



Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

2004 - Volume I, Issue I

Mayor's Message

By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to the "new & improved" *Municipal Messenger* where we will highlight news and activities in Morris Township. Our town offers hundreds of programs and services to our residents!

Unfortunately, not all of us have enough time to look over the annual calendar and make note of key dates like the Blood Pressure Screening Program, our annual Township Day, or the Fall Leaf Pick-up Schedule. We hope that this newsletter will prompt more people, like you, to take advantage of programs and events such as these. If you would like to know more about a specific program, please look on our web site at www.morristwp.com or call town hall at (973) 326-7400.

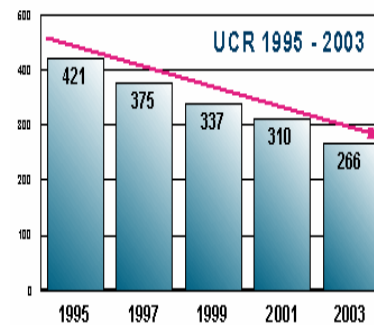
I want to personally invite you all to our Township Day on Sunday, June 13th. At that time we will dedicate the new gazebo at Ginty Field. This beautiful facility was entirely donated to the Township and we plan an appropriate celebration – please join us!

We hope that you enjoy this new *Municipal Messenger*. I want to invite your ideas and suggestions for future editions – topics, departments, people, and so forth. If you have any comments, concerns, questions or complaints about the Township I would like to hear them. Please send your suggestions to my attention at Morris Township Town Hall – 50 Woodland Ave, Convent Station, NJ 07961 or by e-mail: srosenbush@morristwp.com.

Morris Township: A Safe Community Just Got Safer!

By Captain Gary Adams, Morris Township Police Department

The report is in, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) that is. The UCR is an index compiled by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to track crime trends. The following chart shows the UCR for Morris Township since 1995 and illustrates a trend in crime reduction over the past years. We are very proud of the relatively low crime rate in our community.



We Still Need Your Help! Much of what the Police Department accomplishes is achieved because of alert residents, like you, who call us about suspicious activity, cars, or persons. In most cases, it is the prompt call which provides the necessary information for the Police Department to put an end to criminal activity. The Police Department cannot emphasize enough how important it is to call us

at the time the suspicious activity is observed. When you are unsure whether to call or not to call, let us decide on the level of action to take based upon the information you provide.

Alert Township residents have helped us solve three of our six residential burglaries last year. Of the three, one occurred on Harter Road at 1:15 in the afternoon, one on Spring Valley Road in the late afternoon, and the third on Canfield Road at 11:30 in the morning. License plate numbers, as well as a description of the suspects obtained by alert residents, helped us make an arrest in all three of these crimes.

In one case a burglar was caught while trying to escape onto the roof of a home. In another, our detectives were able to locate a suspect's car in Newark, complete surveillance of it, and eventually make an arrest of a suspect who had a long history of narcotics offenses and burglaries. Without help from our alert citizens, these persons may not have been apprehended – and would have been able to return to our community to burglarize more of our residences.

Please do not hesitate to call us as soon as any suspicious activity is observed! Just dial 911!

2004 – 2005 School Budget Vote Held April 20

Based on information from the Morris School District

Morris Township voters approved an increase in the 2004-2005 Morris School District Budget on April 20th. The new budget provides a comprehensive educational program for our children, plus funding for initiatives including an increase for special education services; an evaluation of program delivery at Frelinghuysen Middle School and Morristown High School; and extensive staff development and curriculum revision in selected subject areas. As a direct result of this budget, the school portion of the tax rate in Morris Township will increase by 6.9% (\$0.085 per \$100 of assessed valuation). On a home assessed at \$400,000, school taxes will increase by approximately \$340 per year.

Morris Township Eyesore Demolished, Making Way For New Parking Lot By Morris Twp. News Release & News 12 New Jersey



Photo by Jim Miller, Morris Twp. Dept. of Public Works.

An old Mobil gas station, which has been around for more than a decade at the corner of Speedwell and Gregory Avenues, was brought down on Friday, April 2, 2004. The decaying gas station, which has been an eyesore in Morris Township for the last 15 years, was abandoned after it was discovered that the underground storage tanks were leaking and contaminating the land.

