

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC INTRODUCES "TOMMY TOOLBOX"
~ A FREE, HOME REPAIR SERVICE FOR QUALIFIED
WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP SENIOR & HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS
"Tommy ToolBox" Tracks "Tooling Around the Township" as Year 'Round
Home Repair and Fix-up Program**

**Call "Tommy Toolbox" Hotline For Qualifying Information
732-634-2750 x105 or Log-on to: www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us.**

WOODBIDGE – Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac today introduced "Tommy Toolbox" ~ a free, Township-wide home repair and fix-up service for senior and handicapped Woodbridge Township residents. "Tommy Toolbox" is an extension of the highly successful "Tooling Around The Township" program which organizes community-based teams of volunteers, local trades' persons, municipal employees and business sponsors to fix-up, repair and help maintain homes for senior and disabled Township residents.

"I'm excited to announce that 'Tommy Toolbox' is 'Tooling Around The Township' fixing-up homes, making repairs and generally helping senior and handicapped residents enjoy the benefits of simple home repairs that make all the difference in the world," said Mayor McCormac. "Tommy Toolbox and 'Tooling Around the Township' are real programs that make a real difference for residents who can't afford to make basic repairs or maintenance to their homes. Through 'Tommy Toolbox,' senior residents will be able to stay in their homes and enjoy a better quality of life. It's a government-sponsored program that is truly making a difference."

Mayor McCormac noted that 'Tommy Toolbox' works exactly like 'Tooling Around The Township' – senior and handicapped residents can apply to the program by logging-on to the Woodbridge Township Web Page at: www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us or by calling the 'Tommy Tool Box' Hotline: **732-634-2750 x105.**

Municipal Council President Brenda Yori-Velasco said that 'Tommy Toolbox' is coordinated by the Woodbridge Housing Authority which reviews applications for eligible residents, dispatches 'Tommy Toolbox' to the home or

apartment and monitors the repair services. Applications to nominate a home for repair or maintenance are now being accepted and are available by contacting the 'Tommy Toolbox' hotline at the Woodbridge Housing Authority.

Donna Brightman, President, Woodbridge Housing Authority, said that 'Tommy Toolbox' masquerades as Carl Grillo, an experienced contractor hired as a full-time employee of the 'Tooling Around the Township' volunteer organization. 'Tommy Toolbox' has already completed repairs at homes in Iselin, Fords, Colonia, Woodbridge, and Avenel. Home repairs include basic electrical repairs, patching walls, painting and caulking, installing grab bars, repairing windows and doors, and general maintenance.

Mayor McCormac said that last April, more than 750 'Tooling Around the Township' volunteers completed repairs on 22 homes throughout the Township. Since 2000, more than 120 Woodbridge Township senior and handicapped residents and families have benefited from home repairs through the efforts of 'Tooling Around The Township.' Additionally, community volunteers have built 15 wheelchair ramps and made handicap modifications at more than 19 residences.

"We believe that a home doesn't just start at the doorstep. The entire community is also part of the home and we all have a responsibility to make sure it is safe, healthy, and beautiful," said Mayor McCormac. "Tommy Toolbox and 'Tooling Around the Township' helps build community spirit... maintain the value of our housing stock... and help residents unable to afford or manage repairs and maintenance."

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