



2004 - Volume I, Issue III

Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

Mayor's Message

By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

It seems that this year's Veteran's Day holiday drew more public attention than usual. The usual complement of veterans was joined this year by a larger than normal turnout by the public at the joint ceremonies held in Morris Township and Morristown. Our indebtedness to those who have already served is unmistakable – and obviously not forgotten.

As we enter this year's Holiday season, let's be sure to take time to give thanks for the men and women who continue to serve our country in the armed forces and consider including them in your giving plans.

There are many opportunities to do this. This year I learned that the Mt. Fern United Methodist Church is collecting and shipping items of necessity and nonperishable food to our servicemen and women around the world. To participate, you can contact Cary Hoffman, 81 Reservoir Ave., Randolph, NJ 07869, cwhoffman@tellurian.com or (973) 366-3969. Other houses of worship may have similar gift-giving operations underway.

Also since being away from family and friends is so difficult during the holiday season, you can team with VFW's Operation Uplink to provide the gift of communication. Prepaid international phone cards from you will help our troops to know that they are remembered and appreciated!

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year!

Morris Township Dedicates 9/11 Memorial

By Deputy Mayor Robert E. Nace



Morris Township dedicates memorial in memory of residents who perished in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Picture courtesy of Harvey Klein.

On September 11, 2004, several hundred residents joined the Township Committee and key-note speaker, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, in a dedication ceremony honoring six Township residents whose lives were lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center three years ago.

Deputy Mayor Bob Nace told those attending that the Township wanted the memorial to provide a place of reflection for all of those affected by the events of 9/11.

The names of the six Morris Township victims – Sean P. Lynch, Alfred R. Maler, William A. Matheson, Alexander J. Napier,

Barbara Shaw, and Edward W. Straub – are inscribed on a base of rose colored granite topped by a sundial. Twin marble benches flank the memorial with inscriptions selected by the families of the victims.

A special note of appreciation for their participation in the ceremony goes to the John Jay Sheerin Assembly Color Guard of the Knights of Columbus and to the honor guard consisting of members of Morris Township Police and Fire Departments, along with members of the Morris Minute Men and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

The ceremony marks the completion of the second phase of the Township's 9/11 Memorial Gazebo project. The final phase of the project will be the creation of a Memorial Walkway honoring our emergency services workers. The walkway will be installed from the gazebo, along Loantaka Brook, to a bridge across the brook connecting it to the parking lot. The next and final phase of the project is expected to begin next year.

Honor guard members participate in the second phase of the Township's Memorial Gazebo project. Pictured from left to right: Firefighter Albert Garcia, Morris Minute Men EMT Linda Omaggio, Patrol Officer Marc Costa, Patrol Officer David Powell, Patty Simms OEM, Firefighter Jesse Kaar, Captain Scott Lovenberg, Sergeant Stan Witczak. Picture courtesy of Harvey Klein.

The memorial inscription reads:

TO COMMEMORATE
MORRIS TOWNSHIP CITIZENS
LOST IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTER
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



Morristown Rotary Donates Defibrillators to Morris Township Fire Department

Reprinted from Morris Township Press Release



Rotarian Jonathan Taylor and Township Fire Chief Craig Goss with lifesaving equipment to be carried on all Morris Township Fire Engines

The Morristown Rotary Club donated five new defibrillators to the Morris Township Fire Department. This is the first ever donation of defibrillators to Morris Township. It will allow the Fire Department to use the most up-to-date equipment when responding to medical emergency calls from all of its firehouses. Members of the club presented the lifesaving equipment to Fire Chief Craig Goss and members of the Morris Township Committee at the Woodland Firehouse.

"Rotary International is a true

example of a service organization known throughout the world for providing services for individuals, non-profit groups, and municipalities. This donation will be used not only for our residents but through our mutual aid programs, potentially for our neighboring communities. This donation demonstrates mutual cooperation and assistance at the highest level," said Kathleen Hyland, Morris Township Fire Commissioner and Township Committee Member.

