



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

2005 - Volume II , Issue IV

Mayor's Message By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

School is in full swing again! Our children are commuting to and from school and after school activities keep them busy as well. We all know that this creates increased pedestrian traffic, but many of us don't follow it through to the obvious conclusion – **SLOW DOWN** when driving through town. Cell phones and satellite radios provide even more distractions today. This is particularly difficult for younger inexperienced drivers. Our children will emulate our behaviors - all the more reason that we seasoned drivers should set a good example. We must obey the speed limit – especially in residential areas. I have a personal friend who accidentally killed a pedestrian while driving – she never drove again. I hope I never know another person with this distinction – so do you. Help keep our children safe.

Community Pride Brings Neighbors Together at Olde Wheatsheaf Farms By Sophia E. Bacas

Neighborhood associations can be a vital means of promoting social events among homeowners, as well as providing information related to the neighborhood and the community. But, at historic Olde Wheatsheaf Farms in Morris Township, lack of interest and declining membership caused a few of the Wheatsheaf homeowners to set out to revitalize their Homeowners Association. With very few funds in hand, they formed a Beautification Committee.

First, the lanterns at the entranceway were tackled to repair the glass and clean off 30 years of grime. After a check by an electrician, they still worked! Second, the overgrowth of the weeds and trees that had damaged the historic stonewall at the entranceway was addressed with chain saws, picks, axes and other tools. A contractor was required to rebuild broken sections. The effort addressing years of neglect was done with the Beautification Committee tackling the majority of this huge job themselves.



Pictured: Olde Wheatsheaf Farms' revitalized entranceway. Photo courtesy of Sophia Bacas

The gratifying results were greeted with pride and allowed homeowners to see the purpose and necessity for revitalizing the association. Homeowners contributed annual dues and reached deep into their pockets to donate the funds necessary to restore the walls and install new landscaping. To date, the homeowners have donated \$14,000.

To keep things going, Saturday and Sunday cleanup days have been formed with adults and children pitching in. Those neighbors who are unable to assist physically join in



Pictured: Residents and members of the Morris Township Committee do neighborhood clean-up at Olde Wheatsheaf Farms. Photo courtesy of Sophia Bacas

by assisting their neighbors with refreshments and words of encouragement. Besides revitalizing their main entranceway, flower baskets have been planted along The Children's Park which they will maintain, and they have cleaned up a huge section of Sussex Avenue that borders their neighborhood. Many Township Committee Members including Mayor Scott Rosenbush, Deputy Mayor Bob Nace, Kathleen Hyland, and Rick Watson witnessed first hand how eager the residents were by joining in and helping on a recent Saturday cleanup.

The homeowners shout accolades of thanks to the Morris Township Road Department, under the guidance of Joe Giordano, for their quick action in making special collections to help remove all of the debris. The homeowners also voice their praise and thanks to our Township Recreation Department, under the guidance of Peg Adams, for the never-ending assistance with The Children's Park, and thanks to the Morris County Shade Tree Commission for the removal of many of the dead trees on Sussex Avenue.

A recent association newsletter says: *We are a neighborhood that cares. Taxes cannot pay for it all. We must always show our pride in our Neighborhood and our Morris Township Community by rolling up our sleeves and helping to maintain its historic beauty.*