



2005 - Volume II , Issue I

Municipal Messenger

Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

Mayor's Message

By Mayor H. Scott Rosenbush

Welcome to the 2005 *Municipal Messenger* where we will highlight news and activities in Morris Township. I invite your ideas and suggestions for future editions – this newsletter is for you!

Since 9/11, I have heard many people say that they wish that they could help somehow during or after a disaster. There is a program called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that is designed to educate people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their community. This course is for members of the community that want to assist in emergency operations and the local Fire, First Aid, and Police Department. In addition, we have our own Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team (CRT) in Morris Township. Please read more about these programs in this newsletter and volunteer where you can.

We are pleased to have recently improved allocation of parking spaces at the Convent Train Station providing more metered spaces for residents. In order to take advantage of these spaces, you must have a Resident ID on your mirror (available from the Township Clerk's Office). We hope this change will make it easier for you to use this parking lot.

We are proud to invite everyone to visit the new Morris Township website at www.morristwp.com. This site is an easy and convenient way for people to learn more about our town and get important information online. There is information ranging from the recreation calendar to meeting agendas, public safety, voter registration, and much more. If you would like to know more about a specific program, please use the website or call the municipal offices at (973) 326-7400.

Morris Museum Announces Gift of Renowned Murtoth D. Guinness Collection

By Emily Evans

On November 10, 2004, the Morris Museum publicly announced that it was awarded the Murtoth D. Guinness Collection of historical mechanical musical instruments and automata, one of the most significant of its kind to be found in the world. Sixty objects from this extraordinary 700-piece collection are currently on view at the Morris Museum in the exhibit *Musical Machines and Living Dolls*.



Murtoth D. Guinness, a descendant of the Guinness brewing family and an early leader of the Musical Box Society International, spent more than 50 years assembling the collection of rare mechanical musical instruments and automata dating from the late 16th century to the early 20th century. The musical boxes, street organs, multi-instrument devices, orchestrions, and mechanically activated life-like figures reflect exquisite craftsmanship, innovative technology, and dynamic sound.

Automata are mechanical figures designed to mimic human and animal movements and many have musical components. Magicians, singing birds, acrobats, and others showcase the talents of their makers and constitute

one of the largest and finest collections of its kind in the world.

"For more than 90 years, the Morris Museum has been a vibrant educational and cultural center in New Jersey," said Steven H. Miller, executive director of the Morris Museum. "We are honored to share this extraordinary collection with the public. The museum looks forward to being an international destination for this unique subject."

To house the collection, the museum plans to build a new wing with a suite of galleries that will be interactive, engaging, and include educational adventures in sight and sound for the entire family. This wing is scheduled for completion in 2006. Ultimately, the museum envisions permanent, changing, and traveling exhibitions of the Murtoth D. Guinness Collection.



The Morris Museum is located at 6 Normandy Heights Road (at the corner of Columbia Turnpike) in Morris Township, NJ. Live demonstrations of several objects from the Guinness Collection are performed Tuesday - Friday at 3 pm and Saturday - Sunday at 2 pm. For more information, call (973) 971-3700 or go to www.morriismuseum.org.

Morris County Offers Free Disaster Preparedness Training

By Dick Kern, Deputy Coordinator, Morris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Morris County will be offering comprehensive FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to educate people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their community. Should you wish to preview the course material, it is found on the FEMA website (www.fema.gov). The complete nine unit course will be offered on Thursday evenings starting April 21 through June 16, 2005, at the Fire and Police Academy on West Hanover Avenue.

Please go to the Academy website (www.morrisacademy.org) to view more information about the course. You will find it listed under **Fire Division Training**. Registration may be done on line through the Academy website. There is no fee for this course.

The course will also be offered during the Fall of 2005 on Saturdays. Each Saturday will be a full day of two units. Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Morris County OEM at (973) 829-8600.

An Update From The Department of Public Works (DPW)

By Joseph Giordano

Morris Township entered into a new recycling agreement for paper (mixed paper, newsprint, and corrugated cardboard) in February, 2004. Through your recycling efforts, the first eleven months into the program has resulted in a revenue increase of nearly 200%.

During 2004, approximately three miles of Township roads were resurfaced with some needing extensive preparation. An additional three miles of road resurfacing has been proposed for 2005.

The Township is continuing its efforts to update DPW equipment. In the fall of 2004, a 2005 International dump truck with a 5 cubic yard stainless steel body replaced a 1987 model. A new replacement body which heats asphalt for pothole repairs and berms was mounted on the existing chassis which is in very good condition, resulting in substantial savings. A 1991, 21 foot, mild steel salt spreader was replaced with a stainless steel model as well. In 2005, DPW is expecting delivery of a new 30 cubic yard garbage truck.

