



Newsletter #23 ~ June, 2009

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:

Your privacy is important. If you do not wish to receive emails from Jeff Grayzel, please click the unsubscribe link on the bottom of this page and your email address will be removed within 48 hours. Thank you.

June 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 .

This edition covers the month of May including the Special Meeting on 6/1/09 and the regular Township Committee meeting on 6/17/09, and also provides updates on some community issues. Make sure you catch all of the upcoming events in our community. See the listings under "Other items of interest" near the end of this newsletter. Also note that the next Township Committee meeting will take place on July 15th.

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.

Table of Contents

Many people have told me that the newsletter is too long for them to read in a timely manner. So I have tried to be a bit more succinct in this issue. Please use the following index of topics to jump to the area you are most interested in reading about:

Click links below to jump directly to these newsletter topics:	
June 1st Township Committee Meeting	Other Commentary from Township Committee Members
June 17th Township Committee Special Meeting	Building Applications Around Town
Public Commentary	Update on Wheatsheat Development
Jeff's Commentary	Other items of interest
St. Mary's Abbey Delbarton Land Preservation Completed	Primary Election Results
2009 Budaet	

Home About Us Contact Us For Morris Township	Upcoming Committee Meeting on July 15th
---	---

June 1 Township Committee Special Meeting...

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

<http://morristwp.com/agendas/6-1-09AGENDA.pdf>



This special meeting had two purposes. First, we introduced several ordinances relating to municipal bonding that would be used to fund a portion of the 2009 budget. The amount of each I bond is listed in the agenda above. In summary, the following ordinances were introduced:

Ordinance 13-09 for swimming pool improvements.

Ordinance 14-09 for various capital improvements, mostly dealing with road reconstruction and road/curbing /drainage repairs.

Ordinance 15-09 for various sewer improvements.

Ordinance 16-09 for funding a portion of the installation of a water line on Jockey Hollow Road. This would allow us to install fire hydrants for fire protection to homes in the area.

Ordinance 17-09 for funding various small projects and purchases.

Ordinance 18-09 for an appropriation of funds from sewer capital to fund various sewer improvement projects.

Details on the expenditures included in each of these ordinances can be found online at <http://morristwp.com/ordinances09.asp> by clicking on the ordinance number.

These ordinances were subsequently voted on at our June 17 meeting at which time all of the above ordinances passed with the exception of Ordinance 16-09 which was voted down (from lack of resident support). See more details below.

One other small bit of municipal business was then conducted. The Mayor made a Mayoral appointment of Emily Bellush as a member of the Township Environmental Commission. No vote was taken on this appointment since the Mayor has the power to make every single appointment to all Committees and Commissions.

The second purpose of the June 1 Special Meeting was to conduct a municipal budget "public work session". The Township Committee did this for the very first time last year and found it to be a useful vehicle to allow the Committee members to openly discuss various issues and ask specific questions they had about the budget. While this session was open to the public (as all meetings must be if there is more than a quorum of committee members present), there were no questions taken from the public. We asked that all questions be presented at the formal presentation of the budget at the June 17 meeting.

Mr. Rosenbush and Mr. Goldberg are the two members of the Finance Committee who put together the budget. They opened up the work session with a few comments of their own. It was then my turn to speak. I asked various questions, queries, and clarifications for the next 35 minutes relating to many different portions of the budget. The list of my questions is far too long to be detailed here. Mr. Snyder did not have any questions or comments. Mr. Caffrey had two comments.

The budget was subsequently voted on at the June 17 meeting and passed by a 5-0 margin. For more details see section below dedicated to the 2009 municipal budget.

June 17 Township Committee Special

Meeting...

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

<http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/6-17-09AGENDA.pdf>



Before getting into the details of the meeting **I would first like to say how pleased I was with the events at our June 17th meeting.** The meeting was a great display of how improved the Township Committee meetings have become in the past two years. For several years I have been fighting for greater debate and discussion at Township Committee meetings, greater input from our citizens on the issues that affect them in their neighborhoods, and for more decision-making made out in the open. All of this was on display at our meeting and it made me proud of what we have accomplished. Please read the specific details below.

