



Newsletter #20 ~ March, 2009

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March 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 March including the two Township Committee meeting of 3/4/09 and 3/18/09, 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.

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.

Click links below to jump directly to these newsletter topics:	
March 4 Township Committee Meeting	Other Commentary from Township Committee Members
March 18 Township Committee Meeting	School Budget Up for Vote on April 21
Public Commentary	Building Applications Around Town
Jeff's Commentary	Other items of interest
Upcoming Committee Meeting on April 15th	

March 4 Township Committee Meeting...

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

http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_03-04-09.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. There was just one item up for Final Consideration:

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.

Ordinances for Introduction...

There was only one ordinance for introduction at this meeting.

Ordinance, #1-09 amends the parking fees charged at the Convent Station Train Station parking lot. The proposed increases are as follows:

- Yearly resident permit would increase from \$300 to \$400.
- Yearly non-resident permit would increase from \$600 to \$800.
- Daily metered parking would increase from \$3 per day to \$5 per day.
- A replacement fee of \$10 for any lost permit tag.

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 April 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.

Resolutions...

Several 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_03-04-09.pdf

I asked for an explanation of resolution 52-09 relating to a state legislative proposal. The text of our resolution can be found here: <http://www.morristwp.com/resolutions09/52-09.pdf>

The Mayor explained that the state assembly bill was authorizing the transfer between various state agencies of certain responsibilities related to alcohol and substance abuse issues. The feedback he received was that this change would adversely impact the successful Municipal Alliance program we currently run in conjunction with Morristown, and thus we should oppose any such changes in jurisdiction of this program.

The other resolutions were without controversy or need for explanation, so no discussion took place.

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 Edward Thornton to the Recreation Committee. No vote was taken on this appointment since all appointments to all the various committees in Morris Township are completely and solely the Mayor's prerogative.

March 18 Township Committee Meeting...

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

http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_03-18-09.pdf

The meeting opened up with a presentation by "Wheatsheaf at Morris Township", a luxury housing development being constructed at the corner of Kahdena Road and Deborah Drive (near Fosterfields). They requested that the Township Committee lift restrictions that now classify the property as age-restricted for residents 55 and older to allow them to improve the marketability of the units. The owner of the development said it would be easier to sell their townhomes in this difficult real estate environment if they did not need to limit themselves to older residents.

As background, this project was approved by the Planning Board almost 2 years ago, and the age restriction was put in place in order to limit the impact of having additional children enter the school system. A special "PRC" zone (Planned Retirement Community) was created for this project at the time, and to date it is still the only property in this type of zone in the Township.

Several questions were asked by Township Committee members and a brief discussion ensued. It was clear that this request needed to be referred back to the Planning Board since a zone change would be required if the age restriction were lifted. Mayor Scott Rosenbush suggested that the Township Committee adopt a resolution to refer the matter back to the Planning Board with a recommendation that the restriction be lifted and the zone be changed. Both Ron Goldberg and I felt that this certainly was Planning Board business and should be referred to it. However, we both felt that it was the Planning Board's duty to independently and without recommendation from the Township Committee assess the request. Any action taken by the Planning Board would return to the Township Committee at a later date. That would be the time for the Township Committee to weigh in. A vote was taken and Mr. Rosenbush, Mr. Caffrey, and Mr. Snyder voted to refer the issue to the Planning Board along with the recommendation. Mr. Goldberg and I objected and voted against this motion (for the reason stated above). The motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

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. At the March 18 meeting there were three ordinances up for final consideration:

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 fourth item had been scheduled for a vote, but it was postponed until the next meeting on April 15. This ordinance relates to a zone change for the property located at 240 Martin Luther King Avenue, which is the property recently purchased by Morristown with the intent of placing their DPW depot at this location within our municipality. The zone change would change this property to residential use only, which is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.

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...

At the March 18 meeting there were no new ordinances for introduction.

Report of Bid Receipt Committee...

The next item on the agenda was a review of several projects 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 each project. All of the bids, with the exception of one, were then approved by

resolution (see next section). A list of the bids can be found on the agenda:
http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_03-18-09.pdf

Resolutions...

Several Resolutions were then passed. The title of each of these resolutions can be viewed on the agenda: http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_03-18-09.pdf

Several of the resolutions related to the project bids noted above. There was one spending ordinance that I requested that we delay voting on, which was the award of the bid combining the Police Parking Lot, the Ginty Field Parking Lot, and the Ginty Field Walking Path improvement projects. I stated that I still had some outstanding questions related to these projects, and that I wanted to make sure we were spending our money against our top priorities. Since the 60-day period for bid acceptance would allow us to vote on this at our April 15 meeting that we postpone the vote on this item. My request was granted and this will come up for a vote on April 15.