In 2004, New Jersey adopted new Municipal Stormwater Regulations which local towns must implement. These mandates deal with drainage structure, roadway maintenance, and even public education associated with rainwater from the time it hits the ground to its final destination. These new regulations also cover fall leaf collection procedures and will affect your responsibilities as a homeowner in the placement of leaves at curbside. You will be receiving the new guidelines as outlined by the State later this year.

Our 2004-2005 winter has been relatively mild so far, so we have been

able to deposit monies earmarked for snow fighting from the 2004 operating budget to a Snow Account approved by the State of New Jersey. If this trend continues, we may be able to reduce related line items in future budgets.

Recreation Opportunities For Township Seniors

By Marguerite Adams, Director, Morris Township Recreation & Parks Depart.

Are you 62 years of age or older? If the answer is yes, join a club that offers fun & informational activities and gives the senior residents of Morris Township an opportunity to establish great lasting comradeships. The club meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Honeywell Global Auditorium on Columbia Turnpike at 1:00 pm. Dues are \$5 per year.

There is also a senior education program available. This program offers travel opportunities to exciting places and has been very well received. For example, you can travel back stage at Radio City on March 22nd or go to Snug Harbor, New York on April 12th. Join your friends or make new ones on these Tuesday morning travels!

Come to Morris Mews on the last Wednesday of each month for Bingo. This program runs through the end of April. Maybe you will win a prize, but even if you don't win, you are sure to have a great time trying.

Check the Recreation Brochure or www.morristwp.com for these and other senior recreation opportunities offered by the Township's Recreation & Parks Department. Please call 973-326-7371 to sign up or for additional information.

A Plastics Recycling Primer

By Morris Municipal Utilities Authority

If you have ever wondered about what plastic items to place in your recycling container, here is the answer. In the Township's program – like most others – the only acceptable plastics for recycling are bottles.

To help make it easy to recognize which bottles to recycle, follow these simple guidelines:

- A recyclable bottle has a neck or opening at the top that is narrower than its base.
- Only bottles coded #1 PETE or #2 HDPE are accepted.
- Some examples of bottles that are appropriate to recycle are those used for juice, soda, milk, shampoo, and laundry / dishwasher detergent.

Please do not recycle any plastic items with these codes that are not bottles – such as margarine or yogurt tubs, plastic bags, or clamshell-style containers used for fruit or at the salad bar – and please do not recycle any plastic items without codes or with codes different from the two noted above.

How else can you help? Before putting the bottle into your recycling container, remove the cap and discard it, rinse the bottle out with water, and, if possible, flatten it. The workers at Morris Township's Department of Public Works (DPW) will appreciate your assistance.

Thank you for helping to keep our environment cleaner and safer for us all. If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority at 973-285-8395.

Morris Township Landlord Registration Requirements

By Cathleen Amelio, RMC, Morris Township Municipal Clerk

Morris Township requires that all landlords register with the Township within thirty (30) days of the transfer of ownership or the creation of new apartments. This applies to all rental premises or units used for residential dwelling purposes, except for owner-occupied premises with not more than two rental units.

Owners should file registration statements with the Township Municipal Clerk if the residential property is a one or two family non-owner-occupied rental dwelling. For properties with more than two rental units, the landlord must go to the Bureau of Housing Inspection in the State Department of Community Affairs to file. The Bureau will forward a copy of the landlord's filed statement to the Morris Township Clerk for public record.

This is very important as it affects a landlord's ability to pursue a tenant eviction! No judgment for possession can be entered without registration compliance. Cases may be continued for up to 90 days, and if there is no landlord compliance within that period, any action for possession instituted by a landlord is dismissed. Protect your rights as a landlord – register now if you have not already done so!

For more information, please contact the Township Municipal Clerk at 973-326-7430.

Resident's Checklist For Clean Water

By Morris Township Environmental Commission

- Convert part of your lawn into garden or more groundcover.
- Water lawn only when necessary.
- Use lawn fertilizer sparingly.
- Leave grass clippings after mowing.
- Plant trees and keep mature trees.
- Wash your car at a car wash, not on the driveway.
- Use a 'pooper scooper' for pet waste.
- Direct gutter downspouts away from pavement or to a rain barrel.
- Check your car for fluid leaks.
- If on septic, pump the tank regularly.
- Do not litter!