Ordinances for Final Consideration...

The meeting continued with "Ordinances – Public Hearing, Final Consideration, and Adoption". This pertains to ordinances introduced at a prior Township Committee meeting. There were two items up for Final Consideration:

The first ordinance, #9-09, was a proposal to amend a zoning ordinance for the Wheatshaf Townhouse development at the corner of Kahdena Road and Deborah Drive. This ordinance would lift the previously approved age restriction (of 55+ years of age) required for purchase of one of the units in this planned community. The vote was 4-1 with my vote being the only vote against. Please **see my additional commentary below** on this matter.

The second ordinance, #10-09, removed the previously approved "CCRC" (continuing care retirement community) zone from the St. Mary's Abbey Delbarton property. Since much of the land within this zone is being conserved, this zone is no longer necessary.

The third ordinance, #11-09, established new fees for making copies of records at the Municipal Building.

The fourth ordinance, #12-09, allows the municipality to exceed the standard appropriation limits established by the State of New Jersey. The Township had exceeded the first cap, or 2.5% cap for 2009.

The final five ordinances were those that were introduced at the June 1 special meeting (see above). I will not repeat them again. All passed with the exception of ordinance #16-09 dealing with the water line on Jockey Hollow Road.

We spent over one hour discussing the Jockey Hollow water line issue. Most of that time was spent listening to comments from FOURTEEN residents who came to voice their opinions. For the sake or brevity, I will not list all their comments. This was a unique situation because the Township was asking these residents to accept a special tax assessment to offset a portion (about one third) of the cost of the water line. Most residents were against the water line, mainly because they did not see a need for it or did not think it would improve fire safety by much. Several were in favor though.

I appreciated hearing the comments of all the residents as it helped me form my opinion on the matter. The Township Committee then voted on this bonding ordinance and voted it down by a 4-0 margin (one member recused himself)

I made one closing comment to the residents of the area: an apology for the long and drawn out process to get them to "vote" on whether to accept a special assessment for this unique project or not. We should have communicated better and held a community meeting at a point earlier in the process. I promised we would do better the next time.

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>

Ordinances for Introduction...

There were five ordinances for introduction at this meeting.

Ordinance 19-09 allows for a No Parking sign to be installed on Mountainside Drive.

Ordinance 20-09 allows for the conversion of several parking spots in the municipal building parking lot to be converted into short-term (15 minutes) parking spots in order to allow people doing quick business at town hall to have easy access to the building.

Ordinance 21-09 provides for salary increases to our non-union employees for the 2009 fiscal year.

A copy of these ordinances 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 ordinances will be publicly debated at the July 15 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. The Township Committee will consider the comments and testimony and then take a vote on adoption of the ordinance.

Report of Bid Receipt Committee...

The next item on the agenda was a review of one project that had gone out to bid. See the agenda for the list of projects. Our Township Administrator announced the bid results and noted the bidder selected for the project. A description of the project can be found on the agenda:

<http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/6-17-09AGENDA.pdf>

Resolutions...

Several resolutions were then up for a vote. The title of each of these resolutions can be viewed on the agenda: <http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/6-17-09AGENDA.pdf>

These were routine and without controversy.

We also passed another resolution that was not originally on the agenda after the Twp Committee returned from closed session. Resolution 134-09 is titled "AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF REINSTATEMENT OF AGREEMENT OF SALE: BLOCK 23.02 LOT 5, HARDING TOWNSHIP". This resolution allows us to continue to pursue a contract to purchase the 15 acres of land off Mount Kemble Avenue for preservation as active open space (i.e. playing fields). Our previous agreement with the landowner had a window of opportunity that expired several months ago. This resolution permits us to continue discussions related to the purchase of these lands.

