



Newsletter #19 ~ February, 2009

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## February 2009 Newsletter

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you this latest update in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings and other helpful information about our municipality. If you did not see the prior newsletters, you can view them at [www.JeffGrayzel.com](http://www.JeffGrayzel.com). Click on the "newsletter" link.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any (and all) of your friends & neighbors. There are many people who still do not get the newsletter and who surely would be interested in what goes on in our Township. They can subscribe to the newsletter by sending an e-mail to [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com). You can let them know that I only send one e-mail per month and do not use their address for any other purposes.

This edition covers the month of January including the two Township Committee meeting of 2/4/09 and 2/18/09, and also provides updates on some community issues. Make sure you catch all of the upcoming events in our community. See the listing under "Other items of interest" near the end of this newsletter.

**Click links below for newsletter topics:**

**February 4  
Township Committee Meeting**

**Other Commentary from  
Township Committee Members**

**February 18  
Township Committee Meeting**

**Building Applications  
Around Town**

**Public Commentary**

**Update on Morristown's Proposal  
to Place their DPW Facility  
in Morris Township**

**Jeff's Commentary**

**Other items of interest**

**Upcoming Committee Meeting  
on March 4th & March 18th**

### **February 4 Township Committee Meeting...**

You can view a copy of the agenda via a link to our Township website:

**[http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-04-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-04-09.pdf)**

**Ordinances for Final Consideration**

Our meetings usually open up with "Ordinances – Public Hearing, Final Consideration, and Adoption". This pertains to ordinances introduced at a prior Township Committee meeting. However, there were no ordinances previously introduced, so we had none at this meeting for a final vote.

**Ordinances for Introduction**

There was only one ordinance for introduction at this meeting.

**Ordinance, #1-09** amends the structure of our Recreation Advisory Committee by getting rid of a complicated appointment formula (of a combination of 2- and 3-year terms) and replacing it with simple 2-year terms that are divided into two equal groups that are appointed in alternating years,

A copy of this ordinance may be obtained from our Township Clerk by calling 973-326-7430, or it can be viewed online at <http://morristwp.com/ordinances09.asp>

This concludes "Ordinances for Introduction". The above ordinance will be publicly debated at the March 4 meeting. At that time, a formal public hearing will be held and the public will be able to ask questions, make comments or give testimony.

**Resolutions**

Just two resolutions were then up for a vote. The title of each of these resolutions can be viewed on the agenda: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-04-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-04-09.pdf)

These were without controversy or need for explanation, so no discussion took place.

Copies of all resolutions passed may be obtained from our Township Clerk.

**February 18 Township Committee Meeting...**

You can view a copy of the agenda via a link to our Township website:

[http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-18-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-18-09.pdf)

The meeting opened up with the Cub Scouts leading the Pledge Of Allegiance. The Mayor then read a Proclamation in honor of their 99th anniversary of Scouting. Subsequently, each of the Scouts that participated read a fact about the Scout Council of which they are a part.

**Ordinances for Final Consideration...**

Our meetings usually start with "Ordinances – Public Hearing, Final Consideration, and Adoption". This pertains to ordinances introduced at a prior Township Committee meeting. However, since no new legislation was proposed at the prior meeting, there were no ordinances up for final consideration.

**Ordinances for Introduction...**

At the February 18 meeting there were three ordinances for introduction.

**The first ordinance, #2-09**, amended the fire code to include fees for the required annual inspection of a commercial facility. Previously no fees were charged, but since virtually every municipality charges for these inspections, we will as well. The fees will help pay the salary of our Fire Inspector.

**The second ordinance, #3-09**, added several stop signs around the Burnham Park neighborhood. (Editor's note: the municipality is required to pass an ordinance to add stop signs.)

**The third ordinance, #4-09**, updates our volunteer firefighter "Volunteer Incentive Program". This program provides rewards to the volunteers that participate in high percentages of our fire drills and fire calls. For several years, this incentive has helped us maintain the necessary level of volunteerism.

A copy of these ordinances may be obtained from our Township Clerk by calling 973-326-7430, or

they can be viewed online at <http://morristwp.com/ordinances09.asp>

### **Resolutions...**

Several Resolutions were then passed. The title of each of these resolutions can be viewed on the agenda: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-18-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-18-09.pdf)

These were routine and without controversy. Copies of all resolutions passed may be obtained from our Township Clerk.

