



2005 - Volume II , Issue II

# Municipal Messenger

## Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

### 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](http://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.

## Morris Township Police Focus On Fitness To Better Serve The Community

By Michael Loughman, Chief of Police, Morris Township Police Department

In October 2003, the Morris Township Police Department introduced a new program focusing on the overall fitness of our officers. The goals of the program were simple and provided benefits to everyone. Our citizens can be confident that the officer who responds to their emergency is fit to do the job. Officers will have enhanced confidence in themselves and their co-workers. Through better fitness and lifestyle changes, the individual officers and their families benefit through longer, healthier lives.

Lieutenant Dennis Reilly and Sergeant John Hall were trained at the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas to serve as physical fitness assessors. Funding for this aspect of the program was obtained utilizing drug forfeiture money. The initial orientation for the department included training and instruction on diet and nutrition, mental health awareness,



Pictured left to right: Sergeant Witczak doing pushups and Sergeant Hall counting down. Photo courtesy of Captain Gary Adams.



Pictured left to right: Patrolmen Crowley, Markt, Martin, and Holick in the 300 meter run. Picture courtesy of Captain Gary Adams.

and stress relief. Following this instruction, the physical fitness assessment program itself was introduced.

A committee was formed to develop policy and provide an opportunity for participation by the rank and file in the decision making process. All officers were medically screened before they could actually participate in the various exercises that make up the assessment. Screening and medical examinations, where indicated, were completed during the spring and summer of 2004. In August 2004, we held two practice dates so that we could eliminate any problems with the operation of the assessment program.

Finally, in September we held the first assessment date which was followed up by several more assessment dates to capture the entire department. All forty sworn officers, from the Chief to the junior Patrol Officer, participated in the program. Overall the results were quite good and we are proud of the department's performance.

As a department, we exceeded the Cooper Institute norms for municipal police officers in four of the five events. Nine officers (22.5%) exceeded the norms in all five events. Sixteen officers (40%) met or exceeded the norms in four of five events. Only four members (10%) failed to achieve the norms in at least three events. Officers who failed to achieve the norms received fitness prescriptions to address those areas where they were deficient. We plan on conducting a second assessment soon and anticipate even better results. This program will be conducted twice annually.

2004 PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT					
Event	Vertical Jump	Sit Ups/Minute	300 Meter Run	Pushups	1.5 Mile Run
Cooper Fitness Norms	16.0 to 18.5 inches	29-35 sit-ups	63-71 seconds	25-28 pushups	14:36 to 16:28 minutes
Department Average	18.0 inches	36 sit-ups	58 seconds	37 pushups	14:30 minutes
Department Range	12.5 to 33.0 inches	25-52 sit-ups	48 to 75 seconds	21-72 pushups	10:02 to 16:53 minutes
Officers Exceed Norm	20	21	31	31	21
Officers Within Norm	9	15	5	6	13
Officers Below Norm	11	4	4	3	6

The program required cooperation from the Township Committee and other organizations in the community. In particular we thank Morristown Beard School for allowing the department to use their facilities to conduct the assessments. We also thank the Morris Minute Men and Morris Township Fire Department for standing by for first aid in the event we needed them. Finally, we thank the members of the department for their professionalism and dedication to duty as evidenced by their outstanding performance in the program. The residents of Morris Township should be proud of the department and can rest assured that we have one of the most physically fit police departments in the State of New Jersey.

## More Bio-terrorism Volunteers Are Needed In The Township

By Kevin P. Breen, MPH, Morris Township Health Department

If we experience a bio-terrorism event in our area, there will be regional and local sites set up for the distribution of antibiotics. Point of Distribution (POD) local sites will be operated if the bio-terrorism attack requires distribution of antibiotics in pill form rather than by vaccination.

These sites will need many volunteers - both medical & non-medical personnel - to help staff it. Some of the responsibilities of non-medical volunteers include clinic flow personnel, referral personnel, antibiotic supply management, IT support, forms distribution and collection, and so forth.

You could be essential to the success of this critical emergency preparedness and response program, and we want to let you know how you can participate. If you have not already volunteered and are interested in volunteering to assist us in the operation of sites, please respond directly to me at 973-326-7390 or [kbreen@morristwp.com](mailto:kbreen@morristwp.com).

## Concert Season Planned For Gazebo At Ginty Field

By Morris Township Recreation Advisory Committee

The new Gazebo at Ginty Field has been dedicated and is now ready for exciting concerts to be held on beautiful summer evenings. The Morris Township Recreation Department intends to hold concerts on at least three Sunday evenings during the 2005 summer season.

Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and listen to an enjoyable evening of music. Entertainment will be suitable for all age groups.

Local businesses and other corporate sponsors who are interested in helping to underwrite the Morris Township summer concert series are encouraged to contact the Recreation Department at 973-326-7371.

Please check the Recreation website at [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com) or look for our Spring / Summer Recreation Brochure for further details.

## New Pet Waste Ordinance Protects the Environment

By Morris Township Health Department

On March 2, 2005, Morris Township adopted a new ordinance to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in order to protect public health, safety and welfare. The ordinance will be enforced by the Township's Police Department, Animal Control Officer and Local Board of Health, and there are penalties for failure to comply.

This mandatory ordinance requires all pet owners and keepers to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any public or private property not owned or possessed by them. This includes, but is not limited to, your neighbor's yard, all public streets, and our parks. Practically speaking, this means you should carry a waste disposal bag or receptacle with you at all times when you and your pet are outdoors.

On any property owned or possessed by pet owners and keepers, all are now required to properly dispose of their pet's solid waste at a frequency of at least weekly or more frequently if necessary to prevent a public health nuisance. There is an exception for people requiring the use of a disability assistance animal and they are exempt from these new provisions while such animal is being used for that purpose.

Proper disposal means immediately picking up and placing your pet's solid waste in a designated waste receptacle, or other suitable container, and discarding it in a refuse container which is regularly emptied by the municipality or some other refuse collector. You may also dispose the solid waste into a toilet which will convey it as domestic sewage for proper treatment and disposal. *Disposal into a storm drain or stormwater system is strictly prohibited.*

Any person violating any provision of this new ordinance may be liable for a fine of between \$50.00 and \$500.00 for each offense, together with the costs of prosecution.

Please contact Morris Township's Health Department at 973-326-7390 if you have questions or need more information.

## Your Township Committee

H. Scott Rosenbush, Mayor  
Robert E. Nace, Deputy Mayor  
Kathleen G. Hyland  
Richard A. Watson  
Jan Wotowicz

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

## Acknowledgements

### Volunteer Senior Editor

Linda K. Murphy

### Township Senior Editors

Karen J. Carman, Admin. Ass't.  
Fred J. Rossi, Twp Administrator

Questions and/or comments may be sent to [kcarman@morristwp.com](mailto:kcarman@morristwp.com)

## Morris Township Offers Debit Card for Parking at the Convent Train Station

By Randy Williams, Township Building Maintenance Supervisor

Dollar-A-Day Commuters, why go through the hassle of making sure you have enough quarters in your pocket before leaving home in the morning? Why should you be weighted down with coins jingling around in your pockets?

You can purchase a Morris Township Debit Card for parking at the Convent Train Station through the Township Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

You can purchase a ten dollar (\$10) or twenty dollar (\$20) debit card and be given instruction on how to use it at the pay station. Debit card instructions are also posted next to each pay station. After the debit card has been fully used, just throw it away and purchase another, or you may purchase several cards at a time.

Just drop by the office of the Township Clerk and purchase your debit card by cash or check (no credit cards accepted).

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

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 102  
Morristown, NJ

**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](http://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)\_\_\_\_\_