



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County - New Jersey - USA

2007 - Volume IV , Issue III

Mayor's Message By Mayor Robert E. Nace



The summer is now behind us, and we are preparing to begin extensive renovations to our Ginty and Streeter swimming pool complexes. By the time you read this letter, we will have already completed significant repairs to the water filtration systems. Shortly, construction will begin to completely renovate both pool houses. The Swimming Pool Advisory Committee is to be commended for their guidance in the renovation of these facilities.

Our Planning Board has completed the mandated Master Plan Reexamination Report and a copy is available on our web site at www.MorrisTwp.com. The reexamination process was completed ahead of schedule following months of public meetings. The primary purpose of this report is to identify zoning and planning issues that will require additional study by the Planning Board.

Our Environmental Commission, under the enthusiastic leadership of Chairman Ted Largman, has actively pursued numerous projects which will help us improve our energy efficiency and promote a healthy environment. The commission has been working on numerous projects from energy audits to new recycling programs. For more details, please review the article on our Environmental Commission in this newsletter.

On behalf of all of the residents of Morris Township, I wish to thank Kathleen G. Hyland for all of her selfless dedication to this community. Kathleen has been an inspiration and model for all of us to emulate. *We will miss you, Kathleen. It's more than Irish luck to be knowing someone like you.*

Thank You for the Honor and Privilege of Serving You By Committeewoman Kathleen G. Hyland

At the end of this year, I will be leaving the Township Committee. As a child I witnessed my father, John W. Ginty, devote countless hours to the Township. Subsequently, my late husband, Pat, served for 11 years. One could say I had Morris Township in my blood when I first ran for Township Committee in 1989.

Demographics and issues in Morris Township have changed over the years. In the late 1980's, residents were concerned about the state mandate for low and moderate income housing. This proved to be far less disturbing than many had feared. Soon thereafter other demands included the need to acquire open space, a movement I'm proud to have supported. Recently the Committee responded to the current needs with a successful Wildlife Management Program. Our Beautification Committee has and will continue to beautify the community, making it pleasing to the eyes of all residents and visitors passing through.

My involvement as a girls' softball coach and a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee kept me feeling young at heart. The greatest satisfaction though came from my work with Teen Pride, an organization dedicated to keeping our youth drug and alcohol free. The Teen Center at the Salvation Army, 24 hour counseling, and so many other wonderful programs have made a big difference in many of our youth today. If we can save one of our children and put them on the right path, the time and expense is well worth it!

Issues will come and go, but it's the citizens that have made it all worthwhile. I have met so many wonderful and dedicated people over the years—namely, our volunteer firemen and women, the Morris Minutemen, our Office of Emergency Management, and all those that serve or have served on boards and committees, the coach and managers of all our sports teams, and our employees whose professionalism is all something we can be proud of. My fellow committee members, regardless of party or faction, have been a pleasure to work with (and even argue with from time to time!).

Most of all I want to thank my family. I could not have served in public office without their strong support. My late husband, Pat; my children, Maureen, Colleen, John, and their spouses; my nine wonderful grandchildren; and my sisters Margaret, Patsy, and Mary Ag, they are truly the wind beneath my wings.

And to all the residents of Morris Township. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you for the last 18 years. I look forward to continuing to stay involved as a volunteer. God bless all of you.



Morris Township Committeewoman
Kathleen G Hyland

Civic Leadership:

- Morris Township Committee 1990 – Present; Mayor 1993 & 1994; Member, Planning Board 1993 to 1995; Fire Commissioner; Member, Recreation Advisory Board & Beautification Committees; Former Police Commissioner

Volunteer:

- Chair, Teen Pride; Former Member, Morris County School of Technology Board of Education 1975 – 2005 as well as President, 1994 - 1996 and 2002 – present; Former member, 1st Night Morris Board of Directors; Chairman, Garden State Irish Festival, 1995; Grand Marshal, Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade; Former Member, Morris Area Girl Scout Council Nominating Committee

Family:

