



# Municipal Messenger

## Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

2008 - Volume V , Issue II

### Mayor's Message By Mayor Robert E. Nace



This Municipal Messenger highlights some of the important quality of life issues that we hear most often from our residents – adhering to health ordinances related to pets and the importance of observing our posted speed limits. We frequently receive complaints about pets from residents who live near schools and condominium complexes. It is important to note that your neighbor's lawn is not there to be used as a litter box. Your animal's waste poses health hazards as well as leaving behind offensive odors on plant material and sometimes on your neighbor's shoes. Please do not allow your pet to negatively impact public or personal property. To improve our public safety programs, the Township recently implemented a new Targeted Enforcement Program which will assign additional radar patrols to designated neighborhoods in order to reduce speeding. Let's remember to slow down for the sake of our children and our neighbors.

Along these same lines, the state has enacted legislation that now allows traffic light cameras at intersections to catch people who run lights. The Township is working towards implementation of this technology to improve traffic safety. We are looking at grants to defray the cost. The use of these cameras will help offset the cost of police officers at our most dangerous, high volume intersections and allow us to focus our resources on other important public safety activities.

Our concert season is beginning soon with our first concert on July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Ginty Field Gazebo. Bring your family, a lawn chair, and some refreshments and enjoy a fun night with your neighbors. The complete schedule of concerts is noted in the article below and on our website at [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com). I hope to see you at our concerts and at our pools as well. Remember it's not too late to subscribe as pool members for this season!

Finally, let us thank the military personnel serving our great country. Pray for their return - safe, soon, and successful.

### Morris Township Plans A Summer of Fun By William D. (Bill) Foelsch, Director of Parks and Recreation

Get ready for a "Summer of Fun" with programs and special events sponsored by the Township's Department of Parks and Recreation. Our summer activities kick into high gear in June, July, and August.

The Streeter and Ginty municipal swimming pools will open for the season on June 21, 2008 and will also be open on the two prior weekends. All summer playgrounds will open on Monday, June 30, and will feature a six-week program of games, crafts, sports, activities, trips, and special events through August 8. We have eight playground sites and hours vary by site with both morning and afternoon sessions available.

In addition to our summer playgrounds, we will be featuring special sports skills camps during the summer. Learn up to ten new sports in one week of activity with our new Multi-Sports Clinics being held the week of June 23 to 27 and August 11 to 15. The Multi-Sports Clinics are open to Township residents ages 5 to 14.

We will be entering our second summer season of special Youth Tennis Skills Development Programs for children ages 3 to 12, scheduled for the Ginty Recreation Complex tennis courts July 7 to July 11 and July 14 to July 18. The program continues at the Streeter Recreation Complex tennis courts July 22 to 25 and July 27 to August 1. Please call 973-326-7371 to make the required registration.

A new Beginner Golf Clinic program has been added for children ages 5 to 11 during the week of July 14 to 18 at the Streeter Recreation Complex. We are also adding Sports Squirts Programs for ages 3 to 5 years with a six-week spring session on Mondays from April to June at Frelinghuysen Field and a five-day Sports Squirts Program August 4 to 8 at Ginty Field.

The fun continues with the Township's Big Screen Movie Nights and it's Fourth Annual Summer Concert Series at the Ginty Gazebo. Big Screen Movie Nights are scheduled on Wednesdays – June 25 at Ginty Field, July 9 at Cornine Field, and July 23 at Ginty Field. The concert series will kick off at the Ginty Field Gazebo on Tuesday, July 1 with the US Army Volunteers Show Band, then follow with the Hanover Wind Symphony on July 15, the Richard Reiter Swing Band on July 29, the Kootz Band (Rock 'n Roll) on August 3, the Morris Music Men (Barbershop Harmonies) on Sunday, August 10, and Timeless Jazz on August 19.

