

# Woodbury Bulletin Board - November Issue

## By Town Councilman James Skoufis

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Wishing you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Always,  
James

### **Your Local Government**

- The Town Board recently adopted their 2011 fiscal year budget by a 5-0 vote. Despite continually stagnant or decreasing revenues due to the economy - sales tax, mortgage tax, interest, etc - most homeowners will see their town taxes increase by only 2% due to strong fiscal planning; for example, a home that is assessed at \$200,000 in the sewer and water districts will see their town taxes increase by less than \$70. While other municipalities are facing double-digit tax increases and mass layoffs, I am proud to say that not a single town employee is laid off as a result of our budget.
- One disagreement I did have with the budget was the inclusion of a small salary increase for council members. While the town board has refused an increase for a number of years, I did not think one was appropriate yet given the continued state of the economy. As a result, I will be respectfully turning mine down.
- At the recommendation of the Technology Committee, the Town Board passed a proposal last month to overhaul the severely outdated information technology system in Town Hall. New equipment, including a network/server setup, will be installed resulting in what I believe will be a more efficient and secure local government. Additionally, the approximately \$56,000 proposal will be funded by means of a dedicated equipment fund that had been set up many years ago, resulting in no additional taxes for the project.
- At the recommendation of the Environmental Conservation Committee, the Town Board has completed energy audits of the town's municipal buildings and will begin implementing the audit's recommendations for the Highway Department shortly. Payback and money savings to the taxpayer will be almost immediate, aided in part by Orange & Rockland's grant program which will pay for 70% of the efficiency improvements; if successful at the Highway Department, the town board will pursue greening the remainder of the municipal buildings.
- There will be a joint public hearing regarding a petition to annex approximately 13 acres of land presently in Woodbury into Monroe on November 29 at 7:30pm

at the Highland Mills Firehouse. I strongly encourage residents to attend and make their voices heard.

- I hope most of you found a moment to vote last week - the closeness of some of the races shows us again that every vote does indeed count and matter. Woodbury needs to show up to the polls in large numbers to prove to our elected officials that our town and our issues deserve their attention - we're still waiting on turnout numbers which I'll be sure to share in the next newsletter.

### **Woodbury Calendar**

- Saturday 11/6: The Central Valley United Methodist Church holds its annual Harvest Dinner. Food will be served starting at 6:00pm; take out dinners can be picked up between 5:00-5:45pm. For more information please call 845-827-6308.
- Saturday 11/6: The Woodbury Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the senior center at 2:00pm. The featured program will be a presentation by Pat and Sheila Conroy on the Seaman Family and its history in Woodbury.
- Thursday 11/11: Take a moment to thank those who have served our country on this Veterans Day. Most of the blessings we take for granted in our lives are a result of their service.
- Sunday 11/14: There will be a dinner fundraiser to benefit the Rumsey and Alliu families at the Cabo-Siena restaurant in White Plains, located at 107 Mamaroneck Avenue, from 2:00-8:00pm. Jason Rumsey of Central Valley, 11, has leukemia and Alvina Alliu of Monroe, 14, is diagnosed with brain cancer - both need our support and I hope many can make the event; if you cannot but would still like to help, you can mail a contribution to Hope 4 Avina and Jason, PO Box 684, Highland Mills, NY 10930.
- Sunday 11/14: A \$20 donation to the Robin Kedzierski family will get you a 20-minute massage from 8:00am-12:00pm at Laura Stevens Physical Therapy in the Timber Ridge office building; Robin is a breast cancer survivor and longtime Woodbury resident. Please call 928-4802 for more information.
- Sunday 11/21: The Spectrum Project Foundation holds their annual breakfast fundraiser from 8:00am-1:00pm at the St. Patrick's Church Gymnasium. The Spectrum Project is a local organization that supports our local children with autism - they do a tremendous amount of good and I hope you will make it out to support them; for more information visit [thespectrumproject.org](http://thespectrumproject.org) or call Maria at 928-2920.
- Thursday 11/25: Happy Thanksgiving!

---

The Woodbury Bulletin Board is written and distributed by and reflects the opinions of James Skoufis, not the Town of Woodbury, Town Board or anyone else.