



## *Office of the Mayor*

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City of Woodbury  
Woodbury, NJ

Dear Constituents:

As I enter my 11<sup>th</sup> month serving you as Mayor and I reflect on our progress and the hurdles we need to overcome as a city, my overwhelming thought is the need for **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**. Woodbury will not be strong if it is not solvent. Hold your elected officials accountable. "Fiscal responsible governments have a more positive impact on their communities because they can better meet the needs of those residents.

When President Obama gave his opening remarks to the Fiscal Responsibility Summit (2-23-09) he warned, "we cannot simply spend as we please, and defer the consequences to the next budget, the next administration or the next generation..." Though he knew it wasn't an easy directive, he pronounced **THAT MEANS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY RIGHT NOW!"**

President John F. Kennedy echoed the same theme when he proclaimed, "Our privileges can be no greater than our obligations." To the Woodbury residents and stakeholders, it is your right and responsibility to hold your government accountable for fiscal responsibility, honesty, transparency, and ethics. "It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions," stated Ronald Reagan.

Campaigning for the November election is underway. The 'promises and pledges are part of the political courting process. To effectively exercise your rights, take time to evaluate if your seated candidates have kept their promises to you. Do the new contenders have the substance to represent **WE THE PEOPLE?**

Finally, are you, yourself willing to make Woodbury better? We welcome to have your participation on committees, at council meetings or as volunteers for our local non-profits. Woodbury- Better-Together!  
Sincerely yours,

Mayor Peg Sickel

## THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS AND STRAWS IS NEARING!



On November 4, 2020, Governor Murphy and the NJ Legislature enacted the most progressive bag ban in the country. The law reduces litter and encourages the use of reusable bags by phasing out single-use carryout bags.

The program (and logo) was created and funded by New Jersey Clean Communities Council Inc. Woodbury's Green Team Committee is promoting the idea of getting the public to begin to get into the habit of bringing their own bags when they shop.

The single use plastic bag ban goes into effect on May 4, 2022.

At that time, if you don't bring your own bag, you'll have to purchase a reusable bag at the store. If you're not in the habit of doing so, the result could be having to purchase bags each time you check out of a store.



The "plastic straws by request only" takes effect in a few weeks on November 4, 2021.

In addition, beginning on May 4, 2022, food service businesses are prohibited from selling/offering any polystyrene foam food service product and may not sell or provide any food served in polystyrene.

At October's Woodbury Fall Festival, the Woodbury's Green Team set up a giveaway/information table during the pre-parade activities. This exposure gave the Green

Team the opportunity to interact with festival visitors who appeared to be supportive of the upcoming single use plastic ban law as well as the 'plastic straw by request' initiative.

Woodbury Councilwoman and Green Team member, Donna Miller, reported "it was refreshing and extremely encouraging to me to hear young citizens express their positive comments about doing what's best for the environment. All were happy to receive a free reusable cotton bag."



For more details on NJ's law, copy the available links, that are available in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

*Information provided by Councilwoman Donna Miller*

## **NO TEAM SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO STOP THE THUNDERING HERD!**



It has been an amazing 2021 season for the Woodbury Football team! As of October 17<sup>th</sup> they were undefeated – thundering through their opponents with impressive wins!

Mark your calendar to cheer for the Woodbury High School football team at Gateway High School on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. The pre-game begins at 10:30 a.m..

## THE SOUTH JERSEY ARTIST COLLECTIVE ACQUIRES 503(C)(3) STATUS: AIMS TO CONTINUE TO FOSTER ART AWARENESS IN WOODURY AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Founded in late 2020, the South Jersey Artist Collective (SJAC) is currently made up of board members from Woodbury, Woodbury Heights, and Collingswood. Its members have been involved in the Arts of the area in various capacities, teaching a variety of programs, participating in exhibitions, and organizing events such as last year's Art Outside project around Woodbury.

In addition to expanding to other areas of South Jersey, the collective is pursuing grants for an array of artistic projects.

The group's first project, a group action as part of the Inside Out Project, began over the Summer. The Inside Out Project is a program started by French street artist, JR, after winning a TedX prize with the instruction to use his prize money to "change the world with art." SJAC's theme for the project is Youth Support Black Lives Matter. So far, the group has photographed 100 local youth at multiple Woodbury events. These images will be printed individually as 3'x4' posters by the Inside Out Project and returned to the group for installation. The plan is to find a location within the City of Woodbury to install the posters. Other Cities have installed them on the exteriors of buildings , sidewalks parks, as well as other locations. SJAC believes that this project, upon completion, will create a public art destination for the area.

