

# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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## **WOODBIDGE MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC HOLDS 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL TOWNSHIP-WIDE SENIOR SUMMIT**

***Senior Residents Focus Discussion on Community Center & Public Services***

***McCormac Outlines New Services, Programs & Information  
Geared to Senior Residents***

***Senior Month 2008 Continues with Special Township-Wide Programs & Events***

**Woodbridge** – Senior residents from throughout Woodbridge Township today attended the Second Annual “Mayor’s Senior Summit” hosted by Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac where Township senior’s expressed opinions on a diversity of topics and offered ideas and suggestions on how to improve senior-related programs and services throughout the community.

As part of the 2008 “Mayor’s Senior Summit,” Mayor McCormac engaged senior residents in a lively exchange of ideas in an open discussion on topics ranging from expanding and improving services, programs and facilities at the Community Center, Evergreen Senior Center and other Township senior facilities... to improving communications with senior residents on emergency preparedness, weather-related alerts and consumer safety... to suggestions on improving public safety such as cracking down on speeding in residential areas... to “Quality of Life” issues such as home maintenance and repair, and expanded physical fitness, educational programs and seminars for senior residents.

“The senior residents attending the 2008 ‘Mayor’s Senior Summit’ were well aware of the available Township-sponsored services and programs and, more importantly, expressed very strong opinions about what they feel the Township should provide in the way of services and programs. I was impressed with the many opinions, suggestions, and ideas offered on how to address Township-wide issues along with an understanding of what needs to be done to improve the ‘Quality of Life’ for everyone,” Mayor McCormac said.

In addressing the senior residents, Mayor McCormac reviewed suggestions made at last year’s “Senior Summit,” noting that the majority of recommendations had been implemented, including installing Lois Griffin as the

Director of Senior Services at the Community Center, availability of increased handicap parking at the Community Center and other senior centers and facilities, the addition of the year-round "Tommy Tool Box" home repair program for senior homeowners, increased computer training classes for seniors at Township senior residences and facilities, adding specialized educational and informational programs and seminars geared to senior residents, and expanding physical fitness instruction, including a twice-daily "Seniorsize" program on TV-35.

"The '2008 Mayor's Senior Summit' was extremely helpful and will allow the Community Center staff, Health and Senior Services Director, Recreation Department Director and Town Hall to provide not just better services, but the types of programs, services and information that senior residents want and need. Simply put, addressing senior concerns does not have to be complicated. Some of the suggestions we'll be considering for 2008 include expanded health and wellness services, a crackdown on speeding near senior centers and facilities, and the availability of more convenient and accessible handicapped parking," the Mayor said.

Mayor McCormac noted that the Community Center, the Evergreen Senior Center and the YMCA at the Community Center offer many programs, events and educational and informational sessions and opportunities, including the QualCare senior program series, the Silver Sneakers fitness program, line dancing classes, senior billiards and gaming activities, a computer learning lab, senior splash water aerobics program, along with many other programs and services. Additionally, the YMCA offers senior members unlimited access to all facilities, classes and programs as part of the new "Sizzling Summer Senior Pass" available to senior residents 60 years and retired or 62 and older.

Representatives from the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services, the Division on Aging & Senior Services, the Multi-Service Program on Aging, the Department of Recreation & Resident Services, the Woodbridge Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the Evergreen Senior & Community Center, the YMCA at the Woodbridge Community Center, and the Woodbridge Township Library participated in the 2008 "Mayor's Senior Summit" and were on-hand to provide information and services to senior attendees.

Additionally, each of the Township senior clubs and residences, the various AARP chapters, along with active senior adults and residents, invited to and/or attending the 2008 "Mayor's Senior Summit" included:

- Avenel Senior Club at St. Andrews;
- Colonia Senior Club at Colonia Fire House;
- Fords/Keasbey Senior Club at Our Lady of Peace;
- Iselin Senior Club at St. Cecelia's Knights of Columbus Club;
- Port Reading/Sewaren Senior Club at St. Anthony's Hall;
- Woodbridge Senior Club at St. James - McCarristan Hall;
- The Indian-American Senior Club;
- The St. John Vianney Senior Club;
- AARP Chapters representing Colonia and Woodbridge; and
- Representatives from Maple Tree Manor (Avenel), Greiner Towers (Colonia), Olsen Towers (Fords), Cooper Towers (Iselin), Finn Towers (Woodbridge), Stern Towers (Woodbridge), Adams Towers (Woodbridge and the Evergreen Senior Center.

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