



# Municipal Messenger

## Township of Morris

Morris County • New Jersey • USA

2007 - Volume IV , Issue I

### Mayor's Message

By Mayor Robert E. Nace



2006 has been a busy time for Morris Township. Our Township continues to be one of the few full service communities in Morris County; however, unfunded NJ state mandates challenge our ability to maintain one of the best tax rates in the county. This year we expect to see continued efforts to push services previously funded by the state to the municipal and county level. As the 2007 budget process begins we look forward to continuing our record of keeping the municipal portion of our taxes below the rate of inflation as we have for the past two years.

The year 2006 has seen the implementation of a new Swimming Pool Advisory Committee. Their efforts produced significant improvements in our pool operations. During 2007, we expect to complete a makeover of both pool house facilities. The Township has also completed the long awaited expansion of commuter parking at the two parking facilities on Speedwell Avenue and the Convent Train Station. And the Township recently completed the

search for a new Recreation Director to replace Peg Adams who plans to retire effective February 1, 2007. Peg Adams has provided over 34 years of dedicated service to our community and will be missed.

2007 will be a year of plan review and change as we begin the process of reviewing our municipal master plan at the planning board. Concurrently, our new Recreation Director and the Recreation Advisory Board will be busy updating their portion of the Master Plan and Open Space Plan to address the recreational needs of the Township over the long term.

Finally the Township will host the kickoff of the National Police Unity Tour on May 9<sup>th</sup> from Ginty Field. Please mark your calendars and join us at this prestigious event. As spring approaches, let us all offer thanks to the men and women in the Armed Forces who are serving our great country. Pray for their safe return and world peace.

### Introducing Morris Township's New Recreation Director

By Committeemen Rick Watson and Joe

Calvanelli, Morris Township's Subcommittee for Recreation

Morris Township is pleased to introduce our new Recreation Director, William D. (Bill) Foelsch, who will be taking the position as of February 1, 2007. Bill has had a long career in the field of recreation, including having been the Superintendent of Recreation in Morristown from 1977 to 1981. In addition, he has been the Park Director/Management Consultant for Chester Township's Parks Advisory Committee and served for the last 25 years as Executive Director of the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association.



In close consultation with the Township Committee's Subcommittee for Recreation and with input from our citizens' Recreation and Pool Advisory Committees, Bill will be focusing on strategic planning, bringing modern technology to the programs registration process, and the development of those open space parcels suitable for new fields, playgrounds, and other recreation uses.

Bill's hands-on experience with a variety of recreation programs throughout the state will prove invaluable as he also works to complete the physical improvements planned for the swimming pools, formally open the new Jean Street soccer field, and perform a comprehensive recreation needs assessment – balancing our community's interest in neighborhood parks, while assisting our organized recreation groups in meeting their recreational space needs as equitably as possible.

"One of our first priorities will be to completely inventory local recreational services, both public and private, now available to Township residents. We want to see where we may have service voids and where we can bolster program offerings, such as family programs, specialized skill instruction, outdoor education, or arts and cultural programming," said Bill Foelsch.

The Township Committee looks forward to working with Bill and to the new ideas and approaches that he'll bring to our efforts to modernize and improve our recreation program. Mr. Foelsch said, "I am excited to be returning to the Morris area and I hope that Morris Township's residents will continue to see the Recreation Department as an important investment in enhancing the quality of life in the community. My door will be open for new ideas and suggestions on how to improve our services."

Bill replaces Marguerite "Peggy" Adams, who has been Morris Township's Recreation Director since 1990 and served our community for nearly three and a half decades. Peggy is retiring on February 1, 2007. The Township Committee welcomes Bill to his new position and bids a fond farewell to Peggy.

## Honoring Those Who Died In The Line Of Duty

By Captain Timothy Quinn, Morris Township Police

Morris Township is proud and honored to host the 2007 Police Unity Tour sendoff on the morning of May 9, 2007. When asked by the Morris Township Police participants and the Police Unity Tour executive board to host this year's sendoff event, the Township Committee enthusiastically supported the request and passed a resolution last July formalizing the municipality's role in this worthy effort.

The motto of the Police Unity Tour is "We ride for those who died". The mission of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of the police officers killed in the line of duty and the secondary purpose is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial & Museum.

A ceremony honoring all police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice will begin at 9:00 am. The riders will leave from the Ginty Recreational Complex adjacent to Police Headquarters at 10:00 am. Approximately 400 bicycle riders, all police officers, from across the state and country will begin their 300 mile journey to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C.

