

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:

Oct. 28, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John R. Hagerty

Mayor's Office of Communications

732-602-6039

WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SPONSOR ELECTION DAY FOOD DRIVE

"Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote"

**Voters Asked to Bring Canned Goods to Polling Locations On Tues.,
Nov. 4 as part of Year-Long Effort to Keep Food Pantries Supplied**

Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac and Superintendent of Schools Dr. John A. Crowe, along with Senior Class students from Colonia, Woodbridge and John F. Kennedy High Schools, today announced that the "***Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote***" food drive is in place for next Tuesday's General Election. "***Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote***" is a student-sponsored community program which reminds voters to drop-off canned goods at polling locations before they cast their ballots on Tues., Nov 4.

"The 'Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote' food drive is synonymous with election day in Woodbridge Township and is one of the most significant efforts we as a community can participate in to assist needy families," Mayor McCormac said. "The election day food drive is more important this year than ever before as more and more people are seeking help and assistance from our food pantries. So, as Township residents go to vote on Tuesday, we're asking that they take a can, or two, or three, to their polling location for drop-off in the 'Cast A Can' container."

According to Mayor McCormac, the "***Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote***" food drive encourages voters to bring canned goods and non-perishable foods to their polling locations for drop-off when they go to vote. Students from Colonia, Woodbridge and JFK High Schools coordinate the food drive with the Board of Elections and Town Hall to place drop-off containers at more than 60 polling locations throughout the Township. The students collect the containers at the close of the election and take the food to the Township Health Center where it is sorted and distributed to food pantries.

“I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of our high school students from Colonia, Woodbridge and JFK High Schools, their teachers, advisors and parents for establishing the increasingly successful “Cast A Can When You Cast Your Vote” food drive. It is truly an effort that demonstrates a real commitment to purpose, community and the human condition,” said Superintendent Crowe.

Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the “We Feed” Food Bank Committee, noted that the recent Summer Concert food drive program collected more than 40,000 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.

The ongoing effort to keep Woodbridge Township food banks stocked throughout the year continues with food donations being part of every election and Township-sponsored events such as the Mayor’s Summer Concert Series, the Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert, and other public events. Additionally, non-perishable foods can be dropped off any weekday at the Woodbridge Township Public Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, or at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street..

Additional information about the Election Day food drive or the “We Feed” Committee is available by contacting the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services at 732-855-0600 x5034.