



July 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 Committee Regular Meeting of June 20th

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on June 20th. The agenda can be found here:

http://morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-06-20.pdf



The meeting opened up with the annual police awards presentations, and four officers received awards. Each year the department presents awards to officers at the June township committee meeting.

- The 2011 Officer of the Year award recipient was Ptl. Steven Summerer, who was commended for his involvement in school programs, such as D.A.R.E, and for his general involvement with law enforcement in the schools.
- One of the two Honorable Service Awards went to Ptl. Stan Witczak, who is being commended for his diligence to duty. In January, he identified a wanted vehicle that resulted in a suspect charged with a serious criminal offense.
- Ptl. Steve Crump will also receive an Honorable Service Award for leading the agency in DWI arrests after making 23 arrests of 2011. He has won the MADD award for the second year in a row.
- Ptl. Clay Boeninghaus received the Letter of Recognition for an incident in January when he stopped a car for an equipment violation and found 3.5 pounds of marijuana in the vehicle. His arrest stopped the suspects from making a drug deal that would have netted \$28,000.

Read more about these honors in the Patch story:



<http://morris.patch.com/articles/morris-township-honors-its-top-cops-of-the-year?ncid=newsltuspatc0000001>

The meeting continued with a brief presentation from JCP&L about the new communication initiatives and system upgrades the company has taken since the two storms in August in October last year. At the Township Committee meeting this past March, JCP&L officials spoke about initiatives they were working on and listened to residents express their concerns about losing power during the storms. At the recent meeting JCP&L reported that they got in touch with each of the residents that spoke out at that meeting. JCP&L reported that on their parent company's website (First Energy) there is now an outage map showing areas without power:

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>

Next on the agenda was a presentation by the Harding Land Trust who is in the process of purchasing for preservation a portion of the late Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen's estate (Peter was the father to current Congressman Frelinghuysen). While most of the land is in Harding, there will actually be 3 acres in Morris Township that will also be preserved.

Next, one ordinance was up for introduction and four were up for final adoption. The following ordinance was introduced and will be up for approval and final adoption at the August 15th meeting:

- **12-12:** ALLOWING SHARED USE OF EASEMENT WITH DANIEL R. AND KIMBERLY HONEKER OVER PORTION OF BLOCK 02101, LOT 17

The following ordinances were up for approval and final adoption, and all passed unanimously:

- **08-12:** BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$7,687,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,303,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.



***Note from Jeff:** This ordinance appropriates the funding outlined in our approved budget for various sewer projects in 2012. The largest of them is a major upgrade to our sewage processing facilities to comply with new NJ Department of Environmental Protection regulations.*

- **09-12:** BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$4,429,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,208,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

***Note from Jeff:** This ordinance appropriates the funding outlined in our approved budget for many various capital Improvement projects throughout the Township in 2012.*

- **10-12:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS - CHAPTER 60 - ENTITLED "NOISE"

***Note from Jeff:** This ordinance amended our current regulations to exclude generators from the noise ordinance during power outages.*

- 11-12: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY CONCERNING SALARIES FOR NONUNION PERSONNEL

***Note from Jeff:** This ordinance amended our salary ranges for the purpose of our hiring of a new Tax Collector who has a different salary than what had been previously posted in the range. She will also serve as our Assistant Treasurer. See more info in the Municipal*

Messenger at the link listed below.

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

An extra resolution was added at the meeting concerning the Hanover Avenue Corridor traffic study being conducted by the State of New Jersey in conjunction with Morris County. The resolution requests the County Freeholders to expand the study to include a portion of West Hanover Avenue just west of the intersection with Speedwell Avenue that is currently not included in the study.