The tour takes four days to complete and at conclusion the officers participate in the annual candlelight vigil ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on the evening of May 13<sup>th</sup>. At this time the names of the officers killed in the line of duty during the past year are added to the walls of the Memorial. A sad statistic shows that about 150-175 police officers are killed each year in the line of duty.

The Police Unity Tour was begun by Florham Park Police Officer Pat Montuore in 1997. The first tour consisted of 18 bicycle riders and raised \$18,000 for the Memorial. By 2006, more than 700 bicycle riders made the trek to Washington D.C. from starting points in New Jersey and Virginia and a check was presented to the Memorial in the amount of \$1,000,000. To date, the Police Unity Tour has raised over \$3.2 million for the Memorial. The Police Unity

Tour has committed to raise \$5,000,000 over the next five years for the Memorial's Museum building fund. The money will be used to erect a museum across the street from the Memorial in Washington D.C.

Members of the Morris Township Police Department have participated in the Police Unity Tour since 2000. Four to nine officers have participated on an annual basis. Over the years, eleven Morris Township Police Officers have taken part in the Tour. Veteran riders include Mark McGuinness, John Hall, Tim Quinn, Mark DiCarlo, Steve Summerer, Rich Kistner, Brian Markt, Dennis Reilly, Mark Osterhoudt, Rich Ferrone and Gary Webb. Also participating in the 2007 tour are Officers Chris Tongring and David Kosakowski.

This year Morris Township riders will ride in memory of Morris Township Police Sergeant Richard Kistner who participated in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 tours. In January 2006, he was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma and passed away on March 29, 2006. As a tribute to Sergeant Kistner, his bicycle has been placed on top of the lead vehicle of the 2006 Police Unity Tour to safely lead us from New Jersey to Washington, DC.

Each participant of the Police Unity Tour spends countless hours training in preparation of the ride. Each participant is also required to raise \$1,700.00 as a donation to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum fund and to cover minimal expenses for the ride. The Police Unity Tour is a non-profit organization under section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue code, therefore, donations made to the Police Unity Tour are fully tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Police Unity Tour may do so by sending a check made out to the Police Unity Tour c/o Morris Township Police Department, 49 Woodland Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960. If you would like additional information on the 2007 Police Unity Tour please call 973-326-7482 or visit [www.policeunitytour.com](http://www.policeunitytour.com).



Some of the participants in the 2006 Police Unity Tour.

Pictured standing from left: Jim Waldron, Police Unity Tour (PUT) President; Harry Phillips PUT Executive Director; and Morris Township Police Department (MTPD) participants Mark DiCarlo, Dennis Reilly, Steve Summerer, Mark Osterhoudt, and Tim Quinn.

Pictured kneeling from left: MTPD participants Rich Ferrone and Mark McGuinness; Beth Sparks PUT Vice-President; MTPD participant John Hall; and Pat Montuore, founder of the Police Unity Tour.

Mounted on the 2007 Tour's lead vehicle will be the bicycle of Morris Township Police Sergeant Richard Kistner who participated in three previous PUT events, but passed away on March 29, 2006. Morris Township Police Unity Tour participants will ride in his memory.

**Do You Know Where This Historical Monument Is Located?** By Sarah Harris, Commission Member, Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission

It was on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1777 following his brilliant and decisive victories at Trenton and Princeton that General Washington with his Patriot Army marched through Morris County and went into winter quarters. His march took him past the location of this monument en route to various camps in and around the Morristown area.



The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

“BY THIS ROUTE, WASHINGTON WITH HIS ARMY RETIRED TO MORRISTOWN AFTER HIS VICTORY AT PRINCETON, JANUARY 1777 ---- ERECTED BY THE D.A.R.”

Using the information above, e-mail your answer to [sarahfh57@aol.com](mailto:sarahfh57@aol.com). Look in the next issue of the Municipal Messenger for the correct answer.

**Please Mark Your Calendar With These Important Dates**

**March 27, 2007** – Last day to register to vote in school elections

**April 4, 2007** – Morris Township’s Clean Community Day

**April 17, 2007** – School Board Election, polls open from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**May 9, 2007** – Police Unity Tour Sendoff, Ginty Field, breakfast for riders, guests, and families from 6:00 am to 9:00 am; ceremony begins at 9:00 am; riders sendoff at 10:00 am

**May 24 to May 27, 2007** – Morris Township Day Carnival, Ginty Field, Hours from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Thursday & Friday; noon to 10:00 pm on Saturday & Sunday.