Copies of all resolutions passed may be obtained from our Township Clerk or by visiting the twp website link: <http://morristwp.com/resolutions09/4-15-09RESOLUTIONS.pdf>

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 June 17th meetings:

- The first resident asked about what was included in the sewer capital budget program. She was told that a big portion of this was for installation of sewers on Egbert Hill which has many failing septic systems.
- Next, a resident of Starlight Drive presented the Twp Committee with a petition of many neighbors on her street asking for a reduction in the speed limit from 35mph to 25 mph. She said there were many kids on the street and that one street over (Raynor Road) was 25mph so more traffic may be pushed on her street since it has a higher speed limit. She noted statistics on how badly a person can get injured when hit by a car going 35mph vs. 25



mph.

- Next, several residents made comments about a proposed sidewalk on Olmstead Road. Many residents came out to the last meeting, but these residents could not make it and wanted to get their comments on the record nonetheless.
 - A resident of Columbia Road stated that he too did not want a sidewalk in front of his house if he were to have responsibility for it.
 - Another resident of Columbia Road said that there has been an increase of pedestrian traffic on Columbia Road over the past few years and that we must ensure the safety of those pedestrians.
 - The next resident asked about the process for getting sidewalk, and noted that the past Mayor had said that a majority of the residents must vote to request them. This is not the case on Olmstead where nobody wants them.
 - Another resident of Olmstead Road said that he has a 5-year old son, and that putting a sidewalk on Columbia Road would not make him feel any safer in allowing his child to walk there.
 - A resident of Mackenzie Road said that the safety issue is huge, but that a sidewalk on Columbia would give you a false sense of security. He called Columbia Road a highway.
 - **Of Note:** the Township Committee has decided not to move forward with the sidewalk on Olmstead Road.
- The next resident complimented the township on the budget. He said that he was in the bond business and that Morris Twp municipal bonds command a premium because the debt is low in our town.



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. I made the following comments at the June 17 meeting:

- Thanks to everyone who came out tonight. Best practices are at work when the public is involved. All the comments I heard tonight were very helpful to me in deciding how to proceed on the various issues.
- With regard to Olmstead Road, preservation of the character of the neighborhood is important to me as well. Although I am a proponent of sidewalks in general, I do not want to force them on residents if so many in a neighborhood do not want them. We have other places we could spend this money on sidewalks that people do want.
- Over the past 2 weeks Morris Township lost two long-serving volunteers. Both Tom Briscoe and Jim Nile served as volunteer firemen for the Township for many years. Mr. Nile served at the Mt. Kemble Fire Company and also did a tour of duty as the Township Battalion Chief. My condolences go out to both the Briscoe and Nile families.
- I attended the NY Yankees game along with a large group event that was organized by the Recreation Advisory Committee. It was a fun time, and all the kids really enjoyed it. Thanks to Sam Pagano for taking the lead to purchase the group tickets for this event.
- This morning I attended the 6th grade DARE presentations at Frelinghuysen School. 330 6th graders graduated today in the program. After hearing the essays that some of the kids read, I was left with no doubt in my mind of the impact that this program is having on the lives of our kids. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, and it is a highly acclaimed program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and

violence. This year millions of school children around the world will benefit from DARE. I would like to recognize officers Jason Lawlor and Steve Summerer who organize this program up at Frelinghuysen Middle School. This program fosters a strong and healthy relationship between the police, students, teachers, administrators and parents.

- I noted on our consent calendar tonight that we have several new volunteer firemen who have joined our ranks and that we have one serving volunteer who has now qualified to actually drive one of our trucks. Thank you to all of these volunteers.

Other Commentary from Township Committee members...

