

Jeff Grayzel commentary – July 16, 2014

Morris Township Committee meeting

As all of you know, schools out. Please watch for kids playing in neighborhood streets, so please slow down a little bit more as you drive through our residential neighborhoods.

Congratulations to the Morristown National Little League 12-year old All Star team. They won the District Championship and will now begin state sectional play. They are currently 10-0 in the little league post-season. We are all hoping for the continued success.

Congratulations to our local Babe Ruth Baseball Organization for another outstanding program and thanks to Retiring Commissioner (and Township resident) Brian Mandel for years of outstanding service to the league.

Even though it was a bit soggy, we had another successful lawyers for kids 5K run last week at Ginty field. Superior Court Judge Weisenback blew starting whistle. Thanks to the Township PD and Minuteman for their support assuring safety during the race.

The hospital serving our community, Morristown Medical Center, has named Louis Brusco Jr. as its new medical director. I would like to welcome Dr. Brusco to our community.

Development of the Honeywell property is now moving forward. The Rockefeller Group will be the lead developer of the overall project and will be developing the office portion of the complex. Hovnanian builders will develop the residential units. Rockefeller and Hovnanian recently filed their development plans with the Planning Board, and the first public meeting has already been scheduled for this coming Monday July 21. If the planning board accepts the general development plan (GDP), then the next step for them would be to submit a formal site plan application to Morris Township's planning board. Residents interested in hearing for themselves how this large piece of property will be developed should come out to the planning board meeting this Monday.

There have been reports that an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash Borer has made its way to northern New Jersey. It is leaving tree devastation in its wake. The larvae of this beetle feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, thus killing the tree. It is said that the insect is at the root of the destruction of millions of ash trees from Colorado to New Hampshire, impacting arbors in 21 different states. Adult beetles are metallic green and about 0.5 inches long and leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark when they emerge in the spring. Also, since woodpeckers like Emerald Ash Borer larvae, signs of heavy woodpecker damage could mean the presence of the insect. If you spot any of these beetles it is recommended that you report it to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Lastly, the annual Junior Olympic Games begin next week in Des Moines, Iowa. We have four kids from Morris Township competing in the jump rope competition that is part of these games. Their team is called the Lightning Bolts and they are based out of the Red Oaks School. I would like to wish all the Lightning Bolts jump rope team members success in these upcoming junior Olympic Games.

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