



Newsletter #18 ~ January, 2009

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January 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. 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. 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 meetings of 1/7/09 and 1/21/09, 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:

**January 7
Township Committee Meeting**

**Other Commentary from
Township Committee Members**

**January 21
Township Committee Meeting**

**Building Applications
Around Town**

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**Update on the Mount Kemble
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Other items of interest

Upcoming Committee Meeting

January 7 Township Committee Meeting...

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

http://morrisTownship.com/agendas/Townshipcomm_01-07-09.pdf

The first meeting of the year is known as the annual "Reorganization" meeting. As can be seen from the agenda the two new Committeemen, Ray Snyder and Dan Caffrey, were sworn in. A vote was taken amongst the Committee to elect the acting Mayor for the year. (Of note, in our form of government the Mayor is selected annually from one of the five Committee members and this is voted on at the annual Reorganization meeting). Scott Rosenbush will be our Mayor for 2009. Newly-elected Committeeman Dan Caffrey was elected Deputy Mayor. The new Mayor then gave the annual



Mayoral Address.

Several procedural matters were then voted on. These included:

- Appointments of Township Committee members to sub-committee assignments. See this link for Standing Committee appointments: <http://www.morrisTownship.com/Townshipcommittee.asp>
- Appointments of various outside professionals to various people to various contracted positions (e.g. legal counsel).
- Appointments of citizen volunteers to our board and committees. See this link for a listing of these committees and the members on each: <http://www.morrisTownship.com/boards.asp>

A detailed copy of all of our appointments and resolutions can be obtained by contacting the Township Clerk's office at 973-326-7430.

No new ordinances were proposed at this meeting.

January 21 Township Committee Meeting...

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

http://morrisTownship.com/agendas/Townshipcomm_01-21-09.pdf

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 January 21st meeting there were no new ordinances for introduction.

Resolutions...

Several Resolutions were then passed. The title of each of these resolutions can be viewed on the agenda:

http://morrisTownship.com/agendas/Townshipcomm_01-21-09.pdf

These are usually routine and without controversy. However, this time there was some discussion. I would like to provide the following additional information:

Resolution 23-09 appointed a municipal bond counsel, and this is the same person who has been our counsel for many years. Jeff Grayzel made the comment that he had read several articles in the newspaper recently about the municipal bonding process and how it is an inefficient market. I then made the suggestion that we re-word the resolution so that it allows us to put any municipal bonds out to bid and not have us locked into using our primary counsel/broker for our bonds. The Township Committee was agreeable to this and the wording of the resolution was changed to reflect my suggestion.

Resolution 15-09 and 31-09 dealt with appointments to the open space committee and the recreation advisory committee respectively. Ron Goldberg asked that we vote on each of these resolutions individually instead of as a block. His intention was to ask the Mayor a question about these appointments which are completely controlled by the Mayor. However, instead of separating out the resolutions Mayor Scott Rosenbush pulled them from the agenda. After the other resolutions were voted on, Rosenbush used Mayoral prerogative to declare appointments and he therefore avoided discussion of the two resolutions.

It should also be noted that **Resolution 26-09** appointed a new municipal auditor. If you recall, last year I admonished our previous auditor for not being more diligent in his analysis of our sewer operations, which ultimately caused a 25% increase in our sewer fees. I must also add that I am unsure how this new auditor was selected and must simply hope they will do a good job for us.



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

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.

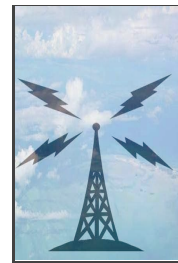


There were no public comments made at the January 7 meeting (since this was a reorganization meeting of mostly procedural matters).

