



# Municipal Messenger

## Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

2008 - Volume V , Issue I

### Mayor's Message

By Mayor Robert E. Nace



2008 promises to be a busy time for the Township. Unfunded state mandates, demand for improved recreation facilities, escalating utility costs, and the maintenance of an extensive road network continues to test our ability to find innovative cost containment measures. Despite these challenges, Morris Township continues to be one of the few full service communities in the county and boasts of keeping local taxes at or below the rate of inflation.

The winter months are finally behind us, and Mother Nature proved to be most unpredictable. Most residents recognized her lack of cooperation and have been most patient as leaves failed to fall until Thanksgiving backing up our removal process into late January.

Parking capacity at our Convent Station parking facility is once again being impacted by development projects in surrounding towns. The Township has taken steps to reduce the number of nonresident parking permits and is also strictly enforcing all rules at our parking lots. Illegal parking will not be tolerated and will result in tickets being issued, with towing for multiple violators.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we hopefully have completed the purchase of 15 acres in Harding Township that border Morris Township along Route 287 off Mount Kemble Avenue. The entire \$3.8 million dollar acquisition was funded by open space funds with \$1.4 million provided by Morris County, \$750,000 from NJ Green Acres, and the balance by the Township of Morris. The project prevented the development of 13 single family homes and will be home to a new recreational sports complex to be built in 2009.

As spring approaches let us all offer thanks to the men and women who are serving our great country. Pray for their safe return and world peace.

### Introducing Morris Township's New Chief of Police

By Linda K. Murphy, Senior Editor

Most residents, when asked, say they want the person in charge of Morris Township's law enforcement to be a person who knows both their neighborhood concerns and the community. We are pleased to introduce our new Chief of Police, Timothy Quinn, who has a solid understanding of both.

Chief Quinn has been a member of the Township's police department since 1978, coming up through the ranks in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility – Communications Officer, Patrol Officer, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Detective Lieutenant, Operations Division Commander, and now Chief of Police. With over 29 years of law enforcement experience in Morris Township, he knows our community well!

Ever unassuming, Chief Quinn says, "I have been fortunate in my career to have been given some very challenging and rewarding opportunities and assignments." One could say his progress through the police department to the top job is well deserved. He has been given over 50 departmental awards and citations for special operations, lifesaving, good conduct, and meritorious service. Special recognition came from the FBI in 1992 for Quinn's involvement in the Reso kidnapping investigation; he was named Morris Township's Officer of the Year in 1998; and he was selected in 2007 to attend the premier FBI National Academy law enforcement training given to only the top 1% of police officers worldwide.

Given his experience, the Township residents' concerns regarding law enforcement are well known to Timothy Quinn. He is currently in the process of developing programs focused on quality of life issues involving traffic safety, speeding, and commuter cut-through in conjunction with the Township Committee.

He is also a strong supporter of maintaining a visible presence in the schools via full time School Resource Officers. These officers coordinate with and deliver national and NJ programs such as "GREAT" (Gang Resistance Education and Training) for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, "DARE" (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and "DANGER STRANGER" for kids in the lower grades. In addition, crime prevention officers are being made available for mentoring middle school students.

See [Quinn](#) on Page 2



#### Education:

- Seton Hall University – Master of Arts Degree (1994) Summa Cum Laude 4.0 GPA
- Kean College – Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration/Criminal Justice (1988) Magna Cum Laude 3.8 GPA
- County College of Morris – Associates Degree in Criminal Justice (1982)

#### Training:

- FBI National Academy – 230<sup>th</sup> Class (2007)
- NJ Police Executive Institute (2005)
- Division of Criminal Justice, Certified Police Instructor (2002)
- Terrorism (2002)
- West Point Command & Leadership Program (2000)
- Top Gun Narcotics Investigation (1997)
- NJ Certified Arson Investigator (1987-2003)
- Graduate, Morris County Police Academy – 14<sup>th</sup> Basic Class (1981)
- Over 2,500 hrs. of law enforcement training, with emphasis on leadership, management, internal affairs, & administration (last 7 yrs)





## Quinn Continued from Page 1

One area of particular focus is the growing gang-related activity in Morris County. Chief Quinn states, "We need a very proactive approach to dealing with the gang presence filtering into our community." He plans joint actions with surrounding municipalities and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to address this serious issue.