"This is what Rotary is all about, giving back to the community. We are thrilled to be able to help the Morris Township Fire Department and the Morristown community," said Tom Harrigan, President of the Morristown Rotary Club.

The Morris Township Fire Department is staffed by both paid and volunteer divisions. They are trained to operate eight fire apparatus and associated equipment such as the defibrillators from the five firehouses that serve Morris Township. Surrounding communities are also served by the

Morris Township Fire Dept., as needed, under mutual aid agreements. The Township is actively recruiting new Volunteer Firefighters. People interested should call 973-326-7460. There are equal opportunities for women, men, and teen volunteers in our Fire Department.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who are members of more than 30,000 Rotary clubs in 162 countries. The Morristown Rotary club meets every Wednesday for lunch (12:15 p.m.) at Headquarters Plaza Hotel, Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ. New members are welcome.

For additional information about Rotary, contact: Tom Harrigan, President of the Morristown Rotary Club at 973-538-5287 or via e-mail at jcreiss@verison.net.



Pictured from left to right: Township Administrator Fred Rossi, Former Fire Chief Tony Romano, Mayor Scott Rosenbush, Fire Captains Tom Gaylord and Scott Lovenberg, Fire Chief Craig Goss, Fire Commissioner and Committeewoman Kathleen Hyland, Rotarians: Bill Weiss, Jonathan Taylor, Roy Bumiller, Tom Harrigan, and Township Committeemen Jan Wotowicz and Bob Nace.

TeenPride Helping At-Risk Kids in Our Community

By Beth Upham and Carol Egan



Hundreds of boys and girls ages 12-18 living in Morristown, Morris Plains, and Morris Township—often amid neglect, abuse, drug activity, and violence—are being offered a free lifeline through the professional counseling and educational / recreational services of TeenPride, Inc., a nonprofit organization located in Morristown.

In the past decade, TeenPride has counseled 1,850 at-risk youth referred to the program by area police and the juvenile justice system. Only 26 or 7% of these individuals have lapsed, compared to the state's recidivism rate of 40% and the country's of over 50%. It is estimated that each year TeenPride saves area citizens about \$250,000 that would otherwise be spent in housing youth in the Juvenile Detention Center.

TeenPride's structured, supervised after-school programs and activities are provided to at-risk children at **no cost** to the teen or their family. All activities and programs offer positive life experiences and help teens to make the most of their abilities.

The Teen Center, located at the Salvation Army Building at 95 Spring St. in Morristown, is open six days per week - Monday through Saturday. It provides an open facility with a full-size gym equipped for activities such as basketball, soccer and volleyball, activity rooms, and a computer lab. Professional and trained role-model volunteers supervise youth with homework, computer, performing arts, job mentoring, poetry, social enrichment, and chess clubs, to name a few.

TeenPride Counseling provides free individual & group counseling for troubled young people and their families, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The sessions include early intervention and transitional counseling with links to the Morris School District and area police departments.

Mac Drug-Free provides drug awareness & prevention programs and services within local schools, K-12 grades, as well as providing education programs to parents on drug related issues.

As a grassroots community effort, TeenPride maintains close ties with at-risk children and their families. Please consider empowering TeenPride by making a donation or becoming involved as a volunteer in one of the many programs offered by this local nonprofit group. For more information about TeenPride, please go to www.teenpride@verizon.net or call (973) 377-9390.

Commuting Through the Convent Train Station

By Randy Williams, Township Building Maintenance Supervisor

Commuting from and into Morris Township is always a pleasure when traveling on the New Jersey Transit rail system. The Convent Station, located in Morris Township, offers permit parking for the convenience of residents and nonresidents alike. Parking permits are issued annually, beginning in July, at a cost of \$150 for residents and \$300 for nonresidents.

