

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 10, 2008

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MAYOR'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES COLLECTS 41,000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR TOWNSHIP FOOD BANKS

Mayor McCormac Cites Concert-Goers & Community Support in Successful Effort to Re-Supply Food Pantries

WOODBIDGE – Mayor John E. McCormac and Municipal Council President Rick Dalina today announced that the 2008 Mayor's Summer Concert Series ~ sponsored by Sansone's Route 1 Auto Mall, ShopRite and The Woodbridge Center ~ brought in nearly 41,000 pounds of much-needed food for Township food pantry's for distribution to needy families throughout Woodbridge Township.

"The annual summer concert food drive is without doubt the most important program undertaken each summer to replenish dwindling stocks of food stuffs at Township food banks," Mayor McCormac said. "Each year, concert goers donate more and more food as ever-increasing audiences attend and enjoy the outdoor entertainment. I'm proud of the Woodbridge Township residents and patrons who attend the concert and donate canned goods and non-perishable food to help their neighbors who might otherwise go hungry."

According to Mayor McCormac, the annual "Mayor's Summer Concert Series" has become a summer mainstay in Woodbridge – as have the community residents who attend the concerts and donate food to area food banks. The summer concert food drive is launched each July by the Woodbridge Department of Health & Human Services, the Recreation Department, and the "We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank Committee" which works with area food pantries, churches, parishes, schools and community and senior organizations to replenish and restock food pantries.

Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the "We Feed Committee" said that the 2008 summer concert food drive netted nearly 41,000 pounds of food – some 1,000 pounds more than the 2007 collection of just under 40,000 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable food items. Barcellona noted that non-perishable foods (canned goods, pre-package and boxed foods, baby food, etc.) were collected and sorted by volunteers from the

Department of Health & Human Services and area food banks. The food items will be 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.

According to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report, more than 14 million American families – 11.9 percent of all U.S. households – are at some time during the year uncertain of, or unable to purchase, enough food for their family.

The ongoing effort to keep Woodbridge Township food banks stocked throughout the year continues with food donations being part of various Township-sponsored events such as the Election Day food drive and "Cast a Can When You Cast Your Vote" program, the Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert, and other public events.

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. Additional food drop-off locations are at Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, and at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street..

Additional information about the "We Feed Woodbridge" food bank committee is available by contacting Peter Barcellona at 732-855-0600 x5034.