Timothy Quinn knows how to utilize the Township police resources effectively. From December 2002 forward, he has been the Operations Division Commander, directing Patrol Operations, the Detective Bureau, Crime Prevention, Traffic Safety, Communications, the Records Bureau, and our School Resource Officers; and supervising 41 sworn personnel and 10 civilians. Prior to becoming Division Commander, he was Detective Lieutenant for over four years, supervising both the Detective and Records Bureaus and coordinating multiple confidential, narcotics, and other high-profile investigations.

As further evidence of his talents and dedication, Timothy was given responsibility for the integrity of the Evidence Room and acted as "Megan's Law" liaison for 7 years, has been the Terrorism liaison to the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and the Joint Terrorism Task Force since 2002, and performed the role of Police Department spokesperson and Press Information Officer from 2000 to 2007

On a more personal note, Quinn has been a passionate supporter of the Police Unity Tour since 2002. The Tour offers support to the families of police officers who have lost their loved one in the line of duty and brings honor and recognition to their sacrifice. He was instrumental in coordinating the send-off for this nationally recognized event from our own Ginty Field in 2007. As he says, "We ride for those who died."

Chief of Police Timothy Quinn grew up in Morris Township and attended local schools. He and his wife, Kathie, reside in Morris Township with their two daughters, Mikayla and Samantha. Chief Quinn is a member of the Morris Township Fraternal Order of Police, a trustee for both the National & Northern New Jersey Chapter Executive Boards – Police Unity Tour, and a parishioner of the Church of Christ the King in New Vernon.

Timothy replaces Michael Loughman, who has been Morris Township's Chief of Police since 2002 and served our community for nearly 35 years. Chief Loughman is retiring on April 1, 2008. The Township Committee welcomes Chief Quinn to his new position and bids a fond farewell to Michael.



Picture on the left:  
Betty Dries, wife of the late Chief Dries, and her son, Michael.



Picture on the right:  
Sheila Gribbon (seated in front), wife of the late Chief Gribbon, with sons and other family members.

## Ginty Field Benches Dedicated to Former Fire Chiefs

Reprinted from Morris Twp Press Release

In October 2007, the Morris Township Committee dedicated two park benches in honor of former Fire Chiefs John Dries and John Gribbon at the Ginty Field Memorial Pathway on Woodland Avenue. Chief Dries served as Morris Township Fire Chief from 1973 to 1987. Chief Gribbon served as Chief from 1987 to 1996. The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick donated the bench in honor of Chief Dries and the Irish American Association of Northwest New Jersey donated the bench in honor of Chief Gribbon. The families of the late chiefs were on hand to remember them and accept the benches on their behalf. The benches were an addition to the recently completed pathway which honors current and former township residents and first responders. The pathway connects the public gazebo & 9/11 Memorial with the rest of the Ginty Field Complex.

## Innovative Commuter Parking Solution For Morristown Commuters

By Rick Watson, Deputy Mayor

Many residents of Morris Township find it convenient to commute via the Morristown station. Although some of the parking there is temporarily relocated during the construction of the new Transit Village, the Morristown Parking Authority has created an attractive alternative by permitting its commuters to park at the Headquarters Plaza garage, from which they are shuttled by bus to and from the train station. The Town of Morristown is to be congratulated for conceiving this safe and efficient alternative for temporarily displaced commuters, which also has the advantage of keeping your cars sheltered from the elements!

Some have tried to switch to Convent Station as a parking

alternative but are finding this unattractive for two reasons: 1) it takes about 20 minutes each way to drive from Morristown to Convent Station during the morning and evening rush hours, adding an extra 40 minutes to the total commute; and 2) there simply isn't any capacity at Convent Station to handle these new customers and new permits are no longer being sold.

Even though Morris Township has expanded its parking lot recently, we're now at our limit, and every day people find themselves challenged to find a spot. More Morristown parking will be available soon, but in the meantime the Headquarters Plaza shuttle is the best solution for Morristown station commuters.

## New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan Reprinted from [www.nj.gov](http://www.nj.gov)

The State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) is the result of a cross-acceptance process (for details go to <http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/plan/crossacceptance.shtml>) that included thousands of New Jersey citizens in hundreds of public forums, discussing all of the major aspects of the plan - its goals, strategies, policies and application. Key aspects of the SDRP are the State Plan Policy Map and the definition of State Planning Areas.