### **Appointment...**

Following the vote on the resolutions the Mayor then made a Mayoral appointment of Penelope Wise to the Environmental Committee. No vote was taken on this appointment since all appointments are completely the Mayor's prerogative.

### **Public Commentary...**

Every Township meeting has a "public commentary" portion during which any member of the public can make a statement concerning anything related to Township matters, or ask the Township Committee anything they wish.

The following comments were made at the February 4th and 18th meetings:

- The first resident spoke about traffic conditions on Mendham Road. She handed out a map showing the stretch of Mendham Road (also known as county route 510) located in Morris Township that stretches from Kahdena Road to Lewis Morris Park. She outlined various problems on Mendham Road including the high volume of cars, excessive speeding, aggressive driving, tailgating, obnoxious hand gestures, and the large amounts of garbage found along the roadway. She said the speeding problem was prevalent on many roads in the area.
- Three additional citizens then got up with remarks related to speeding on several streets that intersect with Mendham Road:
  - The first citizen complained of speeding on Whitehead Road and asked that the speed limit be reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph.
  - The second citizen also complained about speeding on Mendham Road, Whitehead Road and Washington Valley Road. He asked for greater enforcement of the speed limit. He also asked that the Township speak with Delbarton School to inform both students and parents about the seriousness of the speeding problem in the area. He noted the serious accident on Whitehead Road several months ago when six high school girls travelling in a single car were injured. He also stated that he picks up garbage regularly from alongside the roads in the area, and thanked our DPW employees for collecting the bags of trash he puts out after his clean-ups.
  - The third citizen complained about the speeding on Picatinny Road. She stated that the 45 mph limit on this narrow and windy road was inappropriate, and suggested it be reduced to 25 or 30 mph. She noted that some cars go "airborne" when they go over the top of the hill on Picatinny, and that there was too much trash along the roadways.
- The next resident stated that she was a third-generation property owner in Morris Township. She was very concerned about Morristown DPW proposal and the affects it will have on the neighborhood. She asked for the police to conduct a traffic study of the area.
- The next resident thanked the Township Committee for their resolution relating to the B-11 zone along Martin Luther King Avenue. She thanked Mr. Rosenbush and Mr. Grayzel for attending the Morristown Council meeting. She then presented the Township Committee with a neighborhood petition opposing the proposal for a Morristown DPW facility on Martin Luther King Avenue.
- The next resident who spoke made three comments:



1. Thank you on behalf of the Burnham Park Association for the community meeting held with the engineer and police chief. We are appreciative of the proposed changes and the new stop signs.
  2. Asked about the status of the open space tax and if it was in jeopardy of being eliminated. The Mayor responded that he had contemplated suspending the tax in 2009 but he was not permanently eliminating it. No decision has been made yet on what will be done.
  3. Requested that the Township look at preserving stream corridors, in addition to just land and trails, with their open space funds.
- The next resident who spoke asked several questions:
    1. Asked about the status of posting the Information Technology Consultants job. He was told it would be posted to the Township website shortly and would be published in the newspaper.
    2. Asked about the status of the Inamere Road bridge project. He was told that this is being managed by the County Engineering Departments and that it appears to be on schedule.
    3. Thanked Mr. Rosenbush and Mr. Grayzel for attending the Morristown Council meeting on behalf of the citizens of the Township.
    4. Inquired about new town-homes on Old Turnpike Road at corner of Punchbowl Road. He noted that two structures were built but that two concrete foundations were lying dormant since the summer. He asked how long they could lay empty. He was told that building permits can last up to 3 years.
    5. Asked about the traffic study relating to the Jets new facility on Park Avenue near Punchbowl road. He was told that the County is managing the project and we did not have any of the results yet.
    6. Noted that ordinances are now being listed on Township website and said that was an improvement that he appreciated.

**I urge more citizens to come to the Township meetings to ask questions and to air their comments.** Doing so at a public forum gives you the opportunity to get an immediate response from the Township Committee, and often times helps the Committee improve regulations related to the issues at hand.