At the January 21 the following comments were made:

- The first resident spoke about the recently erected cell tower at Collinsville firehouse which has red-and-white striping (to look like an oversize barbershop pole). She gave a history of the approval process and stated that the project was discussed over several years but that the striping was not included until the very last meeting when the project was approved. She was told that the striping was done because of the proximity of this tall pole to the Morristown airport.
- Eight additional citizens then got up with remarks that were also against the cell tower. Their comments included:

- It is an eyesore.
- Concerns about health risks since it is right next to several homes.
- Adverse affect on real estate values since this eyesore is directly adjacent to several homes.
- Request made that no new antennas be added to the pole.
- Having this at the doorstep of Morris Township does not make us look good.



- The next resident who spoke asked two questions:

1) Commented that the public portion of meetings in other towns are conducted at the beginning of meetings instead of at the end as we do it in Morris Township. He asked that we consider moving the public commentary portion to the beginning of the meeting so that citizens do not have to wait until late in the evening to get a chance to speak.

2) Noted that during the local elections in November that Mr. Caffrey and Mr. Snyder were in support of Morris Township putting their meetings on cable TV or internet streaming, and wondered if that were still the case. He hoped that this would be accomplished this year so that he could watch the proceedings on television at home instead of having to come to town hall.

- The final resident to speak commented on the new configuration of the intersection at Normandy Parkway and Columbia Road. She complained that the timing of the lights did not allow for many cars to get through the intersection. Jeff Grayzel stated that the new timing pattern for the lights was supposed to have gone into affect this past week but seems to have been delayed. (Note: new light timing pattern has since gone into affect)

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 meeting in the month of January I will combine commentary from both meetings into this single summary. I made the following comments at these two meetings:

- I wished Mr. Caffrey and Mr. Snyder well in their new positions on the Township Committee, and I offered my assistance to help them get up to speed on any matters on which they needed help.
- I stated that I looked forward to my various roles in the coming year, including those as Fire Commissioner, Deputy Police Commissioner and as a representative on the Recreation Committee. With respect to each of these committees I made the following comments:
 - Fire: A comprehensive Fire Department review will be conducted in 2009 by an outside consultant. I want both our citizens and our fire-fighters to know that we will not sacrifice service nor will sacrifice the safety of our firefighters. We just want to make sure the department is running efficiently and has the equipment needed to do their job.
 - Police: For many years now, from when I first began running for elected office, I have spoken about speeding in our town and the safety of our pedestrians. I look forward to working with our police department on this and other safety matters.
 - Recreation: In Morris Township we have very strong baseball, soccer, and football leagues. I want to help our existing sports leagues thrive and try to expand our basketball program.
- With regard to the cell tower, I too was shocked at what it looks like. I noted that this application was approved by the Board of Adjustment. I made the suggestion that I had also made last year that the Township implement legislation that would allow a super-majority of the Township Committee to overrule a Board of Adjustment decision. Right now the Board of Adjustment acts as an independent entity. But they are an appointed group whereas the Township Committee is elected and should have the final say.
- I The Good Citizens Breakfast was started about 7 years ago and occurs twice a year at Frelinghuysen Middle School. Approximately fifty 5th , 6th & 7th grade students (15 from each grade and 5 ESL students) are nominated by their peers, teachers, school administrators and our School Resource Police Officers as demonstrating good will, compassion, helpfulness and respect towards their fellow students and teachers. The students are invited to the breakfast with their parents. A guest speaker talks about the traits exemplified in the program and commends the students for receiving the recognition. Each student receives a certificate from the Police Department acknowledging their accomplishment. I congratulate all of these students on their achievement and hope for their continued good citizenship in our community.
- The police department reported that the police program titled "Over the Limit Under Arrest 2008 Year End crackdown" was a success. This program ran for just under 4 weeks at year-end and resulted in 9 DWI arrests, 2 drug arrests, 1 wanted person arrest and approximately 75 traffic violations.
- I The Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 campaign was set up in the Kitchell Road neighborhood from the middle of December through the Holidays. This program consists of signs that are placed throughout a neighborhood, and are primarily lawn signs being placed on individual front yards of as many residents in a neighborhood as possible.

