

## *Office of the Mayor*

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### **City of Woodbury Woodbury, NJ**

Dear Residents,

Welcome to October 2021 in the City of Woodbury, New Jersey. We have a lot going on this month, with a lot to talk about. October is not just about the leaves turning beautiful colors, the weather getting cooler and weekends full of sports.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and we hope to bring some awareness to this global issue. It is also Fire Prevention Month, so time to check those smoke detectors, as well as your fire extinguishers. Please contact the Woodbury Fire Department if you have questions.

Our Fall Festival parade is back for the 71<sup>st</sup> year. What a Festival it will be! This has all been made possible by our amazing Citizens who volunteer their time as well as the generosity of our community. Through donations and sponsorships this entire event has been made possible. ZERO tax dollars were used.

Neighborhood Trick or Treating hours are Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3-8 p.m. Make sure if your house is participating in this fun event that your home is well lit! Stay safe while Trick or Treating. Let's teach our older children to look out for the little ones. Let's also remind them that a Please and Thank you go a long way.

I also want to share a wonderful story about a long time Woodbury resident, Judge John Holston. How his vision of change and leadership, along with our wonderful Woodbury citizens volunteering their time became a Labor of Love and WORC was born. Councilwoman Karlene O'Connor will highlight their latest project, The Pillar-Shute House.

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, I leave you with this thought, let's also be kinder to each other.

Remember our children and grandchildren, are always watching what we do. Be the difference you want to see in the world.

Thank you,  
Mayor Peg Sickel



October is National Bullying Prevention Month – a campaign to unite communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.

This topic holds special significance to me, personally. I have always had “zero tolerance” for bullying behavior.

*The dictionary defines bullying as “seeking to harm, intimidate or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable).*

Slavery in the United States, as well as around the world was a prime example of bullying behavior because it violated the rights of men and women as individuals and denied them their freedom.

When a lot of us grew up bullying was often minimized as a rite of passage and, sadly, many adhered to the adage that it would ‘toughen you up.’

Only in the past decade has bullying behavior been getting the national exposure and condemnation that it deserves.

In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Education released the first federal definition of bullying that includes three core elements:

- Unwanted aggressive behavior
- Observed or perceived power imbalance
- Repetition or high likelihood of repetition of bullying behavior

[www.stopbullying.com](http://www.stopbullying.com)

My passion to stop bullying’s harmful behavior and to empower those who are victimized has led me to become an executive board member of **FIFTY SHADES OF PURPLE**, an organization whose mission is to support children *and* adults who have been affected by bullying.

We accomplish this through programs and resources and by working alongside community-based organizations with anti-bullying initiatives or campaigns. Our motto is, “**everybody deserves to feel safe.**”

Often the ‘bully’ has been victimized, themselves, as a child. This could have started in the home or manifested itself in school or the workplace.

Studies have shown that the effects of bullying can lead into adulthood and its long- term effects can even end in suicide.

THE NEED FOR BULLYING PREVENTION IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE - especially in our youth and its message must be reinforced in the schools.

As Frederick Douglass pointed out, *“It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken men.”*

Bullying is not confined to the young. Workplace bullying and discrimination are causes for concern as well.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks rocked our nation to the core, a well broadcast statement from the Department of Homeland Security made us all stakeholders in our national security.

*“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.”*

I believe there is wisdom in that statement that we can apply to bullying prevention.

Each one of us can, at any moment, be a part of a solution – or resolution – to someone experiencing unfair targeting or injustice.

BE KIND.

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*October is:*  
**FIRE PREVENTION  
MONTH**



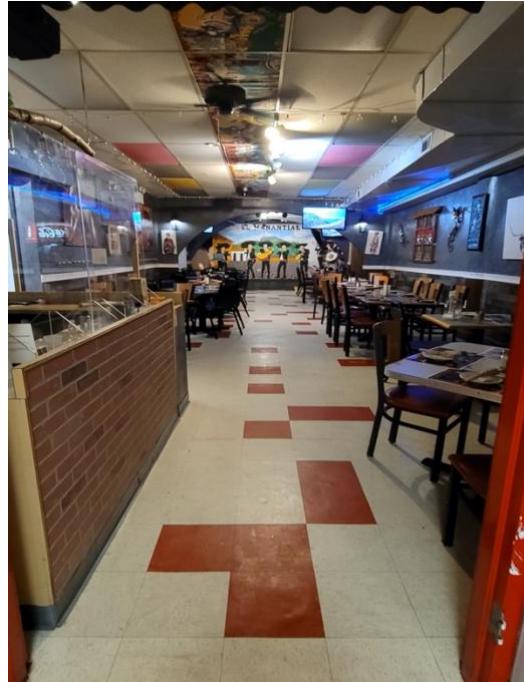
The Woodbury Fire Department Aims to Educate Children on how to SAFELY escape a home fire.