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

- The first resident brought up several subjects:
 - He thanked JCP&L for their quick and professional response restoring power to his neighborhood when tree limb knocked out power.
 - He asked the Township to comment on and explain bonding for new garbage truck utilizing new "one armed bandit" technology.
 - He thanked our recreation Director Bill Foelsch and his team for another excellent year of maintaining fields and facilities across town.
- The second resident read a prepared statement about the proposed amendment to the township master plan.
- The third resident suggested that we try to expand the Hanover Avenue traffic study all the way west to Ketch Road.

As is typical, the Township Committee commentary followed the public commentary. As I have been doing all year, my comments will be posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 6/20/12 meeting:

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/committee-comments.html>

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday July 18th at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

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

Planning Board issues its proposed Master Plan Amendment for Honeywell Redevelopment



Over the past 18 months the Planning Board has held many meetings and hearings relating to the proposed Honeywell redevelopment on their xxx-acre site at 101 Columbia Road. They held multiple meetings to allow all members of the public to ask questions and make commentary. The public commentary has now ended and the planning board recently released its proposed Master Plan Amendment for the Honeywell property.

Read the proposed Master Plan Amendment here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/LandUseElement.pdf>

The next step is for the planning board to draw up a formal land use ordinance. It is expected that this new ordinance will be voted on by the Planning Board at their July 16 meeting. This ordinance will then get sent to the Township Committee for review, discussion, approval, and enactment into actual law.

The agenda for the July 16 Planning Board meeting can be found here:

http://morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_agenda_12-07-16.pdf

The Township Committee will be holding its monthly meeting two days later on July 18th and it is

expected that the Township Committee will finally take up review of the proposed Honeywell Redevelopment at this meeting. If you have an interest in what is being proposed for this property then you should consider attending the July 18 Township Committee meeting to hear our initial discussions. During the deliberations at the Township Committee citizens will have another opportunity to make comment and ask questions about the redevelopment plans and the specific land-use ordinance that will be voted upon.

Here is a thoughtful letter to the editor published in this week's Newsbee newspaper:

http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/are-honeywell-s-plans-in-morris-twp-ready-for-a/article_45e00d68-cae3-11e1-a55b-0019bb2963f4.html

On a related note, here is a PATCH story about Honeywell considering a relocation to Pennsylvania: <http://morris.patch.com/articles/honeywell-considers-relocating-in-pennsylvania>

James Street Bridge replacement and Road Closure

The James Street bridge that takes drivers over route 287 is being reconstructed, with the project scheduled to begin in August. The bridge, located near Springbrook Road on the north side and Southgate Parkway on the South side, goes over seven lanes on I-287. It is being replaced because of its poor condition from the weather and having no major alterations since it was built over 40 years ago. NJDOT is scheduled to start the project sometime in August and it is projected to last somewhere between 6-9 months to completion. (Yes, that's a long time!) Please plan your driving route accordingly.

The detour around the closed bridge will be as follows:

- Drivers traveling south on James Street will be directed to take I-287 southbound to the Harter Road exit, which will then continue on Harter Road to the traffic signal at James Street.
- The detour for those traveling northbound on James Street will be directed to turn right on South Gate Parkway and enter I-287 northbound. The motorists will take exit 35 off I-287 and take South Street up until they make a left on James Street to return to the closure.

Read more on PATCH:

<http://morris.patch.com/articles/i-287-overpass-on-james-street-to-start-reconstruction-in-august?ncid=newsltuspatc0000001>

JCP&L urges customers to report power outages



Jersey Central Power & Light has introduced its "24/7 Power Center", which it claims is the industry's leading online map that delivers fast and accurate outage information to desktop, smart phone and mobile devices. The map can be viewed on the website of their parent company, First Energy (located in Ohio), at: <http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>

Says JCP&L: "The maps also will allow customers to quickly and easily report an outage. The more customers who report an outage – either on the JCP&L website or by calling 888-LIGHTS (1-888-544-4877) – the quicker we can locate the cause of the outage."

Note from Jeff: If you experience a power outage, please do not assume that someone else is reporting it. The more people that report a power outage the higher up on the JCP&L priority list it will go because they try to get the most people back online at once as possible.

