



Newsletter #25 ~ September, 2009

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September, 2009 Newsletter

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to offer 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 prior newsletters, you can view them at www.JeffGrayzel.com .

This edition covers the month of September including the meeting of 9/16/09 and also provides updates on some community issues. Make sure you note all of the upcoming events in our community. See the listings under "Other items of interest" near the end of this newsletter.

Note that **the next Township Committee meeting will take place this Wednesday October 21st**

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 do not use their address for any other purposes.

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Many people have told me that the newsletter has been too long to read in the available time. So I have tried to make this issue a faster read by providing an index of topics below so you can jump to what you are most interested in reading about:

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A Note About the Upcoming Township Election

Before I begin with my summary of the prior month's Township Committee meeting, I want to take a moment to speak about the upcoming Township election. As you are probably aware, I am up for re-election for Township Committee on the November 3rd ballot.

Before I ran for office, there were several instances in which my family and I sought information and assistance from our Township government. But each time we found our officials unresponsive to our concerns—and as I later found out, unresponsive to the concerns of my neighbors and other Township residents. Further, I discovered it was almost impossible to find out what actually went on at the Township meetings. So I decided to do something about it – I ran for office – for the sole purpose of making Morris Township more open and responsive to *all* its residents. It was *not* about party politics – as my opponents might want you to believe—but rather about *making our Township a better place*.



When I got elected I made a pledge to you that I would keep you informed, and that I would seek your input and feedback on the issues we face. I believe I have lived up to that pledge – as you can see from this newsletter and the ones I've sent out regularly since being elected. I have also forced open budget hearings to resident input, opened our Government to debate and new ideas, and introduced the Citizen Service Act to open volunteer appointments to *all* residents—not just those with connections.

But there is more to do. I want to further open our Government to you by broadcasting meetings on public access TV, sever ties between political contributions and government contracts, make our town more pedestrian friendly, increase recycling efforts (and the profits from it), and much more.

I also have a terrific running mate this year in Mary Marley-Reidy, who is running for the other Township Committee position. Mary will help ensure that we can advance our open government efforts. She will bring her business acumen and financial auditing skills to ensure fiscal responsibility. She will also bring a woman's perspective back to the all-male Committee. Mary will surely be a positive addition to the Committee and our Government. For more information, please see our web site at www.MorrisTownshipCandidates.com

I hope you appreciate the hard work I've put in and the results I've delivered. I ask for your support—so we can further build on our success—by electing me to a second term.

On November 3rd, please vote for Jeff Grayzel and Mary Marley-Reidy for Township Committee.

As always, if you have any questions about the election or any other Township matter, please reach me at Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com.

September 16 Township Committee Meeting...

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

http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_agenda_Final_09-16-09.pdf

The public portion of the Meeting started at 8:00 pm. This followed the Committee deliberations in a pre-meeting on personnel and legal matters that cannot yet be discussed in public.

The public portion of our meetings will still begin at 8:00pm going forward.



Police Department Ceremony

When the public portion of the meeting began at 8pm we opened up with the swearing-in of our newest police officer, Patrolman Victor Gallardo. Patrolman Gallardo is replacing a recently retired officer. I wish him well in his duties

protecting the residents of Morris Township.

Ordinances for Final Consideration...

Our 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:

Ordinance 23-09 allows for the stop sign at the intersection of Burnham Road and Lake Road to be moved from Burnham Road and onto the portion of Lake Road heading Westbound. This allows Burnham Road to become the through street onto the bridge heading over Speedwell Lake, and drivers on Lake Road will now need to stop before turning right towards Morristown.

The matter was up for final adoption at our September meeting, but at that time I had requested a postponement of the final vote pending further review since I had received several resident e-mails regarding increased speeding on Burnham Road since the road was reconstructed with new curbing and paving. I said that I have a concern that making Burnham Road the through street onto the Lake Road bridge would only encourage additional speeding on Burnham Road. The request for this change had been made for the fire department so that their trucks would not need to come to a full stop at the bottom of the hill. The police department reviewed the intersection and deemed it safe, so I deferred to the opinion of our professionals on this matter. The ordinance was passed.

