



January 2012: Morris Township News Update

**IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:**

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Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you the latest in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality.

If you missed any of my past newsletters, you can click [HERE](#) to review prior issues.

Please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider. As always, I welcome your comments. When you are finished, please pass this on to your neighbors and friends.

### **Township Annual Reorganization Meeting on Jan. 4**

The Township Committee held its annual reorganization meeting on January 4th. The agenda can be found here:

[http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_12-01-04.pdf](http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-01-04.pdf)

Item 5, the swearing-in of Jeffrey Grayzel and Daniel Caffrey, was essential to allowing the conduct of the business that followed, and was my favorite part of the meeting.. The meeting continued with the announcements of all appointments to our various Boards and Committees. Several dignitaries were on hand including State Senator Anthony Bucco, and Assemblymen Anthony Bucco and Michael Carroll, as well as former State Senator Gordon MacInness.



The comments I made on the occasion of being the first Democrat to ever be sworn in to a second term in Morris Township are posted on my website. I will continue the practice of posting my commentary on my website each month. [Click here for the text of my remarks.](#)

### **Township Committee Regular Meeting on Jan. 18**

The Township Committee held its first regular meeting on January 18th. The agenda can be found here:

[http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_12-01-18.pdf](http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-01-18.pdf)

The January 18 meeting opened with the swearing-in of a new firefighter Steve Cornine, who is replacing a retiree.

Firefighter Cornine was introduced by Fire Chief Scott Lovenberg and sworn in by Township Attorney John Mills. Steve is a Morris Township resident and has been a volunteer firefighter for the Fairchild Fire Department for many years. He is very well qualified and a welcome addition to our wonderful crew of professional firefighters.



There were two ordinances up for introduction and none for final adoption (as this was the first meeting of the year none had been previously introduced). The following ordinances will be up for approval and final adoption at the February 15 meeting:

**01-12 "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, CONCERNING SALARIES FOR MEMBERS OF MORRIS COUNTY COUNCIL NO. 6, NJCSA, IFPTE, AFL-CIO"**

**2-12 AMENDING CHAPTER 95, ZONING-OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS RE: 95-54. C. OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICULAR USES (THIS ORDINANCE WAS REMANDED TO THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS)**

The resolutions voted upon can be found by clicking on the above link to the agenda. Both resolutions were successfully adopted.

During the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting, six residents came up to the microphone to discuss various issues:

- The first resident brought up several subjects:
  1. He complained that light posts on his street had fallen down in the past few months, and requested the Township Committees help in getting JCP&L to replace them.
  2. He asked about the Township vehicle auction held earlier in January (where the Township auctioned off 16 very old vehicles that were no longer in use)
  3. He mentioned that he had read an article about municipalities pooling their electricity purchases and asked if the Township was participating in such pooled energy contracts. (He was told that last year the Township negotiated its own energy contract which has resulted in significant savings on our electrical bills in just the first six months of the contract)
- The second resident brought to the attention of the Township Committee the continuing lack of attention to a dilapidated fence that runs along Deborah Drive across from the failed townhouse development which is responsible for maintaining the fence. He was told that the Township would be using monies from the developer's performance bond to replace the fence and that the engineering department would be setting up a neighborhood meeting shortly.

As is the normal order of business, the Township Committee commentary followed the public commentary. As noted above, this year I will be posting my comments online so that they are publicly available: <http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/committee-comments.html>

In addition to my prepared remarks I made a request of the Mayor that in light of the Honeywell development proposal before the planning board that the Township Committee hold a public review of the role the Township Committee plays in the land-use planning and land-use ordinance approval processes. I stated that the public needs to have a thorough understanding of the process of adopting land-use regulations and ordinances in our municipality given the expectation that this body would soon be handed a master plan amendment by the Planning Board. Mayor Mancuso agreed to make this a formal agenda item at our February 15 meeting. To members of the public who wish to have a better understanding of our land-use planning and ordinance approval processes: I suggest you attend the February 15 meeting. **Note:** This will be a generic discussion of the approval processes and there will be absolutely no discussion of the specifics of the Honeywell development plan, which is still under purview of the Planning Board.

**Note:** The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday February 15th at 7:00pm at our municipal building.

**7:00pm  
meeting  
start  
time.**

NOTE: This year the Township Committee has decided to start the public portion of our meetings at 7:00pm instead of the traditional 8:00pm as in the past. Please make note of the new 7pm start time.

**Planning Board releases draft Master Plan Amendment for Honeywell and schedules public commentary for February 5th**

At its January 9th meeting, the Planning Board discussed a draft amendment to the Township’s Master Plan to enable mixed-use development at the 147-acre Honeywell property on Columbia Turnpike and Park Avenue. A newly created zone would allow hundreds of town houses, retail space, office buildings, and a 400-unit CCRC on a subdivision of the Honeywell tract.

You will find the draft master plan amendment on the website of “Citizens For better Planning in Morris Township”. This is a citizen group formed to monitor Honeywell site development planning. <http://c4bpmt.org/news-2/>



The March 5 Planning Board meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Municipal building.