- Lifelong resident of Morris Township; Married for 46 years to Patric J Hyland; Mother of three (3) children, Maureen Byrne, Colleen Loughman, and John Hyland; Grandmother of nine (9); and Co-owner Ginty's Irish Gifts

Morris Township's New Trails Plan Subcommittee Moves Forward Aggressively

By Tom Kenny, Morris Township Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township Trails Plan Subcommittee Membership

William (Bill) Foelsch
Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Jeff Grayzel
Township Committee

Rick Haan
Chairman
Planning Board

David Helmer
Executive Director
Morris County Park Commission

Jeff Miller
Beautification Committee

John Storey
Open Space Committee
Environmental Commission

Barbara Davis
Andrew Szwak
Consultants
Morris Land Conservancy

Morris Township's Trails Plan Subcommittee, with assistance from the Morris Land Conservancy, is currently drafting a trails plan that will highlight points of interest, linkages with other municipal and county-owned parks, construction standards by trail use, and security measures. The trails plan will also include recommendations for the acquisition of property, if necessary, to complete the trails system, as well as stewardship and maintenance issues.

Following is the schedule to which the subcommittee is working hard to adhere:

- September 2007: Identification & tour of potential trail linkages
Public workshop for review of base map with preliminary trail design, including regional trails and known local trails
- October 2007: Review public input on preliminary trail design & partners
Modify trails map, as needed
Articulate trails vision statement
- November 2007: Distribute draft trails plan to various boards, staff, and committees for review and feedback
- December 2007: Review feedback and modify trails plan, as needed
- January 2008: Final trails plan delivered for adoption by Planning Board & Township Committee

Once formally adopted, the new Trails Plan will likely be made an element in the Township's Master Plan. For more information, please contact Tom Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator, at tkenny@morristwp.com or (973) 326-7427.

A Wildlife Management Plan Update

By Tom Kenny, Morris Township Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township, with assistance from the Morris County Park Commission, embarked on its 3rd annual Canada goose roundup in June 2007. The total amount of geese found was down from prior years, likely due to poor weather conditions this spring as well as reduced population dividends now being realized from past efforts.



Our deer culling program, also in its 3rd year, runs parallel to NJ's deer hunting season, beginning in early September 2007 and ending in February 2008. The program is under the supervision and guidance of Township Patrolman Steven Summerer. If culling is to occur in your neighborhood, please be advised that flyers announcing such activity will be placed in your mailbox and bright, orange signs will be

posted to trees and poles warning residents that deer management activity is taking place in your area.

The goose egg adding phase of our Canada goose management program will take place in the spring of 2008. The Township is looking for volunteers to assist in this process which involves the physical removal of eggs from their nests and replacing them with counterfeit eggs. No prior experience is required for volunteers as the County Park Commission provides training.



If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions about our Wildlife Management Plan, please contact Tom Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator, at (973) 326-7427 or tkenny@morristwp.com. You may also contact Steve Summerer at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777.

Beware of Parking Challenges For Wednesday Matinees

The enormous popularity of the NJ Transit Midtown Direct train service has placed a strain on the capacity of all the parking lots along the Morris & Essex Line in Morris County. Morris Township recently expanded the capacity of our Convent Station parking lot to the fullest extent possible by adding over 50 parking spaces, but still we find that regular daily commuters are almost filling the lot.

On Wednesdays, when many people use the train to go to Broadway matinees in New York City, the limited spaces available for people who don't have commuter permits tend to fill up quickly, and sometimes late-arriving people find they have no place to park.

So Wednesday matinee-goers, please be advised – if you plan to use the train station parking lot on Wednesdays without a commuter's permit, you must try to arrive as early as possible, or better yet, get a ride to the train station or share a ride with a friend to reduce parking congestion.

We want you to be able to take advantage of the wonderful public transit service offered by NJ Transit. Don't run the risk of ruining your day by being unable to find parking at the Convent Station parking lot!