Other items of interest...

- **Morris Twp "Municipal Messenger":** The Township recently published the latest issue in this periodic series of newsletters containing lots of pertinent information about our municipality. Read the Messenger here:
<http://morristwp.com/messenger/messenger2012-Summer.pdf>

Note the listings for our free summer concert series (sponsored by Provident Bank) and free summer movies (sponsored by let's Bloom Together).

- **The Morris County Parks Commission presents "National Night Out"** – Join the fun at this FREE annual event taking place Tuesday August 7 at Mennen Arena. FREE food, entertainment, ice skating, giveaways, and more! Have fun while learning about crime and drug prevention. Explore emergency vehicles, and meet the horses of the Morris County Park Police's Mounted Equestrian Unit. Take part in the Child ID Initiative. There is something for everyone at National Night Out! Date: Tuesday, August 7 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Mennen Sports Arena, in Morris Township
- **New at the Morris Township/ Morristown Library -- Take Home a Kindle:** Looking to try something new? The Morristown & Morris Township Library now has Kindles for the public to borrow! If you have been interested in using an e-Reader, you can borrow a Kindle and try it at home for two weeks. Each Kindle will come loaded with a wide variety of over 20 pre-selected best-selling books for you to read. There is something for everyone. The Kindles are free to borrow by any Morristown & Morris Township Library resident cardholder 18 and over. There is no charge for this service but there is an overdue fee of \$2.00 per day. Patrons can place a hold in our online catalog. Search for the title "Kindle Electronic Book Reader." Ask for more information and borrow the Kindles at the Reference Desk or call us at 973-538-2592.
- **Pre-applications available for moderate income housing units in Morris Township:** The Housing Partnership, administrative agent for the for-sale income restricted units in the Township of Morris, has announced that they are accepting pre-applications for the interested parties pool for one and two bedroom moderate income "affordable" units in the Township of Morris. Read more details on PATCH here:
<http://morristown.patch.com/articles/interested-in-affordable-housing?ncid=newsltuspatc0000001>
- **NJ Transit Expands Travel Options for Bicyclists:** The newly relaxed "Bike Aboard" Policy will allow bicycle boarding at all train stations effective July 1. For more information:
<http://madison.patch.com/articles/nj-transit-expands-travel-options-for-bicyclists-7af14e29>
- **Morris United (MUSC) fall soccer registration is now open:** Registration for Kids Fall 2012 MUSC Recreational soccer is OPEN, and will be until Sept 7th. Information on the program can be found here:
<http://morrisunited.com/recreation.shtml>

Click here to register:

<http://www.sportssignup.com/Morris-United-Soccer-Club-Online-Registration.start>



- **Market St. Mission Thrift Store needs your donations:** The George Street facility in Morristown that was destroyed by Hurricane Irene is back open now and accepting donations. For more information:
<http://morristown.patch.com/articles/market-st-mission-thrift-store-reopens>
- **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>

Note from Jeff: *As a reminder to those of you out there who could be doing a better job recycling, remember that recycling actually helps reduce your taxes!! Not only do we pay less to dispose of the trash (and the landfill costs just went up this year), but we also get paid from a recycling company based on the tonnage of recyclable materials we bring to them. It's a win-win for taxpayers.*

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday July 18th at 7:00pm at our municipal building. Please note the earlier start time for the committee meetings this year. At this time, the agenda for this meeting has not yet been publicly posted.

It is expected that the Township Committee will have its first discussions regarding the **Honeywell Redevelopment Proposal** at its July 18th meeting. If you have an interest in what is being proposed for this property then you should consider attending the July 18 Township Committee meeting to hear our initial discussions.

Looking ahead, next month's meeting will take place on August 15.

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 **Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com**

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

Your neighbor,
Jeff

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

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**The Next
Meeting:
Wed.
July 18th**