### State Planning Areas

The SDRP provides a balance between growth and conservation by designating planning areas that share common conditions with regard to development and environmental features:

- Areas for Growth: Metropolitan Planning Areas (Planning Area 1), Suburban Planning Areas (Planning Area 2) and Designated Centers in any planning area.
- Areas for Limited Growth: Fringe Planning Areas (Planning Area 3), Rural Planning Areas (Planning Area 4), and Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas (Planning Area 5). In these planning areas, planning should promote a balance of conservation and limited growth—environmental constraints affect development and preservation is encouraged in large contiguous tracts.
- Areas for Conservation: Fringe Planning Area (Planning Area 3), Rural Planning Areas (Planning Area 4), and Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas (Planning Area 5).

### State Plan Policy Map

The State Plan Policy Map reflects these planning policies graphically. Therefore, the State Plan Policy Map serves as the underlying land use-planning and management framework that directs funding, infrastructure improvements, and preservation for programs throughout New Jersey. Simply stated the SDRP, coupled with the State Plan Policy Map, is a dynamic vision of New Jersey's development and conservation patterns. With that in mind, the State Planning Commission incorporates new data from state agencies, counties and municipalities on an ongoing basis.

### Cross-Acceptance III: 2003 to present

Cross-acceptance is, by definition, a negotiating process. The SDRP and the State Plan Policy Map are intended to represent the input of counties, municipalities and the public so that we can all work together to create a State Plan that makes sense for all of New Jersey.

*The information presented here was reprinted from the SDRP website at (<http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/plan>).*

## The SDRP's Impact on Morris Township's Master Plan By Mayor Bob Nace

The Township of Morris received the first draft of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) in June, 2004. During Township Planning Board hearings held in July, August, September, and October of 2004, public commentary on this plan and the cross acceptance process was presented.

The Township of Morris surrounds the Town of Morristown which is entirely Planning Area 1. The Township itself is nearly 70% within Planning Area 1 (the Metropolitan Planning Area which is designated as an area for growth).

We are asking for the state to modify some of its draft planning area delineations to more closely match existing land use. The Township Engineers have made suggestions to Trenton on changes to draft Planning Area 3 (Fringe Planning Area) and Planning Area 5 (Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area) in order to more specifically show how those areas are currently being utilized in accordance with the Township's Master Plan. Those suggested changes are:

- That the SDRP be changed to reflect the actual existing development conditions in those areas where sewers have been constructed. It is clearly inappropriate from an environmental and planning standpoint for Planning Area 5 designations to include those areas that are currently sewered.
- Also, those areas immediately adjacent to Planning Area 1 are clearly more appropriately

Planning Area 3, again based on the current levels of existing improved infrastructure.

It is important that Township residents be aware of how an inappropriate SDRP area designation could impact them directly. For example, people living in Planning Area 5 will be subject to fees that are not required of residents living in other planning areas when requesting additional utility services such as phone, cable, gas, water, or electric. Such requests are subject to SDRP "Main Extension Rules" which limit what changes to utility services can be made without additional charges to the homeowners.

Having said that, it should be noted that *the SDRP is not the regulatory instrument by which the Township regulates development*. Rather it is one of the tools the Township can use to plan for its community through its own Master Plan.

Regulation of development is the direct result of local zoning law which is created by the State's Municipal Land Use Regulations and is not directly controlled by the state's planning area designations. In plain and simple terms, changing a SDRP draft planning area designation is not changing the zone and does not allow for development in the Township of Morris. Recent Master Plan updates did not alter any of the existing zoning in the areas of concern.

The Township encourages public participation in its regularly scheduled Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings so that all of the *factual information* can be presented. The Planning Board will hold cross-acceptance hearings in 2008 on the SDRP and will also begin debate on the Highlands Master Plan. Please join in the discussion.



**Electronics Recycling Day - Saturday, April 12, 2008** By Jim Stoia, Sup't. of Roads and Sanitation

Morris Township is sponsoring a special Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Department of Public Works (DPW) yard, located off of Jane Way. This event is offered to the residents of Morris Township *free of charge*.