Morris Township Resident Pool Picnic By Bill Foelsch, Director of Parks and Recreation

Although our two pools officially closed for the season on Labor Day, Monday September 3 – one final special event – a community-wide “**Morris Township Resident Pool Picnic**” for all Morris Township residents was held at Ginty Pool on Saturday, September 8 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The picnic was sponsored by the Morris Township Recreation Advisory Committee. Activities included swimming, food, music, arts and crafts, and games. You can see that a very good time was had by the more than 800 residents who attended.



DJ Joe Piccardo gets everyone moving



Ray Boucher, daughter Lindsay, and friend Nicole Miller enjoy the water at the Ginty Pool during the Pool Picnic

Recreation Advisory Committee members Peter O'Hagan, Jr. and Rich Smith cooking up a storm in the Ginty Pool kitchen



Albert Lovenberg, Terry Foreman, Jim Cifelli, and Randy Williams work the BBQ grills



Stacy Petrie and friends enjoy the crafts projects



Township Engineer Jim Slate with sons enjoy time in the wading pool



Lots of fun and games kept everyone busy throughout the afternoon



No one left the picnic hungry

As promised, this season's final special event for our residents was a resounding success for the more than 800 Morris Township residents who attended.

Our Community Benefits From Capital Improvement Projects

By James R. Slate, Morris Township Engineer

The Township of Morris continues to complete various capital improvement projects throughout our community. The projects include roadway reconstructions, drainage improvements, curbing repairs, road resurfacing, and sidewalk repairs. We recently applied for state aid for the reconstruction of Burnham Road, Spring Brook Road (Phase II), and Old Glen Road. We also requested state aid for the Speedwell Avenue Streetscape project. If the state aid is approved by Trenton, the funds will help offset the Township's funding of the projects. A list of the projects has been provided for your information. The Township remains committed to maintaining the quality of life for all Morris Township residents.

Road Resurfacing

Alvord Road
Dorothy Drive
Elder Drive
Fairview Place
Farm House Lane
Old Mendham Road
Ridgewood Road
Stewart Drive
Windward Drive
Vom Eigen Drive
Heritage Lane
Copperfield Way

Other Projects

Doe Hill Road - Pavement Repairs
Mill Road at Speedwell - Intersection Stripping
Burnham Road Reconstruction (2008)
Speedwell Avenue Streetscape Project (2007-2008)
Plymouth/MacKenzie Drainage Improvement Project Completion (2007)

Sidewalk Repairs

Burnham Road
Fairchild Avenue
Hanover Avenue
Harter Road
Kennedy Road
Max Drive
Sherman Drive
Sylvan Way
Black Watch Trail
Canterbury Way
King Hill Court
Kissel Lane
Knollwood Drive
Netherton Terrace
Pletcher Place
Sunderland Drive
Western Avenue
Windsor Way

Drainage/Curb Improvements

Amy Drive (d) - entire roadway
Bluestone Terrace (c) (d)
Bradley Road (d)
Brookfield Way (d)
Butterworth Sewer Plant (d)
Colonel Evans Drive (d)
Easley Terrace (c)
Fox Chase Lane (d)
Hamilton Avenue (d)
Harter Road (c)
Harwich Road (c)
Heritage Lane (c) (r)
Ketch Road - (d)
Mill Road - Morris Minute Men (d)
Millstone Court (d)
Normandy Boulevard East (d)
Pear Street (d)
Raynor Road (d)
Schoolhouse Lane (d)
Van Beuren Road (d)
Vom Eigen Drive (c) (r)
Wyndmoor Drive (d)

**Contractor
at work
milling to
prepare for
road
resurfacing**



(d) = drainage project
(c) = curb project
(r) - road overlay

Planning Board Approves 2007 Master Plan Reexamination Report

By Rick Haan, Planning Board Chairman and Board of Adjustment Member

The Morris Township Planning Board has unanimously approved and adopted the 2007 Master Plan Reexamination report which was developed with guidance and suggestions from its professional staff as well as input from a number of township boards, departments, and commissions. Board approval came after receiving public comments on August 20, 2007 and making final adjustments to the forty (40) page report. Township residents can examine the Master Plan Reexamination report in the engineering department.

