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Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

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Mayor's Message

By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

I would like to talk about an important way that you, the individual citizen, can help keep our community safe.

Over the past seven months, we have experienced three preventable incidents that on each occasion landed two of our employees in the hospital. Thankfully, they are all okay. These were not the result of terrorist attacks, but the result of residents placing hazardous materials into the weekly trash.

I suppose that at first glance these incidents might not seem like potential tragedies – but they could have been! More importantly (and this is where you come in), these are the type of incidents that are easily preventable. All of us need to be aware that there are many common items in our homes that don't belong in the trash. These incidents are reason enough to remind everyone to please keep items such as oil based paints, chemicals like paint thinners, herbicides, pesticides, gasoline, oils, acids, alkalis, car batteries, propane tanks and syringes out of your trash.

In addition to the health risk to our employees, it is very costly to mobilize the hazardous materials (HAZMAT) personnel to sift through loads of garbage to find, remove and dispose of the hazardous material(s) in a safe manner.

Morris County operates special services for the collection of all household hazardous wastes. They schedule local collection efforts twice per year at the Firefighter & Police Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue (located just west of Greystone). This year the dates are Saturday, June 18 and Saturday, September 10. The county also has a permanent year round facility in Mt. Olive which residents may use free of charge for most items by appointment only. For more information on this county service call 973-285-8390 or go to www.mcmua.com/hazardouswaste.

Thank you all for doing your part to keep our community safe.

Morris Township Saves Money Through Shared Services

By Robert E. Nace, Deputy Mayor, and Richard A. Watson, Committeeman

It's often suggested that towns can save money by pooling their efforts in certain areas. The Morris Township Committee is well aware of this concept and is always on the lookout for new and creative ways to save money for you. We want you to know that there are already in place quite a few inter-municipal cost-sharing arrangements, including the following:

Sewer Systems – Our sewer treatment plants handle all of the sewage from Morris Plains, much of Randolph, and portions of Parsippany, Harding, and Morristown. Small portions of Morris Township are served by treatment facilities in Morristown, Hanover, and Florham Park. These arrangements are “win-win” deals for all concerned, as they avoid building duplicative facilities, enhance the efficiency of the treatment plants, and enable us to keep our sewer fees lower than those of most of our neighbors.

Public Library – The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township reflects the desire of both towns to cooperate and avoid duplicate facilities. Our library is renowned for its expertise in local history. We can be very proud of the quality of service provided to the residents of both towns.

First Aid Squad – The Township is enormously proud and appreciative of the efforts of the Morris Minute Men, a volunteer charitable organization that we are proud to fund in cooperation with Morris Plains and many private donors.

Bus Transportation – Also with Morris Plains, we share a bus program for seniors, and the Colonial Coach is a joint enterprise of Morris Township and Morristown.

Health Services – Substantial portions of our Public Health Nursing and other health services are provided through a shared contract

with the town of Hanover.

Mutual Aid – Our Police Department has mutual aid agreements in place with Morristown and the nine other towns bordering us so that emergencies can be dealt with by adequate manpower. Our Fire Department is a member of Black Meadows Mutual Aid which includes twelve fire departments that share resources and manpower. We provide a mobile breathing air refilling service. Also, in conjunction with Morris County and the State of NJ, we provide decontamination and large volume foam operations.



Pictured: Morris Township's mobile breathing air service unit. Photo courtesy of Fire Department Chief Craig Goss.

Other towns participating in these mutual aid agreements offer us access to extraordinary services and equipment including hazardous materials team, confined space and trench rescue, water tanker operations, foam concentrate, large water flow capability, and structural collapse operations.

The Future – Your Township Committee is constantly looking for ways to do the work of government more efficiently, and will continue to discuss possible areas of cooperation with other towns. We will not make such deals just for the sake of making them, but only when we determine them to be in the best interests of the Township's taxpayers, both economically and in terms of the quality of service provided.