



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.*

Morris Museum Lights Up Holiday Season

By Emily Evans



Enter the Morris Museum this December and be enveloped in a winter wonderland of hundreds of holiday items. The annual Holiday Tree Festival, scheduled from Saturday, December 3 to Saturday, December 10, will showcase wreaths, garlands, table centerpieces, gift items and themed seven-foot community trees. Original holiday items are designed by members of the Friends of the Morris Museum or donated by local designer businesses. Museum visitors can not only admire the one-of-a-kind creations but also purchase them as gifts or for their own home.

This year's Holiday Tree Festival is one of several historic stops on the annual Holly Walk Tour organized by the participating historic sites and the Morris County Visitors Center. Throughout the week, local music groups will perform and refreshments will be offered.

As a special event during the Holiday Tree Festival, the Morris Museum's annual holiday gala will be held on

Other Morris Museum Exhibits

By Emily Evans

As Executive Director Steven H. Miller says, "We believe our 'something for everyone' approach offers a fun visiting experience for all."

At the Tregenza Gallery through February 6, 2006: *Recent Acquisitions: Part II* features recent gifts to the Museum's permanent collection and showcases the diversity of the museum's art, science and history collections.

At the Bush/Compton and Bickford Galleries through December 31, 2005:

Sunday, December 4 from 6-10 pm. Festivities include cocktails and a gourmet buffet dinner, as well as live entertainment, a raffle, and a live auction. Call (973) 971-3733 for an invitation.

Another special event – Teddy Bear Tea – will be held on Saturday, December 10 with three seatings available at 10 am, noon, and 2:30 pm. This event is perfect for families with children ages 3 to 8 and a great opportunity for a family photo as children come dressed in their holiday best. Entertainment includes *Dikki Ellis the Magician* and a special visit by Santa, who brings a gift for each child. Reservations and ticket prices can be obtained by calling (973) 971-3706.

The Morris Museum, located at 6 Normandy Heights Road (at the corner of Columbia Turnpike) in Morris Township, NJ, is open special hours during the Holiday Tree Festival. As a gift to the community, admission to the museum is free during this week-long festival. For more information, see our web site www.morrismuseum.org or call (973) 971-3700.



Anyone Can Fly-Faith Ringgold: A Survey is comprised of 40 mixed media works and is a retrospective of the world-renowned artist Faith Ringgold. This exhibition includes story quilts, tankas, soft sculpture, prints and paintings, including original illustrations from her popular children's book *Tar Beach*.

Now on permanent display: *The Murtoigh D. Guinness Collection of Mechanical Musical Instruments and Automata* previously detailed in Morris Township's Spring newsletter.

Please come visit these wonderful museum exhibits.

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

Fire Department Needs Volunteers Like You!

The Morris Township Fire Department would like to increase its ranks of volunteer firefighters. The Township is protected by a 'combination fire department' with a firefighting force that is made up of both volunteer firefighters and career firefighters, operating out of five neighborhood fire stations.

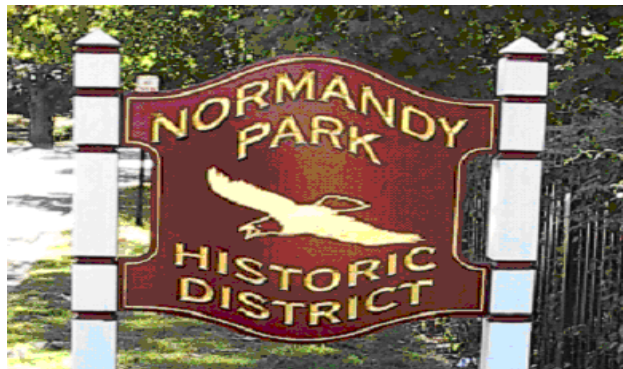
Currently our fire department consists of 23 career firefighters and about 50 volunteer firefighters. Career firefighters drive & operate fire apparatus Monday through Friday at the Fairchild, Hillside, and Woodland fire stations between the hours of 7am to 5pm. The Collinsville and Mt. Kemble fire stations are staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Can you give some of your time to help your neighbor? We pay for your training, supply your fire equipment, and are willing to invest in you! You attend training classes at the Morris County Firefighters and Police Training Academy, fire department drills, and company meetings. In addition, our juniors program is open to all high school age students 16 years old to 18 years of age.

Want to know more about becoming a volunteer firefighter? Please call (973) 326-7461.

Normandy Park Historic District Gets New Signs

By Paige L'Hommedieu



New signs are now in place designating the Normandy Park Historic District. The signs, installed in April by the Department of Public Works, are located on Normandy Parkway at both ends of the district which is bounded by Columbia Turnpike and Madison Avenue.

This historic district, one of three in Morris Township, is a neighborhood of sizeable houses on large properties built during the period from 1885 to 1925. The district was listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1996. Other Morris Township historical areas include Prudenttown and Washington Valley.

For more information regarding historic preservation in Morris Township, please contact your Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission at 973-538-4956.

Township Corporations Adopt Firefighters for Safety

By Fire Chief Craig Goss

The Morris Township Fire Department would like to express its gratitude and heart-felt thanks to the Township's corporate neighbors for their donations and participation in the 'Adopt a Firefighter' program.

