

STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS
MAYOR WILLIAM PIKOLYCKY, WOODBINE
JANUARY 3, 2019

- As I report to you the State of the Borough of Woodbine, I again extend my wishes for the best in this New Year with Orthodox Christmas Day (also known as “Little Christmas”) and Los Tres Reyes, the Feast of the Three Kings, still ahead of us.
- In this twenty-ninth year of my administration, the governing body continues to focus on a number of issues, concerns, and opportunities to improve the quality of life and the economic climate in Woodbine. We continue to encourage managed responsible growth to preserve the sustainability of our rural setting in the Pinelands with equal regard for our community’s future.
- We once again have held the line on the local purpose tax rate, and hope to continue to do so in the year ahead.
- Woodbine continues to have one of the lowest local municipal property tax rates in the State of New Jersey.
- One of many positive outcomes of our concerted efforts over the past year is Woodbine’s ratable base which continues to grow as new businesses locate in town and existing businesses expand and upgrade.
- Our tax collection rate remains strong, currently 97%.
- Out of every tax dollar collected by the Borough approximately 15 cents of every dollar collected in taxes remains with the Borough with the balance distributed to our School District and to the County.
- Woodbine again realized savings through our record of safety with the Joint Insurance Fund as well as from the JIF dividend that saved us nearly 10% on our premiums.
- Woodbine’s Standard and Poors Global Ratings, remains as an “A+/Stable” issuer credit rating.
- The Borough continues to explore shared services and public/private partnership opportunities.

- Woodbine has been working with the Cape May County Freeholders/Economic Development Office designating Woodbine Municipal Airport as a site for an Integration Pilot Project for Unmanned Aircraft Systems—colloquially known as “drones”—following several successful Emergency Management drone tests previously implemented at the Woodbine Municipal Airport.
- We continue to work with the County on improving traffic concerns including traffic calming, most recently Webster Avenue in front of the school.
- We are progressing in our partnership with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs who is providing Local Planning Assistance to our Planning/Zoning Board as we update our Master Plan. We meet regularly with DCA towards this goal.
- We celebrated our fourth year as a Coast Guard Community. We welcome the new Commander (Chris Moulten) at the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center here in Woodbine.
- This year will mark the sixth (and final) year of Woodbine serving as a distribution site for the State’s Tree Recovery Program. Woodbine will be developing its fifth Forestry Management Plan during 2019.
- As you will see in my remarks, the Borough continues to be aggressive in its pursuit of grants from NJDOT, NJDCA, NJDEP, NJ Economic Development Authority, USDA, and FAA. Overall, over \$9.0 Million is identified in the active project portfolio. This includes over \$3.5 Million in current requests. In addition, the Borough is currently implementing projects totaling over \$6.0 Million. Projects include: airport upgrades, streetscape, roadways, drainage, water and sewer, infrastructure, traffic calming, right-of-way, sidewalk, bikeway, recreation, and related activities.
- Both our Bikepath extension and our Open Space Project have received Pinelands approvals which will enable the Borough to continue to implement additional phases as funds are available.
- I am pleased to note that Phase I of our multi-phased County Open Space Project is complete. Utilizing a Grant of \$700,000, approximately one third of the 25-acre Eco-Park has been improved with a beautiful pavilion, trails, and other amenities. The Borough has submitted an application for Open Space funding of over \$1.1 Million to complete Phases II & III. Once these Phases are constructed, it will offer a unique setting for active and passive activities that were designed with considerable community input.

