hopeful that the matter can be resolved amicably in the next few months.

(CONSOLIDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS)

- There has been long-discussion of ways to reduce costs and streamline operations and management of both our Municipal Utilities Authority and our Municipal Airport Authority, by removing unneeded layers of government.
- To that end, we were successful in receiving funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to conduct a study to review the feasibility of consolidating those Authorities under the governance of the Borough.
- The review proved positive and we are moving forward with this consolidation, which will result in cost savings of over \$150,000 on an annual basis.
- These efficiencies will assist us in keeping overall costs down, thus saving tax dollars.

(School Issues Discussion)

6 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- Unfortunately, I need to follow the “good news” report of this consolidation with some challenging news.
- A State Audit revealed numerous critical concerns and deficiencies concerning the operation of our school district.
- Borough Council and I have met with school officials and the State Monitor and are reviewing this troubling report to see how best to address the District’s short- and long-term educational goals and options for our schoolchildren.
- In other airport community news, MedEvac, the helicopter ambulance service, held the grand opening of their new facility at our Municipal Airport.
- MedEvac has been operating at the Woodbine Municipal Airport for the last approximately 5 years and is owned by Med-Trans.
- Med-Trans and AtlantiCare teams make up the staff at the base and work in concert to provide rapid medical response and transport by air, serving the Tri-County area.
- MedEvac operates a helicopter with a crew of three from our Airport.
- Woodbine has been recertified as a Sustainable Jersey Community and our Sustainable Jersey Green Team continues to work towards the goals of sustainability.
- In relation to this, I continue to serve as a Sustainable Jersey Board member.
- I was also recently elected to serve on the Executive Board of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and continue as Chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council.
- My role with the League of Municipalities will bring added attention to the needs of small communities State-wide who, like Woodbine, have the same issues, concerns, needs as well as opportunities as Woodbine, only on a slightly smaller scale.
- Of course, as an Executive Board Member I will be a tireless advocate for Woodbine with and through the League.
- In a similar fashion, as Chairman of the Pinelands Municipal Council, I will continue to advocate for practical guidelines that will enable Woodbine to continue to promote managed responsible growth through sound planning that protects and enjoys this distinctive Eco-system.
- The Pinelands Byway has installed its signs throughout the Borough and surrounding communities.

7 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- When Woodbine was chosen, for the third year of five years, as to be the County's Tree Recovery Campaign distribution coordinating site, Green Team volunteers again distributed trees to Woodbine residents---in an April snowstorm.
- As a result of efforts by the Green Team, Woodbine has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey.
- This funding will be used to leverage Woodbine's Direct Install application for replacement of lighting, HVAC, and other operational equipment in various municipal buildings by energy efficient alternatives.
- This total project will be approximately \$100,000, done at no expense to the taxpayer.
- The Green Team held a Green Fair in conjunction with the Chamber Carshow.
- The Green Team distributed grant-funded recycling containers to residents in a kick-off event as part of America Recycles Day.
- We also received grant funding from NJDEP to provide recycling containers throughout town as "companions" to our town-wide trash containers.
- 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.
- The Borough held a Wellness Fair at the Community Center this April as part of the Mayors Wellness Campaign.
- It was co-sponsored in partnership with the Parish Nurse Program, Cape Regional Medical Center, and Cape May County RSVP.
- We also continue to hold our annual rabies vaccination clinic, supporting the health of our pets.
- Woodbine Elementary School participated in International Walk to School Day.
- The school has just received notice of grant funding for their school community garden, which will mesh perfectly with the improvements being made at the school this spring.
- The school also held a flu clinic.
- I want to add a shout-out to Councilwoman Mary Helen Perez for holding her fifth annual Kids Carnival in Lincoln Park.

8 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

- Our Recreation Commission continues to provide both senior and youth-oriented programs and Cape Assist has held information sessions on government pharmaceutical assistance at the Community Center, where our local AARP branch also meets.
- We expressed special appreciation for our senior volunteers during the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service as part of our Health & Wellness Fair.
- Woodbine Municipal Alliance, funded through the County, also continues its anti-drug, tobacco, and other substance abuse outreach throughout the community, with assistance from volunteers from many sectors of the community.
- We thank all those who are involved with this program 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.
 - This year the Woodbine Elementary School Peer Leaders partnered with the Alliance in this Cleanup, with support from the Green Team.
 - In April, purple ribbons appeared around town in commemoration of Alcohol Awareness Month.
- I again thank the Federally-funded Experience Works Program for its continued involvement in our community in assisting seniors through its training program and thank all the many Experience Work-ers who have labored in our community, especially those in our municipal buildings.
- The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, along with Atlantic Cape Community College, conducted a Business Training Workshop at our Stockton Instructional site.
- I continue to serve on the Advisory Board of that Anne Azeez Instructional site and the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, which serves as a resource to our community.
- I thank the Greater Woodbine Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them on the success of their Fourth Annual Carshow and recognize them Chamber for their commitment to promoting activities that will support business retention and new business attraction. Please check out the Chamber website.
- 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

9 of 9 2017 Woodbine State of the Borough Address

1/9/2017 11:24:54 a1/p1 ...

all those committees who volunteer their time and lend their experience, time, and talent. My thanks to all of you!