The fire department currently has nearly 75 career and volunteer firefighters. These firefighters risk their lives for you and your neighbors on a regular basis when fighting fires. In order to help minimize the risks that they take, we asked the corporations of Morris Township if they would assist the fire department in its goal to equip all of the Township's firefighters with a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) unit in the year 2005.

When a firefighter goes down in a building on fire, due to injury or structural collapse, other firefighters often do not know that he or she is in trouble due to the smoke and fire conditions. However, modern technology has come to the rescue by developing a way to make firefighting safer through the use of a small electrical PASS unit that monitors the movement of a firefighter. If the firefighter's movement stops, the PASS alarm will sound, alerting other firefighters to a firefighter in distress so they may come to this downed firefighter's aid. Each PASS alarm costs \$200.

We would like to thank the following Morris Township corporations for adopting one or more firefighters and participating in the 'Adopt A Firefighter' program: Bayer Corporation, Colgate Palmolive Corporation, Honeywell Corporation, Toyota of Morristown, and Warnock Automotive Group.

The firefighter's life you help save may be the one that could someday save yours. The total cost to equip all Morris Township firefighters will exceed \$15,000. If you would like to know more about this program or would like to adopt a firefighter, please call (973) 326-7461.

Morris Township Proactively Manages Deer Population

By Tom Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator

After numerous public discussions to address the proliferation of deer in our area, Morris Township's Environmental Commission prepared and presented an extensive report to the Township Committee. Following the report recommendations, the Township Committee created a Wildlife Management Committee and performed an aerial deer population survey. A survey from the last Municipal Messenger revealed an overwhelming concern from residents about the overpopulation of deer in their neighborhoods.

After careful consideration of the safety aspects, the Township has embarked on a deer culling program throughout the township to reduce the deer population. The culling program began with bow and arrow on September 10, 2005 and will continue through February 16, 2006 as permitted by the State of New Jersey. In late November, firearms will be used but only on large tracts of land.

The goal for this season is to cull 200 deer. State wildlife experts place a manageable number of deer in a setting such as Morris Township at 15-20 per square mile. Our aerial survey in the spring revealed a concentration of

about 49 deer per square mile. We expect that this program over a number of years will bring the deer population into a better balance.

Volunteer licensed hunters are participating in the culling program. They have been screened and issued permits by the police department and are working under the supervision of Patrolman Steven Summerer. Substantial precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of our community including the use of elevated tree stands. **No one will be permitted to walk through a neighborhood with any loaded weapon whatsoever. By law, hunting must be at least 450 feet (or, 1½ football fields) from any building.**

Typical culling hours will be in the mornings for approximately 2 to 3 hours beginning at dawn and/or in the early evening to dusk. Signs will be placed near the culling station locations. The stations will be relocated when the local herd is reduced. Homeowners in close proximity to culling stations will also receive notices to avoid undue alarm. If you have any questions about this program, please call Patrolman Steven Summerer at Police Headquarters at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777.

Township of Morris

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(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1776 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad
Training Is Provided

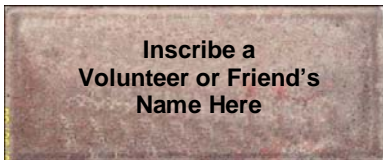
Morris Township's Memorial Pathway Project Reprinted from Morris Township web site

On the morning of September 11, 2001 terrorists struck the World Trade Center, and the world as we knew it changed forever. Since that tragic day Morris Township has recognized the six residents who perished by placing a memorial adjacent to the gazebo on Ginty Field. We are now prepared to build the third phase of this project with the creation of a memorial pathway along Loantaka Brook.

The Township's Memorial Pathway will enable us to recognize the hundreds of emergency service workers who have served our community. The members of our emergency service organizations and numerous volunteer organizations give countless hours of training and service to Morris Township. On 9/11, 418 fire, police, and EMS personnel lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Like their brothers in New York City, our EMS, OEM, fire, and police personnel have performed with selfless dedication and honor. Generation after generation has served with distinction.

In recognition of our EMS, OEM, fire, and police service agencies, the pathway will contain a section dedicated to honoring the members of each agency. Each department will have their appropriate organizational medallions built into the pathway.

If you are a member of one of our emergency services organizations or have a family member or special person you would like to recognize, we are offering you an opportunity to purchase an engraved memorial brick paver in their name. Help us provide a lasting memorial to those who have been there for us in our time of need.



The pavers (see sample) will be engraved with epoxy enamel to provide a durable finish. Each paver is 4 ½ inches by 8 inches. Construction is anticipated in late summer or fall, 2006. Funds generated will be used to construct and maintain the pathway.

In addition, brick pavers may be purchased to honor someone not necessarily involved with emergency services. They will be placed in a "general public" section of the pathway.

Make checks payable to the Township of Morris.

DONATION \$50.00

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Inscription: Line 1 _____ **12 characters/spaces per line maximum**

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Mail To: Attn: Paver Project, PO Box 7603, Convent Station, NJ 07961-7603 Phone: 973-326-7400
Deadline: April 1, 2006