### **Jeff's Commentary...**

The final portion of each meeting allows for each member of the Township Committee to make any general comments they please. Since there were two meetings in the month of February I will combine commentary from both meetings into this single summary. I made the following comments at these two meetings:

- This past weekend the Mennen Sports Arena in Morris Township hosted the Eastern Synchronized Skating sectional championships. Over 2,000 skaters participated and more than 1,000 additional family members came along for the trip. This was a boon for the local merchants and hotels. We hope our visitors enjoyed their stay and the facilities, and we hope they will decide to hold future events here as well.
- Last week the recreation advisory committee, of which I am a member, held its first meeting of the year. We had presentations from each of the baseball little leagues come speak to us and discuss their plans for the upcoming season and opportunities for improvement. I enjoyed the open dialogue with them and hope we can improve the quality of their experience in the future. The recreation committee will be holding similar meeting with the other sports leagues in the future.
- We have received letters of resignation from two member of the Beautification Committee. Jeff Miller has served on this committee for 13 years, many of them as chairman of the committee, and has decided he needs a break. Nancy Moseson has served for almost as long as Jeff. I would like to thank these two volunteers for their dedicated service to Morris Township to make our community a better place for all of us. If you know either of them then I suggest that you also thank them personally, as you should thank any volunteer in our community that gives of

themselves for the good of us all. The Beautification Committee still has an opening and if any members of the public are interested they should please contact me or someone here at the municipal building.

- Earlier this week I received some information from our Fire Chief about smoke detectors that I had not known. All smoke alarms, both hardwired and battery operated, should be replaced every ten years. The National Fire Protection Agency strongly recommends the replacement of home smoke alarms every 10 years because they become less reliable with time, primarily due to aging of their electronic components.
- In my past commentary I have informed the public how our police department plans with other agencies and the school district for an emergency response to a major incident that may require an evacuation or lockdown. In addition to training exercise there are also meetings at which a specific problem is put out to the participants and discussion takes place on what needs to be done. Additional scenarios are presented to test the response of the participating agencies and resolve the problem. It's meant to get everyone on the same page in an emergency and for each of the organizations involved to know the responsibilities and the action that will be taken by other agencies. Several months ago we did a table top for school evacuations. This month's meeting deals with disasters and our response to various types of these incidents.
- I wanted to point out a couple of new features on our municipal website that were implemented by our Township Clerk, Mrs. Amelio, in conjunction with our IT department. The first is a new link on our website that links you to a listing of ordinances that have been introduced and are up for final consideration and public hearing. You can find this link on the left side navigation bar of the homepage. In this way the public can review the exact text of what is being voted on prior to coming to the meeting. The second new feature is the ability to view resolutions online. These are now linked directly to the online agenda that you are currently able to view on our website. Each resolution is clickable so that the complete text can be viewed by selecting an individual resolution listing.
- I am very pleased to have this information available online so it can be accessed easily by the public. This is a big step for Morris Township in making government more open and transparent. Thank you to Cathy and our IT department for this good work.
- Lastly, you may have read in the paper about Morristown's proposal to relocate their department of public works facility to a parcel of land located at 240 Martin Luther King Avenue. I am very much against Morristown locating this facility at this location which sits in a residential neighborhood and fronts a major thoroughfare in the Township. Both Mayor Rosenbush and I spoke at the Morristown Council meeting last week to urge them to find a different location for this facility. We now hope to engage them in discussions about shared DPW services that would help reduce their need for such a large facility and hopefully allow them to pursue a smaller facility within their own boundaries. [NOTE: see more information on this topic in the section below]
- I too have experienced the problems with aggressive driving on Mendham Road. I recently had an incident where someone tailgated me and then passed me over the double yellow line (while speeding) on Mendham Road. I was able to see the vehicle license plate and also noted a description of the car. I then reported this information to the police department, and they subsequently issued a ticket to the driver. Any resident can make this kind of complaint to the police department. So if you encounter an aggressive driver who you feel is endangering others then you should report the incident to the police immediately.

### **Other Commentary from Township Committee members...**

The following comments are combined from those made at both the February 4 and 18 meetings.