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.



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

- The first resident stated that he was a resident of Morris Township for the past 40 years. He said that he had read in the newspaper about the Mayor of Morristown calling for a merger with Morris Township. He said he was very much against this and asked each of the Township Committee members to "go on record" on whether they are for or against merger.
- The next resident had several questions:
 - He said he had read about the deferral of pension fund contributions, and asked if we were going to deferring any of the township contributions.
 - He asked if the recent snowstorm forced us into the red in terms of our snow removal budget. He was told that we were already over budget prior to the storm because we had so many small storms this year that required us to salt the roads.
 - He inquired about the Information Technology consultant job posting, which had been up on the website but had been removed, and then put back up again.
- The next resident wanted to remind the community that April was "Organ Transplant Month". Every time anyone goes to the DMV office to obtain or renew a license they must be asked if they want to be an organ donor so it can be marked on their license.
- The next resident, who lives on Whippany Road, asked if there was any progress being made to resolve the issue of the "striped" cell tower pole beside the Collinsville firehouse that she and her neighbors had inquired about at a previous meeting. She said there was another cell tower further down route 24 and that it was not striped. She was told that this matter is still being researched but we hoped to have an answer soon
- The next resident Asked about what we are doing to hold down taxes for homeowners in Morris Township. He was told that the state just reduced their aid to us by another \$178,000 in addition to the reductions made last year. He also asked if we were looking at sharing services. He asked if the budget process would be open to the public
- The next resident of Cory Rd inquired about Morristown's proposal to put a DPW facility on Martin Luther King Avenue. She was told that the zoning at 240 MLK would change from a business zone to a residential zone. The other language involved in the zoning change was related to "essential services" and spelled out what would be allowed in this zone.

- The next resident said she lived on Mill Rd in the Fairchild section and complimented DPW on electronic waste collection programs.

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:

- With regard to the resident asking each of the Township Committee members to "go on record" as to their position on a Morristown merger, I stated that I had already made several public statements saying that I am opposed to a merger. I was quoted once in the newspaper and spoke publicly at the past two Morristown Council meetings. At the Morristown Council meeting they proposed what I called a "blizzard" of resolutions relating to merger and shared services. In my opinion this was a smokescreen to divert our attention from the fact that they want to stick their DPW facility on a property located within Morris Township (and not within their own boundaries). Morris Township will not be distracted from its responsibility to plan well for its neighborhoods. Our talk must be of having like good neighbors, not merging.

[**Editor's note:** For more information on the DPW proposal please see my February newsletter which can be located at www.JeffGrayzel.com . Also see http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/NJCom_02509.pdf for my commentary at the Morristown Council meeting.]

- In response to some resident comments at our February 4th Township Committee meeting, Police Chief Quinn met with Brother Paul, Headmaster for Delbarton School. Brother Paul was very supportive in his willingness to assist in addressing the traffic issues for Mendham Road, Picatinny Road, Whitehead Road, Washington Valley Road and other roadways in vicinity of the school campus. Brother Paul is going to address the issues of speeding, aggressive driving and littering with his students at an upcoming school assembly. He will also follow up with the parents in the school newsletter.
- The next issue of the Municipal Messenger which should be out shortly has an article on the graduated driver's license provision. I would urge all parents with teen drivers to read the article. Questions may be directed to the Police Department's Traffic Safety unit.
- The Police Department was awarded the Hang Up Just Drive Cell Phone Enforcement grant which will take place March 2nd to March 15th. 80 hours of overtime targeting cell phone violations. New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety will be doing a media release in conjunction with the program. We are one of only a few jurisdictions selected for this new enforcement grant.
- I congratulated our Health Department for being proactive during the peanut butter salmonella outbreak period. They conducted inspections of all vending machines in Morris Township for products that contained peanut butter and had those products removed.
- I addressed the resident questions about the budget and reiterated my comments relating to the capital spending resolution that I tonight asked to postpone. We need to carefully scrutinize every dollar we spend – even those that have been appropriated in prior years. Even though the money has been set aside does not mean we need to spend it. We need to make sure that every dollar we spend is for priority projects that are essential to the community.
- I addressed Mr. Hakim's comment about the openness of the budget process. Last year, at Ron Goldberg's request, we held a budget session that was open to the public. I would urge the Township Committee to hold another such session this year.

