



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

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Mayor's Message

By Mayor Robert E. Nace



2006 has been a busy time for Morris Township. Our Township continues to be one of the few full service communities in Morris County; however, unfunded NJ state mandates challenge our ability to maintain one of the best tax rates in the county. This year we expect to see continued efforts to push services previously funded by the state to the municipal and county level. As the 2007 budget process begins we look forward to continuing our record of keeping the municipal portion of our taxes below the rate of inflation as we have for the past two years.

The year 2006 has seen the implementation of a new Swimming Pool Advisory Committee. Their efforts produced significant improvements in our pool operations. During 2007, we expect to complete a makeover of both pool house facilities. The Township has also completed the long awaited expansion of commuter parking at the two parking facilities on Speedwell Avenue and the Convent Train Station. And the Township recently completed the

search for a new Recreation Director to replace Peg Adams who plans to retire effective February 1, 2007. Peg Adams has provided over 34 years of dedicated service to our community and will be missed.

2007 will be a year of plan review and change as we begin the process of reviewing our municipal master plan at the planning board. Concurrently, our new Recreation Director and the Recreation Advisory Board will be busy updating their portion of the Master Plan and Open Space Plan to address the recreational needs of the Township over the long term.

Finally the Township will host the kickoff of the National Police Unity Tour on May 9th from Ginty Field. Please mark your calendars and join us at this prestigious event. As spring approaches, let us all offer thanks to the men and women in the Armed Forces who are serving our great country. Pray for their safe return and world peace.

Introducing Morris Township's New Recreation Director

By Committeemen Rick Watson and Joe

Calvanelli, Morris Township's Subcommittee for Recreation

Morris Township is pleased to introduce our new Recreation Director, William D. (Bill) Foelsch, who will be taking the position as of February 1, 2007. Bill has had a long career in the field of recreation, including having been the Superintendent of Recreation in Morristown from 1977 to 1981. In addition, he has been the Park Director/Management Consultant for Chester Township's Parks Advisory Committee and served for the last 25 years as Executive Director of the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association.



In close consultation with the Township Committee's Subcommittee for Recreation and with input from our citizens' Recreation and Pool Advisory Committees, Bill will be focusing on strategic planning, bringing modern technology to the programs registration process, and the development of those open space parcels suitable for new fields, playgrounds, and other recreation uses.

Bill's hands-on experience with a variety of recreation programs throughout the state will prove invaluable as he also works to complete the physical improvements planned for the swimming pools, formally open the new Jean Street soccer field, and perform a comprehensive recreation needs assessment – balancing our community's interest in neighborhood parks, while assisting our organized recreation groups in meeting their recreational space needs as equitably as possible.

"One of our first priorities will be to completely inventory local recreational services, both public and private, now available to Township residents. We want to see where we may have service voids and where we can bolster program offerings, such as family programs, specialized skill instruction, outdoor education, or arts and cultural programming," said Bill Foelsch.

The Township Committee looks forward to working with Bill and to the new ideas and approaches that he'll bring to our efforts to modernize and improve our recreation program. Mr. Foelsch said, "I am excited to be returning to the Morris area and I hope that Morris Township's residents will continue to see the Recreation Department as an important investment in enhancing the quality of life in the community. My door will be open for new ideas and suggestions on how to improve our services."

Bill replaces Marguerite "Peggy" Adams, who has been Morris Township's Recreation Director since 1990 and served our community for nearly three and a half decades. Peggy is retiring on February 1, 2007. The Township Committee welcomes Bill to his new position and bids a fond farewell to Peggy.