Less frequent travelers can pay for a daily space at the meter, which is located on the side of the Convent Station train depot. Metered parking costs \$1 per day (quarters only). As an alternative to coins, debit cards are available in \$10 and \$20 denominations. Resident ID tags are also available for designated resident metered parking spaces.

Parking permits, debit cards, and free resident ID stickers are available through the office of the Township Clerk between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. The Clerk's Office may be contacted by calling 973-326-7430.

Bike lockers are also available for biannual rentals. The bike lockers are \$7.50 per month and require a \$25 refundable key deposit. For more information about renting a bike locker, call 973-267-7600.

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 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

Morris Township Helps Remove Christmas Trees

by Joe Giordano, Superintendent, Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will pick up Christmas trees every Monday in January, weather permitting. Trees should be placed at the curb. All wires, ornaments, and so forth should be removed prior to placing at the curb. Please remove any type of protective coverings such as plastic bags. The Department of Public Works may be contacted at 973-326-7398 for any additional questions.

Help Your Fire Department During Winter Weather

By Craig Goss, Fire Chief, Morris Township Fire Department

As winter approaches, we remind our residents that your assistance is needed in helping to clear snow from fire hydrants. If a fire hydrant is near your home, please make sure that snow is not piled in front of it that would cause a delay by our firemen in locating the hydrant when in need. For additional questions, please contact the Morris Township Fire Department at 973-326-7435.

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HOLIDAY SEASON**

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For Fall / Winter 2004-2005**

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(973) 326-7371

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
Help Us Help You!**

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

An Update On Our Wastewater Management Plan By Morris Township Engineering Department

In our Summer 2004 newsletter, we outlined the Township's frustration with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) handling of the Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). The following history continues from the last date of the previous newsletter.

On June 6, 2004, the Township submitted all documents requested by NJDEP at our meeting on April 1, 2004. This included six copies of the storm water management, stream buffer and endangered species ordinances, a copy of the Randolph Township and Morris Plains sanitary sewer agreements, and six copies of the depletive water analysis. Later that month, the NJDEP misplaced a portion of the submitted material and requested additional copies. Within days, the information was resubmitted, but due to NJDEP employee turnover, it was returned to the Township stamped "as person unknown." The Township retained the materials to a NJDEP person whose name was more recognizable.

On July 30, 2004, after a year and a half of delay, the State finally wrote to adjoining municipalities, Randolph Township and Morris Plains, requesting a meeting with officials to discuss the required ordinance adoptions. The State is responsible for coordinating the adoption of the above mentioned ordinances due to the fact that the Township does not have jurisdiction over other municipalities within our sewer service area. The meeting has been scheduled for November 30, 2004.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association filed a second lawsuit against the Township Planning Board related to the preliminary approval of the Saint Mary's Abbey Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). Again, the judge in the case decided in favor of the Township.

On October 3, 2004 the Township sent a letter to NJDEP requesting the status of their review and adoption of our WMP and an accelerated date for November 30th meeting. To date, no response to this request has been received. Four days later, the Township received a WMP review letter from NJDEP requesting additional information, including materials previously submitted. The letter also requested five new sets of the WMP with the requested changes even though NJDEP clearly stated that it had not completed its review of the June 6, 2004 submission.

On November 2, 2004, the Township responded to the October 7th NJDEP review letter, submitting the additional and duplicative information requested. The Township also stated its concern about spending taxpayer dollars to resubmit five new sets of the WMP, when NJDEP has not sent the Township all of its comments or moved for public notice and adoption of the WMP. About a week later, the Township learned of more NJDEP employee turnover affecting the adoption of our WMP. Ken Klipstein, former Chief Northern Planning Bureau NJDEP, has been reassigned and Terry Pilawaki will now handle our WMP review.

The Township is now patiently awaiting acknowledgement from NJDEP that our WMP is ready for adoption. 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 regarding your Wastewater Management Plan.