

Grayzel Commentary

Township Committee Meeting

Meeting of September 18, 2013

First, I would like to send my condolences to the families of those killed in the Washington Naval Yard shooting several days ago. I am appalled at the increase in mass shootings in this great country of ours. I am equally appalled at the lack of action by our U.S. Congress to rectify some of the issues with our gun laws.

I would like to speak to the James Street sidewalk project. I have taken several preliminary steps in trying to create a dialogue about this project and I wanted to inform the Township Committee and members of the public about this.

Last week I met with Morristown Councilwoman Allison Deeb and Councilman Stefan Armington, and the three of us walked up and down both sides of James Street. This helped established a relationship with these council people and got us on the same page as to how we think we should move forward.

The Township is putting together a feasibility plan and cost estimate of this project. We are asking Morristown to do the same. The next step will be looking for some grant money to fund the project. So far I think we are making good progress on this initiative and I am going to try to keep the momentum going.

I attended the Morris County 9/11 Morris Memorial ceremony at the County's 9/11 monument on Hanover Avenue. It was a beautiful ceremony, and we heard a moving speech from the Director for US Homeland Security for the state of New Jersey.

On our agenda tonight we have a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Morris School district for a school resource officer. This is a continuation of a program we have had with the school district for many years to place a police officer at Frelinghuysen middle school.

And for many years we had urged the Town of Morristown to do the same for the high school. I am thankful that last year Morristown finally allocated funds to place a school resource officer at the high school.

Marty's cycle shop in Morristown recently ran an event called Gran Fondo. This bike tour took riders through parts of Morris Twp, including my neighborhood in the Historic Washington Valley. This allowed scores of bikers to see for themselves how beautiful our community is.

The school year has convened. I ask drivers to drive carefully and please stop for school buses stopped to pick up school kids. We have already had incidents reported of cars moving by buses while their lights were flashing. I wish the students and educators of both the Morris School District and other local private schools a successful, fruitful and safe school year

There are two upcoming events I would like to encourage folks to attend. One is the Speedwell Avenue open house this Saturday along the stretch of Speedwell Avenue in the Township, where we have several nice shops and restaurants. The second is the Morristown fall festival on the green next Sunday. At the fall festival there will be a presentation by a local jump rope team. They are called the Lightning Bolts and they recently competed at the Junior Olympics. There are four members of this team that reside in Morris Township.

I also encourage people to continue to donate food to interfaith food pantry. There are still many families and folks who are not participating in the economic recovery underway around the country.

Lastly, the Jewish New Year holiday of Rosh Hashanah has just passed and I wish our residents of the Jewish faith a healthy and happy New Year.

(end)