

Grayzel statement – January 22, 2014

Morris Township Reorganization meeting

Thanks to those of you in the audience that came out tonight on this cold night. I remind residents that Town Hall serves as warming center during severe cold spells

The Township DPW did another great job with snow removal last night. Thanks to all of you who put in those extra hours to clear the streets.

On tonight's agenda we have the appointment of two people to open positions on the Environmental Committee and the Board of Ethics. I wanted to thank Mrs. Amelio for posting notice on our website of the various openings we still have available. I urge residents to take a look at this list of openings on Committees to see if they might be interested in applying for one of these volunteer positions.

The Morris Township Emergency Management Association will continue the annual fundraising activity of selling roses for Valentines Day. The sale will take place at the Hillside Firehouse on Wednesday, February 12th 3pm to 7pm; Thursday the 13th from 12 noon to 8pm; and Friday - Valentine's Day from 7am to 7pm. The Hillside firehouse is located at 132 Western Avenue. All proceeds benefit the OEM organization – meaning that all proceeds benefit Morris Township residents! The OEM department is staffed entirely by volunteers who give their time to the community. Please support the community by buying your roses at the Hillside firehouse.

Congratulations to new Board of Ed president Leonard Posey, and thank you to outgoing president Nancy Bangiola for all the time and effort she put in for the benefit of all our kids in the community.

The Morris Education Foundation provides a lot of support to the school district. I wanted to remind the Public of their upcoming event “Morristown's Got talent” at the Community Theater on Feb. 26. It is their largest annual fundraiser that supports Arts and Music programs in our schools. Tickets sell out fast and go on sale next week on January 27.

Last week the joint library had a pipe burst on the second floor, which led to the closure of joint library for a couple of days. Kudos to all the staff and folks who addressed the issue and got the library quickly reopened to the public.

Congratulations to Atlantic Health System, the parent of Morristown Memorial Hospital, as they have been ranked #1 on the Forbes list of best employers in the state of New Jersey. It is great to have them in our community.

A couple of days ago the Star Ledger published a story of survey published by the security firm SafeWise that ranked the safest communities in the state of New Jersey. The firm combined FBI crime data with other factors such as unique safety initiatives to rank municipalities with at least 15,000 residents. Morris Township ranked 18th in the state. The only two communities in Morris County that ranked ahead of us were Washington Township and Madison.

At the reorganization meeting two weeks ago many of us up here gave thanks to our employees. At that time I wish I had given special recognition to the two men who run our sewer plants, Mark Howarth and Tim Odell. I will do that now. Scott Rosenbush and I sit on the sewer sub-committee overseeing the sewer utility. We have had two budget meetings in the past couple of weeks with Mark and Tim. I was once again impressed with both the breadth and depth of their knowledge in the workings of the sewer plants. They had information on even the smallest of details like gaskets and pump lubrication. These two guys really know what they are doing, and I wanted the public to know that we had two quality people running our sewer plants.

Lastly, I wanted to recognize Morris Township native Dan Quinn who is the Defensive Coordinator of the Seattle Seahawks. Dan's defense helped secure a big win against the San Francisco 49'ers in last weeks conference championship. And I know he made his brother Tim proud. As you all know the Seahawks are on their way to New Jersey to participate in the super bowl next weekend. Go Hawks!