Fire Department representatives will be making appearances (see schedule below) at area schools in October to educate students with fire safety tips. They will be bringing with them the fire departments Truck Engine #511 as well as the Gloucester County Arson K-9 dog. The Dog will do a presentation of how he sniffs out fires and the Firefighters will be educating students about the Engines equipment. Please see school dates below.

The Firefighters will be bringing the Fire Truck at 9 am on the following dates and locations;

October 5, Evergreen Avenue Elementary School  
October 12, Woodbury Child Development Center  
October 14, Walnut Street Elementary School  
October 15, Holy Angels Catholic School  
October 26, West End Memorial Elementary School

## Woodbury Voice! -



The latest episode of local coverage podcast Woodbury Voice! highlights the premier Mexican restaurant in Woodbury – El Manantial. Host Jared Hunter sits down with Yasmin Velazquez, owner, to talk about everything from the menu and karaoke Fridays to the beautiful meaning of the name of the restaurant and everything in between!

As we reach the peak of Hispanic Heritage Month it's important now more than ever to highlight the wonderful diversity of our city and especially our Latino community. The rich history, heritage, and culture of these diverse communities is part of what makes our great city so great!

You can listen to this episode, and all of the other episodes of the podcast, at [online](#) or on Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google podcast and anywhere else you normally listen. Just search “Woodbury Voice!” and starting listening – enjoy!



October 9th, 2021 @ 5:30 PM (Rain Date October 16<sup>th</sup>)

The best way to celebrate Fall is .... with a festival and parade!!!

Parade organizers have a robust event planned for **Woodbury's 71<sup>st</sup> Fall Festival and Parade on October 9<sup>th</sup>**...there will be over 50 table vendors that include plenty of shopping possibilities ranging from candles, clothing, gifts, jewelry, bags, treats and photos.

\*Seven 'kid entrepreneurs" from Woodbury's local PTAH Initiative will be selling their products at their table displays.... support their business ingenuity!

\* Local Woodbury organizations will be providing information on their programs, including the Woodbury Green Team and the YMCA!

\* ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN: pumpkin painting, face painting, Spiderman and Comicon characters and additional children's games will be available at Lot 323 from 1 pm – 5 pm.

\*FOOD!!! There will be plenty of food options available from the four food trucks that will be on hand: including Soul Food and BBQ! Of course, fair favorites will be available for purchase - cotton candy, funnel cake, pretzels, water, and Gatorade.

\* LOCAL RESTAURANTS will be open for business! Stop by your favorites such as El Manantial, Father & Sons Pizza, Crown Chicken & Gyro and China House Restaurant.

\* ENJOY THE ENTERTAINMENT! DJ Mike Brown will be on hand spinning tunes as well as some amazing live entertainment. Instagram sensation Kid Rapper," Lil Ms. Royal", winner of The Kids Choice Awards, International Concert Pianist Yidi Ding, who moved to Woodbury from Shanghai at the age of 9, to further his education at The Internationally acclaimed Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia. Then to finish things off and get everyone ready for our fabulous parade, The "Drag Queen Mafia Show", with our very own Brittany Lynn. The Drag Queen Mafia is the only LGBTQIA group to perform in the Philadelphia Mummers Parade on New Year's Day!

\* WOODBURY FUN RUN! Sponsored by the Woodbury Road Runners will include a kid's dash (1 mile long!) which will start at 4:15 p.m. The regular race begins at 4:45 p.m.

\* WOODBURY STRONG! There are 55 participating groups, with over 600 people expected to participate in the parade!

