



# Municipal Messenger

## Township of Morris

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### Mayor's Message

By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

Most people under the age of 50 have lived their lives in relative peace – the World Wars, Korea, and even Vietnam, are learned in history class. 9/11 changed that - the United States is currently at war against terrorism. We hear about insurgents or rebels in the media; our soldiers properly call them our enemies.

The war became very personal for many of us when our local National Guardsmen were deployed to Iraq. We all have friends, acquaintances, co-workers or family members that have been sent overseas. As the war comes closer to each of our homes, I think that more and more people are discovering the true sacrifice that our servicemen and women make in our behalf.

I was honored to represent Morris Township in the "welcome home" ceremony at our local armory when our National Guard unit recently returned from Iraq. It was a bittersweet event. You see, they left four members of their unit behind. I am embarrassed to say that this extraordinary event wasn't mentioned in our local papers.

I would also like to take this time to thank those who have served our country in past conflicts and are still with us. I've learned that people who have served in the military tend to continue with service to their communities for a long, long time. We are a grateful community and country.

In closing, I offer a quote from President Ronald Reagan: "As a tribute to their sacrifice, let us renew our resolve to remain strong enough to deter aggression, wise enough to preserve and protect our freedom, and thoughtful enough to promote lasting peace throughout the world."

Thank you & God bless you.

### Your Municipal Taxes Fund Township Improvements

By Joseph Giordano, Superintendent, Department Of Public Works (DPW) and Thomas Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator

The Township of Morris is aggressively moving ahead with the capital improvement schedule in 2005. The projects include work on roads, sidewalks, roadside trees, stormwater drainage, parking lots, parks & playgrounds, and equipment purchases & upgrades.

Substantial road resurfacing has already been completed this year by the Department of Public Works (DPW). During the two week period from June 6<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup>, twelve streets were milled and paved with 6,292 tons of asphalt. A new road crack-sealing program was introduced that extends the life of roads in need of this maintenance for approximately five years before paving is required. Morris Township also has received a community development grant for the reconstruction of Cleveland Avenue and a grant from the state Department of Transportation for the completion of Ketch Road, both projects to be done later this year. Improvements to Monroe Street are planned as well.

In addition, DPW will oversee sidewalk repair projects in a substantial number of neighborhoods in 2005 and the Engineering Department will oversee the installation of additional sidewalks on Woodland Ave. from South St. to the bicycle path, just east of Symor Drive.

Approximately twenty-five roadside replacement trees will be planted in the fall. The Township has a Challenge Tree Program in place for those residents interested in having a tree planted roadside in front of their residence where no tree previously existed. The cost to the resident is \$150 per tree. If you are interested in the Challenge Tree Program, please call the Department of Public Works at (973) 326-7398.

The efficiency and responsiveness of DPW will be further improved with the purchase of new equipment in the form of vehicles, fleet maintenance



Volunteer beautification efforts go hand-in-hand with Township capital improvements. Pictured left to right: Lori Flintcroft, Jeff Miller, Nancy Moseson, Township Committeeman Rick Watson, Sophia Bacas, Jean Bohn and Clint Costanzo. Picture courtesy of Mayor Scott Rosenbush.

diagnostic equipment, and stormwater regulation equipment.

It is estimated that up to 60% of our existing water pollution problems are attributable to stormwater pollution. This pollution can often be linked to our daily activities and lifestyles – things like walking pets, washing cars, changing motor oil, fertilizing the lawn, and littering. These pollutants can contaminate our drinking water, as well as degrade aquatic populations, animal habitats, and beaches.

New Jersey Stormwater Regulations now require Morris Township to label storm water inlets on roads having sidewalks to raise community awareness that inlets lead into streams and rivers. Andrew Cattano, a local resident and a member of Boy Scout Troop 39 in Morris Plains, has volunteered to lead this project with initial assistance from the DPW in labeling inlets with "Don't Pollute - Flows To Waterways" medallions as his Eagle Scout Project.

Capital improvements will continue with the Township's sewer utility which will oversee upgrades to the Butterworth and Woodland Sewage Treatment Plants; a feasibility study for the Egbert Hill Sewer Project; & infiltration/inflow (see [Improvements](#) on Page 3)