**Ron Goldberg** made the following comments:

- The Engineering Committee met to discuss capital project priorities with a special emphasis on having projects ready to submit for Federal stimulus money. Although there are not yet specific guidelines, Mr. Slate is over-preparing to ensure we do not miss opportunities.
- I convened the first 2009 monthly meeting of Parking standing Committee on Feb 19th. We discussed the current operation, some short term issues and began a planning process for the longer term. We will be meeting 3rd Thursday's at 50 Woodland Avenue. I also wish to acknowledge the Parking Enforcement Officer Walter Clark who along with Parking Utility manager Randy Williams is keeping things running smoothly. And it's going to get even better.
- I convened the first 2009 monthly meeting of the Sanitary Sewer standing Committee on Jan 26th and began the annual review of personnel, capital project priorities, operating budget, and long term planning. We will be meeting 4th Thursday's and alternating between the Lake Valley Road plant and the Florence Ave plant.
- In response to Traffic and pedestrian safety concerns voiced by the Burnham Park Association, Lt. Rich Ferrone, and Asst. T.E. Dave Hansen, conducted studies. On the evening of Jan. 22, they presented recommendations to Police Chief Quinn and the Engineering sub-committees. These same recommendations will be presented to the BPA this Friday. I want to express my appreciation to Engineer Hansen and Lt. Ferrone for conducting very thorough and professional process.
- Please report any dangerous pot holes to our DPW. Our men will respond. The phone number is on your Twp calendar and web site.
- DPW asks for your help: Between now and when collection resumes in the Spring, please pull branches and other debris off the streets and rights of way that front of your property.
- If you are or know an Information Technology professional, take note of Notice to bidders OTE: 2009-8 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SUPPORT SERVICES on our home page.
- Thanks to Kevin Breen and the health Dept. for keeping us safe and well informed during the peanut scare.
- The public is aware that Morristown has entered into a contract to purchase the former Verizon site in Morris Township at MLK & Emmett to use as their public works facility. Your Township Committee is working to convince Morristown Officials that this use would be inconsistent with zoning and also harmful to the neighborhood. But we also want Morristown to join us in exploring alternatives. Conflict creates opportunity: We can find a way to turn what had seemed like a sneak attack into a win-win. However, both sides must want to sit together to find alternatives. That's why I'm appealing to Morris Township residents: demand of Morris Twp and Morristown officials that they find a way out of this conflict, a way that leaves the neighborhood better off than it is today, and that ensures Morristown residents end up with the right level of uninterrupted services at an affordable cost. Start writing letters and emails and making phone calls. Put the pressure on every where you can.

Ray Snyder made the following comments:

- Also thanked our DPW for their hard work.
- Mickey Callahan passed away last week. He was a 26-year veteran of the Morris Plains Police Department and a member of the Minute Men volunteer ambulance squad. Our condolences go out to his family.

Dan Caffrey made the following comments:

- Also thanked our DPW for their hard work.
- Concurred with the other commentary made regarding Morristown's DPW proposal. We have now extended an open hand to Morristown to share services. This is an opportunity for both of us.

- Jeff Grayzel and I had a meeting with the President of Morristown American Little League. They will be presenting a proposal to reconfigure the major league field at Ginty Park. This would make the field "regulation" and would enable them to host a tournament. More details should be available shortly.
- Little League starts soon and we will be working with both leagues to upgrade our facilities.
- Attended the annual Office of Emergency Management dinner. The OEM is staffed with volunteers, and we thank them for their good work.

Mayor Scott Rosenbush made the following comments:

- Thank you to all the citizens who came out to talk about quality of life issues in Morris Township.
- Speeding is a problem throughout Morris Township. We need to ensure that our own citizens are not the ones doing the speeding. We will engage the police department to combat the problem, but realize that patrol cars need a safe place to park on the sides of roadways.
- Thank you to our professionals, Messrs. Rossi, Mills, and Slate who prepared tonight's resolution relating to the B-11 zone.
- With regard to the Morristown DPW proposal, it should be noted that we approached Harding in an open and professional manner when we proposed our playing fields. Morristown did not act in the same fashion with its DPW proposal. We are willing to sit down with Morristown at any time to discuss shared services.
- The Harding field project is still active and we have not given up yet.
- We have a new union in Morris Township consisting of the administrative employees mostly posted at town hall. Negotiations with this new union will commence shortly.
- Note the resolution to purchase fire gear. The reason this was done prior to finalization of the budget for the purpose of beating a price increase on March 1. By doing this now we will be saving money.
- Noted the availability of pneumonia shots at the Township Department of Health.

