

TeenPride Helping At-Risk Kids in Our Community

By Beth Upham and Carol Egan



Hundreds of boys and girls ages 12-18 living in Morristown, Morris Plains, and Morris Township—often amid neglect, abuse, drug activity, and violence—are being offered a free lifeline through the professional counseling and educational / recreational services of TeenPride, Inc., a nonprofit organization located in Morristown.

In the past decade, TeenPride has counseled 1,850 at-risk youth referred to the program by area police and the juvenile justice system. Only 26 or 7% of these individuals have lapsed, compared to the state's recidivism rate of 40% and the country's of over 50%. It is estimated that each year TeenPride saves area citizens about \$250,000 that would otherwise be spent in housing youth in the Juvenile Detention Center.

TeenPride's structured, supervised after-school programs and activities are provided to at-risk children at **no cost** to the teen or their family. All activities and programs offer positive life experiences and help teens to make the most of their abilities.

The Teen Center, located at the Salvation Army Building at 95 Spring St. in Morristown, is open six days per week - Monday through Saturday. It provides an open facility with a full-size gym equipped for activities such as basketball, soccer and volleyball, activity rooms, and a computer lab. Professional and trained role-model volunteers supervise youth with homework, computer, performing arts, job mentoring, poetry, social enrichment, and chess clubs, to name a few.

TeenPride Counseling provides free individual & group counseling for troubled young people and their families, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The sessions include early intervention and transitional counseling with links to the Morris School District and area police departments.

Mac Drug-Free provides drug awareness & prevention programs and services within local schools, K-12 grades, as well as providing education programs to parents on drug related issues.

As a grassroots community effort, TeenPride maintains close ties with at-risk children and their families. Please consider empowering TeenPride by making a donation or becoming involved as a volunteer in one of the many programs offered by this local nonprofit group. For more information about TeenPride, please go to www.teenpride@verizon.net or call (973) 377-9390.

Commuting Through the Convent Train Station

By Randy Williams, Township Building Maintenance Supervisor

Commuting from and into Morris Township is always a pleasure when traveling on the New Jersey Transit rail system. The Convent Station, located in Morris Township, offers permit parking for the convenience of residents and nonresidents alike. Parking permits are issued annually, beginning in July, at a cost of \$150 for residents and \$300 for nonresidents.

Less frequent travelers can pay for a daily space at the meter, which is located on the side of the Convent Station train depot. Metered parking costs \$1 per day (quarters only). As an alternative to coins, debit cards are available in \$10 and \$20 denominations. Resident ID tags are also available for designated resident metered parking spaces.

Parking permits, debit cards, and free resident ID stickers are available through the office of the Township Clerk between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. The Clerk's Office may be contacted by calling 973-326-7430.

Bike lockers are also available for biannual rentals. The bike lockers are \$7.50 per month and require a \$25 refundable key deposit. For more information about renting a bike locker, call 973-267-7600.

Your Township Committee

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Check our website at: www.morristwp.com or refer to your Municipal Calendar for more information on key dates for Morris Township meetings & other activities.

Acknowledgements

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Questions and/or comments may be sent to kcarman@morristwp.com

Morris Township Helps Remove Christmas Trees

by Joe Giordano, Superintendent, Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will pick up Christmas trees every Monday in January, weather permitting. Trees should be placed at the curb. All wires, ornaments, and so forth should be removed prior to placing at the curb. Please remove any type of protective coverings such as plastic bags. The Department of Public Works may be contacted at 973-326-7398 for any additional questions.

Help Your Fire Department During Winter Weather

By Craig Goss, Fire Chief, Morris Township Fire Department

As winter approaches, we remind our residents that your assistance is needed in helping to clear snow from fire hydrants. If a fire hydrant is near your home, please make sure that snow is not piled in front of it that would cause a delay by our firemen in locating the hydrant when in need. For additional questions, please contact the Morris Township Fire Department at 973-326-7435.