

PRESS RELEASE

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17 September, 2016

PINELANDS BYWAYS SIGNS INSTALLED

Woodbine— Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the New Jersey Department of Transportation has completed installation of its scenic byway signage along the Pine Barrens Byway, which runs through the Borough of Woodbine.

These signs are located both within NJDOT Rights of Way and also County and Municipal Rights of Way.

Byways showcase New Jersey's scenic, natural, and historic places, drawing visitors to come and enjoy as well as bring dollars to byway communities—which is an important benefit of designation. These byway signs announce the roadway's special designation to the public and guide them to the points of interest along it.

The installation of identification signs along each byway route has been a main goal for the NJ Scenic Byway Program since designation of its first state byway in 1996. This grant provides funding to fabricate and install all of the signs along each of the seven existing NJ Scenic Byways.

Funding was obtained through the a national grant submittal in 2012 to fabricate and install **ALL** of the wayfinding identification signs along the byways, after individual logos were developed for each byway and sign locations were prepared for the seven NJ Scenic Byways.

Other NJ Scenic Byways include: Warren Heritage Byway; Palisades Scenic Byway; Millstone Valley Scenic Byway; Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway; and the nearby Bayshore Heritage Byway.

The Pine Barrens Byway is a 130-mile long celebration of the unique natural and cultural wonders that our region possesses. It passes through pristine forested lands and historic town centers and allows visitors to enjoy unparalleled river views, vistas of broad, spacious salt marshes and rare historic sites from the Revolutionary War (Batsto) through World War I (Belcoville).

Along the route of the byway one can camp in state and county parks, experience wildlife refuges, hike through the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve and indulge in myriad other recreational opportunities. Where else can one see in a single day an African-American Civil War veterans' cemetery, the remains of an old glasshouse site, a seaport museum and a synagogue that was the focal point of a nineteenth century utopian, agricultural community?

Woodbine is among the sixteen municipalities (three from Cape May County), from five counties, whose communities are within the Pine Barrens Byway, the State scenic byway that was established in the southern tier of the Pine Barrens in 2005. The southern loop of the byway connects the Tuckahoe River, the Maurice River, and Dennis Creek, along with Belleplain State Forest and Woodbine Borough.

The Pine Barrens Byway is a 130-mile long celebration of the unique natural and cultural wonders that our region possesses. It offers views of historic and natural wonders unique to this region and is one of seven such scenic corridors that have been formally designated by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Association is looking forward to eventual inclusion within the system of America's Byways recognized by the United States Department of the Interior.

"Woodbine is on the Pine Barrens Byway and adjacent to the Bayshore Heritage Byway," added Mayor Pikolycky. "This signage will greatly assist in identifying sites along these byways, with the resulting increase in eco-tourism for local businesses.(Also along the Pine Barrens Byway is Woodbine's Stockton instructional site—which is of added relevance as Stockton has partnership links with the Pinelands Commission.) I am proud to have been part of the Pinelands Byway initiative from its initiation, both as Mayor and as Chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council, and now pleased to see this signage finally installed," concluded Mayor Pikolycky.