### **Closed Session...**

The Township Committee then recessed into "closed session" which occurs when there are legal or personnel matters that cannot be discussed in public. Minutes of the closed session are released to the public when the matters discussed are resolved.

At both the February meetings the Township Attorney John Mills announced at the Township Committee meeting (prior to recessing into closed session) that the closed session would deal with personnel, land acquisition, real property, and legal matters.

After returning from the February 4 closed session the Township Committee passed a resolution that terminated an employee in our Department of Public Works. The reasons for this are personal and will be kept in this person's personnel file.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions now available online**

I am very pleased to inform the public that for the first time the public can view the full text of ordinances and resolutions online. Now members of the public can read the entire text of an ordinance after it is first introduced and prior to when it is voted upon for final consideration. Ordinances can be found at the following link on our website: <http://morristwp.com/ordinances09.asp>

Resolutions can now be read online based on a "clickable" function now used when we post our agendas on our website. When viewing an agenda the cursor (pointer) changes to a finger icon when you pass it over a resolution. Give it a try by clicking on a resolution from our Feb. 18 agenda: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_02-18-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_02-18-09.pdf)

## **THE FOLLOWING SECTION CONTAINS GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS AROUND MORRIS TOWNSHIP.**

### **Building Applications Around Town...**

This section provides the community with some information about building

projects around town. There are always new projects and continuing projects that come before the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. I will only highlight the larger projects and not get into details on the minor ones, such as a homeowner adding a front porch to their home).



If residents encourage or are opposed to certain types of developments, they need to voice their opinions in-person at the hearings.

The **Board of Adjustment** held a regular meeting on January 26. The agenda for this meeting can be found online at the township website:

[http://morrisTwp.com/agendas/boa\\_01-26-09.pdf](http://morrisTwp.com/agendas/boa_01-26-09.pdf)

There was one major and one minor item on the agenda, the major item being the hearing for the Madison Avenue Gas Mart (Dunkin Donuts) project. This application to turn the 3 service bays at the gas station into a "mini-mart" serving Dunkin' Donuts was denied. Many members of the public had come out to speak against this project for the fear that it would bring increased traffic to the area as well as congestion on Madison Avenue as people turned in and out of the facility.

The **Board of Adjustment** also held a regular meeting on February 23. The agenda for this meeting can be found online at the township website: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/boa\\_02-23-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/boa_02-23-09.pdf)

Two minor applications were heard, the topics of which can be found on the agenda.

The next regular **Board of Adjustment** meeting will take place on March 23. The meeting agenda will be available on the township website several days before the meeting.

The **Planning Board** held a regular meeting on February 2, and this agenda can be found online: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd\\_02-02-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_02-02-09.pdf)

The first application on the agenda, the Delbarton "North Fields" project, was continued to a future date. The applicant requested a special meeting (for which they pay a special fee), which was set for February 26. The second application on the agenda was a continuation of the hearing for the application by Joel Meer to subdivide a property on Shadyside Road will continue. This applicant proposes to subdivide the property into three lots, two of which are proposed for new construction. Applicant also seeks several other variances for insufficient lot depth and setbacks and waiver relief for steep slope disturbance are also being requested. This hearing was continued to the March 16 meeting.

The Planning Board also held a Special Meeting on February 26 to hear an application from Delbarton School. The "applicant proposes to construct a new synthetic turf football and lacrosse field encircled within a 400 meter track on the site of the existing football/baseball field at the north end campus. The new facility will also contain four tennis courts, a clubhouse and other related improvements." The agenda can be found here: [http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd\\_sp\\_02-26-09.pdf](http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_sp_02-26-09.pdf) This hearing will continue at the March 16 meeting of the Planning Board.

The next planning board meetings are scheduled for March 2 and March 16.

All of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings start at 7:30pm at our municipal building and are open to the public. As with all public meetings, I urge our residents to attend so that they can have a say in how our township is managed and how it is developed.

