

2014 Inaugural Speech
Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh
January 1, 2014

More than twenty years ago, I had a vision for West Windsor and decided to run for public office. I wanted to make sure we had a stable financial system; a community with a high quality of life based on our agricultural roots and current technology; a community that took good care of its retirees and its youth; a community that respected diversity; and a community where we could all come together and call it home. This vision evolved, and continues to evolve, from my own experiences with my growing family; from speaking with so many of my neighbors and friends; from serving on Council; and communicating with those I served.

Continuing to be awarded the highest ranking, silver-level certified, sustainable community by the State Sustainable Jersey Program in November 2013 summarizes where we are at the state level with respect to our accomplishments in the areas of social, economical and environmental status. Being one of the top ten municipalities in e-government performance and ranked as the third best website in the State is an indication of how far we have come together in the use of information technology to promote open and transparent government. With improvements in traffic circulation, environmental clean-up, commuter parking, public services and recreational opportunities, a reputable farmers market, a dynamic arts center, a nationally recognized senior center, and a local history museum, we have come a long way in the creation and preservation of a more clear sense of place in the community. A recent real estate report published by the Otteau Valuation Group (fall 2013) ranked West Windsor the 5th strongest market in the State among all 655 municipalities with an 8% price increase in the 2013 forecast which is the highest in the State.

I commit to the residents of West Windsor that I will continue to manage our town economically by striving to have the lowest municipal portion of the property tax rate in the region along with maintaining a Triple-A credit bond rating with full public services including garbage collection, leaves and brush pick-up, and public safety responders.

As we know, development usually comes with economic growth. We expect to see more developers coming to West Windsor in the next few years. We need to control and manage growth that enhances our community yet does not negatively impact our educational system and quality of life. The redevelopment plan around the train station, which was formally adopted in November 2011, will serve as a blue print for our future town center. All potential developers will have to follow an open, transparent process for public review based on statutory procedures.

We will continue the implementation of bike lanes and sidewalks to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians and increase our open space and recreational opportunities. In the next few years, we plan to work with the State DOT and other stakeholders to begin the Route One traffic improvements and work with the Mercer County DOT to turn Route 571 into a bicycle/pedestrian-friendly downtown. As with all Township projects,

the public will also have the opportunity to be involved in the planning of the Cranbury Road improvements, Howard Hughes property development, and implementation of the redevelopment plan around the train station area.

As the location of one of the thirteen US Olympic training sites in the country, in rowing, we will see some very special events held in West Windsor during the year such as the NCAA Rowing Championship. But on a larger scale, West Windsor and the surrounding area will be the site of the Special Olympics 2014 USA Games. This will be a huge benefit to our hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. West Windsor has also been selected as one of the tournament sites for Babe Ruth Baseball League and the Ironman triathlon. It is truly an honor for us to be the home of Mercer County Park and the recognition that comes with national events being held in our Township.

On December 22, 2013, the Big Bear Bridge on County Route 571 was finally completed. The Old Trenton Road Bridge at Edinburg was completed just 2 days before the Thanksgiving holiday. We are one of the few municipalities who can declare that here in West Windsor, we finally have brought all of our major bridges up to today's standards.

We are lucky to have one of the busiest train stations in the state. With one of the best research universities in the world nearby and Stanford Research Institute as part of our community, we have the opportunity to combine these assets to grow our business ratables along Route One to enhance the future of West Windsor.

Lastly, I would like to again thank the municipal staff and volunteers of the Township of West Windsor for their cooperation and hard work. I look forward to working with Council and all of you to continue to improve our community. As in the past, I plan to hold frequent Town Hall meetings to ensure we continue our open exchange of ideas.

Thank you for coming to this special event. Have a Healthy and Happy new year!

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