

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC & TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS MOVE 'FAST FORWARD' ON 2007 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

***Residents Reminded to Bring Canned Goods to Barron Holiday Concert and to
Municipal Drop-Off Locations...***

***Sansone Route 1 Auto Mall Kicks-Off "Season of Giving"
with 75 Cases of Food...***



Paul Sansone of Sansone's Route 1 Auto Mall and representatives of Woodbridge Township food pantries kick-off the 2007 Holiday Food Drive. Sansone donated more than 75 cases of food for distribution to Woodbridge Township families. The Woodbridge Township Holiday Food Drive will be collecting non-perishable food items until Dec. 24.

Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac, members of the Municipal Council, and the "We Feed Woodbridge" Committee, along with Paul Sansone of Sansone's Route 1 Auto Mall, today announced the kick-off of Woodbridge Township's 2007 Holiday Food Drive where Township residents are reminded to donate a can..or two..or three..of non-perishable foods to help less fortunate residents and families experience a healthier and happy holiday. Non-perishable foods and canned goods can be dropped-off at the Annual Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert on Dec. 14 and at numerous municipal drop-off locations.

“The 2007 holiday food drive is an important part of this year’s ‘season of giving’ and will benefit hundreds of families throughout the Township put food on the table,” said Mayor McCormac. “This year, we are hoping to collect more than 10,000 pounds of non-perishable food over the next 30 days – food that will be distributed by our local food pantries as they work to ensure that less fortunate Township residents receive much needed food supplies to help get them through the holidays.”

According to Mayor McCormac, the annual Holiday Food Drive is coordinated by the “We Feed Woodbridge” Committee and works to collect non-perishable foods for Township food pantries for distribution to needy residents. The various year ‘round Township-sponsored food drives - ‘Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote,’ the Summer Concert Series, the Valentine’s Day ‘Have a Heart,” and the annual holiday ‘Season of Giving’ – have netted more than 74,000 pounds of food so far this year (2007).

“This year, we have a significant start toward our goal with the extraordinarily generous donation of more than 75 cases of food courtesy of Paul Sansone and the staff of Sansone’s Route 1 Auto Mall. We are encouraging other Woodbridge businesses and companies to join the ‘Season of Giving’ with donations to the “We Feed Woodbridge” Committee,” said Mayor McCormac.

The Annual Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert (free admission) has become the principal event for the ‘Season of Giving’ food drive. This year, the Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert, scheduled for Fri., Dec. 14 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Cecelia’s Church, 45 Wilus Way, in Iselin, is presented by The Hickory Tree Chorus. Additionally, non-perishable foods for the holiday food drive can be dropped off any weekday at the Woodbridge Township Public Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza; Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street; the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza; or at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street, anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

“In the holiday spirit, concert-goers are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods, canned goods and other supplies to the Holiday Concert sponsored by the Barron Arts Center, the Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission and the Woodbridge Township Arts Council,” said Council President Brenda Yori Velasco.

Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the “We Feed Woodbridge” Food Bank Committee, noted that the recent ‘Cast a Can When You Cast Your Vote’ and Summer Concert Series food drive programs collected more than 55,000 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.

Additional information about the 2007 Holiday Food Drive or the “We Feed Woodbridge” Committee is available by contacting the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services at 732-855-0600 x5034.