

[<Back](#) Print

January 2013: Morris Township News Update

Dear Neighbors,
Now that 2013 is upon us I am pleased to continue to send my periodic 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.

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/newsletters.html>

Please note that the first regular meeting of the Township Committee in 2013 is tomorrow, Wednesday January 16 starting at 7:00pm. The meeting will be preceded by a quarterly Board of Health meeting starting at 5:00pm, after which the Township Committee will go into closed session prior to the start of the 7:00pm meeting.

Please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider the following information to stay informed about our municipality. As always, I welcome your comments. When you are finished, please pass this on to your neighbors and friends.

Township Committee Regular Meeting of November 20th and December 19th

The Township Committee held a regular meetings on November 20th and December 19th. The agendas can be found here: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-11-20.pdf



http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-12-19.pdf

You can see the various ordinances and resolutions voted on by reviewing each agenda. The full text of each ordinance can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/minutes2012.asp>

At the December meeting we swore in a new firefighter, Matthew Kaufield, to our fire department. He is replacing a recently retired firefighter.

There are three ordinances listed on the above agendas that I would like to bring to your attention:

- 19-12: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 71 " SEWERS AND SEWERAGE" SECTION 71-15 ENTITLED "PAYMENT OF CHARGES" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS

Note from Jeff: This ordinance changes the billing cycle on all of our sewer bills. As a cost-saving measure we will now be billing our sewer charges twice a year instead of every quarterly. So please ensure you pay the proper amount next time you pay your sewer bill.

- 17-12: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 95 ZONING – VAN BEUREN ROAD
Note from Jeff: This ordinance "up-zones" the properties along the bucolic Van Beuren Road to increase the size of the property lots required to build upon. This was a citizen-initiated development as the local residents were troubled by recent higher-density developments in their neighborhood. Properties that were in the RA-35 zone, requiring 35,000 SF of land to build upon, now belong to a new RA-87 zone that required 87,000 SF of property for a single family house. Please note that this ordinance only applies to properties along Van Beuren Road. I strongly support up-zoning measure to protect the character of our neighborhoods instead of trying to squeeze new housing into every nook and cranny available.

- 15-12: ORDINANCE OF THE" TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS AMENDING CHAPTER 88 SECTION 88-11.1 "SPEED LIMITS
Note from Jeff: This ordinance changes the speed limits along Western Avenue. I am pleased to report that we are finally reducing the speed limit along the residential portion of Western Avenue to 25 mph. I have been a proponent of this change for some time now, and I am happy to finally see it implemented for the safety of the residents in that neighborhood. The new speed limit signs should be up by the time you read this.



Several resolutions were then voted upon, and these can be found by clicking on the link to the agenda above.

As is typical, the Township Committee ended the meeting with commentary from each member of the Committee. As I have been doing throughout 2012, my comments will be posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 12/19/12 meeting:

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202012-12-19.pdf>

The next Township Committee meeting will be held TOMORROW Wednesday January 16th at 7:00pm in our municipal building. The February meeting of the Township Committee will be on February 20th.

Click here for a list of Jeff's meeting remarks in 2012.

Election Results

Due to Superstorm Sandy many people missed the news of the results of the local election. The State of NJ provided for an extension of the election to allow for displaced voters to vote via fax. Thus, the certification of the election was delayed by over 3 weeks. The winners of the local election for Township Committee were the incumbents, Scott Rosenbush and Bruce Sisler.

I would like to highlight these comments I made on this subject from our December Township Committee meeting:

As of the last meeting of this body, the November election results had not yet been certified due to delays related to the storm. I would now like to take this opportunity to congratulate both Mr. Rosenbush and Mr. Sisler on winning another term on this body. I look forward to working with both of you in the coming years, and I hope that together we can do good things for

Morris Township.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Ron Goldberg and Ms. Judy Stein for their election efforts. Our democracy in this country is often taken for granted, but democracy only works if there are people willing to stand up for the great democracy we have by running for public office. Our community owes a debt of gratitude to these two opposition candidates, as well as to the candidates from last year, Mike Kandybowicz and Andres Benevenuto, for their willingness to put in the effort to keep our democracy strong. Thanks to all of you for your efforts.

The full extent of my meeting commentary can be found here:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202012-12-19.pdf>

Brush Clean-Up from Superstorm Sandy Continues

The Morris Twp DPW has finished up our annual collection of leaves and has turned their attention to completing the collection of the remaining brush left over from Superstorm Sandy. Both leaf and debris collection has been delayed somewhat because the usual drop sites we use to dispose of these materials are full due to overwhelming amounts of materials created by the storm. The trucks have had to travel farther distances to dispose of the materials which has slowed operations somewhat. Please see the latest information posted to the township website:

<http://morristwp.com/pdfs/121214brush.pdf>

NJ Health Info on Flu Activity

New Jersey Health Commissioner, Mary O'Dowd, has released the following important public health information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/news/2013/approved/20130114a.html>

You can also view NJ state weekly flu reports here:

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/flu/fluinfo.shtml#rep>

A flu shot is the most effective way to prevent getting the flu (and the second is frequent hand-washing). It takes about two weeks for flu shots to become effective. The peak month for flu for the past 30 years has been February so there is still time to take preventative measures. The Morris Township Health Department has a limited number of flu shots available. For those over 65, Medicare will cover the cost of the vaccination. For all others, the cost is \$25. The Township is has upcoming flu clinics scheduled for Wednesday, January 16 at 3-4 pm and Friday January 18, 2013 at 1-2 pm at the municipal building. Please call the Township Health department at 973-326-7390 to make an appointment.