- The Morris Township police department has been asked to participate in the Click It or Ticket It enforcement campaign from May 18 to May 31. We have been offered a \$4000 grant for overtime. I would like to congratulate Chief Tim Quinn for pursuing this grant funding and several additional grants to increase enforcement that directly affects the safety of our citizens in the township.
- Lastly, you may have read in the newspaper that Morris Twp was selected by the NJ Department of Transportation to participate in the early stages of the "Red Light Camera" program. I have heard and read online of several citizen comments on the possibility of installing these types of cameras in Morris Twp. First, I would like to let people know that this is not "Big Brother" intruding on individual privacy. This is a safety-related program to help reduce the incidence of the deadly collisions that occur when someone runs a red light. There is a digital camera that is activated only when a car would go through a red light. So if you do not go through the red light then the taking of the picture will not happen. The police committee in particular, has not yet decided whether to proceed with this program. We have done some of the research related to the costs associated with installation, but there is still additional work to be done before we can reach a decision. So the public should understand that our selection by NJ DOT does not necessarily mean we will participate. We still have some work to do. The public should also know that this is a public safety initiative to keep our streets, residents, and especially our kids, safe. .

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:

- My condolences to the Vitale family. Larry was Chairman of our Board of Adjustment and he always worked to help our residents be good neighbors to each other. He'll be missed.
- Condolences to Tom and Monica Luby, on the passing of Tom's Mom, Rita Luby. Tom has been an important part of our Board of Adjustment for along time.
- The Parking sub-Committee met on Feb. 19 and moved forward on plans to assess and improve the parking facility and operation at Convent Station. Tonight's ordinance introduction was a small part of that plan. Also, earlier this week, some additional general parking meter spaces were created and signs were installed to mark those spots. We look forward to the activation of a new credit card type payment machine in the near future.
- The sewer sub-Committee met on Feb 26. We discussed operational, personnel and budget issues. Although this utility collects fees and is not vulnerable to the same revenue reductions the general budget must face, it had depleted its reserve or contingency fund and now must produce a lean budget and build up some reserve.
- Our DPW department did not see its shadow and was out plowing and salting to keep us safe at the beginning of the week. Good job and thank you. Spring is not really that far away. The next thing you know, it will be leaf collection time.
- Mr. Grayzel and I represented this Committee at the Feb. 24 Morristown Council meeting and each addressed the Council about their multiple resolutions regarding shared services and merging. Paraphrasing Mark Twain, "Rumors of our merging are much exaggerated." We said Merging studies or discussions are simply not on our agenda. However, we invited them to sit down with us on March 2 to discuss joining our study on fire service and to work out an alternative to moving their DPW yard to 240 MLK. Both of those studies would include consideration of shared service.
- Regarding comments made earlier this evening by members of the public and Committee about Pension deferral, I'm philosophically opposed to postponing an expense like pension. In this case, even the proposed set aside or savings plan which was suggested in response to opposition like mine might put our municipality at a disadvantage by affecting our cap. I haven't

yet found an advantage for our Township in pension deferral, only risk, but I'm still looking.

- I am pleased to announce that Morris Township will be expanding the collection of recyclable plastics to all classes, 1-7, in the near future. Watch for details on our web site in April. This change will reduce the amount of plastic going to our land fill, reduce our tipping fees and earn revenue since we sell recyclables.
- Next month, the Committee will be considering an ordinance to increase fees at our parking lot at the Convent Station. These increases were recommended by the Parking Committee which is comprised of Mr. Snyder and me and are the result of study and discussion.

Some decision factors on the parking fee increases are as follows:

- The Parking authority is a utility supported entirely by fees, not by taxes. It must operate in the black and shortfalls would need to be made up by the tax payer. That has not happened yet and there is currently no risk of deficit. We are in fact running a surplus. We do have debt that we are paying down on a schedule. I don't have an audit report for 2008 yet, so I can't supply precise figures, but revenues are on the order of \$250,000., the " mortgage payment" is on the order of \$100,000, and our current surplus is on the order of \$200,000.
- Down the road would like to be able to make some improvements for the comfort and convenience of the commuters without having to borrow money. We are also trying to update our payment systems and other outdated technology.
- We have hired an enforcement officer, and that represents a cost increase.
- We put the residents of Morris Township first. People move here because they can live in a great town that has a train station. It is not our intention to be a magnet for commuters from other towns. We don't have enough space for everyone, and we don't want to draw a lot of auto traffic. Our pricing considers our market, pricing relative to near neighbors and the supply of spaces. We are not trying to solve the problem of too many cars on route 80. Rather we want our residents to have parking and a good commuting experience. But we have lots of parking spaces that do not discriminate by residency.
- Our pricing is excellent relative to the cost of driving, tolls and parking in NY. A resident who purchases a permit gets approximately a 50% price reduction over daily meter costs and could spend below \$2/day.



