

MORRIS TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS
William Foelsch, Parks and Recreation Director

The New Year initiates the start up of the Township's busy Winter Program schedule. The Parks & Recreation Department still has openings in many of our Winter 2012 programs:

CHESS FOR CHILDREN

An introduction to chess: Chess raises self-esteem, teaches determination, self motivation & sportsmanship, & occupies time in a positive manner. The class is scheduled for Wednesday evenings starting January 4th to February 8th from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Children in grades 1 through 8 are eligible to sign up. Registration is limited to 14 per class. Fee: \$25.00 per participant.

GYMNASTICS

Classes are designed to give the student a solid foundation in gymnastics. All children benefit from the emphasis on coordination in this fitness oriented activity. Students will gain experience on the balance beam, bars, vault, mini-trampoline, and floor mats. Gymnastics will begin at the Woodland School on Wednesday, **January 11th** and run through Wednesday, February 15th. Ages 5 - 7 will go from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, ages 8 - 12 will go from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. The registration fee is \$45.00 per child.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's Open Gym Basketball will be held on Monday nights at the **Sussex Avenue School Gym** from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This program runs until April 16th. Registration fee is \$70.00 per person for the winter-spring season.

PEE WEE BOYS' & GIRLS' BASKETBALL

This very popular instructional program for the younger sports enthusiasts ages 4-7 is held at the Sussex Avenue School. Pee Wee Basketball will meet starting **Saturday, January 7th** and will run through March 10th from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM for 7 yr. olds, 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM for 4 yr. olds, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM for 5 yr. olds, & 12:00 Noon to 12:45 PM for 6 yr. olds. Registration fee per child is \$38.00.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (Ages 8-12 years)

This instructional clinic program is for girls who want to learn to play basketball for fitness and fun. This is a great opportunity for girls to develop the basic individual & game play skills. This program will be held on Friday nights at Sussex Avenue School **starting January 6th** & run for **eight** Fridays from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Registration fee is \$30.00 per student.

MEN'S INDOOR SOCCER

Men's open soccer will be held at the Hillcrest School Gym on **Tuesday** nights from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (except when the public schools are closed). Registration fee is \$70.00 per person for the winter-spring season.

BOYS' & GIRLS' INDOOR SOCCER

The participants in the instructional soccer program will improve their basic skills & compete in informal competition. The program is open to both boys & girls in grades 3 - 5. The program will be held on **Wednesdays at Normandy Park School** starting **January 11th** for 8 weeks from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Registration fee is \$35.00 per child.

JUMP ROPE

Our "Double-Dutch League" continues to draw a large number of participants. This jump rope program will be held on Friday evenings during the dull winter months at the Blake Center at the Greater Morristown Area YMCA on Horsehill Road in Cedar Knolls.

Dates: **January 13th** through April 6th. Time: 8:00 PM –to 9:00 PM for ages 9 - 14.

Registration fee is \$32.00 per child.

ADULT INDOOR GOLF

A course for the beginner or "brush-up" for the novice! Indoor Golf will be taught by Mr. Ron Perry, a former FDU golf coach. The 5-week course will explore a history of golf with timeless videos of golf masters. Emphasis is placed on the following fundamentals: stance and pivot, back swing, down swing, use of hands, wrist and arms, and the etiquette of golf. This program will be held from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM starting **Monday, March 19th** and run for

five weeks ending on April 16th. The class will be held at the Morris Mews Activity Center at Hanover Avenue and Ketch Road. Registration fee is \$35.00 per participant.

Morris Township residents may register for all of our sponsored programs on-line at <https://register.communitypass.net/morristownship>, or by completing the registration form in our Fall/Winter Activities Brochure found on the Morris Township website – www.morristwp.com.

Registration for two of the Township's most popular youth programs is coming up in the next few weeks. In-Person Registration for the Morris Township **Girls Softball Program** for area girls in Grades 2 through 5 will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2012 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Municipal Building. In-Person Registration for our **Youth T-Ball Program** for girls and boys will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2012 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Municipal Building. T-Ball is restricted to Morris Township Residents only between the ages of 5 and 7. T-Ball Teams are formed by neighborhood locations.

January and February is also Field Use Permit time for the Department. Many of the Township's athletic fields are used by local youth, non-profit and corporate groups for sports leagues. Any group of 15 or more people using a Township park or recreation facility must apply for a permit. Groups or teams with permits have priority use of Township facilities. Facility Use Permit applications and procedures are available from the **Parks and Recreation** pages of the Morris Township website.

Did you know that the Parks & Recreation Department works closely with the Morris Township Senior Citizens Club to provide activities for all of our experienced residents ages 60 and above? The Department sponsors a full range of social and physical activity programs to promote a healthy and engaged lifestyles, including yoga, senior Funercise, card parties, bocce, and arts instruction. The Club sponsors luncheons and parties, special speakers and programs, and an active day-trip schedule. Club membership is just \$8.00 per year, so why not "resolve" to join the Club in 2012.

The Department is pleased to acknowledge a number of volunteer projects which have greatly benefited the park system in Morris Township. We are thrilled to announce the completion of two Eagle Scout Award candidate projects at the Township's Jockey Hollow Top Preserve. Morris Township Boy Scouts **Eric Minor** and **Ryan Gallagher** have lead volunteer work projects on two different segments of the Jockey Hollow Top Preserve Trail System. Eric's project was to chart, clear, and blaze a ¾ mile trail segment to a new trailhead on Mt. Kemble Avenue across from Frederick Place. The project included the construction of three hillside benches along this relatively steep trail segment, and building wood boardwalk sections over some seasonally wet drainages. Ryan's project placed accessible surfacing material on the upper loop trail to make this trail available for individuals with mobility disabilities. The project team also constructed three picnic tables and a campfire ring for a youth group area within the loop trail. The Jockey Hollow Top Preserve Loop Trail access trailhead is located at the end of Rolling Hills Drive.

Another Eagle Scout candidate, **Kenn Garner** of Mendham, NJ, has been working with his troop and volunteers to build a new Sand Volleyball Court at the Streeter Swim Pool. The new volleyball court will be available this spring as the Parks and Recreation Department works to spruce-up this underused shady grove for both pool members and Township residents.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the **Youth Group** and members of the **Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints** on James Street for their community service project at Donald A. Delpho Field on Harter Road. Over two weekends more than 50 volunteers came out to help us re-paint the perimeter fencing at the field, saving the Township hundreds of dollars in labor and materials expense. Our special thanks also go out to Riccardi Brothers Paints in Morristown, who donated the paint for the project.

If you have an interest in Community Service, the Department of Parks and Recreation has a variety of projects, both big and small, where help is needed. From trail construction to habitat restoration, we may have an opportunity that fits your interest or the interest of your community group. Want to talk over a potential project? – please call us at 973-326-7371.

Stay Active! – Stay Fit!