#### **Update on Morristown's proposal to place their DPW facility in Morris Township**

As some of you may have already read about in the newspaper, the Mayor of Morristown has signed a contract for that municipality to purchase a lot on Martin Luther King Avenue (corner Emmet) as a new site for their Department of Public Works facility. Morristown sold to a redeveloper the land on which its existing DPW sits.

As a distraction while he does real estate deals in Morris Township, Morristown's Mayor has been

promoting a merger between Morristown and Morris Township. The Morris Township Committee has told Morristown that we are not interested, and instead has proposed that we begin discussions related to possible shared services for our Department of Public Works and Fire Departments.

More detailed news can be found in all of the local papers including the Morris Newsbee newspaper: [http://www.recordernewspapers.com/morris\\_news\\_bee/](http://www.recordernewspapers.com/morris_news_bee/)

You can read the statement I made after the Morristown Council meeting of February 10 here: [http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/Comments\\_M\\_Town\\_merger\\_022209.pdf](http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/Comments_M_Town_merger_022209.pdf)

You can read the text of the statement I made to the Morristown Council at their February 24th meeting here: [http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/NJCom\\_02509.pdf](http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/NJCom_02509.pdf)

### **Other items of interest...**

- Sign-up for several Spring sports leagues has commenced.
  - GIRLS' SOFTBALL SIGN-UP FOR GRADES 2 – 5:  
<http://morrisTownship.com/pdfs/softball09.pdf>
  - T-BALL (BOYS/GIRLS AGES 5-7) SIGN UP:  
<http://morrisTownship.com/pdfs/tball09.pdf>
- NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE (AGES 7 AND UP) SIGN -UP:  
<http://www.mnll.org/>
- AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE (AGES 7 AND UP) SIGN -UP:  
<http://www.maall.net/>
- **Morris Invites Families To Skate Their Way To A Natural High.** The Morris County Partners in Substance Abuse Prevention is hosting its 2nd Annual Family Ice Skating Event at the Mennen Sports Arena, 161 Hanover Ave. in Morris Township on March 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The group, composed of Municipal Alliances, law enforcement, human services providers, schools and community organizations, is committed to strengthening communities and empowering youth and defines a natural high as an excited or elevated state brought on by a non-drug related life event. Studies lend support to the theory that natural highs achieved without using chemicals have the ability to induce positive emotions and a sense of well-being as effectively as chemical highs. The coalition wants young people to achieve more natural highs, not only with their peers, but with their families as well by engaging together in fun activities. Admission and skate rentals are free. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Due to a limited capacity, pre-registration is required. To register, call 973-285-6864.
- If you wish to stop delivery of the free weekly "Morris Ledger Extra", call the Star Ledger at 1-888-453-3437 and ask to be placed on the "Do Not Deliver List".
- The Beautification Committee still has an opening. If any members of the public are interested, contact me or our Administrator, Fred Rossi, at 973-326-7361.
- The Morris Museum is offering a new program which combines art and conversation and is titled "Senior Fridays" for our senior citizens. Each program will include a highlights tour through a featured exhibition and a discussion. The next program will be held at 1 p.m. on March 20, "The Life and Work of Grace Hartigan." The program is free with museum admission of \$7 for seniors. Registration not required. For more information, call (973) 971-3700 or visit [www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org)
- Have you recently lost your job? The Morris County Career Network, part of the Morris County Professional Services Group, has begun holding twice-a-month networking meetings at St. Peters Church located at 70 Maple Ave in Morristown. They meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 9 – 11am. They can help you refine your interview skills, learn strategies for career change,



generate leads, and more. For more information go to: <http://www.doverpsg.com/>

- **The Morris County Freeholders have scheduled a hearing on the county budget for March 25 at 7:30 p.m.** The Freeholders released the following statement:

"The Morris County Freeholders have introduced a \$298.5 million county budget for 2009 that reflects a reduction of \$2.2 million in the county tax levy." "This budget demonstrates the freeholders remain committed to the pledge we made last year of slowing the rate of increase in the amount raised by taxes," said Gene F. Feyl, freeholder director. Feyl, a member of the freeholder budget sub-committee, said the proposed budget is only 1.4 percent higher than last year's spending plan, which was just 3.3 percent higher than the year before.

