



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

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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 6th to June 16th, 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)

Morris Township Officers Participate In Presidential Inaugural Security Detail

By Lieutenant Dennis Reilly, Morris Township Police Department

In the spring of 2004, a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) was established for the New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which encompasses Union, Morris, Hudson, Essex, and Passaic counties. The purpose of the RDF was to provide a regional law enforcement rapid response capability to terrorist incidents, especially those dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices (CBRNE).

The RDF is comprised of Rapid Deployment Teams (RDT's) from the aforementioned counties plus officers from the New Jersey State Police and Jersey City Police. The RDT's are made up of approximately 120 officers each and can be used either independently or in conjunction with other teams. Ultimately, a full activation of the RDF will result in the assembly of 1,000 police officers.

In creating the RDT for Morris County, the Morris Township Police Department selected six officers to represent their agency. These officers are Lieutenant Dennis Reilly, Sergeants Richard Ferrone and Stanley Witczak, and Patrolmen Marc Costa, Mark DiCarlo, and Brian Markt. These officers have been, and will continue to be, provided with training and equipment to safely respond to, and deal with, a CBRNE incident.

In November of 2004, Chief Charles Ramsey, of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, requested assistance from New Jersey Law Enforcement, through the New Jersey State Police, and Law Enforcement across the country for the 55th Presidential Inauguration. It was anticipated that the Inauguration would bring approximately 600,000 spectators and participants to the District of Columbia, which would require the assistance of several thousand law enforcement officers from around the United States to assist with security of the Inaugural Parade and twenty-three Inaugural Balls.



Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Dennis Reilly and Sergeant Richard Ferrone, members of Morris Township's Rapid Deployment Team (RDT).



Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Dennis Reilly; Washington DC Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey; Sergeant Richard Ferrone.

With the approval of the New Jersey State Police Superintendent, the New Jersey UASI RDF was activated, with 120 officers chosen from the individual county RDT's. From the Morris County RDT, 19 officers were selected to participate in this mutual aid effort. From Morris Township, Lieutenant Dennis Reilly and Sergeant Richard Ferrone were selected.

On January 18th, the New Jersey RDF left from Bayonne for Washington D.C. Among the activities during this 4-day trip was an orientation for some 6,000 law enforcement officers, from across the United States, on the campus of Georgetown University. The orientation was presented by the D.C. Metro Police Department, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the United States Secret Service, and included the swearing in of these 6,000 officers as U.S. Deputy Marshals. During this orientation it was also determined that the Morris County RDT would be securing a portion of the Inaugural Parade route in the area of the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, where protest and demonstration activity was anticipated. In addition to meeting officers from all over the country, Lieutenant Reilly and Sergeant Ferrone also had the opportunity to use some of their Community Policing skills, during a heavy snow storm, while riding the Metro Rail System and walking about Alexandria, Virginia.

On January 20, 2005, the Morris County RDT secured an area in front of the Navy Memorial at 7:45 am and maintained their post until approximately 4:00 pm. Officers were positioned 5-7 feet apart from each other and faced the crowd. Even when President Bush passed within 20 feet of the Morris County officers, the only way of knowing was because of the crowd's response. Their assignment was to prevent parties from advancing onto the parade route, and this meant having to maintain a visual on the crowd, not the President. On January 21st, after an Incident Debriefing by the Metropolitan Police Department and detail demobilization, the New Jersey RDF returned to Bayonne. Morris Township's police force is proud to have been a part of this crucial mutual aid effort.

Fire Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program By Morris Township Fire Chief Craig Goss

During a fire emergency, it is important for all members of the family to evacuate the home safely. Rescue of family members who may need assistance to evacuate, and rely on others to assist them, is of the highest priority to the Fire Department since they are the most vulnerable in a fire emergency. Morris Township's Fire Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program focuses on those family members that may need extra help, such as those with **age** (infants, young children, or elderly), **medical conditions, learning disabilities,** or some **other physical handicap** (wheel chair, O2 dependency, etc.). Any of these conditions may work against their immediate evacuation from their home during a fire emergency.

This is where the Fire Department's Fire Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program comes in. Valuable seconds can be saved in a rescue if fire rescue personnel know to look for these vulnerable family members and where they may be located in the home. Efforts are now underway to computerize current program data for 'in the field' use.

When completed, this expanded emergency evacuation program will have the capability to inform the dispatched firefighters on-site about:

- The location in the home where the vulnerable person resides.
- Their specific condition (medical or physical).
- Any hazards the fire department may face in trying to rescue the individuals.
- A floor plan of the house that can be examined prior to going in to aid firefighters in their search of the home.
- External photos of the home showing access points and locations for laddering.

Any existing members of our current program will be contacted during their annual update to add this new information. New program participants may register a family member for this program by calling the Fire Department at 973-326-7435, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or by e-mailing FireChief@Morristwp.com.

Open Space Purchase Gets Matching Grant By Thomas Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township acquired the Deer Haven tract, a 23-acre parcel located off Mount Kemble Avenue for use as open space & passive recreational activities. The property contains a meadow, woodlands and some steep slopes. If not acquired as open space, the property could have been developed into ten single family homes. The Township purchased the property for \$1.4 million, using a grant of \$700,000 from Morris County's Open Space Trust Fund and a matching grant from NJ's Green Acres Program in the amount of nearly \$613,000. The matching grant means we spent \$87,000 in local funds from our own Open Space Trust – 6% of the total purchase price. This is a land purchase of which we can all be proud.