The following comments were made at our meeting:

Ron Goldberg made the following comments:

- With regard to Wheatsheaf, I have a dilemma because this change is being requested after construction has already begun. I want to have this sent back to the planning board and have all variances previously approved become null and void, and have them present facts to get the variances they want.
- I attended the 6th grade DARE breakfast at Frelinghuysen school. What a great program that is. Congratulations to officers Lawlor and Summerer for the work they do.
- Noted that seniors are able to purchase an annual pool membership for only \$60.
- There are some road improvements in the Burnham Park area. We worked with residents on this and I believe the result is a much safer intersection.
- The parking committee met and we are looking at ways to increase revenue at the Speedwell Avenue lot.

Ray Snyder made the following comments:

- I attended the baseball field dedication at Delbarton
- I attended the Memorial Day ceremony. Noted that Bob Tracey has been leading the ceremonies for 40 years now.
- I attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Inamere Road Bridge.
- I attended bench dedication ceremony for former fire Chief Tony Romano.

Dan Caffrey made the following comments:

- Had no comments at this meeting

Mayor Scott Rosenbush made the following comments:

- Congratulated OEM for their help in reopening Sussex Avenue after a large water main break.
- Made a Mayoral proclamation congratulating a couple on their 60-year wedding anniversary.

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.

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.

2009 Municipal Budget for Morris Township

At the June 17 meeting, we voted on the adoption of the 2009 budget, which had been introduced at

our May 20 meeting. There was a public presentation (slideshow) of the budget and



the public was invited to ask questions. The budget calls for a tax increase of 2% which was achieved by cutting the open space by 80% of what it was last year. Without the cut in the open space tax the tax increase would have been about 4%.



A 2009 budget summary can be found at this link:

http://morristswp.com/pdfs/budget_summary_for_adv_052909.pdf

More detail on the budget can be found at this link:

http://morristswp.com/pdfs/Township_of_Morris_Budget.pdf

The Township Committee voted 5-0 to adopt the budget. Although I thought we could have done better, my feeling was that since we were halfway through the year we had already lost half our opportunity to save. The budget process started too late and took too long in order for us to make meaningful cuts early in the year. At this point we could not do much better than what we have.

It should also be noted that the School District had previously announced that their 1009 budget was being reduced due to a savings gained from a change to one of their benefit plans. In addition to the budget decrease the school district also announced the tax rates to be applied to both Morristown and Morris Township. Tax rates are calculated annually based on a standardized real estate "equalization formula" that compares the two towns. Due to a shift in favor of Morris Township caused by the tremendous amount of building in Morristown, more of the school budget burden has shifted to Morristown – and away from the Township. In summary, thanks to the reduced school budget plus increased housing development in Morristown, the Township residents will be getting a tax reduction on their school tax bills.

Thus, the overall affect is that the total tax bill -- comprising an increased municipal tax, a flat county tax, a vastly reduced open space tax, and a reduced school tax – for Morris Twp residents will actually show a very modest decline. That is not a typo! Your overall tax bill is going to go down this year!

However, residents should also realize that several one-time savings/reduction were used to reduce taxes this year that will not be available to us next year (e.g. the open space tax is almost zero now), so it is clear we will be facing a difficult budget again in 2010.

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 want to hear about development in their neighborhoods or are either opposed to or supportive of certain development projects, then they need to voice their opinions in-person at the hearings. (Letters are not admissible at these hearings).

The **Board of Adjustment** held its regular meeting on June 22. Please see the following agenda for the descriptions of the applications heard at this meeting, all of which were small projects:

http://morristswp.com/AGENDAS/boa_06-22-09.pdf

The next **Board of Adjustment** held meeting will be held on July 27, and the agenda will be published online a few days before the meeting.

The **Planning Board** held a regular meeting on June 15. The agenda can be found online:

http://morristswp.com/agendas/plbd_06_15_09.pdf

There were two major items on June 15 agenda. The first was the continuing hearing for the subdivision on Shadyside Street. Revised plans were discussed. The new plans show only building envelopes instead the actual structure that had previously been shown on one of the lots. Many

residents came out in opposition. The Morris County Park Commission also weighed in on the matter since the project is adjacent to Patriot's Path. The hearing will continue in August, at which time the residents are expected to bring experts of their own to provide counter-testimony.