For those of you who want a better understanding of the role of the Township Committee in land-use policy, law and planning process, please note above that the Township Committee will be having a public discussion at their meeting on February 15 (see the end of the section above relating to the January 18 Township Committee meeting).



**Milk/Juice Cartons are Now Recyclable!**

Morris Township has started recycling milk and juice cartons as well as other types of paperboard cartons used for beverages. These should be included with your recycled cans and bottles (NOT with recycled paper or cardboard). Read the **Details and FAQ** here: <http://www.morristwp.com/11cartons.pdf>

Here is a list of **Examples of Acceptable Cartons:** <http://www.morristwp.com/11cartonexamples.pdf>

**Valentines Day rose sale to support Township OEM**

Members of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is holding its annual rose sale at the Hillside firehouse (located on Western Avenue). The quality of the roses is excellent, and at \$25 for TWO dozen roses the price cannot be beat (I buy my roses there every year so I can vouch for the quality.)



- February 12 — 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- February 13 — 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Valentine’s Day, February 14 — 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

**The Hillside firehouse is located at 132 Western Avenue in Morris Township.**

For orders or questions, call Pat at 973-714-7481 (cell) or e-mail [patriciasimms207@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciasimms207@hotmail.com) . You can order in advance or just stop in and pick from their selection.

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.

### Tips for Preventing Home Break-ins

The following tips were passed along to me so I thought I would share them with you. The following are some suggestions that you may wish to follow, even if you are not away:

1. Pick up your newspapers.
2. Take in your garbage cans -- don't leave them out for days.
3. Don't leave mail in the mailbox.
4. Set timers in your house, and have them go on prior to it getting dark (you can now by light timers that are light sensitive so they automatically turn on at dusk when the light gets low). This makes the house appear to be occupied.
5. Use motion sensor lights - especially in the rear of the house. Higher lights are always better as they cannot be easily dismantled. Make sure lower windows are locked, especially in the garage. Trim shrubs near doors and windows. Make sure your house number is visible from the road.
6. Let your trusted neighbors know when you are away.
7. Don't post pictures of you away on vacation on your social media sites. "checking-into" places is always a sure giveaway.
8. Keep pictures of your prized possessions. Write down serial numbers. Keep appraisal reports. Engraving is always a good identifier. Some even periodically video their house to remember what they have. The police do a good job tracking/ informing the pawnshops of the stolen jewelry.
9. If you see a suspicious car, don't hesitate to call the police. If you are unsure, at the very least, do your best to write down the make, model and color-description of driver/passengers. Getting a license plate is always best.
10. Consider notifying the township police about being away on vacation or at a family funeral. The police may be able to make random checks of the property.



### Other items of interest...

- **Historical pictures of Morris Township and Morristown:** I received my monthly email from the Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library and it contained a link to some wonderful historical photos that have just been posted online: <http://cdm15387.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p15387coll9/searchterm/mansions/order/title>
- **Fosterfields:** Enjoy a Winter's Day on the Farm on Sunday, February 5 from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. at the Morris County Park Commission's Fosterfields Living Historical Farm in Morris Township! Take part in typical, wintertime activities much like farm families experienced in the 1920s. Also, get a last look at the existing Main Barn and Ensilage Pits before their restoration begins this year. For more information, call 973-326-7645 or visit [www.morrisparks.net](http://www.morrisparks.net), and [www.friendsoffosterfields.org](http://www.friendsoffosterfields.org)
- **Prepare to say goodbye to the incandescent bulb:** The "Energy Independence and Security Act" that was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2007 went into effect January 1 this year and will be implemented in stages through 2014. The law requires that all general-purpose bulbs be more energy-efficient and that 100-watt incandescent bulbs be phased out by the end of 2012. See the an article on the topic here: [http://www.northjersey.com/community/house\\_gardening/138219684\\_Prepare\\_to\\_say\\_goodbye\\_to\\_the\\_incandescent\\_bulb.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/community/house_gardening/138219684_Prepare_to_say_goodbye_to_the_incandescent_bulb.html?page=all)
- **Market St. Mission Thrift Store Reopens:** The George Street facility in Morristown was

destroyed by Hurricane Irene, but is back open now and accepting donations. For more information: <http://morristown.patch.com/articles/market-st-mission-thrift-store-reopens>

### **Upcoming Committee Meeting...**

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday February 15th at 7:00pm at our municipal building. Please note the earlier start time for this first meeting of the year.

Looking ahead, the March meeting will take place on March 21.

### **Contact Jeff...**

I will continue to communicate with the public by e-newsletter on a periodic basis. However, if you ever have a question or an issue you would like to discuss, feel free to contact me by e-mail. I will continue to respond to e-mails sent to [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com).

You can now also be able to reach me at my official Township email address: [JGrayzel@Morristwp.com](mailto:JGrayzel@Morristwp.com)

**Please feel free to forward this e-mail on to others.** If you know someone who would like to subscribe to future issues, please have them contact me at [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com)

I am pleased to once again be representing the residents of Morris Township on the Township Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, issues or concerns.

Your neighbor,  
**Jeff**

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[Jeff's Web Site](#) | [Contact Jeff](#)

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