

Help Your Kids Stay Drug Free

By Mac Drug Free Staff

Helping your child say no to the pressure to 'party', whether it is drinking or using drugs, is a battle all parents face during the teenage years. Kathleen Hyland, board chairman and long-time supporter of nonprofit TeenPride, knows the importance of talking to children about abstaining from drinking and drug use despite the social pressures in today's society.

TeenPride's preventive and educational program on drugs, referred to as the Mac Drug Free Program, is presented annually in the Morris School District, the Peck School, Delbarton, and St. Virgil's and also helps parents in the effort to combat teenage drinking and drug use.

Unfortunately, many parents have no idea or may be in denial that their child is involved with a dangerous drinking or drug habit. The Mac Drug Free Program helps parents learn the behavioral signs that could indicate a child may be experimenting with drinking or drugs such as poor grades, cutting classes, mood swings, and lying or vagueness about plans.

A parent's 'cheat sheet' of today's most common choices, symptoms of usage, and their deadly consequences is available at TeenPride and covers:

- Alcohol (booze)
- Date Rape Drugs (roofies, forget pill)
- Cocaine/Crack (coke, blow, snow)
- Ecstasy (E, X, XTC)
- Heroin (dope, horse, smack)
- Marijuana (grass, weed, hash, herb)
- Inhalants (spray, huffing, sniffing)
- Methamphetamine (crank, meth)
- Tobacco (chew, smoke)

Talking to your kids about drugs and alcohol is the best way to encourage safe behavior during your child's teenage years. Being an observant parent also helps keep children safe from harm. It's up to parents to work together to keep the tumultuous teenage years drug free and healthy!

TeenPride is supported by Morris Township as part of the Municipal Alliance's Mac Drug Free program. To become involved with prevention and intervention efforts in our community or to learn more about TeenPride and the Mac Drug Free programs, call (973) 377-9390. Together, we can keep our kids & communities drug & alcohol free!

Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) Local #70 Sponsors Scholarships

The Morris Township Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) Local #70 is pleased to sponsor two \$1,500 scholarships. To be eligible, students must be a resident of Morris Township, a graduate from high school in 2006, and have intentions of entering a college, university, school of nursing, business, or trade by October 1, 2006. Completed applications must be submitted by April 15, 2006.

Application forms are available in Morris Township at the Mt. Kemble Fire Station on Springbrook Road, the Collinsville Fire Station on Whippany Road, or by visiting www.fmba70.org. Students meeting the scholarship criteria are encouraged to apply. Please note that the FMBA Local #70 reserves the right to discontinue the scholarship program at any time, without notice.

Township Open Space Trust Fund Gets Grant For Spence Property Acquisition

By Thomas Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator

In December 2003, Morris Township acquired the Spence property, a 16.5-acre parcel located on Washington Valley Road for use as open space and passive recreational activities. The property lies within the Washington Valley Historic District, a residential and agricultural area that predates the Revolution, and is near 900 acres of county-owned property. Morris Township purchased the property for \$1.3 million with a grant in the amount of \$800,000 from the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund, as well as funds from its own Open Space Trust. Subsequent to the closing, Morris Township filed an application under the New Jersey Green Acres program for reimbursement of up to 50% of the purchase price.

In September 2005, Morris Township was notified by Green Acres that the total eligible costs for this project were \$1,416,743 which included land acquisition and other eligible expenses. Of this amount, 50% was reimbursed as a matching grant which the township has received and deposited in its Open Space Trust Fund, providing over \$700,000 for future land acquisitions.

Your Township Committee

Robert E. Nace, Mayor
Richard A. Watson, Deputy Mayor
Kathleen G. Hyland
H. Scott Rosenbush
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

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Questions and/or comments may be sent to kcarman@morristwp.com

Township History Tours Offered By Preservation Commission In May

By Paige L'Hommedieu

The Historic Preservation Commission will offer *FREE* "Visit The Past" bus tours of Morris Township historic sites on Saturday, May 6, 2006. These docent-narrated tours will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Tours will depart at 11:00 am from the Municipal Swimming Pool parking lot on South Street.

This is a special opportunity to see and hear about the rich history of Morris Township. For more details and required reservations, please call (973) 326-7400 by April 21. Space is limited.

SMAC Annual Blood Screening Program

By Kevin P. Breen, MPH, Health Department

The Health Department will hold its annual blood screening clinic on April 29, 2006 from 8:00 am to 12 noon at the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue. The test screens up to 40 parameters including cholesterol (LDL & HDL), triglycerides, electrolytes, liver enzymes, glucose, blood cell, and platelet counts, plus other blood chemistry and hematology tests. The cost for this screening is \$15. It is open to residents 18 and over. Preregistration is required; please call (973) 326-7390 to obtain the registration form.