Ordinance 25-09 authorizes the Township to proceed with the purchase of three acres at the end of Indianhead Road for preservation as open space. This matter had been discussed at our prior meeting on August 15 when we agreed to apply for funding for this purchase from The Morris County Open Space Trust Fund. This ordinance was opened up to the public and we had two comments:



- The first resident asked how the Township funds open space purchases. He was told that the Township collects an open space tax and that our own Open Space Preservation Fund is a primary source of funding for these purchases.
- The second resident asked if there would be any matching funds for this purchase. He was told that the NJ State Green Acres fund is broke at this time, but that it was hoped that some funds, if not a majority of the funding, would actually come from the County's Open Space Preservation Fund.

This ordinance was passed.

Ordinance 26-09, also known as the "Citizen Service Act", is a piece of new legislation co-sponsored by Committeeman Goldberg and me. The matter was first opened up to the public for comment and two residents stepped up to the microphone:

- The first resident, who had spoken at our prior meeting about the Citizen Service Act, said he spoke to the municipal clerks in two other municipalities that have this ordinance in practice. He said that those clerks did not find it burdensome to manage the application process.
- The second resident said he supported this ordinance because it makes the process more open. He then asked about the recent departure of a member of the Board Of Adjustment. He said he was not aware of the opening when it occurred, and the Mayor had then filled the position without anyone notifying him of the opportunity.

The Township Committee then began their discussion of the matter. Scott Rosenbush commented that the clerk had raised several questions related to the wording of the ordinance. The clerk said she had made suggestions so that it would be better aligned with our practices. Mr. Rosenbush asked that the language be completely cleaned up before a final vote occurred. Others felt that the changes were clear and that a final vote should be taken. In the end the Committee decided to table the vote until the next meeting.

This ordinance will be up for final approval at our upcoming meeting on October 21.

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 three ordinances for introduction at this meeting. These three ordinances were fashioned after models provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The NJDEP requires such ordinances be enacted to put us (and other municipalities) in compliance with State stormwater regulations.

Ordinance 27-09 relates to "DUMPSTERS AND OTHER REFUSE CONTAINERS". This is an ordinance requiring dumpsters and other refuse containers that are outdoors or exposed to storm water to be covered at all times and prohibits the spilling, dumping, leaking, or otherwise discharge of liquids, semi-liquids or solids from the containers to the municipal separate storm sewer system(s) operated by the Township of Morris and/or the waters of the State so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

Ordinance 28-09 relates to "STORM DRAIN INLETS ABUTTING PRIVATE PROPERTY". This is an ordinance requiring the retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets which are in direct contact with repaving, repairing, reconstruction, or resurfacing or alterations of facilities on private property, to prevent the discharge of solids and floatables (such as plastic bottles, cans, food wrappers and other litter) to the municipal separate storm sewer system(s) operated by the Township of Morris so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

Ordinance 29-09 relates to "FERTILIZER USE". This is an ordinance to regulate the outdoor application of fertilizer so as to reduce the overall amount of excess nutrients entering waterways, thereby helping to protect and improve surface water quality. This ordinance does not apply to fertilizer application on commercial farms.

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

This concludes "Ordinances for Introduction". The above ordinances will be publicly debated at our next Committee 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://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_agenda_Final_09-16-09.pdf

and the text can be found at:

http://www.morristwp.com/resolutions09/twpcomm_resolutions_09-16-09.pdf

I asked that the resolutions be voted on individually this month, instead of in a group as usual, because I had comments on two of them. I noted the increasing legal fees for our defense counsel related to the Combe landfill lawsuit (a 20 year-old lawsuit about a contaminated landfill used by multiple municipalities in Morris County). I also noted yet another no-bid contract being given to the firm Hatch Mott McDonald and stated that I did not want to see this anymore in the future. I added that we should be bidding out as many of our contracts as possible.

All of the other resolutions were without controversy. All of the resolutions passed. Of note, resolution 179-09 reappointed James Slate as the Township Engineer. Jim has been working for the Township for ten years.