For more information on the Inside Out Project, you can find their website at [insideoutproject.net](http://insideoutproject.net) and the South Jersey Artist Collective can be found on Facebook and Instagram @sjartistcollective

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS, Mexican Holiday

### “Day of the Dead”

*“May the beautiful souls of our loved ones  
be always filled with joy, and may we be blessed  
with the opportunity to see them again. Amen.”*



Leslie Granda Hill, photographer

Mexico's DAY OF THE DEAD celebrations are NOT to be confused with our Halloween celebration.

Dia de los Muertos, (DAY OF THE DEAD) takes the position that loved ones who have died would not want to be mourned. Instead, it would be preferred by the departed souls that their lives are *celebrated* by their survivors.

A national holiday in Mexico, Dia de los Muertos is an opportunity for family and friends to gather and pray, remembering their loved ones who have passed.

The ‘living’ create a shrine for the departed – adorned with their favorite foods and drink, pictures of them from when they were alive, and decorated with marigold flowers.

Regardless of your nationality, YOU can adopt this Mexican custom of honoring the deceased with celebration!



Day of the Dead celebration and festivities: Photography by Leslie Granda Hill

**COLIN POWELL 'RAISED HIS HAND" TO DEFEND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND LEFT A LASTING LEGACY OF SERVICE**



April 5, 1937 – October 18, 2021

The City of Woodbury joins the world in mourning the death of former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, as we celebrate the life of this decorated member of our nation's military.

Thank you for your service! Born to Jamaican immigrants, Powell was raised in the South Bronx and attended the New York Public Schools. He graduated from the City College of New York where he earned a bachelor's degree in geology. Powell openly admitted that during his school years he was "an indifferent student" and that it wasn't until he participated in the ROTC (Reserve Officer's Training Corps) program at college that discovered his passion that led him to a lifetime of ground-breaking achievements.

*"It was only once I was in college, about six months into college when I found something that I liked, and that was ROTC, Reserve Officer Training Corps in the military. And I not only liked it, but I was pretty good at it. That's what you really have to look for in life, something that you like, and something that you think you're pretty good at. And if you can put those two things together, then you're on the right track, and just drive on."*

Powell spent 35 years in uniform, rising to the ranks of a four-star general. He was the first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-1993) and was the 65<sup>th</sup> United States Secretary of State from 2001-2005. We have lost a great American Hero.

*Prepared by: Donna Clementoni*

Nationally recognized military advocate: EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

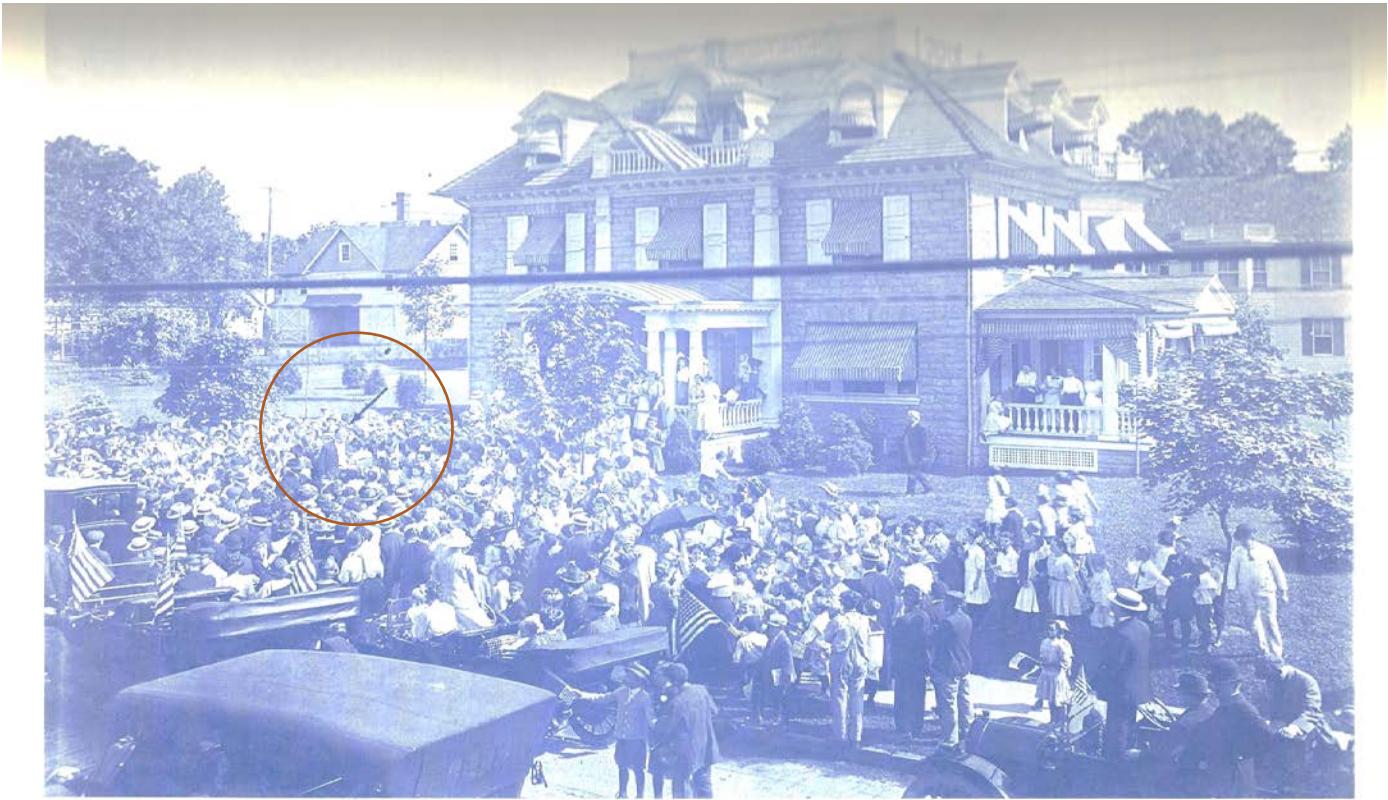
# Councilwoman O'Connor's Woodbury History Lesson