Morris Township Mayor Scott Rosenbush, along with other Township Committee members, was at the station and helped start the demolition. Following the Mayor's lead, the heavy equipment moved in to finish the job, much to the delight of onlookers.

The former gas station will be replaced with a metered parking lot, something for which area businesses and restaurants have been hoping. Township officials did not say how many spaces the new lot will have, but they are confident it will help cut down on parking congestion along neighborhood streets.

"I, along with all the residents of Morris Twp., am glad to see this eyesore gone after all these years. We welcome the positive change for the Fairchild neighborhood," said Committeewoman Kathleen Hyland.



Township Committee members (L to R): Kathleen Hyland, Jan Wotowicz, Scott Rosenbush, and Bob Nace. Photo by Jim Miller, Morris Twp. Dept. of Public Works.

Financial Aid Available For College Bound Students!

By Dennis W. Devery, New Jersey Army National Guard

Each year students and parents from Morris Township and throughout New Jersey look for ways of financing a college education. What most don't know is that there is now a way to help these students go to college tuition-free!

The NJ Legislature passed a law last year, which provides a tuition-free college education, as well as graduate school, for every member of the New Jersey Army National Guard at all New Jersey Public Colleges and Universities.



The NJ National Guard has over 1,100 members participating in this tuition program. National Guard members are attending Medical School at UMDNJ *tuition-free!* And other members are attending Law School at Rutgers, also *tuition-free!* In fact, there are members attending every state college, state university, and county college *tuition-free!*

Unfortunately, only a few of the thousands of eligible students in Morris Township are currently participating in this program. Interested students and parents in our community can learn more information on this program by directly contacting Dennis Devery, Army Nat'l Guard Recruiting & Retention Manager, by phone at (609) 562-0710 or via e-mail at dennis.devery@nj.ngb.army.mil or by going to the Army website at www.state.nj.us/military/army.

2004 Primary Elections will be held on June 8. Candidates will be running for these elected positions! Be sure to use your right to VOTE!

- Morris Township – One 3-year Township Committee term
- Morris County – Three 3-year County Freeholder terms
- Morris County – One 3-year County Sheriff term
- Morris County – One 5-year County Surrogate term

Our Wastewater Management Plan

By Morris Township Engineering Department

The State of New Jersey requires that every Town that operates a sewage treatment plant file a Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Such WMPs are required to describe how and from where wastewater is collected, treated, and disposed of, as well as other information designed to assure that the groundwater and other elements of our environment are protected.

Management of wastewater in terms of its proper treatment and disposal is the objective of the WMP. Proper wastewater management protects your water quality and enables the Township to ensure that areas identified for 'Smart Growth' have sufficient access to the Township's two wastewater treatment facilities and that the capacities of those facilities are not exceeded.

Plan elements include mapping of the sewer areas in the Township. The mapping determines which properties can and cannot be connected to the Township's wastewater treatment facilities. The WMP also identifies those areas where existing soil characteristics qualify for wastewater treatment by on-site facilities (septic systems) followed by subsurface disposal.

Contrary to some reports, the Township of Morris has been working on your WMP for over a decade. For the last 12 years, the Township has made every attempt to satisfy the evolving requirements of the various individuals and representatives of NJDEP.

With each submission of the WMP, the Township addressed every comment raised by the NJDEP reviewers. However, as NJDEP's internal reviewers and directors came and went, new comments and additional requirements were presented with each review.

The NJDEP approved the sewer service area mapping which was used for sizing the wastewater treatment plants when they were upgraded in 1992. However, the current NJDEP administration does not like the mapping that their own department previously approved. So part of the current revision process has involved changes to the sewer service areas.

NJDEP's failure to complete their review of our submissions in a timely manner, has made the Township's WMP subject to ever-changing requirements and regulations. Fortunately, over the years, this has not had much effect on the residents of the Township. Until recently, NJDEP has routinely approved our actual sewer extension requests for various Morris Township neighborhoods, even without an approved WMP.