The next application on the June 15 agenda was for a subdivision of the property next to the Meer property (see above) by a company called Braemar Realty. This property was a small square block bounded by Shadyside, Terrace, Valley View and Lawndale avenues. The planning board approved a subdivision of this block into 4 parcels of almost equal size. The applicant had also requested that the township vacate a "paper street" (undeveloped street) of Terrace Avenue which is between the Meer and Braemar parcels. However, the Planning Board was not agreeable to this since they felt that one day it might be needed for emergency access (e.g. fire trucks) to the area.

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for July 20. The agenda will be available on the township website a few days before the meeting.

<http://morristwp.com>

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 Wheatsheaf Townhouse Development

As I stated above (in the ordinance section), the Township Committee received a request from the developers of the townhouse development at the corner of Kahdena Road and Deborah Drive to remove the age restriction imposed on the sale of these units. It had been previously approved a couple of years ago by the planning board as a planned community for aged 55+ individuals, but the developer has found that there is presently no market for this target group.



The Township Committee considered this request in the form of a zone change for this property. You can read the Star ledger's coverage of this issue at this link:

http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2009/06/children_will_be_allowed_to.html

Last month, this matter was before the Planning Board on which I also sit. The Board had voted 8-1 to "recommend" to the Township Committee, who has ultimate control over the implementation of all zoning regulations, the changes in the zoning regulations outlined above. I was the single "No" vote, because I felt the newly proposed zone was too broad to be meaningful for planning purposes. I still feel that way. Further, I think when the Township makes a concession to a developer, it should get something in return. I commented at the Twp Committee meeting that I thought a less dense development with 2-3 fewer units would be an appropriate concession. This would allow for more open area and green space along the road frontage on Deborah Drive.

At the June 17 Township Committee meeting, the Planning Board Attorney, whose presence was requested by Mr. Goldberg, first presented his reasoning for the Planning Board's recommendation for accommodating this change within our zoning regulations. After he concluded the Committee members then had several questions for him, many of which were asked by me.

The floor was then opened up to the public and the following comments were made by residents (which I have summarized to save space):

- I believe there will be a different activity level and thus will have related impacts such as more and different kinds of vehicular traffic;
- I am concerned that we will be left with an undefined future; if the developer cannot complete the project for financial reasons, what comes next? Is there any way to confine future development to what has already been approved?
- The planner for the developer pointed out that the Planning Board will have the leeway to require a reduction in the number of units proposed.

Mr. Goldberg proposed an amendment to require that the variances already granted be reconsidered, if a developer applies for the allowed change within the new zone to non-age restricted. The Committee voted on and unanimously accepted the amendment.

The amended ordinance was then discussed by the Township Committee and a vote taken. It passed by a 4-1 margin, mine being the lone dissenting vote.

The developer will now be required to go back to the Planning Board to seek specific relief for various elements of the development plan, and the Planning Board will have the opportunity to require specific changes to the plan to take into account the fact that there will now be children on the property (e.g. they may now require installation of a sidewalk). This may appear before the planning board at their regular meeting of July 20 or may possibly be postponed until the August meeting.

New rules for expanded plastics recycling in Morris Township

Morris Township now recycles classes 1 through 7 plastics. Formerly, we accepted only class 1 and 2 plastics bottles. My newsletter last month had a malfunctioning internet link, which is why I am publishing this info again. See this link on the Township website for more information:

http://morristwp.com/pdfs/ABC's_of_Recycling1-7Rev1.pdf

Remember that increased recycling REDUCES our taxes. Not only do we have to send less garbage to the garbage dump (which we pay for by the ton) but we also get money back from the recycling center based on the volume of recyclable material we provide to them. It is a win-win that lowers our taxes while preserving the environment.