**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	Electric Typewriters	Mouse(s)	Scanners
Cables	Fax Machines	Personal Digital Assistants	Stereos
Camcorders	Flat Panel Displays	Phones	Tape Recorders
Cell Phones	Floppy disks, CDs, DVDs	Printers	VCR / DVD Players
Computers/Laptops	Keyboards	Radios	Video Equipment
Copy Machines	Monitors	Reel To Reel Tape Players	Video Game Players

For additional information, please call (973) 326-7398, Monday through Friday between 6:00 am and 3:30 pm.

**Morris Township's Sidewalk Policy** By Robert E. Nace, Mayor and Ronald M. Goldberg, Twp. Committeeman

Occasionally a township resident has requested that the township either provide or remove sidewalks in their neighborhood. The township has always held a position that it does not provide or maintain sidewalks. Historically this policy was most likely developed based on the suburban nature of our community and significant budgetary impact that would result from providing sidewalks. This subject can be a very emotional issue for many people for a variety of reasons. We have found that 60% of the residents do not favor sidewalks while about 40% favor them. Many senior citizens object because homeowners are required to remove snow. Some neighborhoods have asphalt sidewalks which do not have a long life and become unstable. It is the township's position that the homeowners are responsible to provide and maintain the sidewalk along their property line(s). However, there are exceptions to this policy, as follows:

- The Township provides annual repairs to sidewalks where an action by the township created a tripping hazard and where shade trees planted along Township roads have caused sidewalk slabs to heave. These repairs are normally done after a report from the public is made to our Public Works Department.
- Whenever a road reconstruction project is performed, an existing sidewalk might be replaced or extended to complete a walking path route. Also, if funds are available, either from the township or grant(s), new sidewalks might be installed, if warranted.

The township's engineering committee is examining current practice to determine if the township could begin to provide sidewalks where public demand is high. Some towns have enacted a program to meet changing public demand. These programs typically work as follows:

- A majority of affected residents submit a petition for sidewalks.
- Each resident is allowed one vote per household.
- A public meeting is held to review the plan.
- Each resident provides legal right-of-way access where tree cutting is required on private property and where the sidewalk may be shifted to minimize removal of trees during sidewalk construction.
- The residents agree to pay a local assessment charge based on property frontage, over a period of years (normally assessed for a 5 to 10-year period) for the costs associated with engineering design and construction of the sidewalks.

The township would welcome your comments and view on this issue. Please email your comments to [sidewalks@morristwp.com](mailto:sidewalks@morristwp.com)



**Be Well, Be Aware, and Join the Fight Against Cancer** By Mayor Bob Nace

Morris Township has declared May as Cancer Awareness Month and you can be part of the Mayor's Wellness program by participating in this year's Relay For Life®, starting at 4:00 pm on Friday, May 16 at Morristown High School's track. You can stay overnight if you wish – our goal is to keep at least one team member on the track at all times throughout the event which ends at 7:00 am on Saturday, May 17. There will be continuous entertainment, food and beverages for purchase, and a great family-friendly environment for everyone to enjoy.

Also for the first time, the Relay For Life® is a competitive regional effort. Morris Township has been challenged by Morris Plains and Morristown to produce the most Relay For Life® participants and donations to help in the fight against cancer. We need you, your family, and your friends to help us make this community event as successful as possible. To sign up, go to <http://events.cancer.org/RFLmorristownNJ> and join the Morris Township team!



## Do You Know Where This Historical Monument Is Located?

By Sarah Harris, Commission Member,

Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission

Many thanks to all of the members of our community who answered the question that appeared in the last issue of the Municipal Messenger – all were correct.

This monument, **Park of Artillery**, is located on the side of Route 24 West between Jones Drive and Kadhena Road opposite the Burnham Park Ball Fields.

The Continental Army occupied many areas around Morristown. Knox's Artillery Brigade is one of the many brigades that took post at this site which is about one mile west of Morristown.

The plaque that is on the large boulder reads:

### **Continental Army Encampments at Morristown 1777 – 1781**

"The Artillery under General Henry Knox and the Artificers under Col. Juduthan Baldwin were encamped on this hillside during 1779-1780. The soldiers were housed in huts. The guns were parked along this road. The horses were pastured in what is now Burnham Park."