Ray Snyder made the following comments:

- I also oppose the merger.
- I knew Mr. O'Keefe for a long time. My condolences go out to his family.

Dan Caffrey made the following comments:

- I too oppose all the talk of merger. Morristown is a great neighbor and we can share with them, but we have our own identity and they have theirs. There are win-win opportunities to share services with them.
- I would like to recognize a member in our audience tonight. He is a Scout who only needs 5 badges out of 21 to complete his Eagle Scout badge requirement.
- The DPW did a great job keeping our roads open and safe during the snowstorm.

- Met with the management of minute men this week. They responded to over 2,900 first aid calls last year. The minute men are volunteers. They will be making a presentation at our April township committee meeting.
- Our career firemen have been providing first aid calls to Morris View nursing home, but our fire department will no longer need to respond to these calls. The County has agreed that they no longer need these services. This will save on wear and tear as well as fuel costs.
- The organ donor awareness month is very dear to my heart. A friend of mine had a liver transplant several years ago that would not have survived without an organ donor. He received a liver transplant and is healthy today.

Mayor Scott Rosenbush made the following comment:

- You can see there is consensus on our committee opposing the merger. We had proposed meeting with Morristown on March 2 but calendars did not allow this to happen. We are ready to talk anytime, anywhere. With our proposed zoning ordinance it will be difficult for Morristown to misinterpret our intentions for the MLK site.
- I have also started talking to surrounding communities about sharing services.
- With regard to the budget, our clear focus is to save money. We are looking at sharing services, not just with Morristown but with many surrounding towns. We are encouraging our department heads to search for savings, and we are looking at every single dollar spent.
- With regards to the red light cameras, we have been approved for the pilot program. We have not finalized the program from our perspective to discuss how we might do this. One of the important steps we should take is to put test cameras at a particular intersection to track data. The public should understand that the cameras that you see on some traffic lights around town are traffic control cameras that help time the lights to increase traffic flow through the intersection. They are not taking pictures. Also, we are not looking at the red light camera program to generate revenue from tickets. Rather, this is purely a safety program meant to save lives and reduce injury

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 March 4 closed session the Township Committee passed a resolution that settled a property tax dispute that had been filed by Bayer Corporation located on Columbia Road.

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

**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 March 23. The agenda for this meeting can be found online at the township website: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/boa_03-23-09.pdf



There were three applications heard at this meeting. Please see the agenda for a description of each application.

The next regular **Board of Adjustment** meeting will take place on April 27. The meeting agenda will be available on the township website several days before the meeting.

The **Planning Board** held a regular meeting on March 16, and this agenda can be found online: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_03-16-09.pdf

The first application on the agenda was a review of proposed parking lot expansions at both Ginty Field and the Police Station, as well as a proposal to build a new walking path around Ginty Field.

The second application was by the Cromwell Hills Pool Association to rebuild the community pool has that was destroyed by a fire last year. The footprint of the building is remaining the same.

The third application on the agenda was the continuing hearing of the Major Subdivision on Shadyside Street. However, the applicant requested a postponement to a future date, which the board granted.

The last application was the continuing hearing of the Delbarton "North Fields" project,

The next planning board meetings are scheduled for April 6 and April 20. The April 6 agenda can now be found online at: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_04-06-09.pdf

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 Morris Township's Deer Culling Program

As some of you may be aware, Morris Township actively tries to thin out the local deer population. This program is part of the township's wildlife management program endorsed by the township's Environmental Commission. We recently completed our fourth deer culling season since the program's inception. In 2008-2009, 178 deer were harvested throughout Morris Township of which 150 were female and 28 were male.