Every Township submission has met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.23 and was clearly comprehensive enough to warrant NJDEP moving ahead with public notification and adoption of the WMP. In light of the history outlined, it is difficult to see how the "Township has been dragging its feet" as stated by NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell, or is "ten years late in



Volumes of paperwork attest to our numerous efforts to gain approval from NJDEP for Morris Township's Waste Water Management Plan (WMP) for over 12 years.
Photo by Morris Twp. Engineering Department.

preparing its WMP" as stated by the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

Given this long history of review, it is also difficult to comprehend how NJDEP can label our WMP as "not credible". This is especially true when one takes into account the fact that the most recent WMP submission was the most comprehensive to date, utilizing GIS mapping technology with integration of the sewer billing data base and including environmental protection ordinances that were specifically provided to the Township by NJDEP for inclusion in the WMP.

One of those areas identified by the Township of Morris for 'Smart Growth' that falls within the sewer service area identified in the WMP is the Continuing Care Retirement Community or (CCRC). The CCRC zone was approved by the Township as part of its extensive Master Plan Review. With the creation of the CCRC zone, and provided NJDEP approves the necessary environmental permits for the CCRC, the Township will be able to preserve, in perpetuity, over 130 acres of open space at no cost to you, the taxpayer. The Township's Planning Board was even recognized by the New Jersey Planning Officials with an Achievement In Planning Award for "Recognizing Need and Effecting a Key Zoning Change" with the creation of the CCRC zone.

The Township was sued by the Great Swamp Watershed Association with the claim of spot-zoning. The Township was vindicated when the Judge in the case decided in favor of the Township. Judge Bozonelis also lauded the Township's Master Plan and Ordinance as being a result of comprehensive planning by the Township that manifests the interests of the State's Development and Redevelopment Plan. Although the Great Swamp Watershed has filed an appeal, the Township is confident that Judge Bozonelis's decision will be upheld.

All the information regarding the WMP is available to you in the Township's Engineering Department. Our staff is available to answer any questions you may have on your Wastewater Management Plan.

WMP End Game In Sight?? – A Chronological Record

8/28/92 Draft WMP submitted to NJDEP.

6/29/93 NJDEP Permit Screening meeting held. Formal review of WMP *not* in progress, but NJDEP requests resolution of differences in service areas for the previous treatment facilities upgrades.

6/2/94 Revised draft WMP submitted to NJDEP.

3/6/97 Extensive comments (14 pgs) from Susan Michniewski, NJDEP, Office of Environmental Planning requiring a planning study of Randolph's sewers be included in Morris Township's WMP.

5/6/97 & 12/30/97 Randolph advised of required input to WMP.

2/18/98 Partial response from Randolph stating complete report to follow, none ever received.

12/24/98 Township requests meeting with Lance Miller, Director of the Bureau of Watershed Management, NJDEP, to discuss Township NJDEP requirements for areas in which there is no authority to implement.

2/5/99 Meeting held with Lance Miller, Director of the Bureau of Watershed Management, NJDEP.

2/25/99 Another request sent for Randolph's WMP input.

11/5/99 Revised WMP completed. Township's WMP consultant recommends Harding Township sewer service revisions, if adopted, should be included in the WMP.

12/23/99. Township advised that Susan Michniewski is transferred and James Gaffney is now responsible for the review of the Township's WMP.

12/27/99 Harding Township adopts ordinance establishing sewer service area.

4/5/00 Sandra Cohen, Bureau Chief, Division of Watershed Management NJDEP advises Township of intent to deny WMP if schedule to complete revisions or revised WMP is not submitted within 30 days. She includes copy of Internal NJDEP memo from Lance Miller, Director, Division of Watershed Management, outlining additional "alternative analysis" now required of WMP amendments. Guidance documents describing the required alternative analyses have not yet been completed by NJDEP.

5/2/00 Meeting held with NJDEP, Saint Mary's Abbey and Township regarding Abbey's amendment to the Northeast Plan and the Township's WMP.

5/5/00 Township sends letter to Sandra Cohen advising of pending completion of Township's WMP.

5/19/00 Revised WMP submitted to Patricia Hicks, Division of Watershed Management NJDEP, as suggested by Sandra Cohen.

10/13/00 Comments (3 pgs.) from Lance Miller, Director, Division of Watershed Management, NJDEP specifying requirement for EO-109 Alternative Analysis. Miller also advises complete review to be completed shortly with full NJDEP results "forthcoming in a separate letter". Township does not receive separate review letter.

