

## PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Mayor's Office  
861-5301

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### **WOODBINE HONORED BY EXPERIENCE WORKS AS NEW JERSEY OUTSTANDING HOST COMMUNITY**

**Woodbine**— Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has been chosen by Experience Works as the New Jersey Outstanding Training Agency for 2009.

The award will be presented on August 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cumberland County One-Stop, 275 North Delsea Drive, Vineland, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Being recognizing are the **Experience Works Champions** of the Senior Community Service Employment Program for 2009. SCSEP is an older worker training to employment program authorized by the Older Americans Act, administered by the US Department of Labor, and operated by Experience Works in 6 counties in New Jersey. SCSEP serves individuals who are at least 55 years of age, who are subsisting at little more than the federal poverty level of income, and who are unemployed but seeking work.

Work training is provided through assignments at local nonprofit agencies where program participants upgrade skills or learn new skills in preparation for the local job market. The SCSEP grant pays participants minimum wage for approximately 18 hours of community service work training each week. The agency helps the participant to prepare for employment, but also receives the efforts of the participant toward their goals and obligations in the community.

The **Borough of Woodbine in Cape May County** is the **Outstanding Host Training Agency** for 2009. The Borough has been a true partner with Experience Works, providing office space and support for staff in their facility, referring potentially eligible individuals to Experience Works for services, providing excellent training for participants in several work areas that can lead to employment, and occasionally hiring participants when they qualify for openings on staff. Mayor William Pikolycky is a true champion for Experience Works and older workers, educating his fellow local officials to the value of SCSEP and advocating for hiring older individuals.

Also being honored is **Marlene S. Jass of Burlington County**, who is being recognized as the **Outstanding Participant** in the Senior Community Service Employment Program in New Jersey for 2009.

Cape May County Experience Works opened the Woodbine field office last year in the Woodbine Community Center, 812 Longfellow Avenue. Experience Works, formerly known as "Green Thumb" is a federally sponsored program for persons 55 and older. Participants are placed in a Host Agency to get training and eventually placed in regular employment.

"We are pleased to have been honored with this award," commented Mayor Pikolycky. "The Experience Works program has been active in Woodbine for the past 19 years, under both the "Green Thumb" and the "Experience Works" designation, providing supplemental income to persons on fixed incomes while also providing workers who were undergoing training with no cost to the Borough, in clerical, maintenance, housekeeping, landscaping and other positions, thus reducing Borough expenses. We currently have approximately 10 trainees at the Borough, in four locations, with at least seven seniors have found outside employment after undergoing Experience Works' training program. We were instrumental in the opening of the Woodbine office in order to establish a local presence for Experience Works. I continue to encourage all those eligible to apply for this program, and I thank those in charge of it for their nominating Woodbine for this well-appreciated recognition."

(For more information about the Experience Works program, including eligibility requirements, call 609-861-1065.)