The Master Plan provides a comprehensive guide for development, open space planning, and protection of historic and natural resources in the Township. NJ law requires that a municipality's master plan be reexamined at least every six years.

The Planning Board concentrated its efforts in identifying potential issues, including those related to zoning, vehicular traffic circulation, pedestrian circulation, civic design and streetscape improvements, recreation and open space, fire/emergency access, and inter-municipal & regional impact management. As noted in the Reexamination Report, the board also feels the Master Plan should include goals and policies for: 1) a proactive, strategic vision and a "greening" of the Master Plan; 2) the uncertainty about future municipal power to effectuate local land use controls; 3) the problems of planning for a

diverse community; and 4) the need for good communication with the public and the residents of Morris Township.

The purpose of the Reexamination Report is not necessarily to make changes to the Master Plan. In fact, the Board concluded that the "fundamental planning and zoning framework of the municipality remains sound." But the Report did recommend that the Township Zoning Map and the maps contained in the Master Plan be updated in the short term. In addition, an amendment to the Master Plan to rezone property near the intersection of Rt. 287 and James St., owned by James Street LLC, was also encouraged. This would allow an out-of-date office building to be replaced by townhouses with a density of 4 units per acre.

The board also feels that land use planning studies should be conducted on three major business areas: along East Hanover, Ridgedale, and Speedwell Avenues. The purpose of these studies is to determine if the current zoning ordinances adequately control the current and potential future development in these areas.

Community planning is an ongoing effort. This Master Plan reexamination process allows the Township to take a step back and make sure that the Township's overall goals and plans are still adequate and that its actions are on target. The Planning Board continues to proactively manage development and land use in the Township.

Do You Know Where This Historical Monument Is Located?

By Sarah Harris, Commission Member,

Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission

The inscription on the Heritage Commission historic marker at this site states:

“ARTILLERY BRIGADE CANTONMENT, COMMANDED BY GENERAL HENRY KNOX, HUTTED NEAR THIS SITE DURING THE SECOND WINTER ENCAMPMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY IN 1779-1780”.

This monument was erected by Morristown Post Number 59 – American Legion in 1932.

Using the information above, e-mail your answer to sarahfh57@aol.com. Look in the next issue of the Municipal Messenger for the correct answer.



Open Space and Active Recreation Sports Fields

By Rick Watson, Deputy Mayor and Open Space Committee Chair

Our new Director of Parks and Recreation, Bill Foelsch, recently contributed a report about the Township's recreational needs to the Planning Board as part of its Master Plan reexamination process. The report confirmed and detailed what those of us involved in the search for open space have known for years – the explosive growth in sports that require large flat fields such as soccer and lacrosse has overrun our current inventory of suitable fields.

Our Open Space Committee, charged with identifying suitable parcels to buy, has looked for over a decade at virtually every vacant parcel in the Township. Unfortunately, most are too small or too hilly to accommodate active recreation needs. The situation presents a real challenge to Morris Township because the impediment to building new sports fields is not lack of public support or even lack of funding, but simply that there's often no clear answer to the question "Where?"

Of the parcels the Township has purchased through the Open Space Fund, several serve mainly to prevent development (like Jones Woods) or to protect the environment by preventing erosion (like the Mt. Kemble hillside purchases). Of course, there are opportunities for passive uses such as hiking trails on these parcels. Our new Trails Plan committee, working with our Open Space consultants at the Morris Land Conservancy, will be developing a Township-wide trails plan to optimize passive use opportunities.

However, some Open Space parcels could support more active recreation. Here are the specific sites we are working on:

- The Jean Street property where a brand new, full-sized soccer field will soon be opened.
- The Blue Gate Farm property where environmental analysis will soon tell us the extent of our opportunities.
- The property near the intersection of Ketch Road and West Hanover Avenue, bought from the State a few years ago primarily to thwart further development in the area, where a field development evaluation is underway. Though apparently free of wetlands, the property would require some grading to create flat field areas.
- The Mt. Kemble property – between the existing office park and Route 287 – where there are about 15 acres of usable, flat land that could be the home to at least two full-sized soccer fields. We're actively negotiating to purchase this property and an access easement to enter it, as well as use of the existing parking lot. Morris County has granted us over \$1 million for this project and we'll be asking them for more this year. Such a complex, when developed, would be well removed and buffered from its neighbors and could even be lighted to enable more hours of use on the fields.