Copies of all resolutions passed may be obtained from our Township Clerk by calling 973-326-7430, or they can be viewed on the Twp web site at:

http://www.morristwp.com/resolutions09/twpcomm_resolutions_09-16-09.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 he or she wishes.

In addition to the public comments made above (in the Ordinance section), the following comments were made at this meeting:



- The first resident to speak asked several questions:
 - Congratulated the Township engineer, Jim Slate, on his reappointment.
 - Asked about the Information Technologies consulting position that was open at the end of last year (that he had previously inquired about)
 - Asked for an update on raising parking fees at the train station.
 - Asked about the traffic study being conducted by Morris County relating to the new Jets football complex on Park Avenue.
 - Asked about the status of the project to install a walking track at Ginty Field.
 - Regarding the Citizen Service Ace, he asked how Morris Twp. Currently respond to an opening for a paid position to work for the municipality, and wondered if we could use the same technology to respond to citizens who apply for an opening on a board or committee.
 - Asked about the cost to the township of providing the flu clinic.
 - Asked about how many employees we have in the health department.
 - Asked if the township foresaw expanding the services that the health department provides.

- The last resident to speak had had the following comments:
 - Asked if anyone could get an H1N1 flu shot.
 - With regard to the Citizen Service act he noted that technology already exists for web site-based applications for job, which could be applied to applying for boards and committees.

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 August 15 meeting:

- I would like to welcome our newest police officer, Patrolman Victor Gallardo. I wish officer Gallardo well in his new career protecting the citizens of our fine municipality.
- Last night Scott and I attended an event on Frederick Place for the police department's successful and continuing KKAD25 program. The event was led by Chief Quinn, Captain Reilly, and officer Ferrone, who is head of our traffic safety unit. We had a very nice turn out by residents on the street. I wanted to share with the public a comment we received from a resident in attendance. I will paraphrase his remark; He complimented The Township for the quality of our police force. He said they are not only professional but also interact well with the community. He said it was the reason he has stayed here in Morris Township even though he retired long ago. So my compliments to Chief Quinn and his entire force for the great job they do. I can tell Patrolman Gallardo that he has accepted a job with a top-notch force.
- Congratulations to the Seeing Eye on their 80th anniversary. Their facility on Washington Valley



Road here in Morris Township has hosted over 300 students this past year to learn how to bond with a guide dog. Over its past 80 years the organization has served about 8,000 people. It is said to be the leading guide dog facility in the entire world and we are proud to have them here in our Morris Twp community.

- At our last meeting I forgot to mention the outdoor movie and concert series that the Recreation Department ran this past summer. I wanted to thank Provident Bank for being a sponsor of our concert series, and I also wanted to thank the volunteers on our Twp OEM team for providing the portable lighting system to light the dark field so everyone could exit safely.
- At our last meeting I also failed to mention that on June 13 the Morris County Freewheelers hosted the "revolutionary ramble" bike ride that toured many historic sites in the county. The event raised just over \$14,000. The Freewheelers have returned that money back to the community in the form of fourteen \$1,000 grants to local EMS squads, including a grant to our own Morris Minutemen. Several of the organizers of this group are residents of Morris Township. I would like to thank the Freewheelers for supporting the community.
- My compliments to our municipal clerk on posting our ordinances and resolutions online in a timely manner. The resolutions before us tonight were online this morning. This is a great public service and I thank Mrs. Amelio and her staff for their efforts in this regard.

Other Commentary from Township Committee members...

The following comments were made at our meeting:

Ron Goldberg made the following comments:

- I look forward to having a standard procedure for assuring that legislation is ready for consideration and to eliminating the sliding or double standard the Committee exhibited today. For example, we held back the Citizen Service Act ordinance over possible wording defects that were far less egregious than flaws which I exposed in the 3 storm water ordinances we introduced tonight.
- I attended a recognition service at Bethel AME Church on Sunday to honor some residents of Morris Township and Morristown who each gave decades of service to our community. They were Ethel Montgomery, past president of the School Board, William Butch Barber, youth development leader, Reno Smith, educator and past president of Morris County NAACP, and William Primus, current CEO of Morris Count Urban League. My thanks and congratulations to them.
- Over the weekend I attended the end season pool party at Ginty Pool and today the Seniors picnic at Ginty Pool. Thank you to Rec. Dept's Jo Ormsbee and Bill Foelsch for all the hard work and caring. These are really sweet activities that I hope one day will draw out many more of our residents. Even if you only come for the food and music, they are really a great deal.
- I would like to remind the public to curbside-recycle plastics classes 1-7, and to bring large plastic pieces to our DPW site on Jane Way.
- We have sold parking permits to 90% of last year's level, and almost all of our metered parking is occupied mid week. Morristown is opening parking to the public at the Transit Village. The price will be considerably higher than a permit at Convent Station. It will also make meter parking at Convent look attractive. The Parking sub-Committee will consider this situation tomorrow.
- We have an ambitious, energetic Engineering Department. I'm pleased as a member of the Engineering sub-Committee to be informing the public of how much good work is going on. Some projects we have recently completed or are about to begin include Burnham Rd. reconstruction, Woodland Ave paving, Burnham Park intersection redesign, Gaston Rd. force main, Egbert Hill sewer, Armstrong Rd. reconstruction, and Old Glen and Turtle Rd reconstruction.

Ray Snyder made the following comments:

- Patrolman Gallardo has joined the best police department in Morris County. I wish him well in his new job.
- Thanks to Jim Slate for the work he does as the Township engineer.
- Thanks to Rick Noonan who volunteers for our OEM team.
- The Citizen Service Act is a well-deserved piece of legislation. We will work with the clerk to fix the language.

Dan Caffrey made the following comments:

- Congratulations to Jim Slate on his reappointment.
- Congratulations to Patrolman Gallardo on his appointment.
- Leaf collection season starts soon. Please remember to keep the leaves off the street according to state regulations.
- Thanks to the Swimming Pool managers for a good job during this past swim season
- Fairchild Fire Dept. received a donation of \$4,000 from the Butterworth neighborhood association to buy a new Santa sled. Thank you to the neighborhood association.

Scott Rosenbush made the following comments:

- We will have separate clinics for seasonal flu shots vs. H1N1 flu shots. Contact our health department for more information.
- Thanks to our CFO and other professionals for a successful bond sale which was recently completed.
- Thanks to Jim Slate for his good work as our engineer.
- I attended a service at St. Virgil's for their 100th anniversary of that school.
- St. Elizabeth will be celebrating 150 years.
- There was an editorial in the star ledger about what was wrong with red light cameras in which they misquoted me. I continue to support the concept of the red light program. We are going to review the test results prior to moving forward.

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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** was to have held its regular meeting on September 21. There were two small matters on the agenda, which can be found here:

http://morristwp.com/agendas/boa_agenda_09-21-09.pdf

The next Board of Adjustment meeting will be held on October 26, and the agenda will be published online a few days before the meeting.

The **Planning Board** held a regular meeting on September 14. The agenda can be found here:

http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_agenda_09-14-09.pdf

There was just one major item that was to be on the agenda, which was the continuing hearing for

the subdivision of one lot into three on Shadyside Street. But since this hearing was postponed, the Planning Board meeting was very brief. There is a citizen group mounting a protest to this development and it has hired its own lawyer and planning consultant. The applicant's lawyer and the opposition lawyer agreed to a postponement of this hearing in order to have the opportunity to have both sets of experts hear the others "expert testimony" on this application. The postponement was granted and the hearing will be continued on December 7.

The other matter heard on September 14 related to a new drive-through teller area to be installed at Provident Bank on Ridgedale Avenue (next to the Post Office). This application was approved.

The **Planning Board** meeting scheduled for October 5th was cancelled due to lack of applications to discuss.

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for this Monday October 19. The only item for discussion on October 19 is a new "tree ordinance" that would replace our existing (limited) ordinance. Several options for further restricting the cutting of trees will be discussed. If you are concerned about trees in the Township then please join us for this discussion. The agenda can now be found at the Twp web site:

http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_agenda_10-19-09.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.

Leaf Collection is Starting on October 19

Seasonal collection of yard waste that occurred during the summer and early Fall months has now ceased.



