

**WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2021-2022 ESSAY CONTEST QUESTION**

The latest tour brochure released by the Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission was titled “Volume XII – Everyday Heroes: A History of Woodbridge’s First Responders.” What does the term “First Responder” mean to you? Who would you consider a first responder? Why are first responders important to the Township? Utilizing the tour brochure available on the HPC website and the historic newspaper archive available on the Main Public Library website, provide 3 examples, from 3 different decades of how first responders assisted or contributed the community in Woodbridge past.

2021-2022 Essay Contest Guide

The WTHPC annual essay contest is open to all Township 7th graders. Six total winners will be selected: one from each of the 5 public middle schools and one from the combined private institutions. Winners will receive a cash award.

This year, the Commission would like students to define the term “First Responder”, describe what a first responder means to you, why are they important to the Township, and find 3 examples, from 3 different decades, of how first responders assisted or contributed to the community in Woodbridge past.

Essays should be a maximum of four (4) pages, typed, one-sided, and must incorporate at least three (3) examples obtained from the historic newspapers available on the Woodbridge Main Public Library webpage. Strong contest entries should include references for the sources of the examples used. For example: “As reported in the January 5, 1967 issue of the Leader Press... “Fire Auxiliary Elects Officers – According to the new president, Mrs. Sandanato, we will stand behind the men who have so graciously volunteered their time – sometimes foregoing sleep – so that we and the residents of our area may have fire protection, throughout the day and night.” (Leader-Press, January 5, 1967.) Teachers shall limit essays for consideration to no more than five (5) per teacher, per semester. Essays can be scanned and emailed to the committee chair at hoffman.courtney@gmail.com or hard copies can be provided to Mr. Soccodato.

To access the historic newspapers, go to the website www.woodbridgelibrary.org
Click on the icon (shown below) at the right side of the Home Page



Click on the newspaper icon (shown below)



Once in the Archive, click on one of the newspapers (**Leader Press is 1967-1970, for example**). A calendar of months and days will be displayed, and you can read an issue of the newspaper by clicking on the date. Select different papers (hint: from different decades) Open the pdf for each issue and browse through the newspapers. Good luck!