## Voting While Here!



November is a time for giving thanks. We can be joyful for so many parts of our personal lives and our communities. One area that I want to focus on for this month's article is the precious gift of voting which is an essential component of a true democracy. It is a right for all American adult citizens that came at a very high price. One that our forbearers paid on our behalf. A price that we should honor and appreciate.

Why is voting so important in a democracy? Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation, or to choose governing officials to do so. We have the ability to share our various perspectives and to respectfully agree to disagree in a public forum.



May 28, 1912 was one of the most unusual days in Woodbury's political history. Both President William Howard Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt arrived here seeking the Presidential nomination.

Taft arrived in the morning and is shown above (arrow) in front of Daniel Steelman's home on Cooper Street, the present Catholic Rectory. Roosevelt came later in the day and eventually won the nomination from Taft, but lost the Presidency to Woodrow Wilson, who was also in Woodbury just eight months earlier. (See page 87).



## WOODBURY'S CAMPAIGN HISTORY

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won the nomination from Taft, but lost the Presidency to Woodrow Wilson, who was also in Woodbury just eight months earlier."

## NEW JERSEY'S UNIQUE VOTING

While we are familiar with the fact that the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, I was surprised to learn that some New Jersey females could vote much earlier. New Jersey's first constitution in 1776 gave voting rights to "all inhabitants of this colony, of full age, who are worth fifty pounds ... and have resided within the county ... for twelve months." In 1790 the legislature reworded the law to say "he or she," clarifying that both men and women had voting rights. But only single women could vote because married women could not own property. Still, many unmarried women voted in New Jersey in the 1790s and the very early 1800s.

If they met the residency and property requirements, African Americans could also vote. In 1797, the New Jersey government required voters to be free inhabitants. We do not know if enslaved African Americans voted before this law was passed -- the property requirements made that unlikely, but no law specifically prohibited them from doing so.

While this is an amazing act, New Jersey like other states granted and then retracted the vote from women and African Americans during the late 1800s. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution stated that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Because it excluded women and those considered non-citizens at the time, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920 with new language. It stated "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on *account of sex*," which solidified voting rights for women. Despite these Amendments, many decades passed with laws and social customs preventing African Americans from voting until the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1965.



## THE INDIGENOUS IMPACT ON VOTING



Indigenous suffragist Zitkala-Sa also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin

Indigenous women such as the Haudenosaunee Confederacy greatly impacted the struggle for women's voting rights. *'White suffragists, fascinated by Native matriarchal power, invited Native women to speak at conferences, join parades and write for their publications. Native suffragists took advantage of these opportunities to speak about pressing issues in their communities — Native voting, land loss and treaty rights. But their stories have largely been forgotten.'*

*After the 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, and celebrated by millions of women across the country, the Indigenous suffragist Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, also known as Zitkala-Sa, a citizen of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, reminded newly enfranchised white women that the fight was far from over. "The Indian woman rejoices with you," she proclaimed to members of Alice Paul's National Woman's Party, but she urged them to remember their Native sisters, many of whom lacked the right to vote.'* —excerpt from article by Cathleen D. Cahill and Sarah Deer  
Published July 31, 2020 Updated Aug. 19, 2020

The Snyder Act of 1924 admitted Native Americans born in the U.S. to full U.S. citizenship. Though the Fifteenth Amendment, passed in 1870, granted all U.S. citizens the right to vote regardless of race, it wasn't until the Snyder Act that Native Americans could enjoy the rights granted by this amendment.

We can see that voting was a right that required the contribution of many people with steadfast endurance! Today, not only can we vote, but we can also become leaders...



Voting is a great joy...time to pass the baton to the next generation following us!

Resources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/voting-rights-in-nj-before-the-15th-and-19th.htm>

<https://www.haudenosaunderconfederacy.com/>