Homeowner Tax Information

By Audrey J. Adams, Morris Township Tax Collector

The Morris Township Tax Collector is responsible for collecting property taxes for all properties located in the Township and sewer fees for those properties connected to our sanitary sewer system.

Morris Township property tax bills are mailed once per year in July and contain coupons for four quarterly payments. Property taxes are due February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st each year.

When selling your property, it is important to remember to hand over this bill to the new property owner. If you have recently purchased your home, and did not receive a copy of the tax bill from the previous owner, please contact our office and the tax information will be mailed to you.

Homeowners who have their taxes paid by their mortgage company will receive a bill stating, "This is not a bill, for advice only." This is for your records. If you receive an 'advice only' copy, but do not have a mortgage company escrow account, you may use it to pay your tax bill.

Morris Township sewer bills are mailed once per year in October and contain coupons for four quarterly payments. Sewer fees are due January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st each year. As with the tax bill, the sewer bill should be handed over to the new owner when a property is sold. If you did not receive a copy of the sewer bill, you may contact our office and it will be mailed to you.

Payments may be made by mail or in person at our office between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. If paid by mail and a receipt is required, you may enclose the entire bill along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope in order to get back a bill stamped paid. We also provide a mail slot for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact us at 973-326-7420 with any questions or concerns you may have.

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

Township Tax Assessor's Office Ready To Assist Public

By M. Sue Aceto, Morris Township Tax Assessor

Certain public information regarding property in Morris Township is available for review in the Tax Assessor's Office. There is a computer on the front counter for use by the public.

A property can be searched by its block and lot numbers, street address, or owner's name. The most commonly requested items of information can be obtained from the computer record:

1. Block and lot numbers
2. Street address
3. Owner's name(s)
4. Owner's mailing address
5. Lot size
6. Assessed value of land and improvements
7. Most recent sale date and price
8. Year built and square footage of living area

The Township Tax Assessor's Office is happy to help you during regular business hours. It's always a good idea to call us first at 973-326-7380 before you come in.

Township of Morris

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www.morristwp.com

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NEW HOURS FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICES
Please note: Starting February 14, 2005,
Morris Township offices will be open from
8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT:

www.morristwp.com

2005 YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Begins April 6, 2005. Please check your
Municipal Calendar for dates in your area.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MORRIS TOWNSHIP CARNIVAL

May 25 to May 29, 2005
Ginty Field

FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! HELP US HELP YOU!

If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1176 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad
All training is provided.

Volunteer Opportunities Are Available With Crisis Response Teams in Morris County

By Lieutenant John McGuinness, Morris Township Police Department

Studies demonstrate that many victims of domestic violence will return to their abusers unless there is intervention and support provided to them at the time of the crisis. To address this issue, the Jersey Battered Women's Service (JBWS), in conjunction with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, established the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team in April 1997. In Morris County, police officers provide protection to victims of domestic violence by arresting and processing the batterer, while Crisis Response Team (CRT) volunteers help the victim feel less isolated and alone.

These CRTs are operating in all police departments throughout the county, and their assistance has been imperative in strengthening and diversifying victim's support systems. CRT volunteers respond to the police department in order to provide victims with emotional support, education on domestic violence, information on community resources and a safety plan. All victims are also offered follow-up contact by the Jersey Battered Women's Service.

Each Crisis Response Team is composed of trained citizens who serve as volunteers of their local police department. All volunteers go through a rigorous screening process followed by an intensive 40 hours of training. Upon successful completion of the CRT training component, volunteers are on-call to their assigned police departments and available to provide information and assistance for victims immediately following a police response to a domestic violence call. Additionally, individual supervision is provided to volunteers by JBWS within 24 hours of their call-out.

The goals of the Crisis Response Team are to:

- 1) *Decrease the emotional trauma experienced by victims* by providing the victim with an opportunity to express his / her emotional response to the crisis and providing education about the dynamics of domestic violence.
- 2) *Increase a victim's ability to make an educated decision about his / her options* by increasing the victim's awareness of available community resources and legal options, as well as an understanding of the legal process.
- 3) *Increase the victim's access to community resources* by providing the victims with necessary information to access available community resources and providing assistance in contacting those resources.

Please consider joining our efforts to keep our community safe by joining our Crisis Response Team of volunteers. If you would like to learn more about volunteering or would like to become a member of the Morris Township Police Department's CRT, please call the Crisis Response Team Manager at 973-267-7520, extension 216.