"What about artificial turf?" some people ask. The Township recognizes that the technology of turf has come a long way and that it's clearly the way to go to

Your Township Committee

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

develop fields that can be played on year-round in all weather. Again, however, the critical question is "Where?" We have an engineering study underway to determine if turf can responsibly be put on the existing football field at Cornine Field on Sussex Avenue. If it can be, this field along with two other possibilities – the Mt Kemble and Ketch Road/West Hanover Avenue sites – will be considered for turf development.

Morris Township is serious about its efforts to find and develop more fields for our youth. We acknowledge there are critics who complain that we haven't done more. But when our citizens ask for more sports fields, there are no locations suggested beyond those we are already considering.

We all need to ask and answer the critical question "Where?" when thinking about open space & active recreation possibilities.

Constructive input from our citizens is always appreciated, and we will be pleased to answer any questions you have.

Township of Morris
P.O. Box 7603
Convent Station, NJ 07961-7603
www.morristwp.com
973-326-7400

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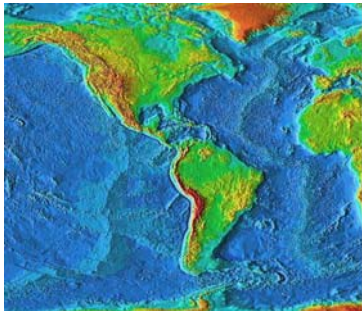
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOURS
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED! HELP US HELP YOU!**

If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 – Fire Department
(973) 539-1776 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad

Morris Township Focuses on Energy Efficiency and Planet Earth

By Ted Largman, Morris Township Environmental Commission



It seems the world is getting warmer, and Morris Township is doing its bit to slow down the process, all without an excessive cost to the taxpayer. Township employees are already saving energy through material reuse efforts such as recycling plastic, glass, and metals, as well as saving trees by recycling paper. We are examining a number of ways of using energy more efficiently such as weather-proofing Township buildings, replacing aging lighting fixtures, and employing new fluorescent bulbs. We are investigating and evaluating the use of “green” energy sources such as solar panels, wind, and other renewable energy for Township buildings. Also in the coming months, our Environmental Commission will be contributing additional input to the Township Master Plan. The Township’s efforts are not only promoting positive environmental action on a local basis but also targeting real savings in the municipal budget.

At the present time, the Environmental Commission is working with the Road Department on a plan to remove and recycle hazardous electronic materials. Please note that in order to participate in this program, *EVERYONE MUST SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCY IN MORRIS TOWNSHIP. NO EXCEPTIONS!* The details of this plan are as follows:

Drop-off Point: Morris Township Department of Public Works (DPW) Yard, located off Jane Way.

Dates: Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24, 2007.

Hours of Collection: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Acceptable Electronic Equipment: The electronic equipment items that will be accepted at the Morris Township DPW yard are listed below. Please be sure to remove any batteries (dry cell or rechargeable) from devices. Batteries will be recycled separately as they present their own environmental hazards.

Answering Machines	Monitors	Scanners
Cables	Mouse(s)	Stereos
Cell Phones	Personal Digital Assistants	Tape Recorders
Computers	Phones	Televisions
Copy Machines	Printers	VCR / DVD Players
Fax Machines	Radios	Video Equipment
Flat Panel Displays	Reel To Reel Tape Players	Video Game Players
Keyboards		

The Morris Township Environmental Commission urges all of our residents to do their part to conserve energy in their homes and travel. Here is another great way to help--if anyone desires to contribute a hybrid truck to the Department of Public Works, the Township will acknowledge you and the contribution in a future Municipal Messenger newsletter!

For more information about Morris Township’s Environmental Commission and our Township efforts to help our planet, go to our website at www.morristwp.com .