- Because this Park is immediately adjacent to Woodbine Elementary School's Community School Complex, our students will benefit from courses that are conducted in this 'classroom in nature' as will our local County Library Branch. We are already receiving interest from several nature organizations interested in conducting educational and environmental enrichment programs once the park is completed.
- We are most appreciative of the assistance from the Cape May County Freeholders and the County's Planning Department and Open Space Board for their continued interest and support in helping the Borough to turn these exciting concepts into reality. It will be a significant Borough and County recreation/natural resource asset for the benefit of our residents and the thousands of visitors to the Cape.
- USDA continues to provide funding for the Food Distribution Site at our Public Safety Building. To date, over \$50,000 has been approved in grants for this Facility. An application is being prepared for submission to USDA for a third phase of this project to fully exploit this facility's use potential.
- The goal is to create the proper setting and equipment for our Faith-based Community to offer nutritional resources for the needy in our community and the surrounding area. In addition, this building doubles as our Public Safety/Emergency Management Center, assisting with Emergency Management operations throughout Cape May County.
- Also with regard to public safety, we have received grants totaling over \$530,000 from AFG, USDA, & DCA for our Fire Department to upgrade both equipment and purchase a state-of-the-art pumper truck.
- The New Jersey State Police continue to provide Woodbine with police protection with their Barracks here in the Borough.
- We have recently submitted an application through the NJEIT program for a \$100,000 water system asset management grant. If approved, once the study is completed, it will provide a blue-print and compelling evidence of need for future requests for public funding to maintain the highest quality standards for our water treatment and distribution facilities.
- We are working with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority and the State Department of Human Services to implement a sanitary wastewater collection system. This is another example of the partnerships Woodbine has established with State & County entities.

- The project will not only provide adequate public sanitary sewer service for the Borough's population, but also to ensure that the operational capacity of the Woodbine Developmental Center, a State-operated facility for developmentally disabled persons, can continue to be a viable resource. The first phase of this project which is estimated to cost \$4.8 Million has been approved by USDA Rural Development.
- In addition, we are embarking on a \$ 3.0 Million water improvement system which was recently approved by USDA and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust and includes \$1.5 Million in grants.
- 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. Woodbine is a rural community by definition and thus eligible for USDA Rural Development's Programs to address the same issues that larger urban areas contend with. We extend our sincere thanks to USDA.
- Our Head Start Building, serving both Early Head Start and Head Start (ages 6 months up to kindergarten), is undergoing renovations bringing it up to indicated standards utilizing a \$386,488 NJDCA Small Cities Grant and an \$80,000 USDA matching grant. This will enable our partner, Gateway Community Action Partnership, to continue its services in state of the art facilities for our children.
- We continue with improvements to our Municipal Airport and Airport Business Park consistent with the Borough's Airport Master/Layout Plan. To the extent possible, the Borough's Master Plan Update will include reference to the Airport Plan especially as it relates to development opportunities at the Business Park ("land side") of the Airport and the adjacent former F & S Landfill which is also a declared Redevelopment Area.
- I would like to pause here for a moment to remember our late former airport manager, Wayne Rumble, who passed away only days before his scheduled retirement, doing what his family mentioned in his obituary as "what he liked best: flying his airplane". ...
- The Borough has been able to continue to carry out improvements to the Airport's air side components including runways/taxiways, and supporting infrastructure per the Airport Layout Plan. This is only possible with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration and New Jersey DOT Aviation Bureau. Total funding this past year was approximately \$1.2 Million.

- 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. We are successful because of the value we place on these funding commitments and do so by carrying them on-time and on-budget with positive outcomes for our Community.
- I would like to take this time to also thank our Federal and State Legislators and County officials who, by recognizing our needs and the importance of our efforts, have assisted us in obtaining this necessary funding by endorsing and supporting these projects that have contributed to Woodbine's managed, responsible growth.
- This is especially so with the aviation sector. We have had an excellent advocate in Congressman Frank LoBiondo and hope that incoming Congressman Van Drew will continue that tradition.
- Our County Library Branch serves as a resource for many forms of media and 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. For example:
 - Woodbine was the host branch for numerous programs, summer enrichment, and reading contests last year. We were especially proud to host the "Keep the Home Fires Burning" presentation by our County Clerk Rita Fulginiti.
 - Still 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 continues to have numerous free children's and "teen and tween" programs at our branch.
- Both the Borough of Woodbine and Woodbine Elementary School have been honored by Cross County Connection for the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Resource and New Jersey Department of Transportation with a "First Step" certificate of award for their Safe Routes to School efforts.
- The New Jersey Safe Routes to School Resource Center and NJDOT Recognition Award Program recognizes municipalities and schools (public, private, or charter) for their SRTS efforts.
- Recipients implement walk and bike to school events, adopt supportive policies, obtain backing from local constituents, and/or use survey tools to evaluate existing conditions for walking and biking to school.