### Swimming Pools Are Improved For '08 Season

Last fall, a major renovation of the bathhouse facilities at both the Ginty and Streeter swimming pools was started. When pool members return for the 2008 season opening on June 7, they will find clean and bright new bathrooms, showers, and changing areas. Each pool received the installation of a new family bathroom also suitable for use by individuals with disabilities. New drop ceilings were installed in the bathrooms and new bright white ceilings were installed in the arcade areas. New lighting fixtures have been installed in all public areas and ceiling fans have been installed in the bathrooms to boost internal air circulation. Probably the most sought after improvement is the installation of a new on-demand hot water system for the bathrooms and the showers – ending the days of short, cold water showers of the past. Please call the Dept. of Parks & Recreation at 973-326-7371 with questions.

## The Digital TV Transition – What You Need To Know About DTV

Excerpts reprinted from [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) – the Federal Communications Commission web page

Digital Television (DTV) is an advanced broadcasting technology that enables broadcasters to offer television with better picture and sound quality. It can also offer consumers multiple programming choices, called multicasting, and interactive capabilities.

As of March 1, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules specify that all new TVs must include digital tuners in order to facilitate converting to DTV. This conversion will free up parts of the scarce and valuable broadcast spectrum which can then be used for other important services, such as public & safety services (i.e., police departments, fire departments, emergency rescue), and advanced wireless services.

TV stations serving all markets in the United States will cease providing analog programming after February 17, 2009. At that point, their current analog channels and the spectrum they use for analog broadcasting will be reclaimed and put to other uses. This means that people with analog TVs will need additional equipment to receive over-the-air television when the DTV transition ends.

To protect consumers, the FCC has established a rule that prohibits the manufacture, import, or interstate shipment of any device containing an analog tuner, unless it also contains a digital tuner. Despite this prohibition on manufacture and shipment, retailers may continue to sell analog-only devices from existing inventory.

To address this issue, the FCC has adopted a rule requiring sellers to display a **CONSUMER ALERT** if they are selling TV equipment with only an analog broadcast tuner: "This television receiver has only an analog broadcast tuner and will require a converter box after

February 17, 2009 to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products."

Consumers who rely on antennas (including outside antennas and "rabbit ears") to receive over-the-air broadcast signals on TV sets having only analog tuners will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog set-top converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV. These boxes receive digital signals and convert them into analog format for display on analog TVs. Analog sets connected to such converter boxes will display digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in the full, original digital quality.

### Converter Box Coupon Program

Between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has responsibility for administering the coupon program. More information can be found at [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).

If you are a cable or satellite subscriber, you may want to check with your provider to verify whether any new DTV equipment is needed to receive or view programming in digital format. Ask your provider what you will need and when in order to ensure uninterrupted viewing.

For more information, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit the Commission's digital television website at: [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov).

## Morris Township's Historic Heritage – 1810 Mountain School House

By Sarah Harris and Carol Barkin,

Commission Members, Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission

Mountain School House located at 445 Mt. Kemble Avenue is the oldest school house still standing in Morris Township. It was a single room school house that served Morris Township pupils of all ages continuously from 1810 to 1914.

Most students at the school lived within two miles of the facility. The subjects taught were reading, grammar, penmanship, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, history, and temperance physiology. The teacher in 1894 was Miss Addie Carey who walked to the Mountain School each day from her home in Washington Valley, a distance of nearly three miles. Her pay was \$33.40 per month.

The school building is made of red brick from the nearby Prudden Brick Yard. It is about 600 square feet and was enlarged with a sixteen foot addition in 1899 by William Armstrong. It features a front door facing Mt. Kemble Avenue and arched windows. At some point in the 19th century, the roof was raised to allow more air per pupil to breathe, following the suggestion of educational reformers who were trying to improve school conditions in the country. You can still see the "ghost line" of the original roof on the wall that faces south.

