

PRESS RELEASE

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY VISIT BY WES EIGHTH GRADERS

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that Woodbine's annual "Student Government Day", which also celebrated both Arbor Day and the 41th Anniversary of Earth Day, was again a sustainable success.

On April 12 the eighth grade students from Woodbine Elementary School spent the morning at Borough Hall learning about the workings of their local municipal government.

Monserate Gallardo, who serves as Woodbine's Planning and Zoning Board secretary, Deputy Zoning Officer, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Woodbine Municipal Utilities Authority, discussed issues in zoning from plot plans to permits with the assembled students, described that the WMUA does, and spoke about municipal court related issues.

Borough Webmaster Bernard Sypniewski, who teaches Computer Science at Rowan Camden, asked the students to review the municipal website, and spoke further on technology matters and how they matter to the students' futures.

CFO and Assessor Jack Miller again gave insight into assessment and other financial ins and outs of municipal government.

Lisa Garrison, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Tax Collector spoke about her duties and displayed the original book of Borough Ordinances from 1903.

Mayor William Pikolycky concluded the day by giving an overview of municipal government and answering questions. He then presented each student with a certificate of attendance.

An unexpected break in the usual order of presentations came with a surprise visit from Nichelle Polston, early morning anchor of NBC 40, accompanied by cameraman Starling Underwood. Ms. Polston spoke briefly about her own career choice, and urged the students to work toward theirs.

Following the activities at Borough Hall, the students posed for a group picture at the bikeway gazebo amid the flowering trees of Woodbine's own Cherry Blossom Festival. They then adjourned for lunch followed by a visit to the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage to learn more about local history.

Arbor Day was celebrated in conjunction with Student Government Day, with the students each being given a white pine tubeling. Borough residents visiting the Municipal Building were also offered trees during this week and additional trees were distributed to the school and also for distribution by the Woodbine branch of the Cape May County library and to the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage.

Students participating were: Caesar Barreto, Steven Barreto, Khisheem Bland, LaShell Broome, Brandon Broughton, Carlos Camacho II, Hector Cruz, Tracey Ann Foster, Jose Galindez, Gerald Gibbs, Rebecca Huertas, Zmary Lopez, Tania Maldonado, Joseph Moore, Erik Riano, Trevon Riley, Joshua Sanchez, Joshua Thomas, Natalie Varona, and Katelyn White.

Accompanying them were teachers: Rose Farnan, Margaret Benson, student teacher Heather Grillo, foster grandparent Rose Hudgins, and parents Kelly White and Hector Cruz. Councilman Louis Murray also joined the students for part of the discussion.

“I was pleased to have a chance to meet with these students, and have them join us in our celebration of Arbor Day. Once again I extend an invitation to our Choice, home-schooled, and private school eighth graders to call and set up a visit to Borough Hall as well,” added Mayor Pikolycky.