

**Grayzel Commentary**  
**Township Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting of November 20, 2012**

First, let me address Hurricane Sandy. A tremendous number of our residents were affected by this storm. Power was not finally restored to all residents until Tuesday November 14, more than two weeks after the storm. It was a trying time for many of us, and it was exacerbated because people just did not know what was happening and what to expect in terms of restoration times.

I personally shared the frustrations of our Township residents because nobody could obtain information from JCP&L. And by nobody I really mean nobody, because not even our Township Committee would get accurate information from JCP&L through most of the first 10 days after the storm hit. Along with Mayor Mancuso and Administrator Quinn, I sat in on several of the daily conference calls with JCP&L. Unfortunately; JCP&L was less than forthcoming with information related to many aspects of the recovery.

After the flooding and Halloween snowstorm last year we had many lessons learned, and JCP&L clearly still has more to learn coming out of this recent event. There will certainly be state level hearings to review the storm response from all the utilities, and I am sure we will learn more after these hearings are completed. I will also push for JCP&L to appear personally before the Township Committee to address both this body and our residents.

Some people still were frustrated with the Township's response. I assure everyone that it was not for lack of trying. Our Administrator, Tim Quinn, worked countless hours on behalf of our residents, helping to coordinate every single phase of preparation, response, and clean-up. Mr. Quinn deserves special recognition for all the work he did related to the storm. Thank you Tim.

Other people that deserve special mention for their work related to the storm are DPW Director Tom Eschmann, along with his foremen and crews. They all worked a lot of long hours in round-the-clock shifts to clean up our streets in the days after the storm. So a well-deserved thank you goes out to our DPW.

There are many other thanks to go around as well for their hard work including our critical services departments of fire, police, sewer, and the great job our volunteer OEM group always does. Thanks also to the engineering and building code departments.

I also want to thank local religious organizations for providing warm spaces and re-charge centers for folks who needed it

There are stories from around the State of New Jersey of scams and various forms of fraud in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. One Morris Township resident has told me of

price gouging by a tree removal service. Excessive price increases are illegal. Check with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs at [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov) or call 800-242-5846 if you suspect prices are too high.

We also have FEMA aid workers in the area. If someone comes to your house always ask them to see identification, and you should write their name down.

FEMA and SBA staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. If in doubt, do not give out information, and report people claiming to be government workers to local police.

As you can imagine, many people relied on Interfaith Food Pantry during the storm, and their food stocks got very much depleted. Residents should consider making food donations to help the Interfaith Food Pantry recover.

With regard to the local elections, due to the storm the state extended the period for absentee voting. Because of this the election is still not certified yet, but I think we will know the official results at the end of next week.

Now some other matters not related to the storm:

On Thanksgiving day at 8:30am come on out and run in 6th annual turkey trot 5K race and walk. The event starts right across the street and supports Literacy Volunteers and Interfaith Food Pantry

The Morris County Parks Commission has announced the dates that the annual deer hunts will occur in various parks within the county system. The dates that the hunts will take place at Lewis Morris Park in Morris Township are:

Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 12, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, and Feb. 6

You may have heard from news stories that Morris Township is facing two lawsuits related to the Honeywell ordinance approval that was passed by this body last month. One was not unforeseen. Perhaps next month Mr. Mills can review for the public the substance of each suit and the timelines associated with how they will work their way through the courts.

Lastly, I noted that the Township Ethics Board was supposed to hold a public hearing yesterday, but it was cancelled. I wanted to ask Mr. Quinn or Mr. Mills to provide the public with an update.

I would like to close by sending my best wishes to all of our residents for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. It is a good time to reflect on all of the wonderful things we have been blessed with in this great country we live in. And remember not to drink and drive at all times, but especially during this holiday season.

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