In 1905 the Morris Township Board of Education was formed and one by one the little one room school houses were abandoned. All were closed by 1914 when schools were centralized and children were transported by horse-drawn carriages with boards for seats or by bobsled in

winter until a bus was purchased in 1920. The Mountain School House survives today as a residential property.



A marker placed at the school by the Morris County Heritage Commission provides a brief history of the site and acknowledges the building as a locally important Historic Site. The Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission would be interested in hearing any recollections from local families about the Mountain School as we are compiling information for a possible nomination to the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places. Please feel free to contact us at [sarahfh57@aol.com](mailto:sarahfh57@aol.com) or [dbarkin527@aol.com](mailto:dbarkin527@aol.com).

Look for information about other Morris Township historic sites in upcoming Municipal Messenger issues.

## Your Township Committee

Robert E. Nace, Mayor

Richard A. Watson, Deputy Mayor

Ron Goldberg

Jeff Grayzel

H. Scott Rosenbush

Check our website at: [www.morristwp.com](http://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**

Linda K. Murphy

### **Township Senior Editors**

Karen J. Carman, Admin. Ass't.

Fred J. Rossi, Twp. Administrator

Questions and/or comments may be sent  
to [kcarman@morristwp.com](mailto:kcarman@morristwp.com)

## **When to Call 9-1-1** By Morris Township Police Chief Timothy Quinn

Emergencies don't happen very often, but when they do, you want to get help fast. The communications officer answering your call will ask you questions to determine what kind of help you need – Fire, Police, or Medical. Be prepared to state the nature of the emergency, and please answer all the questions concisely. Answering our questions will not delay response, it actually helps ensure we can promptly get help to you. Try to remain calm as we need you to help us help you. If it is possible and does not compromise your safety, stay on the phone until you are told it is okay to hang-up.

Be mentally prepared to follow instructions. You may be provided with instructions to ensure the safety of yourself and the safety of the person who needs assistance. If the emergency occurs during the night in your home, if possible, turn on lights so it will be easier for responding emergency personnel to find your residence.

In advance of an emergency, you should ensure your house number is visible and educate your children on the proper use of the 9-1-1 system.

9-1-1 is only for true emergency situations requiring an immediate response by police, fire, or ambulance. If it is not an emergency but you still feel you may need assistance, please call the non-emergency number at 973-539-0777.

## **Animal-Related Ordinances Are Designed To Protect You and Your Pets** By Kevin Breen, Morris Twp Health Department

### Vaccinate, license, and identify your pet

State law requires the licensing of all dogs, and Morris Township ordinances require both dogs and cats to be licensed. The underlying purpose for companion animal licensing is public health as there is the potential of disease transmission from animals to humans, especially in the case of rabies. Because of the seriousness of rabies, all measures to prevent the transmission of this highly fatal disease must be taken.

It is important to protect yourself, your family, and your pets from the rabies virus by having your pets vaccinated. Your pet must have a certificate proving vaccination before it can be licensed. Licensing records provide the Health and Police Departments as well as Animal Control Officers' instant access to vaccination and owner information should an incident occur with a pet. Your pets are required to wear license tags for identification. Our Animal Control Officers have the ability to read microchips at the shelter, so you may also want to take advantage of this additional identification safeguard. Fees from licensing are used in our Animal Control Trust Fund to help fund local animal control, sheltering, and cruelty services; and a percentage is sent to the state to help fund the free and low cost rabies vaccination clinics.

The risk to unvaccinated, unlicensed companion animals and their owners is real. In the past few years within the Township, there have been diagnosed cases of rabies in wild terrestrial animals, mostly raccoons and free roaming cats. Other animals that are part of the rabies vector are feral cats, skunks, foxes, bats, and groundhogs. Avoid contact with these and other wild animals.

