

# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



**MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC**

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## **MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC ANNOUNCES START OF CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION OF NEW WOODBRIDGE ANIMAL SHELTER & PET ADOPTION CENTER**

### **Township Shelter To Include Expanded Care & Housing to Accommodate Potential Shared Services with Neighboring Communities**

**Woodbridge Township** – Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac today announced the start of construction of a new Animal Shelter & Pet Adoption Center situated in a Township-owned building in the Sewaren section of Woodbridge. The state-of-the-art facility, designed as a model animal shelter and pet adoption center, will meet or exceed state and Township building code regulations and will provide a safe and comfortable haven for the care and housing of abandoned animals.

“Today marks the milestone in what has been a priority project – locating and constructing a modern animal shelter & pet adoption center that will meet the needs of Township animals today, tomorrow and into the future,” Mayor McCormac said. “The animal shelter and pet adoption center will allow for the care and housing of animals abandoned by the public and recovered by Animal Control and will serve as a welcoming, airy and comfortable place to visit and adopt pets. More importantly, the renovation and outfitting of a fully-equipped, all amenities-included facility has been accomplished within the budget allocation.”



Mayor McCormac said that Dell-Tech, Inc. of Hamilton, NJ secured the \$650,500 competitive and open bid contract to renovate an existing Township-owned building located at 189 Woodbridge Avenue in Sewaren to house the new Woodbridge Township Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center. The 2,500 square foot facility provides a solid foundation and structure and will be renovated utilizing available energy-saving and environmental-friendly materials and concepts. The contract calls for the complete renovation of the building, including the addition of a second floor area designed to house and care for additional animals should neighboring communities engage the Township to house stray pets and animals as part of a shared services agreement.

According to Mayor McCormac, the construction plans include installation of at least 17 individual dog kennels with extended indoor/outdoor runs; an over-size cattery with individual cages for each feline; separate, fully-ventilated dog and cat quarantine areas; a private animal receiving area equipped with cleaning facilities; a “prep” room where the incoming animals will be examined prior to housing; a private Veterinary care clinic where animals will be examined and treated; and a laundry for cleaning blankets and kennel wraps. A unique and special feature is the inclusion of a large, public area where families can greet and interact with pets prior to adoption. The second floor expansion will include additional dog kennels and cattery.

Joining the Mayor in making the announcement were members of the Woodbridge Township Municipal Council, Dennis Green, Director, Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services, Health Department supervisors and staff, the members and staff of Woodbridge Animal Control, volunteers from Woodbridge Animal Group, the Township-sponsored pet adoption program, and friends and supporters of the Woodbridge Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center. The Mayor thanked and credited members of the public dedicated to the creation of a permanent Township animal shelter and who supported the project by raising monies for shelter amenities. To date, the Friends of the Woodbridge Animal Shelter and Adoption Center have raised more than \$8,200 for the shelter.

Mayor McCormac noted that the Administration and Township Council consistently and steadfastly pursued all appropriate and available options to site, construct and/or renovate, and open a new animal shelter and pet adoption center by the winter of 2007. In moving to achieve that goal, on April 11 the Municipal Council approved the hiring of Architect Michael Testa under a \$23,300 contract to evaluate the suitability of the Sewaren facility for conversion to an animal shelter, to prepare a feasibility report and to provide preliminary architectural construction blueprints. The Notice of Bid for Construction was issued on July 1, with the sealed bids returned on July 24. The selected construction bid was selected in August, with construction getting underway on Aug. 20, 2007.

“On behalf of the entire Municipal Council, I am extremely pleased that we have been able to put together a facility that is cost effective, considers the needs of all Township taxpayers and financial priorities, while at the same time allows us to achieve the goal that we all share – the humane care and protection of animals,” said Council President Brenda Yori Velasco.

	
<p><b>ANIMAL SHELTER CONSTRUCTION</b>  Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac (podium) announces start of construction of a new \$650,500 Woodbridge Township Animal Shelter &amp; Pet Adoption Center in the Sewaren section of the Township. Joining mayor McCormac were: Ziggy Rabiega, Construction Manager, Dell-Tech Construction (I), Michael Testa, Project Architect (cr), Dennis Green, Director, Woodbridge Township Department of Health &amp; Human Services and Mercedes Lopez, Woodbridge Township Animal Control Officer.</p>	<p><b>ANIMAL SHELTER CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS</b>  Members of Woodbridge Township Animal Control, Woodbridge Animal Group (WAG) and Supporters of the Woodbridge Township Animal Shelter &amp; Pet Adoption Center gather at the future site of the Woodbridge Township Animal Control &amp; Pet Adoption Center in Sewaren.</p>