As a reminder of my previous commentary on this subject, the mission of this organization is to reduce child death and injury on our roadways by promoting driver awareness. We previously placed these lawn signs on Sherman Avenue and the surrounding Fairchild neighborhood and we will move them to other neighborhoods around the township in the spring. For more information on this program, and to order your own lawn signs if you wish, please visit <http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/>



[Other Commentary from Township Committee Members...](#)

Ron Goldberg made the following comments:

- I welcome our new members, Ray Snyder and Dan Caffrey, and look forward to working with them.
- The Combe Landfill consent decree was filed yesterday. Morris Township has prepared for this event and is ready to meet its obligation and move on.

- In 2009, Morris Township will continue to shape an agreement with the County Housing Authority to share responsibility to provide affordable housing and meet Morris Township's COAH growth share obligation. We are on very solid footing. We have also identified third party grant opportunities for this type of project.
- In first half of 2009, Morris Township seeks to reach final understanding with Harding Township and purchase 15 acres off Mt. Kemble Avenue for athletic fields. After the purchase is accomplished, we will make the land ready for play in a fiscally responsible way.
- In 2009, we will investigate private and county financing opportunities for solar panel installation. Incentives to participate in such programs are becoming attractive to municipalities. We are looking for a program that makes economic sense in tough economic times.
- In 2009, we will look very hard at ways to spend less money, at service sharing opportunities, and for reciprocation from other governments or institutions to which we provide services.
- It's going to be an interesting and challenging year.

Ray Snyder made the following comments:

- Noted that there was a parking lot committee meeting in the coming week.
- Thanked the Committee members for their warm welcome.

Dan Caffrey made the following comments:

- Agreed that the cell tower at the Collinsville fire house does not look good.
- Commended our police and fire departments, as well as the Minute men, for their work at a car collision on Hanover Ave. This was a "double entrapment". The occupants of both cars had to be extracted, but only suffered minor injuries.

Mayor Scott Rosenbush made the following comment:

- Gave the annual Mayoral Address at the January 7 meeting.
- Stated that this will be a difficult year financially and everything is on the table.
- Regarding the cell tower, what it is now was surely not what was expected.
- Commended the DPW for the great job they did keeping our roads safe and clear during the recent snowfalls.

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.

There was no closed session after the January 7 meeting. At the January 21 meeting 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 January 21 closed session the Township Committee passed a resolution affirming our participation in the settlement of the Combe South Landfill settlement. This suit, which is over 20 years old, involves 93 municipalities and several corporations. Our share of damages will be \$315,000 plus legal fees. The money had already been set aside in previous budgets so it will not impact this year's budget. We hope to get much of this back from the insurance company covering the Township during the time period in question.

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://morrisTownship.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.

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

The **Planning Board** held a regular meeting on January 12, and this agenda can be found online: http://morrisTownship.com/agendas/plbd_01-12-09.pdf

The first portion of the meeting was spent on annual "reorganization" matters (see agenda). The Board then heard three applications. The first was for the Atlantic Health Systems building at 475 South Street where they propose to install a large emergency generator. This hearing will be continued on March 2. The second application was for the medical office building at 310 Madison Avenue where an updated parking plan (parking space layout) was presented. This was continued to March 2. The last application was for the installation of new chemical holding tanks at the Colgate-Palmolive Corporate facility on Hanover Avenue. This application was approved.

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for February 2. Of note, the hearing of the application by Joel Meer to subdivide a property on Shadyside Road will be heard on this date. 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.

The Planning Board will also hold a **Special Meeting on Thursday February 26** to hear a new application from Delbarton School relating to the "North Fields" project. These are the fields off Mendham Road. They are going to re-turf a field, add a track, tennis courts, and a field house.

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.

