

PRESS RELEASE

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BOROUGH APPLIES FOR FORESTRY BUSINESS STIMULUS FUNDS

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of woodbine has made application to the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey Forest Service for \$7,000 in funding under the 2009 Business Stimulus Funds grant program.

The 2009 BSF is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and partnered with the USDA Forest Service. The goal of the Business Stimulus Fund (BSF), which replaces the Forest Service's usual Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant is to provide funds to businesses to help municipalities and counties carry out the practices that are priorities in their Community Forestry Management plans and accomplish their management goals.

Further goals of this grant program are to stimulate business growth and development throughout the State of New Jersey; encourage municipalities and counties to extend and expand their current tree care programs; create partnerships to continue future projects; increase environmental, social, and economic benefits to communities through the care and management of trees.

Woodbine's proposal calls for removal of approximately 45 hardwood trees from the Community School site that have been identified by the Borough's Certified Tree Expert (CTE) as hazardous trees in need of such removal. An additional approximately 50-60 trees in same area would be pruned of hazardous deadwood. All of this work is work further identified as requiring the services of a professional tree service, as was required under the terms of the grant application.

To be eligible for this funding a municipality or county was required to have Approved Status under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act for 2009. Approved Status requires a municipality to meet the following yearly requirements: a State-approved Community Forestry Management Plan; at least two CORE Trained representatives (one volunteer and one municipal employee); a total of eight CEU credits for the year, which must be earned by least two individuals; timely submission of its Annual Accomplishment Report. Woodbine currently has five CORE-trained individuals and is completing its third five-year Community Forestry Management Plan, thus meeting all requirements.

“Since award recipients must hire one or more tree care/forestry businesses to perform and complete the forestry project, rather than relying on in-house work through our Public Works Department, we saw this as an excellent opportunity to submit a proposal for much needed but beyond budget removal and pruning work at the Woodbine Community School site, which includes the Woodbine branch of the Cape may County Library,” noted Mayor Pikolycky.