11/14/00 Township learns that Patricia Hicks has been transferred to NJDOT, Sandra Cohen to pickup review of Township's WMP.

1/22/01 Township gets undated letter from Sandra Cohen, Northeast Bureau Chief, Division Watershed Management, NJDEP advising their intent to deny the

Township's WMP in 30 days for failure to respond to the October 2000 review.

2/22/01 Township protests Sandra Cohen's notice of denial letter as NJDEP did not complete review or send any additional comments. Township requests meeting with NJDEP.

3/27-29/01 Township gets NJDEP notice of denial from Debra Hammond, Assistant Director, Northeast Bureau Division of Watershed Management

12/12/02 Township meets NJDEP re: their new requirements and to request completion date for review of the May 2000 WMP. NJDEP asks for another copy of May 2000 WMP and provides guidance documents on alternative analysis.

1/31/03 Comments (5 pgs.) from Lawrence Baier, new Director, Division of Watershed Management NJDEP,

6/30/03 Revised WMP submitted

10/16/03 Comments (12 pgs.) from Ken Klipstein, Bureau Chief, Northwest Division of Watershed Management NJDEP.

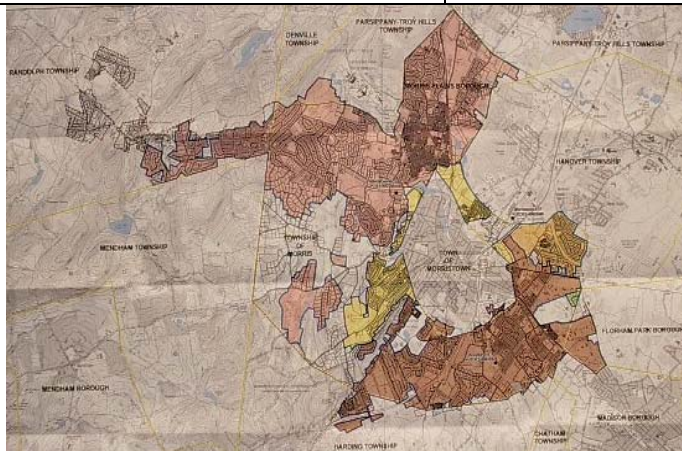
12/3/03 Revised WMP submitted

1/30/04 Request for WMP status sent to NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell.

3/4/04 Comments (5 pgs.) on the December 2003 WMP from Ken Klipstein, Bureau Chief, Northwest Division of Watershed Mgmt. NJDEP.

4/1/04 Meeting with NJDEP to discuss comments and additional items requested.

Current Revised WMP to be submitted, as soon as practical, for the 6th time. Township Engineering Dept. aggressively working on the revision.



Morris Township's Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) includes portions of Randolph Township, Morris Plains, Morristown, Madison, Parsippany, Florham Park and Harding Township. The December '03 WMP submission is the most comprehensive to date.

The Township's Planning Board has been recognized by New Jersey Planning Officials with an *Achievement In Planning Award* for "Recognizing Need and Effecting a Key Zoning Change."

Photo by Morris Twp. Engineering Department.

Your Township Committee

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

Check our website at: www.morristwp.com
or refer to your 2004 Municipal Calendar for
more information on key dates for Morris
Township meetings and other activities.

Acknowledgements

Volunteer Senior Editor

Linda K. Murphy

Township Senior Editors

Karen J. Carman, Admin. Ass't.
Fred J. Rossi, Township Administrator

Questions and/or comments may be sent to
kcarman@morristwp.com

Safe Syringe Disposal Program

By Kevin P. Breen, Morris Township Health Department

For our Morris Township residents who are dealing with chronic or temporary medical conditions that require the use of syringes, needles, and lancets, the primary concern is improving their health. But it is also important to recognize that used equipment and materials are actually 'medical waste products' and, as such, need to have special disposal treatment. The improper disposal of syringes, needles, and lancets (also know as sharps) generated in the home poses a potential health hazard to family members, our sanitation personnel, other members of the community, and our pets.

Please remember that the Morris Twp. Department of Public Works (DPW) cannot take these items. They are not accepted by the County transfer station and cannot be recycled.

