

Morris Plains Rotary Helps Beautify Morris Township

Reprinted from Morris Township Press Release

Speedwell Avenue was lined with American flags from Hanover Avenue to the Vail School on the Fourth of July, thanks to a \$3,000 project funded and coordinated by the Morris Plains Rotary Club. Members spent several Saturday mornings, digging footings, pouring concrete, and embedding PVC pipes to hold the 50 American flags donated to Morris Township. Now the banners will wave proudly for almost two miles in Morris Plains and Morris Township for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, & Veteran's Day.

"We are grateful to the Morris Plains Rotary Club for their donation to Morris Township," said Mayor H Scott Rosenbush. "This effort compliments our recent efforts to improve the esthetics in this neighborhood." The Morris Township Committee also recently demolished an abandoned gas station on Speedwell Ave. as part of its beautification efforts and plans to create a landscaped public parking lot on the site. In addition, they have installed barrel plantings and electronic snowflakes to bring holiday cheer to the strip in December.

Members of the Morris Plains Rotary and Morris Township officials are pictured below. Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who are members of more than 30,000 Rotary clubs in 162 countries. The Morris Plains Rotary Club meets every Friday morning at 7:47 am at the Bretton Woods Inn, 361 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains. New members are welcome.



Shown are members of the Morris Plains Rotary Club during initial installation efforts, donating their project to Morris Township officials.

Pictured from left to right: Michael Loughman, Richard Dugan, Pete Demnitz, Morris Twp. Deputy Mayor Bob Nace, Dave Aussicker, Tom Nunn, Morris Twp. Mayor Scott Rosenbush, Jack Doherty, Bob Dube, Morris Plains Mayor Frank Dreutzler, Morris Plains Rotary Club President Mark Luithle, Vince Novak, Tom Schnipp and Peter Dugal.

Morris Township District Added To National Register

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Photo courtesy of Morris County Heritage Commission

In 2003, the Pruddentown Historic District along Mount Kemble Avenue in Morris Township was added to the state and national registers of historic places. Placement on the registers provides protection to sites when government-funded or licensed undertakings may affect them. Private alterations are regulated only by local ordinances, if any.

The 450-acre Pruddentown historic district contains 33 historic buildings. The hamlet along the road to Basking Ridge, got its start about 1735 when Joseph Prudden settled there. During the late 18th century, the Prudden family opened a brickyard that continued to operate into the early 20th century. The oldest brick structures in the district date from the 1770s.

Researchers believe that Prudden bricks were used to construct the Morristown Aqueduct and the Morris County Court House, as well as other public and private buildings in the area.

Other Morris Township historical areas include Normandy Parkway and Washington Valley. For more information regarding historic preservation in Morris Township, please contact your Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission at 973-538-4956. View the Pruddentown Historic District online at the Heritage Commission's web site www.co.morris.us/heritage or on the web site for the National Register of Historic Places at www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NJ/Morris.



Photo courtesy of Morris County Heritage Commission