\* Inspira and Zallie's Shop Rite of West Deptford are the Platinum Co-sponsors, along with many other Woodbury businesses supporting bands, audio, decorations, food as well as other needs for the Fall Festival Parade. This event is 100 % funded by Donations and Sponsorships, NOT Tax Dollars!

\* The event will be livestreamed on the Woodbury Herd YouTube channel by students from Woodbury High School, guided by their teacher Mr. Vince Doud

\*It will also be videotaped by GCIT and produced for TV viewing on a local station a few days after the event.

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS! JOIN THE FUN!**

**The parade begins at Carpenter Street and ends at Red Bank Avenue**

**This event is fully funded by donations and sponsorships.**

**Parade organizers announced this year's Grand Marshall – Joy Love.**



*A long-time Woodbury resident, Joy Love opened Luv N Joy Daycare, 25 years ago, "to give back to her community and provide a safe, nurturing, and loving environment for the children and families that stepped through her door. "*

Happy Halloween!

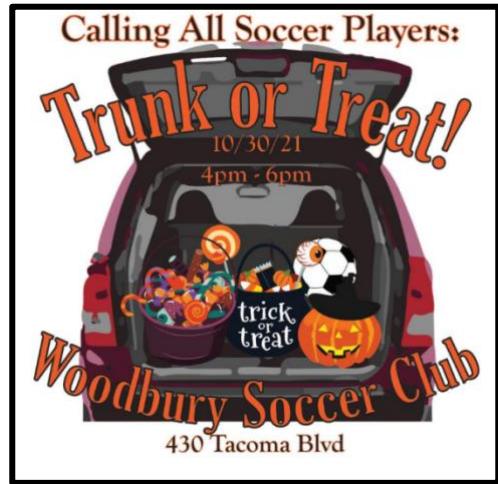


Main Street Woodbury is hosting Trick or Treat on Broad, Friday October 29. Our Broad Street merchants will be passing out candy to children in costume from 3pm-5pm while supplies last. Participating businesses will be announced soon, and you can view the list on [Facebook](#).

If your Woodbury business would like to participate please let us know by emailing [info@mainstreetwoodbury.org](mailto:info@mainstreetwoodbury.org). There is no cost to participate, however businesses must supply their own candy.



Main Street Woodbury is also hosting Ghost Tours on Friday, October 29, starting at 4 pm. Get set for Halloween with Spooky Walking Tours throughout Historic Woodbury! Tickets available soon. Additional information is available on their website and [Facebook](#).



All area children are welcome to enjoy some Halloween treats, compliments of the Woodbury Soccer Team's 'TRUNK OR TREAT' event; Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4p.m. – 6 p.m. at 430 Tacoma Blvd., Deptford, N.J. 08096

Interested in getting your child involved in the spring soccer season? A registration table will be setup for new registrants!



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Make sure if your house is participating in this fun event that your home is well lit!

Happy Halloween!

HOLTSTON'S WORK WAS A "LABOR OF LOVE"  
FOR THE CITY OF WOODBURY



Judge John S. Holston Jr. J.A.D., Ret. founded the Woodbury Old-City Restoration Committee with the goal of preserving Woodbury's architectural integrity in the early fall of 1977.

Our city, which is comprised of building styles that span several centuries (the Woodbury Friend's Meetinghouse was erected in 1715) had started to see some of its former structures fall into disrepair or abandonment, negatively affecting the values of the nearby homes.

Jack Holston was a member the last graduating class from the West End School's original four room schoolhouse. As a fourth-grade student, Jack remembers the May Day in 1950 when he and his classmates walked their schoolbooks to the "modern school" at 215 Queen Street. Interestingly, the school enrollment has expanded considerably since his elementary school days. The current West End School has approximately 400 students in grades Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> and 75 staff members.

In 1958, Jack graduated from Woodbury High School and, in 1962, received his bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. While there, he was a member of the R.O.T.C. and, after graduation, Holston spent two years in the Active Army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and ended his military career as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. after fulfilling his time with the Army Reserves.

With his military service behind him, Jack Holston enrolled at Rutgers School of Law in Camden, NJ. Again, he found himself in a small school setting. Only forty students were in his law class who were instructed by four full time professors.