**June 5, 2007** – Primary Election, polls open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

**Outreach Program Brings Township Government To You**  
By the Morris Township Committee

Your local governing body, the Morris Township Committee, meets at the Township Municipal Building on Woodland Avenue once or twice a month throughout the year to deal with business matters. However, unless a really controversial matter is up for discussion, very few citizens ever attend these meetings.

We could interpret the public’s silence as assent to what’s being done in their behalf, but it may be unwise to do so. In an effort to gain more interaction with our Township residents in an informal setting, we’re planning to schedule a series of local public forums to give you a chance to let us know what is on your mind.

These informal sessions will be held across the Township in various neighborhoods, usually at a firehouse or other public venue such as the train station. A minimum of two members of the Township Committee, taking turns, will appear for a few hours on a Saturday morning to hear your concerns and questions and to solicit your suggestions and ideas.

Please watch the media and our website [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com) for the date of a forum in your neighborhood.

**Your Township Committee**

- Robert E. Nace, Mayor
  - Richard A. Watson, Deputy Mayor
  - Joseph V. Calvanelli
  - Kathleen G. Hyland
  - 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  
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- Questions and/or comments may be sent to [kcarman@morristwp.com](mailto:kcarman@morristwp.com)

**Please Note:**

- Morris Township Municipal Building will be closed on:
- February 19 (President’s Day)
  - April 6 (Good Friday)
  - May 28 (Memorial Day)

**Check Your Home For Lead Paint** By Kevin P. Breen, MPH, Morris Township Health Department

If your home was built before 1978, it may contain some lead paint regardless of the type of neighborhood you live in. A child can get lead poisoning by ingesting paint chips or breathing in lead dust. Lead dust is most often created during renovation or remodeling of homes with lead paint, but can also be created by friction and impact of lead painted surfaces such as windows, doors and stair risers. Lead poisoning affects a child’s brain and nervous system; even small amounts of lead can cause lasting harm. The health effects of lead in children are retarded growth, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Some of the symptoms of low level lead poisoning are poor appetite, fatigue, headaches, listlessness, stomach aches, vomiting, irritability and difficulty in concentration. At higher levels clumsiness, weakness, coma, convulsions and death may occur. To have your home evaluated for lead hazards, please contact the NJ Department of Health for a list of state licensed and certified lead inspectors at (609) 631-6749 and go to <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/childhth.htm> for other information. To have your child tested for elevated blood lead levels, please contact your pediatrician or the Morris Township Health Department at (973) 326-7392.

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

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[www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com)

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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

## **Be Involved In Morris Township’s Municipal Budget Process**

By Rick Watson, Deputy Mayor and Finance Subcommittee Chairman

The Morris Township municipal budget is developed deliberately over a period of several months following deadlines and procedures largely governed by New Jersey law. Starting in the last months of each year, all the department heads develop their proposed budgets for the coming calendar year in consultation with the Township Committee members responsible for overseeing each department. Then the Township’s Finance subcommittee assembles all the departmental budget submissions and acts to ensure reasonable levels of proposed spending, making cuts where appropriate to help mitigate the tax impact to our residents.

Once this initial review is completed, the budget is introduced by the Township Committee and a public hearing is scheduled, usually in the early spring. After formal introduction, the proposed budget is posted on the Township’s website – [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com) – along with supporting information. It should be noted that it has long been the policy in the Township to publish more information with the budget than is required by law.

Public review and comment on the Morris Township municipal budget is encouraged. This is where you, as a resident of Morris Township, can play an active part in the budget process. We want to hear your questions, suggestions, and ideas. At this point, the proposed budget is not finalized and can be modified at the public hearing if input is provided that makes sense to the Township Committee.

We think hearing the budget presentation is very informative to our citizens, even if you don’t have specific input to provide. People are sometimes surprised to learn that the municipal portion of your property tax bill, for which you get police and fire protection, recreation and health services, garbage pickup, road plowing, the public library, and various other services, represents only about 25% of the total tax bill.

All input from our residents is welcome. Even if we are not able to include a given idea in the current budget, it may be carried over for inclusion in the next year’s budget. Just one caveat, please – it’s not enough to just say you don’t like paying taxes; we know that and we don’t like them either. However, we who prepare the municipal budget need to deal with specifics, such as services you would be willing to give up in return for budget reduction. We are on your side in this respect and really would welcome your thoughts.

Morris Township’s Finance Committee has been pleased to be able to keep our municipal budget increases at less than the rate of inflation for several years in a row and we’re proud to keep our local rate at less than half the rate in neighboring Morristown. However, we would like you to make a resolution to get involved, be part of the municipal budget process this year, and join us in looking for ways to improve.