More detailed news can be found in the following official press release from Morris Township:

http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/deer_03-18-09.pdf



We thank the 25 volunteers who participated in this program. I am personally supportive of our deer culling program for several reasons, but mainly because the deer population is negatively impacting

our forests by eating all the undergrowth, which will eventually result in mass deforestation across the entire Northeast because there are no young growth trees to replace the old-growth trees once they die. Last year the New Jersey Audubon Society came out in favor of increased deer culling. For more information see this recent article in the Star Ledger:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/fighting_for_the_forest.html

School Budget Up For Vote on April 21

The Morris School District budget for the 2009-2010 school year will go before voters on Tuesday April 21 for their approval. Polls are open 3pm-9pm.

The school board has approved a spending plan that is about \$2.5 million higher than the 2008-09 budget of \$99 million. However, due to an increase in the value of ratables in Morristown, a larger percentage of the school budget expense has shifted to Morristown and away from Morris Township. This will result in an average decrease (yes, decrease) in school taxes paid for an average home in Morris Township by \$74. In other words, if your home is worth \$390,000 then your tax bill will go down by \$74. If your home is worth more then you will see a proportionally larger decrease. While Morris Township residents would see a reduction in the school tax portion of their property tax bill, Morristown residents would get an increase under the proposed \$101 million Morris School District 2009-10 budget



School district taxes make up approximately 60% of the total tax bill for Morris Township residents. The Municipal tax is about another 25% and the County tax is about 15%.

More detailed news should be available soon on the Morris school district website, and I hope that an official press release will be posted shortly. <http://morrisschooldistrict.org/>

Other items of interest...

- The Morris Township Recreation Department has published their Spring/Summer brochure. See all of the wonderful activities listed. If you did not get a copy in the mail then you can check it out 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.

- **Morris County Park Commission celebrates Earth Day:** On Saturday, April 18 from 11 am – 4 pm come celebrate Earth Day at Lewis Morris Park (located in Morris Twp). Learn about the wonders of the natural world and how to live in harmony with it by going green! Fun for the entire family, the festival's entertainment includes live animal shows, interactive displays, crafts, hikes, face painting, canoe rides, games, and much more! For more information contact: 973-635-6629



- The Morris Township Beautification Committee still has an opening. If any members of the public are interested, contact me or our Township Administrator, Fred Rossi, at 973-326-7361.
- The Township Environmental Committee also has an opening. If any members of the public are interested, please contact the Chairman Ted Largman at tedleazer@netzero.net or our Township Administrator, Fred Rossi, at 973-326-7361.
- **Pancakes!** The Fairchild Fire Company is having a pancake breakfast on April 5. Please come support those volunteer firemen that support all of us in the community. This firehouse is located at the corner of Hanover Avenue and Burnham Road. More info can be found here: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/Historic_Poster-rev1.pdf
- **Park Commission Golf Courses Open March 28:** The Morris County Park Commission is gearing up for another golf season with opening day scheduled for March 28, weather

permitting. For more info can be found here:

<http://morrisco.finalhost.net/asp/morris/2009/03/park-commission-golf-courses-open-march.asp>

- **Attention Dog Owners.** Did you know that there was a public dog park right in Morris Township? It is located at Lewis Morris Park off of Mendham Road (County Route 510). For more information on this dog park visit the "Morris Area Responsible Dog Owners Group" website at: <http://www.mardog.org/html/mardogs.htm>
- **Morris Museum "Colonial Kids" program.** Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Morris Museum. Enjoy an afternoon of colonial art, history and culture! Visitors can examine replicas of traditional early American toys, clothing and other artifacts that were part of a child's daily life in colonial New Jersey. Children can also participate in a Revolutionary War hat-making activity (drop in between 12 noon – 3 p.m.; \$3/ child), as well as taste samples of colonial chocolate. At noon and 2:30 p.m., Morristown resident and novelist Joseph H. Dempsey will present a program about his book "The Harder the Conflict: A Historical Novel of the American Revolution for Young Adults," including a reading from the book, chronicling the real life story of an adolescent during the Revolutionary War.
- Join the Morris Township Recreation Department on a Historic Bus Tour of Morris Township on Saturday May 9th. The program is free but you must pre-register. Call the Morris Township Recreation Department at 973.326.7371 to register More info can be found on our website: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/Historic_Poster-rev1.pdf
- **Move it Morris Day:** This Wellness event will take place this year on May 9 at Loantaka Park located on South Street in Morristown. There will be fun and games for the whole family. For more info see: <http://eatsmartmovemore.org/moveitmorrisday.html>
- 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 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

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

There is only one Township Committee meeting scheduled for the month of April which will take place on Wednesday April 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.

**The Next Meeting:
April 15th**

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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