### Residents should not feed any wildlife.

Township Ordinance, Chapter 99 prohibits the feeding of wildlife such as deer and waterfowl like ducks and geese. The feeding of wildlife is extremely disruptive to their natural feeding habits and placing food out for wildlife and stray cats attracts these animals into contact with our children and pets. Garbage receptacles should be in good condition with tight fitting lids to prevent attracting wild animals. While people often enjoy handing out food, the action is detrimental to the animals and often to the well-meaning human, as wild animals can severely injure or even kill a person.

The intentional feeding of wildlife not only attracts predators, feeding wildlife can result in animals being concentrated at artificial feeding areas, making them more susceptible to disease and cross-species disease transmission. Feeding wildlife also puts these animals on a collision course with humans. Animals fed by humans are drawn into heavy traffic areas seeking handouts and are killed by vehicles or cause accidents killing humans. As populations of raccoons, skunks, and others enlarge unnaturally from being fed, potential for rabies, distemper, and other density-dependent diseases increases. Domestic dogs and cats will get into altercations with wildlife drawn by food and can become severely injured or diseased as a result.

### Pick up after your animals

The Health Department receives many complaints about pet owners not picking up after their animals. Not only is this required by Township Ordinance, Chapter 110, but also this is a common courtesy to your neighbors. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person. Animal feces not picked up can breed disease-causing vermin. Pet waste will also contaminate storm water and eventually be washed into our streams, lakes, and rivers affecting the sanitary quality of our water.

Local ordinance allows a limit of ten (10) cats and three (3) dogs per household. If you need more information or have questions, our Animal Control agency is St Hubert's Giralda which is located at 575 Woodland Avenue and can be reached at 973-377-2295. The Morris Township Health Department number is 973-326-7390.

## Township of Morris

P.O. Box 7603  
Convent Station, NJ 07961-7603  
[www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com)  
973-326-7400

### 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

### PRESEASON POOL PARTY STREETER POOL

JUNE 20, 2008  
Pool Opens 5:30 pm

### POOL SEASON OPENING DAY JUNE 21, 2008

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 102  
Morristown, NJ

## Morris Township Receives Grant For Critical Firefighting Equipment

Reprinted from Press Release



Left to right: Jeff Grayzel, Township Committee; Richard Allocca, Advent Insurance Services; Dean Carras, Innovative Coverage Concepts; Township Fire Chief Craig Goss; Michelle Dolloff, Fireman's Fund; Township Mayor Robert Nace; Scott Rosenbush, Township Committee; and Fred Rossi, Township Administrator, accept a generous grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance.

Fire departments that have the essential equipment to do their jobs safely and efficiently are better prepared when responding to emergency incidents—helping to make their communities safer places to live and work.

Innovative Coverage Concepts, LLC (ICC) and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company have partnered to award a \$21,000 grant to the Morris Township Fire Department for critical firefighting equipment. The Township's grant will be utilized for, among other things, air masks and an air mask fit test machine, as well as full-body rescue harnesses.

"Fit test machines are electronic units that test the fit of firefighters' face masks to ensure a reliable fit," points out Craig Goss, Morris Township Fire Chief, who goes on to state, "Without a properly fitted mask, during emergency operations toxins can seep through and be inhaled by firefighters causing great harm. Rescue harnesses are full-body harnesses used in conjunction with ropes, allowing firefighters to safely lower themselves in confined spaces during rescue operations."

"Through my three companies, Innovative Coverage Concepts, LLC, Restaurant Programs of America, LLC, and Advent Insurance Services, which do a lot of business in Morristown and Morris Township, it brings me great pleasure to support these two fire departments," says independent insurance broker Dean Carras. "In addition, I'm a local resident so, on a personal level, being in a position to direct these grants means a lot to me."

The grant package is part of a nationwide program called Fireman's Fund Heritage<sup>®</sup> which is funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training, and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to hundreds of different departments totaling over \$16 million. Independent insurance agencies / brokers that sell Fireman's Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their communities.

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, provides personal, commercial, and specialty insurance products nationwide. See [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com) for more information about this company.