However, residents may bring their used syringes, needles, and lancets in a sharps container to Morristown Memorial Hospital, located at 100 Madison Avenue, Morristown. The Hospital is a participant in a **FREE** program known as the Safe Syringe Disposal Program.

Residents can drop off their sharps container at the Outpatient Pre-procedure Testing section at the Madison Avenue entrance of the hospital which is located to the right of the information desk on the first floor. The hospital will also provide **FREE** sharps containers so you will always have a proper disposal container to use.

The hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7am to 7pm; Saturday, 7am to 3pm. For more information, contact Morristown Memorial Hospital at 973-971-4177.

Living In Morris Township By Cathleen Amelio, RMC, Morris Township Municipal Clerk

Morris Township, located in the heart of Morris County, has a population of over 22,000 living in a 16 square mile area. The Township is made up a number of different sections known as Hillside, Fairchild, Burnham Park, Normandy Park, Springbrook, Collinsville, and Washington Valley, to name a few. Within these sections, diverse neighborhoods, often known best by their development name, and considerable open space provide an appealing quality of life for our residents.

These neighborhoods, like Butterworth Farms, Cromwell Hills, Jockey Hollow Estates, Deer Chase, Rolling Hill, and The Summit, form a doughnut-shaped Township community with the county seat – Morristown – in the middle. There are nearly 7,600 residential units, 158 commercial properties, and 6 farms in our municipality. The Township of Morris has preserved almost 429 acres (as of July 2003) that is managed as part of our Recreation and Open Space Preservation Program.

How the Township is Governed:

Morris Township is governed by five (5) elected residents who serve three (3) year terms on the Township Committee. Once per year, the Committee chooses one (1) of their members to act as the head of the Committee. This person is also known as the Mayor of the Township of Morris.



The Township Committee meets at least once every month to decide on municipal ordinances, pay bills, approve resolutions, and communicate with residents. The scheduled meeting dates can be found in the 2004 municipal calendar distributed earlier to residents or online at www.morristwp.com. The Committee members also have sub-committee responsibilities such as involvement with the Fire, Police, Finance, Health, Planning, Zoning, Open Space, Recreation, Public Works, Sewer, and Environmental matters.

Morris Township is a great place to live and work!

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SPECIAL UNCOMING EVENTS
AT GINTY FIELD

Gazebo Dedication & Township Day
June 13, 2004

9/11 Memorial Ceremony
September 11, 2004

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
Help Us Help You!

The Morris Twp. Fire Department and the Morris Minute Men First Aid Squad need new volunteers now! The training for this important and rewarding work is provided. If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1176 after 6pm – First Aid Squad

Profiles - Your Township At Work

Morris Township Department of Public Works By Joseph Giordano

Many Morris Township residents kept a nervous eye on the nightly weather reports this winter. Concerns about school closures, potential commuting woes, and just digging out of the driveway, often made for some sleepless nights. While our residents were tossing and turning, the workers at the Morris Township Department of Public Works (DPW) were working through the night, and sometimes around the clock, to keep our 120 plus miles of Township roads safe for travel!

From December 1, 2003 to February 10, 2004, the DPW responded to nine (9) different snow and ice events. This group of dedicated Township employees put in over 5,000 man-hours this winter season on our behalf. And due to the fact that Mother Nature has her own schedule, over 4,000 hours of that response were required as overtime.

The DPW team used nineteen (19) vehicles to sand and salt and another nine (9) pieces of equipment to plow our roads. This magnitude of the effort comes into perspective when we take into account it required the use of approximately 2,000 tons of salt and 500 tons of snow grit!

DPW's work was aided by the addition of some new equipment – a 2004 International dump truck with a 5 cubic yard stainless steel body (replaced a 1987 dump truck) and a 2004 Volvo roll-off truck (replaced a 1985 roll-off truck) which has a 20 foot material spreader to facilitate the application of salt and sand along specific routes. The roll-off truck also serves another purpose – carting recyclables (paper products, mixed cans, glass & plastic containers, and large metal items) to market on a daily basis.

Please join us in publicly acknowledging this hard-working group of dedicated Morris Township workers! Many thanks from all of us!!