St. Mary's Abbey Delbarton Land Preservation completed

July 1st was a special day in Morris Township as the preservation of 188 acres of land at St. Mary's Abbey was finally completed and deeded. You can read about the history of this land preservation deal in my prior e-mails from 2008 that can be found on my website:

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

In his remarks at the signing ceremony Abbott Giles said that the monks saw the "divine light" and came together "to do the right thing". I am very grateful to the Monks and everyone else involved at St. Mary's Abbey that in the end the monks decided to do the right thing. Some of you may remember that it was my personal opinion that their original proposal seven years ago to build a "Continuing Care Retirement Community" (CCRC) on their property to house 420 people was definitely not the right thing for our community.

Of the 188 acres to be preserved as open space, the Morris County Park Commission will get 178 acres which they will add to Lewis Morris Park. Morris Township will get 10 acres at the end of Wood Road. More details can be found in this article from the Star Ledger:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/st_marys_abbey_sells_188_acres.html

One group that was not mentioned at the ceremonies were the local citizens who worked so hard to fight the original CCRC project. It is through their efforts that NJ State declined to extend a large sewer line into this pristine area, and thus it did not have all the approvals it would need to move forward. This allowed the land to stay in its natural state and opened the door to preservation. This shows that when residents come together and fight for a cause, good things can ultimately happen.

As Abbott Giles also said, it was "the truest form of democracy" that in the end these lands were ultimately preserved as open space. This is a win-win result for both the Monks and the Morris Twp community.

Primary Election Results

The primary election was held on June 2. While most people were focused on the Governor's race, it should be noted that there are two positions up for election on the Township Committee. I am up for

re-election this year, and I was pleased to have been written in on both the democratic and republican ballots. While I was out-pollled on the republican side, I did win one of the two democratic nominations to run in the General election this November. My running mate Mary Marley-Reidy also won. Both Mary and I hope to meet as many of you as possible between now and the November 3 voting day.

Harter Road overpass replacement

The NJ Dept. of Transportation has begun planning for replacing the Harter Road overpass over route 287. Harter Road will be closed for 3 months beginning **July 17** and traffic detoured to alternate routes. NJDOT was to have sent public notices to residents in the immediate area. NJDOT is holding a public information meeting on this project at the Morris Twp municipal building on July 16 at 5:00 pm.

For those residents who use Harter Road, or utilize the exits from route 287 onto Harter Road, please note the following:

The Ramp from I-287 SB to Harter Road will be maintained but ramp traffic intending to go EB on Harter Road will be directed to the detour. Also the I-287 NB Ramp to Tiger Lily Lane and Harter Road will be maintained but ramp traffic intending to go WB on Harter Road will be directed to the detour. The Harter Road Detour will be as follows: Harter Road traffic to the west of the bridge will be directed to Route 202 SB (Mt. Kemble Avenue) to Sand Spring Road to Blue Mill Road (CR 663) to James Street (CR 663) to the intersection with Harter Road.

Other items of interest...

- **Summer Playground Program Sign-ups have begun.** Sign your child up for one of the many summer playground programs run by the Morris Township Recreation Department. The participation fee is very affordable. Check out the Spring/Summer brochure online at: <http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/spring09.pdf>
Call the Morris Township Recreation Department at 973.326.7371 for more information.
- **Movie Night!** Bring the kids to a free outdoor movie on July 22 at Ginty Field featuring "Kung Fu Panda". The movie starts at 8:30pm (after dusk).
- **Concert series at Ginty Field:** July 14 marks the start of the summer concert series, which are sponsored by Provident Bank and the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee. Bring a blanket and picnic dinner and come enjoy the music. The complete schedule with a description of the type of music can be found online at: http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Morris_Township_Concert_Flyer_2009.pdf
- **Wibit Makes U.S. Debut at Sunrise Lake in Morris Twp.** Wibit, an evolution of water play for all ages that was made popular in Europe, has made its American debut at Sunrise Lake at Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township. Wibit provides a track where players can overcome obstacles and race each other in a friendly competition on the water. Wibit kayaks are also available for a relaxing ride around the lake or for a race with family or friends to see who's the fastest. Wibit is anchored down near the Sunrise Lake shore. Life vests are to be worn at all times while participating in the Wibit, and lifeguards will be on duty to supervise the aquagames. More information about Sunrise Lake and its summer hours of operation may be obtained by calling 973-829-8257. For more information on Wibit see www.wibitsports.com/
- **The 7th Annual National Night Out Against Crime** returns to MENNEN SPORTS ARENA on Tuesday, August 4. The event, sponsored in conjunction with the Morris County Park Commission, will kick off at 5:00pm and will run until 9:00pm. There will be many free attractions including, food, drinks, entertainment, ice skating, giveaways, and child ID cards. Ice skating is FREE from 5:00-8:00pm. Come out and enjoy the night out.
- **The Parks & Recreation Office has openings in the following summer programs** including: -Playground



