

PRESS RELEASE

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11 May, 2007

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky was the invited featured speaker at the New Jersey Community Forestry Council Meeting held May 10 in Freehold. He spoke on how trees have made a difference in his community and exchanged ideas on how the Council can better interact with other Mayors around the state. The Council presented Mayor Pikolycky with a set of notecards illustrated with winning student art from the Arbor Day contest, as well as an official "Mayor" shirt from the Shade Tree Federation, New Jersey Tree Foundation, and New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry. Mike D'Errico, Executive Secretary of the Council, introduced the Mayor as having a "model community-forestry municipality" and went over the accomplishments of the Borough. The Mayor was able to talk about the Borough's success over the past fourteen years of the Community Forestry Program and to make suggestions about how to involve other municipalities and organizations within them.

Woodbine is currently in its second five-year Community Forestry Management Plan, giving it Approved Status. It was the 41st municipality to have an approved Plan. Only 45% of the communities in the state are taking advantage of these programs. In 2006, four CORE-trained individuals earned a total of 20 CEU's for the Borough, while a fifth community member also received CORE training. Woodbine is ranked number one in the number of Community Forestry grants awarded, a full dozen, totaling \$134,728. The grants program began in 1993. Within the past calendar year the Borough received \$75,000 in grant funding, two \$25,000 grants under the recently introduced Cool Cities program and an additional \$25,000 in Community Stewardship Incentive Program funding.

"Without the assistance of these grants, forestry programs such as Woodbine's would not be possible. I want to thank David Shaw, co-chairman of the Council, and the other nineteen members for their recognition of Woodbine as a model community. I also thank the Council for their initiative in getting the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide dedicated funding through the sale of New Jersey "Treasure Our Trees" license plates to continue these programs. And I especially thank the employees of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, Community Forestry program for all the advice and assistance they have given us over the years," added Mayor Pikolycky.