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December, 2011: Morris Township News Update

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:

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Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you the latest in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality.

If you missed any of my past newsletters, you can click [HERE](#) to review prior issues.

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/newsletters.html>

Please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider. As always, I welcome your comments.

Township Committee Meeting on Nov. 30

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday November 30th. The agenda can be found here: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_11-11-30.pdf

There was very little on the agenda at this meeting, which is usually the case towards the end of any calendar year. This is because most legislation for the year has already been wrapped up. New legislation cannot be introduced in one calendar year and approved in another calendar year, because the voting composition of the Township Committee can change.



There was one ordinance (added at the last minute) for introduction and no ordinances up for final adoption. The ordinance introduced was:

37-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 57 and 95 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL FARMS AND FARMING ACTIVITY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT. (To be referred to the Planning Board for review and comment.) – Scheduled for public hearing and final consideration – 12/14/2011

During the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting, three residents came up to the microphone to discuss various issues:

- The first resident spoke about speeding along Western Avenue and asked if the Township could reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour.
- The second resident asked if the Township had received any updates from JCP&L about

their internal investigations relating to the prolonged power failures during the two recent storms. He was told that the Township would be meeting with JCP&L in early December.

- The third resident noted a newspaper article stating that the corporate offices for Realogy Corp. would be moving from Parsippany to a new building at 175 Park Avenue, bringing approximately 950 employees to the already congested corridor of Park Avenue. The resident noted that BASF Corp. is also moving into offices along Park Avenue, and he wanted to make sure that these additional traffic impacts would be considered by the Planning Board as they examine the development plans for the Honeywell property in Morris Township.

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday December 14th at 8:00pm at our municipal building.

Planning Board to Hear Honeywell "Mixed-Use" Proposal

At their upcoming meeting this Monday, the Planning Board had planned to discuss an amendment to the township's Master Plan that would create zoning to allow Honeywell International to build a mixed-use development (including office and residential buildings) on its 147-acre property at Columbia Turnpike and Park Avenue in the northeast quadrant of the township. However, this has been postponed to the January meeting date. Here is the latest from the Morris Newsbee:

http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/update-morris-twp-master-plan-revision-discussion-put-off-until/article_7fa92908-1acb-11e1-8b97-001cc4c002e0.html

Recently the Newsbee ran a story on the status of the proposed development:

http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/honeywell-mixed-use-receives-its-first-look-in-morris-twp/article_12c8ea76-1490-11e1-999f-001cc4c03286.html

For those of you still interested in attending this Monday's Planning Board meeting (with Honeywell off the agenda), the agenda can be found here:

http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_11-11-30.pdf

The meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Municipal building

Morris County to Fund 12 Open Space Projects

The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Nov. 9 approved spending \$11,626,750 from the county's Preservation Trust Fund to help preserve 1,286.5 acres of open space in 11 towns. The freeholders approved funding 12 projects based upon the recommendations of the county's Open Space Trust Fund Committee. See the entire press release here:

<http://morriscountypr.blogspot.com/2011/11/freeholders-fund-12-open-space-projects.html>

The list of preserved properties can be found here:

<http://www.morrispreservation.org/OSSummaryofApprovedProjects2011.pdf>

A portion of the tax of 1 ½ cents per \$100 of assessed property value was used to fund the 2011 program. Morris County voters approved the program in November 1992. Since the Preservation Trust Fund's inception, 543 projects have been completed in 38 of the county's 39 towns, and more than 20,000 acres of land in the county have been permanently preserved.

Any of the 39 municipalities in the county and qualified charitable conservancies are eligible to



apply for project funding. Unfortunately, Morris Township has not received any open space funding from the county program in several years.

Other Items of Interest...

- **Information on post-storm brush collection and Fall leaf collection:**
<http://www.morristwp.com/111122brush.pdf>
- **Morris Twp Permit Fees Waived:** The Morris Township Committee voted to wave municipal permit fees for electrical code work done to replace components or repair damage from the Oct. 29 and 30 storm. No local fees will be charged for this work through Dec. 31. State fees cannot be waived.
- Check out the many upcoming events in the area to the Morris County Tourism Bureau website calendar: http://www.morristourism.org/morris_county_calendar_of_events.php
- **Gingerbread Wonderland returns to Frelinghuysen Arboretum:** From Dec. 3-11 enjoy this charming exhibit of over 200 edible creations and stop by the Holiday Craft Show to find hand-made holiday gifts from local crafters. Groups of 8 or more must make a reservation by calling 973-326-7601.
- **Library Collecting Books for Kids for the Holidays:** The Morris County Library is collecting new children's books that will be distributed to needy youngsters this holiday season. It is part of the New Jersey State Library Association's "Books for Kids" drive. New books for infants through teens may be dropped off at the library through Dec. 2. The reading material will then be distributed to children and teens of area families who have limited access to books. The Morris County Library is located at 30 East Hanover Avenue in Whippany. More information about the library's "Books for Kids" drive may be obtained by calling the library at 973-285-6980.
- **Holiday Shopping Tip: BYOB (bag)**
<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20111130/NJOPINION03/311300007/This-season-BYOB-helping-environment>
- **Car Burglary Prevention Tips:** See the bottom of this article for tips from the Morris County Prosecutor's office: <http://morris.patch.com/articles/car-burglaries-on-rise-in-morris-county>
- **Morris Township is helping the Interfaith Food Pantry** with their year-end food drive. Non-perishable food is being collected through December 22 at our municipal building. So if you are coming to town hall for any reason please bring a can of food with you. For more information: <http://www.morristwp.com/111122fooddrive.pdf>
- **Mennen arena has started a new program** on Friday nights called "Ice Skate with DJ Earl". Skate with your friends and listen to today's best and rockin' music! Fun for all ages! Friday from 8 - 10 p.m. Cost: \$7. General Admission, Skate Rental \$3.50. For more information contact: 973-326-7651
- For those of you following the plight of our devastated bat population, here is an article about the bat colonies in Bucks County PA:



http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/palisades/bats-will-be-gone-for-generations/article_f0c4bde5-f99f-5cbf-bd0d-4eb71acfc0f3.html

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday December 14th at 8:00pm at our municipal building.

Please try to attend one of our Township meetings to see how your local government operates. Your presence improves the quality of the proceedings, and your "in-person" questions require the Township Committee to be responsive to our citizens.

**The Next
Meeting:
Wed.
Dec. 14th**

Contact Jeff...

I will continue to communicate with the public on a periodic basis. However, if you ever have a question or an issue you would like to discuss, feel free to contact me by e-mail. I will continue to respond to e-mails sent to Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com

Please feel free to forward this e-mail on to others. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to future issues, please have them contact me at Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com

Your neighbor,
Jeff

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