**Planning
Board
Special
Meeting on
Thurs.,
Feb. 26**

Update on the Mount Kemble Recreation Complex Proposal

As some of you may have already read about in the newspaper, the Harding Township Committee has now denied our proposal for lighting the two proposed playing fields to be built on private land in Harding (land that adjoins Morris Township and located behind an office park on Mount Kemble Ave). Previously they had already denied our proposals for them to be artificial turf (Harding wants only natural grass in their town) and for there to be bleachers. Various reasons were given, which I will not go into at this time. We are all greatly disappointed with this result given the tremendous need for new playing fields in our community. Our Mayor is looking into possible alternative options to take back to the Harding Township Committee. If you are unfamiliar with this proposal, more details can be found on the township website at:

<http://morrisTownship.com/notice-MtKembleLand.html>

More detailed news can be found in the latest issue of the Morris Newsbee newspaper:

http://www.recordernewspapers.com/morris_news_bee/

or

http://www.recordernewspapers.com/articles/2009/01/30/morris_news_bee/news/doc49824e3709354921227270.txt

Other items of interest...

- Sign-up for several Spring sports leagues is commencing soon. Please note the following dates for that

each sport will begin taking registrations:

GIRLS' SOFTBALL SIGN-UP FOR GRADES 2 – 5 has commenced. For more information:
<http://morrisTownship.com/pdfs/softball09.pdf>

T-BALL (BOYS/GIRLS AGES 5-7) SIGN UP:
 FEBRUARY 7 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M
 AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 More information: <http://morrisTownship.com/pdfs/tball09.pdf>

NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE (AGES 7 AND UP) SIGN -UP:
 FEBRUARY 7 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M
 AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 More information: <http://www.mnll.org/>

AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE (AGES 7 AND UP) SIGN -UP:
 FEBRUARY 7 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M
 AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 More information: <http://www.maall.net/>

- **Valentine's Day Rose Sale:** The volunteer members of Morris Township Office of Emergency Management Heavy Rescue will again be selling roses for Valentine's Day. They have teamed with a local florist and distributor this year.

Rose's will be on sale at Hillside Firehouse at 132 Western Avenue in Morris Township. Dates:
 Feb 12, 12PM to 7PM; Feb 13 8AM to 8PM; & Valentine's Day 8AM to 8PM
 One dozen high-quality red long stem for \$25.00 or two dozen shorter stem roses in various colors for just \$25.00 . Also available will be vases, stuffed animals, candy, and greeting cards.



Orders recommended if you want a special color but orders not a requirement. Just stop in. Call Patty for orders, directions or just e-mail order to Patriciasimms207@hotmail.com . Please come support this volunteer organization that supports the entire community.

- **New program for seniors at the Morris Museum:** The Morris Museum is offering a new program titled "Senior Fridays" for senior citizens, which combines art and conversation. Each program will include a highlights tour through a featured exhibition and discussion. Programs will be held at 1 p.m. on Jan. 16, "The Guinness Collection of Mechanical Musical Instruments & Automata"; Feb. 20, "Rembrandt's Etchings"; and 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
- Families are invited to the Morris Museum's Chocolate Festival on Sunday February 8 from 1-4pm. Watch chocolate making demonstrations and sample colonial chocolate from the American Heritage Chocolate Company. Learn how chocolate was enjoyed during colonial times (Did you know it was consumed as a beverage and enjoyed by George Washington?) and participate in candy-inspired arts & crafts activities. For more information, please call 973.971.3718.
- 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 refine your interview skills, learn strategies for career change, generate leads, and more. For more information go to: <http://www.doverpsg.com/>
- As many of us who have been caregiving for years already know, being a caregiver is quite an overwhelming responsibility that effects are physical, emotional, mental and even financial health. One



of the best ways of assisting ourselves as we walk through our caregiving situations 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

- 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
- 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 are due by January 31. (Yes, all pets are required to be registered)



[Upcoming Committee Meeting...](#)

There are two Township Committee meetings scheduled for the month of February which will take place on Wednesday February 4th and Wednesday February 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.**

**The Next Meeting:
February
18th**

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 .

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

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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