

PRESS RELEASE

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Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Woodbine Volunteer Fire Department will be holding the housing of its new pumper truck on October 7, with activities from noon until 5 p.m. October 7 is the beginning of Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 7 through October 13. October itself is Fire Safety Month.

The day's events will include a parade, with upwards of twenty pieces of fire apparatus scheduled to participate, starting at noon. The parade will go along Washington Avenue. Following the parade will be the formal "housing" ceremony at the firehouse, which is located at the corner of Adams Avenue and DeHirsch Boulevard. Trophies will then be awarded to fire equipment as judged prior to the parade. Refreshments will be available and a DJ will be providing music. In addition to various free fire-prevention related giveaways in commemoration of Fire Prevention Week, there will be a "bouncy" for the children to play in.

The Borough of Woodbine received funded from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities Public Facilities grant program towards purchase of this new pumper truck, toward the current fleet of four. The last firetruck apparatus that was purchased by the WVFD was in 1995. This newest addition brings the department up to state-of-the art. The historic firehouse in use by the WVFD was also recently rehabilitated by a Department of Community Affairs grant award.

Woodbine Volunteer Fire Department serves the entire 8-square mile Borough of Woodbine, as well as the adjacent Cape May National Wildlife Refuge and Belleplaine State Forest, playing a significant role in aiding the New Jersey Forest Fire Service in suppressing wildland fires for which a pumper is essential. The WVFD also covers Woodbine Municipal Airport. The Department provides mutual aid to the surrounding areas that do not have public water supplies.

The Fire Department also must protect the State Developmental Center at Woodbine (WDC), which is also a county-wide evacuation shelter site and a designated point of distribution for emergency medical services and supplies in the event of a disaster.

Woodbine is home as well to the US Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center (UDC), which is under the Department of Homeland Security. This facility houses command offices for warehouse operations responsible for distribution and supply of all uniforms to the United State Coast Guard worldwide.

"I congratulate the firefighters as they hold this housing and thank them for their time and commitment, and also once again thank the Department of Community Affairs, recognizing its role in providing funding toward this volunteer organization's updated equipment and firehouse rehab," added Mayor Pikolycky.