

NEWS TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC
1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
Phone: (732) 634-4500 ♦ Fax: (732) 602-6016
Web: <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Oct. 26, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
John R. Hagerty
Mayor's Office of Communications
732-602-6039

MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC & TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS KICK-OFF 2007 GENERAL ELECTION DAY FOOD DRIVE

"Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote"

Voters Reminded to Bring Canned Goods to Polling Locations as Part of Year-Long Effort to Keep Food Pantries Supplied



Senior students from Colonia, Woodbridge and John F. Kennedy High Schools in Woodbridge announce the first-ever "Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote" food drive at a Colonia High School Rally. The "Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote" food drive asks Township voters to drop-off canned goods and non-perishable foods at polling locations before voting on Tues., Nov. 6. Joining the students are Joyce Brown, Colonia High School teacher and mentor (podium) and Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac.

Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac and Superintendent of Schools Vincent Smith, along with Senior Class students from Colonia, Woodbridge and John F. Kennedy High Schools, today announced the kick-off of Woodbridge Township's General Election Day food drive

~ *“Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote”* ~

a first-of-its-kind effort wherein voters are reminded to drop-off canned goods at their polling location before they cast their ballots on Tues., Nov 6.

“The ‘Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote’ food drive program is becoming synonymous with election day in Woodbridge Township and is one of the most significant efforts we as a community can participate in to assist needy families,” Mayor McCormac said. “The election day food drive was the brainchild of Colonia High School teacher Joyce Brown and became reality through the dedicated efforts of her senior class students at Colonia High School. Today, the ‘Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote’ food drive involves students from all three Township high schools and is responsible for collecting thousands of pounds of food.”

According to Mayor McCormac, the ‘Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote’ food drive asks voters to bring canned goods and non-perishable foods to their polling locations for drop-off as they go to vote. Students from Colonia, Woodbridge and JFK High Schools coordinate the food drive with the Board of Elections and Town Hall to place drop-off containers at more than 60 polling locations throughout the Township. The students will then collect the containers at the close of elections and take the food to the Township Health Center where it will be sorted and distributed to food pantries. The ‘Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote’ food drive will be in place for all elections, including the upcoming Nov. 6 general election, the primary election next February, the School Board elections in April, and the various fire district elections.

Mayor McCormac credited Colonia High School teacher Joyce Brown with proposing the Election Day food drive concept last year (2006) and working with the Township's “We Feed” Committee and the Board of Elections to make the program a reality. Colonia High School students embraced and coordinated the Township-wide project. Additionally, the students advertise the program through lawn signs, banners, posters, flyers and a commercial produced for TV-35.

“I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of our high school students from Colonia, Woodbridge and JFK, their teachers and advisors for establishing the “Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote” food drive. It is truly an effort that demonstrates a real commitment to purpose, community and the human condition,” said Superintendent Smith.

Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the “We Feed” Food Bank Committee, noted that the recent Summer Concert food drive program collected more than 40,000 pounds of non-perishable food stuffs (canned goods, pre-package and boxed foods, baby food, paper products, etc.) for distribution to Township food pantries and soup kitchens. The food items are distributed to needy Woodbridge Township families and individuals through the following food pantries:

- Heavens Helper's Pantry, 343 Pearl Street, Woodbridge (formerly Congregation Adath Israel), Kathy Hoffman, Coordinator @ 732-742-8942;
- First Presbyterian Church, 20 Middlesex Avenue, Iselin, Gloria Haesler, Coordinator @ 732-283-1188;
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge, Val and Hertha Blatz, Coordinators @ 732-634-7422;
- Metro Park Assembly of God, 48 Berkeley Blvd., Iselin, Sandra Burton, Coordinator @ 732-310-8758;
- First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, George and Robin Goodrich, Coordinator @ 732-634-1024;
- St. James Roman Catholic Church, 174 Grove Street, Woodbridge, Peggy Catalano, Coordinator @ 732-636-4310;

- First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Carolyn and Jake Stockl, Coordinators @ 732-634-1631;
- First Congregational Church-Women of Faith, Barron Avenue, Woodbridge, Faith Longstreet, Coordinator @ 732-634-0582;
- St. Cecelia Roman Catholic Church, 45 Wilus Way, Iselin @ 732-283-0150, and
- Elijah's Bread Food Pantry, Ridgedale and E. Prospect Avenues, Woodbridge @ 732-636-7727.

The ongoing effort to keep Woodbridge Township food banks stocked throughout the year continues with food donations being part of various Township-sponsored events such as the Mayor's Summer Concert Series, the Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert, and other public events. Additionally, non-perishable foods can be dropped off any weekday at the Woodbridge Township Public Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, or at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street..

Additional information about the election day food drive or the "We Feed" Committee is available by contacting the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services at 732-855-0600 x5034.