Improvements

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/drainage improvements in various problem areas. Along the same vein, funding will be provided for maintenance equipment, mapping and drainage projects in an effort to meet the state mandated requirements of the new Stormwater Management Regulations.

The Morris Township Engineering Department will also make necessary improvements to the parking lots it maintains and will begin construction on a new lot at the former Pecar Mobil site on Speedwell Avenue. This new parking lot is needed for the public who wish to do business with the merchants in the area.

The Township's Recreation Department will oversee improvements to the parks and playgrounds, as well as the purchase of new maintenance equipment. Fencing is scheduled for installation at the Mennen, Green, Frelinghuysen, Butterworth 1 and 2, Delpho, and LaRue Fields. Playground equipment will be installed at Ginty and Butterworth Fields.

A list of previously noted road, drainage, and sidewalk projects is shown for your information. This should provide a good idea of the commitment that Morris Township has toward improving the quality of life for all Morris Township residents.

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 or refer to your Municipal Calendar for more information on key dates for Morris Township meetings & other activities.

Acknowledgements
Volunteer Senior Editor

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Township Senior Editors
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 Fred J. Rossi, Twp Administrator
 Questions and/or comments may be sent to kcarman@morristwp.com

Resurfacing	Sidewalk Repair
Alexandria Road	Applewood Lane
Ashley Court	Aspen Way
Bettin Drive	Bell Drive
Degan Lane	Brandywine Terrace
East Drive	Buckley Hill Road
Fraser Lane	Carton Road
Heather Lane	Cottonwood Road
Jean Street	Darnay Road
Jockey Hollow Rd.	DeFarge Way
Lake Road	Exeter Lane
Parker Road	Harter Road
West Drive	Hawthorne Court
Reconstruction	Ketch Road
Cleveland Avenue	Leslie Court
Ketch Road	Manette Road
Monroe Street	Max Drive
Drainage	Norwood Court
Brookfield Way	Peach Tree Way
Bromleigh Way	Rambling Woods Dr
Green Field	Squirrel Run
Loantaka Brook	Stephen Crane Way
MacKenzie Road	Strawberry Lane
Olmstead Road	Three Gables Rd.
Plymouth Road	Trent Court
School House Ln.	Stewart Drive
Vom Eigen Drive	Warwick Road
Watnong Brook	Windsor Way
	Woodland Avenue

Township of Morris
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TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOURS
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE &
ELECTRONICS DROP-OFF EVENTS**
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, September 10, 2005
Morris County Fire Fighters & Police Training
Academy, 500 West Hanover Rd., Parsippany

Sunday, November 6, 2005
Jefferson Township DPW
1033 Weldon Rd., Lake Hopatcong

Questions, call Morris County Municipal
Utilities Authority (973) 829-8006

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEB SITE
www.morristwp.com

**FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED! HELP US HELP YOU!**

If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1776 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad

Morris Township's Open Space Program By Richard A. Watson, Morris Township Committeeman

By an overwhelming margin, the people of Morris Township voted in 1992 to create an Open Space Trust Fund with a dedicated portion of your tax dollars. This fund is used exclusively for the costs of acquiring lands. A committee of citizens known as the Open Space Committee studies the properties that are or may become available in the Township and makes recommendations to the Township Committee, which negotiates with landowners and makes the purchases. The entire history of the fund is described in the comprehensive Open Space Plan which the Planning Board has incorporated in the Township's Master Plan.

If you ask several citizens what they think of as being 'open space' and why the Township should acquire it, you're likely to get several different answers. Some people want to preserve hillsides and scenic views, some favor habitats for wildlife, while others envision ball fields or trails for passive recreation. Others would like to see land preserved for no other reason than to prevent it from being developed.

The properties that Morris Township has acquired through the Open Space Trust Fund reflect a variety of these purposes.

- The Deer Haven and Jockey Hollow Top purchases, between Mt. Kemble Avenue and Skyline Drive reflect our determination to minimize erosion by stopping development on the steep hillside, to protect the homes in Mountain Shadows, the Frederick Place area, and the Great Swamp Watershed from inundation of stormwater.
- The purchase of the Jones Woods property was in order to protect a hillside and habitat area, and also to avoid an intense development of over 100 new homes.
- The Lupo, Bocjuk, and Spence properties were purchased in Washington Valley with the objective of linking up, eventually, with other preserved properties and with trails such as Patriots Path.
- Active recreation is the ultimate purpose envisioned for other acquisitions, such as the State-owned property at Ketch and Hanover, the Blue Gate Farm on Park Avenue, and a property adjacent to Tucker Field in Collinsville.

In addition, the desire to preserve open space was a significant factor in our decision to approve the Continuing Care Retirement Community at Delbarton, because that plan will permanently preserve over 100 acres that would have been developed under the alternative scenario.

Wherever possible, Morris Township has sought funding for these purchases from the County's Open Space Trust Fund and the State's Green Acres Program. On one purchase, we were assisted by the Great Swamp Watershed Association. At this point, the fund has about \$3.4 million on hand and about \$1.7 receivable from Green Acres for reimbursement of past purchases.

While we remain interested in certain other properties, and consider it prudent to keep a reserve in the fund for future contingencies, the Township Committee is also aware of the public's desire to limit taxation. Therefore we have set the annual open space tax at one cent per \$100 assessed valuation rather than the full authorization of 3 cents which was previously levied.

The Township Committee and the Open Space Committee are constantly looking for new opportunities to preserve appropriate parcels, even as the inventory of lands not already preserved or developed is declining. Any citizens with ideas in this area are encouraged to communicate them to the Open Space Committee by calling (973) 326-7360.