The freeholders said most of the increases in the 2009 budget are either state or human service mandates, or are the result of rate increases. They said that includes increases of \$2.5 million in health insurance premiums; \$1.3 million for patients in state institutions; and \$1.2 million in pension costs. Feyl also said new ratables are down from an average growth rate of 10 percent to 4 percent.

However, the freeholders said through attrition, the 2009 budget contains 76 less employees than were on the county payroll in 2008, saving approximately \$3.8 million. According to the freeholders, operational efficiencies at Morris View Healthcare Center last year resulted in actual cost reductions of \$2.2 million. The freeholders said these and other cost efficiencies allow them to maintain critical county government services. Included in the budget is money for an additional 30,000 meals for senior citizens and 6,400 additional transportation rides for the elderly, ill and disabled. Additional funds to address an increase in the caseload of individuals applying for food stamps and direct assistance are also included in the 2009 budget."

- As many of us who have been caregiving for years already know, being a caregiver is quite an overwhelming responsibility that affects our physical, emotional, mental and even financial health. One of the best ways of helping ourselves stay healthy is to attend a Caregiver Support Group. Caregiver Support Groups provide us with a listening ear, a professional facilitator, stories of other caregivers, ideas and resources on each of our specific caregiving situations and a general feeling of being helped and heard.

Caregiver's Coalition of Morris County sponsors 4 caregiver support groups. Facilitator Carolann Roberto is a trained professional with years of experience facilitating caregiver support groups.

There is no need to preregister and there is no fee at all. Just show up. The schedule is :

- Sunrise Assisted Living, Madison on 1st Tuesday of the month 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- Sunrise Assisted Living, Morris Plains on 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- Arden Courts, Whippany on 1st Thursday of the month (dementia specific) 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge on 1st Saturday of the month 12:30 - 2:00 PM

For more information please contact Bill Cramer, Caregiver Volunteer Coordinator, at [bcj1226@optonline.net](mailto:bcj1226@optonline.net)

- The census Bureau will be hiring individuals to assist with Address Canvassing during the Spring of 2009. Interested individuals can make an appointment to apply for these openings, and for other temporary employment opportunities that the Bureau will need to fill from now up through Census Day, April 1, 2010. Pay rates range from \$13-\$20 per hour. If interested please contact the Bureau's toll free employment information number, 1-866-861-2010 or the Census Bureau's website. Visit the Census Bureau on-line at [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)



- Home heating aid available to Morris residents: The State's Home Energy Assistance Program is

now taking applications from eligible Morris County residents who may be having trouble paying their heating bills. The HEA Program helps individuals and families who pay their own heating bills or who have their heating included in their unsubsidized rent. Applications are evaluated by household size, monthly gross income, heating bills and several other criteria. The HEA Program is administered by the New Jersey departments of Community Affairs and Energy through the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs, which for the past eight years has been designated by the state as the county agency to receive the applications for assistance. Applications for the HEA Program are being accepted now to April 30. For more information or to request an application, contact the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs at its 120-122 Speedwell Ave. office in Morristown at (973) 644-5627.

- Morris Township Dog and Cat license applications were due by January 31. (Yes, all pets are required to be registered) If you have not registered your pet yet, then please contact our Health Department for registration information or see the township website:  
[http://morristwp.com/dept\\_health.asp](http://morristwp.com/dept_health.asp)

### **Upcoming Committee Meeting...**

There are two Township Committee meetings scheduled for the month of February which will take place

on Wednesday March 4th and Wednesday March 18th. Please try to attend one of these meetings to see how your local government operates. Your presence improves the quality of the proceedings, and your questions require the Township Committee to be responsive to our citizens.

Other Township meetings and events can be found online on our municipal calendar:

<http://plus.calendars.net/morrisTownship>

Please feel free to forward this e-mail on to others. If you know someone who would like to subscribe, please have them contact me at [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com) .

As always, if you have any questions about any of the above or if you have a comment you would like to share with me, then please send me an e-mail to [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com) .

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. I hope it has helped you be more informed about what is going on around our town.

**JEFF**

Committeeman, Morris Township

[Jeff's Web Site](#) | [Contact Jeff](#)

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**The Next  
Meetings:  
March 4th  
&  
March 18th**