

Township of Morris
P.O. Box 7603
Convent Station, NJ 07961-7603
www.morristwp.com

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NEW HOURS FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICES
Morris Township offices are now open
from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE AT:
www.morristwp.com

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL
MORRIS TOWNSHIP CARNIVAL**
May 25 to May 28, 2005
Ginty Field

**FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED! HELP US HELP YOU!**
If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1176 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad
All training is provided.

Morris Township's Wildlife Management Program By Richard A. Watson, Morris Township Committeeman

No subject seems to bring out more extreme opinions than a discussion of wildlife. With respect to deer and geese and how (or whether) we should attempt to control them, citizens have expressed views ranging from "kill them all" to "leave them alone; if you don't like wild animals, move back to the city". Obviously no policy will please people on both extremes, but the Township Committee has concluded that we have to do something to lessen the increasing impact of a growing deer population. At this point our program will include the following:

In March, the Township and the County Park Commission shared the expense of an aerial survey which was conducted with infra-red equipment to survey, as scientifically as possible, the entire Township to get a good estimate of the numbers of deer and where they are concentrated. We did not do this to reinvent the wheel or tell us what we already know – that they're too numerous – but rather to give scientific support to our intuitive observations, to ascertain particular 'hot spots', and to develop a base line count against which future counts can be compared.

Later in the year, a limited and controlled hunt or 'culling' of deer is expected to be conducted by appropriately skilled personnel screened and supervised by the police. The times, places, and means used will be determined based in part on the data from the survey, and with the safety of the public being the primary criterion.

No one should imagine that this or any other wildlife management program will once and forever solve the problem of deer overpopulation, but we believe it is time to try something. The program outlined here is the result of a study and recommendations by our local Environmental Commission, for which we are appreciative, and will be implemented by our police in close cooperation with our Wildlife Management Committee.

Clip here _____

Morris Township residents are invited to clip this mini-survey and mail it to the Wildlife Management Committee at 50 Woodland Ave, Convent Station 07961. We are interested in your opinions about our Wildlife Management Program.

- Do you believe that a limited deer hunt, as proposed, would benefit your neighborhood? Yes_____ No_____ Unsure_____
- Please identify your neighborhood or street_____
- Other comments: _____
- Name (optional)_____