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## **PRESS RELEASE** **March, 2009**

### **For Immediate Release**

### **MORRIS TOWNSHIP**

### **DEER MANAGEMENT**

Morris Township recently completed its fourth deer culling season. This program is part of the township's wildlife management program endorsed by the township's Environmental Commission. In 2008-2009, 178 deer were harvested throughout Morris Township of which 150 were female and 28 were male. Fourteen of the 150 females were fawns, meaning less than one year old and not able to breed, leaving 136 mature females capable of having twin fawns this spring. This would have resulted in the birth of approximately 272 fawns. When you add the total number of deer harvested to the number of fawns that could have been born this spring, it's reasonable to say there will be approximately 450 less deer in the township this spring and summer.

There were also 82 dead deer picked up on the side of the road due to motor vehicle crashes during the 2008-2009 season. When you add this number to the hunting season total (450), there are approximately 532 less deer in the township this spring. Steve Summerer, a township police officer and Morris Township's deer culling manager, researched the number of motor vehicle crashes and dead deer pickups over the last three years. In 2006 there were 60 crashes involving deer; 2007 had 63; and 2008 had 49. In those same years 2006 – 2008, there were 422 dead deer pickups (153 in 2006; 142 in 2007; and 127 in 2008). Evident from these numbers, there has been a reduction in the amount of accidents and dead deer being picked up from our roadways. These are two of the objectives accomplished through Morris Township's deer management plan.

Our butcher this year was Country Meats of Washington, NJ. They butchered 123 deer for the township totaling \$7,380.00. The only other expense we had this year was for corn which is used as bait. The corn was provided by Hengst Farm in Mansfield, NJ and the township paid \$640.00. The total cost per deer came to \$46.00. This is far below the \$300.00 to \$375.00 per deer that most professional deer management companies would charge.

Morris Township was once again fortunate to retain the services of 25 volunteer hunters who performed another outstanding job. They volunteered approximately 712 man-hours of their own time to harvest deer at no cost to the township. There were very few resident complaints and the complaints that were received were handled in a professional and courteous manner. Overall, the Township of

Morris, and Mr. Summerer, were very pleased with this year's deer management program and both recommend that the program continues for the 2009-2010 season.

If you have any questions about the deer management program, or would like to report an area of Morris Township with a high concentration of deer, please call Patrolman Steven Summerer at Police Headquarters at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777.

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