

Jeff Grayzel commentary – May 21, 2014

Morris Township Committee meeting

Thanks again to Freeholder Hank Lyon for coming in tonight to review the county budget with us.

Congrats to Helen Streubert, who was installed as the new President at The College of Saint Elizabeth. This is the first time a nun is not running the 1,500-student Catholic college, which is home to last all-women's undergraduate college in New Jersey.

Memorial Day is a US federal holiday when the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces are remembered. Morris County will hold its service this Friday at noon on the lawn in front of the courthouse. Morris Township and Morristown will hold their joint annual service on Monday starting at 10am at our municipal building followed by the annual parade of little league baseball players up to the Green. Please remember your veterans and come out to honor them at one of these events.

The Morris Township police department is again participating in the “click it or ticket” initiative. This statewide initiative, for which we have received grant funding to support our participation, includes high-visibility seat belt checkpoints and a media campaign to remind drivers and passengers to use seat belts. I read that front seat belt usage rate in New Jersey currently stands at 91 percent.

The Township Parking Lot Committee, which consists of myself and Mr. Mancuso, is please to inform the public that new parking meters were recently installed at the convent station train station. For those residents using the daily spots, the new meters will provide a better user experience, including the ability to pay via your Smartphone. The built in reporting system will also make it much easier for the Township to track parking usage by spot number. I would also like to thank the Township employees who were at the train station to greet commuters starting at 5:30 in the morning on several mornings last week to help introduce the new machines to our commuters.

There is good news for the residents who live on the streets surrounding Lake Road, as Lake Road is finally scheduled to be milled and resurfaced next week. The road was torn up for a sewer extension line that is being run to neighboring Randolph. This was an important project to bring in additional sewage flows and additional revenue to our sewer utility. My apologies to resident for the length of time that the road has been in disrepair.. However, the soils under Lake Road turned out to be very soft and we had to let those disturbed soils underneath the roadway settle sufficiently before the paving could take place. This will help to ensure that the roadway stays stable and level. The new sewer line will bring new revenue to our sewer utility and will help offset costs to our sewer system that would otherwise be borne by Township residents, so there is a real benefit to Township residents.

There is good news for Collinsville residents. There is a planned renovation of the entire Collinsville playground in this year's budget. There was also money allocated for constructing a new sidewalk along Martin Luther King Boulevard that will connect residents to the new Shoprite on East Hanover Avenue.

Speaking of sidewalks, I wanted to close by asking Mr. Quinn to give the public an update on the James Street sidewalk project and the possibility of applying for any grants in conjunction with Morristown.

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