Summer Program, Girl's Softball Clinic

-Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Cheer Leading Clinics, Multi Sports, Squirt Sports

-Summer Gymnastics, Children's Golf, CSI, Engineering, & Video, Tennis, Kids Triathlon.

See the Parks & Recreation brochure for details or call 973-326-7371.

- **Leaf, Grass and Brush pick-up continues through the Summer**

Morris Township DPW picks-up these items from your curb every other Wednesday. Please check the municipal calendar to determine your pick-up days. For more information see this link:

http://morristwp.com/pdfs/Curbside_Collection_Leaves,_Grass_&_Brush.pdf

Please do not throw leaf and brush debris into the regular garbage. Not only is it against regulations to put this debris into the solid waste stream, but it is also more costly to the municipality to dispose of it this way (as regular garbage). Leaf and Brush debris is brought to a county facility where it is "recycled" into mulch.

- **The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority has released the Draft Regional Transportation Plan.**

It is available for viewing at <http://www.njtpa.org/Involved/comment/default.aspx>.

There will be three public outreach meetings around the region. One of the meetings will take place on July 16th at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum from 4-7 PM. It is an open house format, so attendees can come at any time. The 52-year plan can be viewed here:

<http://www.njtpa.org/Plan/LRP2035/default.aspx>

- **Historic Churches of Morristown Tour:** The Morris County Tourism Bureau is hosting this tour on August 8. The description reads "Morristown is a town of towers and spires, home to several churches and many schools. Join us as we visit Morristown's six historic churches... and learn about key historical figures that are buried in two of the church cemeteries." The tour is led by the Morris County Heritage Commission. Tour starts at 6 Court Street & group size is limited to 25. Contact the MCTB for more information at 973-631-5151 or on their website at www.morristourism.org

- **Streeter & Ginty Pools now Open:** There is still plenty of time to join. Membership info can be found on the Township website:

http://www.morristwp.com/dept_recpools.asp

- **Kids Triathlon on July 18:** This event, sponsored by the Morris Township Recreation Department and Marty's Reliable Cycle Shop, is open to kids as young as age 4. It starts at 8am and costs \$10 per child. Advance registration is requested. For more information see the recreation department brochure online at:

<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/spring09.pdf>



Call the Morris Township Recreation Department at 973.326.7371 for more information on any of the programs offered.

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

There is only one Township Committee meeting scheduled for the month of May which will take place on Wednesday July 15th. The agenda can now be found online at: http://morristwp.com/agendas/Draft_Agenda_07-15-09.pdf

**The Next Meeting:
Wednesday,
July 15th**

Please try to attend one of our 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.

NOTE:

The 8:00pm meeting on July 15th will be preceded by two other meetings:

1. At 6:00pm there will be a special closed meeting of the township committee to discuss appropriate matters. See the notice:
http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_spec_07-15_09.pdf
2. At 7:30pm the Board of Health will convene for its regular meeting. This meeting usually ends just prior to the 8pm start of the Township Committee meeting.

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](#)

©2009 Jeff Grayzel