New Morris County Freeholder Board

We have many new faces on the County Freeholder Board as a result of the elections of the past two years. Freeholders John Murphy and Bill Chegwidden will no longer be serving on this County body. I would like to personally thank Mr. Murphy (a Morris Township resident, and our former Mayor) and Mr. Chegwidden for their great service to both our community and our county. Their knowledge and wisdom will be missed by many – including me.

Here are a couple of press releases on the makeover of the County Freeholder Board:

Morris County Freeholders Bid Farewell to Two Colleagues - William Chegwidden

and John Murphy have left the freeholder board. More info:

<http://morriscountypr.blogspot.com/2012/12/freeholders-bid-farewell-to-two.html>

New Morris County Freeholders Take Their Oaths - Read more here:

<http://morriscountypr.blogspot.com/2013/01/new-freeholders-take-their-oaths-in.html>

N. J. Special Health Needs Registry

Recently the Morris Twp health department circulated the following information about a registry that can be helpful for this with special health needs during a storm or other weather emergency. This registry is confidential.

We have learned from the hurricanes and flooding issues we experienced in NJ that preparation is the key to a successful weathering of an emergency. In an effort to assist and support the special needs residents of Morris Township, the Morris Township Committee in conjunction with the Board of Health is encouraging residents who require special assistance or need extra assistance to register on the Special Health Needs Registry run by the State of NJ.

To name just a few issues: whether you use oxygen continuously or only once in a while, require electricity for certain medical equipment, live alone, have limited family support, or would need assistance if you were required to evacuate your home quickly in an emergency. These are just sample of the situations which are beneficial for an individual to register. Please register for the registry at: <https://www13.state.nj.us/SpecialNeeds/>.

This registry is confidential, and information will not be released to the public. It will provide us some additional information if and when another emergency arises.

Remember, having your own personal plan in place for emergencies is invaluable. Here is an example of a personal planning guide available for download. http://nj.gov/health/er/documents/citizens_guide.pdf

For additional information about the Special Needs Registry program, please contact the Morris Township Department of Health at 973-326-7390.

Other items of interest...

• **Register for Winter Recreation programs:** Please see the Township's rec offerings here: <http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2012FallWinterRec.pdf>

Register for programs here:

<https://register.communitypass.net/reg/login.cfm?9%3CN%21%2B%22%5FO%22F%299SZWV%5C%21%3DHXE%2A6%3EI%20%24%261%29%3DK%5B%40%20%20%0A>

For more information call the office at 973-326-7371

• **Rose Sale for Valentine's Day** to support Township OEM: 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 Tuesday, February 12th 12 PM to 7PM; Wednesday the 13th; 8AM to 8PM; and Thursday - Valentine's Day from 7AM to 7PM. 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 . 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.

• **Recycle your Christmas wrapping paper!** Remember when opening your presents this year to recycle as much of the materials as possible. Take that wrapping paper and stuff if into a paper bag to leave at the curb. Take all the cardboard boxes and put them out for recycling too!

• **Watch Your Back! How to Prevent Snow Shoveling Injuries** - Winter can be a wonderful time, but too much activity without proper preparation can spell trouble!

Read more:

http://morristown.patch.com/blog_posts/watch-your-back-how-to-prevent-snow-shoveling-injuries?ncid=newsltuspatc0000001

• **New Federal Regulations for Furnaces starting May 2013** – The new law will require that newly installed furnaces be 90% efficient. Contractors are already installing mostly 96-98% efficient furnaces since many homeowners are already looking for the most efficient furnace possible. There are some issues with replacing old furnaces because some installations might require a large amount of remodel work in order to replace an 80% efficiency furnace with a condensing furnace. Also, the new law requires that furnaces be vented directly to the outside instead of being vented through a chimney. **Read more here:** http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/New_federal_law_may_make_replacing_your_furnace_much_costlier.html

Upcoming Committee Meetings...

The next regular meeting of the Township Committee will be on Wednesday January 16h at 7:00pm at our municipal building.

Looking forward, next month's meeting of the Township Committee will take place on February 20th

**The Next Meeting:
Wed.
Jan. 16th**

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. You can now also reach me at my official Township email address: JGrayzel@Morristwp.com

Please feel free to forward this e-mail news on to others. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to future issues, please have them contact me at JGrayzel@Morristwp.com

I look forward to another year of serving the residents of Morris Township on the Township Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns.

Happy New Year to everyone. Best wishes for a wonderful 2013 to all of Morris Township!

Your neighbor,
Jeff
© 2013 - Jeff Grayzel

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

©2013 Jeff Grayzel

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to rosary2@mac.com by jeff@jeffgrayzel.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Jeff Grayzel, Morris Township Committee | PO Box 10 | Convent Station | NJ | 07961

