

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:

June 9, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John R. Hagerty

Mayor's Office of Communications

(732) 602-6039

WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP OPENS EMERGENCY COOLING CENTER'S at WOODBRIDGE RESCUE SQUAD & COMMUNITY CENTER

Mayor John E. McCormac Urges Residents to Use Cooling Centers and to Check on Neighbors & Seniors

Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the Department of Health & Human Services and the Office of Emergency Management have established "cooling centers" at the Woodbridge Rescue Squad Building, the Community Center and at municipal buildings, senior centers and the Woodbridge Housing Authority, where residents can get air-conditioned relief from the heat and humidity. Residents without air conditioning and who cannot travel should contact the Division on Aging "Beat the Heat" program at 732-855-0600 x5023 or the Woodbridge Police Department at 732-634-7700 for assistance.

"The Township has opened cooling centers at the Woodbridge Rescue Squad Building, the Community Center and at other municipal locations and senior centers convenient to residents who do not have air conditioning and who need to obtain relief from the extremely hot temperatures," Mayor McCormac said. "Senior and disabled residents, along with individuals with respiratory problems and those with medical conditions, should take precautions and obtain relief from the extremely hot conditions expected over the next several days."

Woodbridge Township Cooling Centers are open at the following locations:

- Woodbridge Community Center at the YMCA, 600 Main Street, Woodbridge. Call 732-596-4170;
- Woodbridge First Aid Squad Building, 77 Queen Road (off Route 9). Call 732-634-9409;
- Evergreen Senior Center, 400 Inman Avenue, Colonia. Call 732-382-5545 for hours;
- Woodbridge Main Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza. Call 732-634-4450 for hours;
- Fords Branch Library, 211 Ford Avenue. Call 732-738-0250 for hours;
- Colonia Branch Library, 607 Inman Avenue. Call 732-382-5090 for hours.
- Woodbridge Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza. Call 732-855-0600 for hours;
- Woodbridge Housing Authority, 29 Buns Lane. Call 732-634-2750 for hours;
- Woodbridge Town Hall, One Main Street. Call 732-634-4500.

Woodbridge Township residents can contact the Division on Aging directly at 732-855-0600 x5023 or Multi-Services on Aging at the Evergreen Center at 732-382-4700 for more information and referrals to local facilities that can assist residents.

Mayor McCormac suggested that residents look out for neighbors, senior residents and family members during periods of extreme heat. “If you know someone who may be at risk for heat stress, take a few minutes to check on them periodically throughout the day and night. You may be saving a life,” Mayor McCormac said.

Councilwoman Brenda Yori Velasco reminded that the Division on Aging is again sponsoring the “Beat the Heat” fan donation program. Each summer the Division on Aging reaches out to community associations, the business community and residents seeking donations of new fans to assist senior residents or low income families without air conditioning or fans. To be eligible to receive a free fan from the “Beat the Heat” program, applicants must be a resident of Woodbridge Township, not have any cooling device or, due to illness and/or disability, cannot leave the residence to go to a cooling center, and complete a request/eligibility form. To apply for the “Beat the Heat” Program, or to donate a fan, contact the Woodbridge Division on Aging, Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza at 732-855-0600 x5023 Mon.-Fri. from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mayor McCormac offered the following “heat alert” suggestions:

- Remain indoors, in a properly ventilated location, as much as possible;
- If you must go out, do so early or late... wear sunscreen and clothing to protect exposed skin;
- Keep a supply of drinking water and prepared foods... avoid use of stoves or ovens;
- Avoid outdoor activities; and
- Be a good neighbor and check on family and friends.