- I am pleased to note that Woodbine Elementary School participated in International Walk to School Day.
- Our Sustainable Jersey Green Team continues to work towards the goals of sustainability, as we receive Bronze Certification for another two years. I thank them once again for all their hard work and effort.
- We have upgraded our municipal buildings through the energy assistance program, which provided a grant for 70%. We also received another grant to match the remaining 30%, for a total of \$100,000 in grant-funded energy improvements.
- Our Mayors Wellness Campaign had sponsored bi-monthly Red Cross blood drives at the Community Center; in 2019 this drive will move to the VFW in Belleplain.
- We also continue to hold our annual rabies vaccination clinic, supporting the health of our pets.
- Mayor and Council were honored to host the rechartering ceremony for Boy Scout Pack and Troop 77. Our rechartered Cub and Scout Troops continue to advance their programs.
- Our Recreation Commission continues its efforts in the Community, as does our local AARP Chapter.
- Woodbine Municipal Alliance, funded through the County, 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.
- I again thank the Federally-funded Pathstone for its involvement in our community in assisting seniors through its training program. I thank all those who have labored in our community under this program, especially those in our municipal buildings.
- We recognize the Chamber for their commitment to promoting activities that will support business retention and new business attraction and also thank them for the generous donation they made to CASA. I thank the Greater Woodbine Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them on the immense success of their Sixth Annual Car Show, the best attended event yet. Please check out the Chamber website.

- Our Governmental Access Television channel 97 provides public service announcements for the Borough community allowing us to notify residents in an enhanced format that complements our borough website.
- As I trust you will concur, Woodbine is proactive in its efforts at revitalization and growth. The relationships with our public and private partners as presented above is proof positive as measured by the significant outcomes to date both in terms of grants secured and the good governance which has resulted in a stable tax rate. However, we must continue to be persistent in our pursuit of the ever diminishing resources available from federal, state, County and other quasi-public agencies. In fact, the need than to secure increasingly competitive State and Federal funding is greater than ever, given that State aid has remained flat for several years.
- Grant awards that are received throughout the year and are added to the budgeted amounts. This can cause a large disparity between the budget presented for the current year in comparison to the final budget of the prior year.
- However, said grant resources more than justify the need to adjust the Municipal Budget!
- As I stated earlier and feel it is worth repeating, the Borough collects a total tax of approximately \$2,785,000. Of that amount the Borough only keeps approximately \$412,000, which is 15% of the total. Thus only 15 cents out of every tax dollar collected remains in the Borough budget. The school receives 69 cents out of every dollar collected and the County 16 cents.
- Our ratable base remained stable during 2018 and our tax collection rate remained stable, due to the diligent practices of our tax collection office.
- Through best management practices and shared services, Woodbine has continued to cover municipal needs without any additional tax burden. Additionally, we continue to successfully obtain grant funding from federal, state, and other sources, allowing us to leverage our municipal funds to the fullest extent possible
- The Borough continues to promote and ensure the quality of life, health, safety, and welfare of our present and future residents in a fiscally responsible manner.
- I would like to thank the Cape May County Freeholders for not only appointing me as their County representative to the Pinelands Commission but also for reappointing Woodbine resident Carol Saduk as a Commissioner to the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Board.

- On a State level, I am pleased to report that I remain as a Board member of the Woodbine Developmental Center and also as a Board member of Sustainable Jersey and as a member of the Conference of Mayors Board of Directors and an as a member of the Executive Board of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.
- I would also like to express my appreciation to the Borough Council, appointed officials and members of our Boards and Commissions, first responders, shared service partners, Borough employees, Borough professionals, and all those Committees who volunteer and lend their experience, time, talent, and dedication to the improvement and sustainability of the Borough. My personal thanks to all of you and the very best to all for a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year!