

## New Jersey's Graduated Driver License By Morris Township Police Captain Dennis Reilly



The State of New Jersey requires all teen drivers to participate in a Graduated Driver License (GDL) program prior obtaining their unrestricted basic driver license. While young and inexperienced drivers represent only 6% of all licensed drivers, they are three times more likely to be involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident than the rest of the driving population.

Research has shown that certain behaviors contribute to this high fatality figure, specifically inexperienced driving and immaturity in combination with speed; drinking and driving; not wearing seatbelts; distracted driving from cell phone use, loud music, and other teen occupants; and driving while sleepy or at night. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that implementation of a GDL program will lead to a 20-50% decrease in traffic fatalities among this targeted driving population.

Parents play an important role in the success of a GDL program by ensuring that their children fully comply with all GDL requirements as they learn to drive safely.

The NJ GDL program consists of:

- Special Learner's Permit – Requirements include passing a written test, a vision examination, and successful completion behind-the-wheel training. This permit allows a teen a minimum of six months of supervised driving. After the six months of supervised driving, passing a road test, and becoming 17 years of age, the teen may acquire a provisional license with restrictions.
- Provisional Restricted License – Prerequisites include a minimum of six months of supervised driving, a successful road test, and reaching the age of 17. Restrictions include driving hours, passenger transport, seatbelt usage, and the use of cell phones or other electronic devices.
- Basic Driver's License – After one year with a Provisional Restricted License, the teen may obtain their basic driver license.

The Morris Township Police Department has taken an active role with the GDL program from both an enforcement and educational perspective. Since the inception of this program, officers have sought to identify teens operating in violation of their GDL. In 2007 and 2008 the Morris Township Police Department issued over 55 traffic summonses for violations of the GDL, in addition to other moving violations that may have been the initial reason for the motor vehicle stop.

From an educational perspective, the Crime Prevention Unit of the Morris Township Police Department provides a related program for high school students and their parents at the local high schools. This program covers GDL as well as alcohol and controlled dangerous substance related topics. Parental and/or organizational groups in Morris Township wishing to have an officer come and speak with them concerning the GDL, or any substance abuse related topic, may contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 973-326-7450.

## Morris Township's Historic Heritage – Glynallen Preservation Commission

By Carol Barkin, Commission Member, Morris Township Historic

One of Morris Township's remaining Gilded Age-era mansions is "Glynallen", built in the years 1913-1917 for George Marshall Allen and his wife, Charlotte. Allen, heir to the Old Crow Whiskey fortune and a world traveler, admired Compton Wynates in Warwickshire, England, the ancestral Tudor castle of the Marquis of Northampton (c.1528), once lived in by King Henry VIII. He hired Charles Berg, a New York architect, and sent him to study the castle and prepare working blueprints so that Allen could build a replica in Morris Township.

A NY Times article in 1914 claimed that "efforts (are being made) to reproduce as accurately as is possible the type and atmosphere of the early Tudor homestead on American soil and if the success is commensurate with the effort, Mr. Allen's Morristown home will undoubtedly be the most perfect example of Tudor architecture, both in respect to the house and landscape, in this country."

Early fame came to Glynallen when it was used as the setting for the 1919 silent movie "Witness for the

Photo courtesy of Morris County Heritage Commission

Over its 95-year history, Glynallen was a single family residence, the offices of General Drafting Company, and again a residence. Located on Canfield Road in Convent Station, the home was purchased in 1997 by Chris and Melitta Shields, who have been restoring the 32,000 sq. ft. mansion with its 66 rooms and 12 bathrooms, Great and Little Halls, landscaping, moat, stonework, and outbuildings. A particularly interesting feature is the dungeon, with its heavy oak door taken from Dannemore Prison, and heavy

Defense”, which starred the turn-of-the-century Broadway star Elsie Ferguson. The Allen’s daughter, Loraine, was married in Glynallen’s Great Hall on August 21, 1917, and the Allen home was the site of many festive parties.

iron chain and shackles on the walls.

Look for more of Morris Township’s historic sites and residences in future issues of the **Municipal Messenger**. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail Sarah Harris at [sarahfh57@aol.com](mailto:sarahfh57@aol.com).