Following a judicial clerkship, Holston ventured into law practice for himself by displaying his "shingle" - announcing his general law practice in his hometown of Woodbury. He would later form a partnership with his younger brother, Robert Holston. Many of his first clients were old classmates of his from Woodbury High School and they networked through a very robust civic association, the Woodbury Jaycees. In 1967, Holston was honored by the Jaycees with the NJ Distinguished Service Award.

With his law practice established and his life firmly rooted in Woodbury, Jack and a friend decided to join the Sketch Club, a local theater group. Ironically, it was housed at his old four room elementary

school. The aspiring thespian met his future wife, Nancy, there when they both performed in the dramatic play, Stalag 17.

After the building's renovation, Holston's 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom is where the theater production's audience sat, the stage occupied what used to be his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, the second-floor 3<sup>rd</sup> grade was turned into a clubroom for intermission and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom became the set design studio and dressing room.



The Sketch Club Players was located at 433 Glover Street, the former location of the West End Elementary School which was erected in 1889. The 99 seat theater's chairs were from the Rialto Theater, which closed in 1955.

Fifteen years after graduating from Dickinson College, in the fall of 1977, Jack Holston returned to Carlisle, PA and was astounded that the city had undergone an impressive revitalization project. Many of the buildings on the two business districts streets as well as some residential homes in Carlisle had largely been restored to the architectural style at the time they were constructed.

Inspired by the Carlisle project, Holston returned to Woodbury with the idea to assemble 12 other civic minded citizens that were interested in the preservation and restoration of historically significant buildings.

At the first meeting, when Jack pitched his plan of combining labor and grants to restore and renovate historic properties, one of the invitees exclaimed, *'That sounds like a lot of work!'*

That shorten version of that memorable phrase became the name of the newly formed historical association, WOODBURY OLD-CITY RESTORATION COMMITTEE, OR WORC.

Following Carlisle's example, the group decided to begin with the restoration of residential streets near the business district to blunt possible opposition from business owners who feared change. WORC began with the restoration of a dilapidated house on East Center Street, the home of an elderly women, and her home was nicely restored, some by contractors but mostly by the brick-and-mortar work of the original 13 members of WORC and their friends, relatives, and associates.

WORC sold restoration as a concept by informing the public that a lot of restoration is just painting, going to yard sales, and picking up things you are missing such as posts, lattice work, and shutters.

Sometimes it means removing inappropriate things and bringing the property back to its original architectural style. It is often not expensive.

Through the efforts of WORC and the City a historic district was formed, small at first and then larger, WORC was able to enlist the help and inspiration of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Environmental Design and Planning, which studied the district's buildings and often their historical uses and Penn's students drew a schematic of what a restored Woodbury would look like. That was the beginning. WORC and its projects have evolved over time.

WORC, currently and with an expanded committee of 20 trustees and officers continues their vision to preserve Woodbury's architectural history.

The restoration of the historic 1883 eastern brick styled Conrail railroad station has been a signature project of WORC for over twenty-five years.



A tour of many of Woodbury's historic buildings, today, will provide testament to Jack Holston's vision and his love for our city.

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John S. Holston, Jr. is a retired New Jersey Superior Court Trial and Appellate Division Judge, of counsel to the firm, concentrates his practice in providing independent and responsive alternate dispute resolution services to include mediation, serving as a neutral or party arbitrator, complex case management and State of New Jersey appellate practice consultation to the bar and public. Judge Holston served for over twenty-three years as a Judge of the Superior Court. Although he served in each of the trial divisions of the Superior Court, 12 years were in the Civil Division.

Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court bench, Judge Holston was engaged in the general practice of law as a partner at Holston, Holston and MacDonald, P.A.

His past public positions include municipal prosecutor, borough solicitor, planning and zoning board solicitor and Judge of three municipal courts.

Judge Holston is a member of the NJ Bar Association, a former Trustee and member of the Gloucester Court Bar Association; past president of the Gloucester County Municipal Judges Association, a NJ Supreme Court approved mediator, a mediator and arbitrator for ADR Options, National Arbitration and Mediation (NAM) and Resolute Systems LLC.

Nancy and John Holston Jr. have three grown children: Heidi, Kari, and Chip and two grandchildren: Ellie who is ten and Nathan who is 12.