Fall leaf collection begins on October 19th in sector 1, and will rotate through all 3 sectors in the township for a 7-8 week period. Please see the following link to determine which sector your street is in:

<http://morristwp.com/pdfs/dpwsector1.pdf>

Please keep the leaves out of the street per state regulations so the leaves will not clog storm drains. If you have any questions please call our Department of Public Works at 973-326-7398.

Other items of interest...

- **Kids Halloween parade** on Sunday October 25 at 1:30pm at the Fairchild firehouse (on Burnham Road) AND at 3:00pm at the Hillside firehouse (on Western Avenue)
- **Vote by mail in this November's election.** If you will be out of town or will have difficulty making it to the polls on Election Day, you may on Election Day you may apply for an "Absentee ballot application" by filling out a form and mailing it in. A paper ballot would then be sent to you in the mail, which you would mail in or bring to the clerk. Please see the Morris County Clerk's web site for more information:
http://www.morriscountyclerk.org/html/elections/pre_ballot.asp
- **Poll Workers For General Election:** Morris County election officials are looking for individuals to work at the polls during the New Jersey general election Nov. 3rd. Poll workers will earn \$200 for the day. Anyone interested in working the polls Nov. 3 may obtain an application online at www.morriselections.org or by contacting the Morris County Board of Elections at 973-285-8350.
- **Freeholder Meeting at Morris Township Municipal building.** Several times a year the Freeholder Board holds their meetings within local communities (as opposed to their regular meeting place in the County building in Morristown). Please come meet the Freeholders and attend their monthly meeting on October 28 at 7:30pm at our municipal building at 50

Woodland Avenue.

- **The Parks & Recreation Department published their Fall/Winter activities and program guide.** An online version can be viewed here:
http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/Morris_Winter_Brochure_2009.pdf
- **Deer Culling scheduled for the Fall:** A list of properties where deer culling will take place this Fall has been posted on the Township web site. Dates and times have not yet been scheduled.
http://morristwp.com/agendas/DEER_CULLING_2009.pdf
- **Health Tip for the back-to-school season:** The H1N1 flu virus (a.k.a. "swine flue") is still circulating. The #1 thing anyone can do to prevent infection is simple hand-washing. Please encourage your kids to wash their hands several times a day at school, and most certainly when they walk into the house at the end of the school day.
- **H1N1 vaccine tip:** anyone born prior to 1958 does not need to get vaccinated. This group has an immunity based on a flu they were exposed to earlier in their lifetimes.
- **Attention basketball players!** The upgrades to the two basketball courts located at Collinsville playground are now complete. The courts now are resurfaced, re-stripped, have new backboards, and upgraded lighting for night play. The timers on the light poles will allow any member of the public to turn on the lights, and the courts can be used up until 10pm at night. My hope is to have one or two nights a week assigned for "pick up" games and we are looking for a member of the public to coordinate this effort. Let me know if you are interested.
- **County Clerk Offers Free Photo I.D. Cards For Morris Veterans:** The service is being offered free of charge to all honorably discharged Morris County veterans. Additional information about obtaining a Morris County photo I.D. card for military veterans may be obtained by calling the county clerk's office at 973-285-6161.
- **Expanded plastics recycling in Morris Township:** Many residents are still not aware that Morris Township now recycles classes 1 through 7 plastics. Formerly, we accepted only class 1 and 2 plastics bottles. Remember that increased recycling REDUCES our taxes. See this link on the Township web site for more information:
http://morristwp.com/pdfs/ABC's_of_Recycling1-7Rev1.pdf



[Vote in the Township Election on November 3rd](#)

Remember to go vote on November 3rd for the election for Morris Township Committee. My name is on the very last line of the ballot so go straight to the bottom to look for *Jeff Grayzel and Mary Marley-Reidy* – and vote for both.

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

There is only one Township Committee meeting scheduled this month which will take place on Wednesday October 21st.

The draft agenda is now online at <http://morristwp.com/>

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.

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

**NEXT
TOWNSHIP
MEETING:
Wednesday,
Oct. 21st**

<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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