Look for other "Do You Know Where?" historic sites in upcoming Municipal Messenger issues and feel free to contact us at [sarahfh57@aol.com](mailto:sarahfh57@aol.com)

### 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)

### **How To Volunteer**

Volunteer contributions mean so much to the success of our community and opportunities to volunteer are many and varied – some are statutory like the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Environmental Commission; some are created by ordinance such as the Open Space Committee, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Recreation Advisory Committee; and some are ad-hoc like the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee, Wildlife Management Committee, and Morris Township/Morristown Joint Municipal Alliance.

In addition, there are both annual and special appointments available for volunteers in groups such as the

Beautification and Swimming Pool Advisory Committees.

Are you interested in volunteering to help with one of the Township's many committees and agencies? The procedure is not formalized, but is quite simple. All you have to do is:

- Go to the Township's website [www.Morristwp.com](http://www.Morristwp.com) and click on Boards and Committees to get a full listing of volunteer opportunities, along with the terms of office and what vacancies may exist.
- Decide what positions may interest you and send your resume to the Mayor's office at 50 Woodland Avenue for consideration. **ALL RESUMES AND NAMES OF PEOPLE EXPRESSING THEIR INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING WILL BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE.**
- The Mayor will respond to all such inquiries as soon as practicable.

Of course, there are often more applicants for certain positions than vacancies available and not everyone can be given an interview right away, but the procedure could not be simpler, and we urge you to try it.

Please join us at the send-off of the

## **Police Unity Tour May 9, 2008 Liberty State Park**

### **Morris Township Saves Money Via Shared Services**

The Morris Township Committee is always on the lookout for new and creative ways to save money for you. Here are some of our inter-municipal sharing arrangements:

**Sewer Systems** – Our sewer treatment plants handle all of the sewage from Morris Plains, much of Randolph, & portions of Parsippany, Harding, and Morristown. Some of our Township is served by treatment facilities in Morristown, Hanover, & Florham Park.

**Public Library** – The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township reflects the desire of both towns to avoid duplicate facilities for the benefit of our residents.

**First Aid Squad** – The Township is enormously proud and appreciative of the efforts of the Morris Minute Men, a volunteer charitable organization that we fund in cooperation with Morris Plains & many private donors.

**Transportation** – Also with Morris Plains, we share a transportation program for seniors, and the Colonial Coach is a joint enterprise of Morris Township and Morristown.

**Health Services** – Substantial portions of our Public Health services are provided through a shared contract with Hanover Township.

**Mutual Aid** – Our Police Department has mutual aid agreements in place with ten other towns. Our Fire Department shares resources with twelve fire departments.

## 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

## CLEAN COMMUNITY DAY

APRIL 12, 2008

Town-Wide Spruce-Up  
Volunteers Needed

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

APRIL 15, 2008

Polls Open 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

## Morris Township Recycles to Save Money and the Planet

By Jim Stoia and Tom Kenny



The kindergarten classes from Woodland Avenue School at the township's recycling depot on Jane Way.

Thanks to the efforts of all of its citizens and the Department of Public Works, Morris Township figures indicate **53.3%** of its solid waste tonnage, or over 10,700 tons, was recycled last year, exceeding the state's mandated 50% and generating \$120,305 in revenue from the township's recycling vendors. The latest county figures suggest Morris Township went even further in its efforts by recycling 58.7% of its solid waste tonnage. In addition to this, Morris Township held its first electronics recycling event in the fall of 2007 and five tons of electronic waste was removed from the solid waste stream. More electronics recycling events are scheduled for the spring and fall of 2008.

Morris Township encourages residents to continue to be diligent in recycling their trash for this allows for the highest possible recycling revenues, while also doing something positive for the environment. The details of Morris Township's recycling program are contained in the Municipal Calendar as well as the township's website [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com). The Municipal Calendar was distributed to all residents in mid-January and additional copies are available at the municipal building upon request.

The Recycling Enhancement Act was signed into law by Governor Jon Corzine on January 14, 2008. This act imposes a recycling tax on solid waste generation in order to provide financial support to municipal and county recycling programs. The revenue from the tax will be deposited in the State Recycling Fund, 60% of which is to be appropriated annually to fund recycling grants to municipalities and counties.

In the original version of the bill, 30% was to be designated to municipalities, but this percentage was doubled in the final legislation. Municipalities with active recycling programs should see significantly larger recycling grants than in the past. Prior to the enactment of this new legislation, Morris Township received state recycling grants of between \$13,700 & \$16,000 annually.

# Recycle!

## Township of Morris

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

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

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