



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County - New Jersey - USA

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Mayor's Message

By Mayor Robert E. Nace

As we issue our first Municipal Messenger of this year, I would like to share with you some of my comments made at the 2006 Township Committee reorganization meeting.

Maintaining a clear vision for Morris Township that balances the needs of our diverse community will be our greatest challenge in 2006. We will continue to utilize sound business practices and manage our programs to reflect the changing needs of our residents. Work has already begun on several fronts.

Unfunded programs and mandates weigh heavily on our ability to manage our local budget process; and State agencies are often not responsive to the processes and deadlines that are imposed on us. The Township Committee will work to enhance relationships and communications with our state and county leadership.

Like many other communities, Morris Township is now fully built-out. Our tax base is being seriously impacted by a decline in new ratables, skyrocketing residential property values, and a declining commercial tax base. We currently have one of the lowest tax rates in the county for a full-service municipality but will continue to focus on our property tax challenge.

Meetings with other municipalities are also taking place to improve communication with our neighbors and gain a more regional perspective on planning and development efforts. Shared services and cooperative programs with other municipalities will continue to be considered where proven cost effective and mutually beneficial.

Morris Township has always been financially conservative, focused on careful planning and budgeting, and insistent on employing the best and brightest professionals based on their expertise. We commend our employees who work hard to serve our community. All of us are committed to preserving our excellent quality of life!

Morris County Park Commission Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Reprinted from a Park Commission News Release

The Morris County Park Commission, the largest park system in New Jersey, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. From its first acquisition of 350 acres for Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township, the park system has grown to more than 17,000 acres and 37 facilities including historic sites, golf courses, outdoor educational and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, parks, and 150 miles of trails.

The reputation of the Park Commission and its facilities continues to be one of the best in the nation. More than 3.5 million visitors annually take advantage of the programs, special events, and activities provided by a professional staff. The well-run park system has a positive impact on the quality of life in Morris County by enhancing economic vitality, adding value to home ownership, preserving valuable open space and cultural resources, and contributing to personal well-being.

Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township, opened in March 1958, is known as one of Morris County's premier recreational sites with both open fields and wooded areas. Thousands of visitors each year enjoy the park's many attractions, ranging from boating, fishing, and swimming at the beautiful Sunrise Lake Beach Club to camping, picnicking, and playing on the Saturn Playground. Year-round enjoyment options include hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, plus in the winter, ice skating, cross-country skiing, and sledding. Picnic shelters and grills, as well as three athletic fields, are available to host corporate and large family gatherings. An off-leash area for dog enthusiasts has recently been added. The park is also home to Morris County's Veterans Memorial.

For more information about Morris County's park system and some of



Bike riding on trails in Lewis Morris Park. Picture courtesy of Morris County Park Commission

the upcoming **FREE** family-friendly events at your Morris County parks, see www.morrisparks.net.

Earth Day Celebration –

Pyramid Mountain National Historic Area, Montville, April 22, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

The day will include hikes, games, live animal demonstrations, and more at one of the Park Commission's premiere natural areas!

National Trails Day –

Schooley's Mountain, Washington Township, June 3, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hikers, bikers, and equestrians are welcome to enjoy the trails. Children's Try-A-Thon and picnic luncheon will also be available!

Family Celebration –

Lewis Morris County Park, Morris Township, July 29, 1:00 pm - Dusk

Bring the entire family out to enjoy swimming, boating, games, beach volleyball, concerts, food, and fireworks!

Country Faire & Harvest Festival –

Fosterfields Farm, Morris Township, September 10, 12 noon - 4:00 pm

Turn back the clock and experience picnicking, games, and activities from the 1880's at a living historical farm!