



July 2013: Morris Township News Update

I am pleased to present to you the latest in a series of periodic E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality. This newsletter covers the Township meetings from the past 3 months.

The next Township Committee meeting will be held this coming Wednesday July 17th at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

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.

HEAT ADVISORY THIS WEEK:
The national weather service has forecast temperatures approaching 100 degrees for several days this week.

The Morris Township Municipal Building is OPEN as a COOLING CENTER from 8am - 7pm every day this week. It is advised to drink extra fluids this week as well.

Township Committee Meetings: April

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on April 17th. The agenda can be found here:

http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_13-04-17.pdf

Most of this meeting was taken up with the presentation and discussion of the 2013 municipal budget, which had been introduced by the Township Committee at their March meeting. At the April meeting a presentation was given that provided the public an overview to the budget. After the presentation the floor was opened to the public and questions were asked by the audience. The budget was then formally approved by the Township Committee.

A copy of the budget can be found here:

This link is presently not working on the Township website so I will forward it to you when it becomes available.

A copy of the presentation can be found here:



This link is presently not working on the Township website so I will forward it to you when it becomes available.

No other ordinances of great significance were introduced or voted upon at this meeting. You can see the various ordinances and resolutions voted on by reviewing each agenda at the link above. The full text of each ordinance can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/ordinances2013.asp>

Of note, there were two resolutions recognizing achievements by members of our community:

- Steve Wiley was recognized for his lifetime of achievements.
- Patrick Gallagher was recognized for reaching Eagle Scout status.

As is typical, the Township Committee ended the meeting with commentary from each member of the Committee. My public commentary is posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 4/17/13 meeting:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202013-04-17.pdf>

Township Committee Meetings: MAY

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on May 15th. The agenda can be found here:

http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_13-05-15.pdf

The meeting opened up with two presentations. The first was on the NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study. This study was funded through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Subregional Studies Program and managed by the Morris County Division of Transportation. The NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study (NJ 124 Transit Study) provides analysis and recommendations for improving access to the three NJ Transit commuter rail stations in the NJ 124 Corridor: Chatham, Madison, and Convent Station. These three stations are served by the NJ Transit Morris & Essex Rail Line. The study area included NJ 124 through Chatham Borough, Madison Borough, and Morris Township, as well as some analysis in Chatham Township, Florham Park Borough, and Harding Township. The full study can be found here:

<http://www.morrisdot.org/NJ124/index.asp>

The second presentation was given by Freeholder Hank Lyon who provided an overview of the County Freeholders 2013 budget. Freeholder Hank Lyon gave an excellent and comprehensive presentation. He answered the many questions we had for him, and I took the opportunity to urge him (and the Freeholders) to move forward quickly with the development of new playing fields at the County's Greystone recreation facility.

The meeting continued with Ordinances to be voted on. There was one significant ordinance up for final consideration:

- 08-13: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$2,455,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,258,725 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Note from Jeff: This ordinance covers bonding of a multitude of general capital improvement projects. Each project, and the associated cost, is listed within the body of the ordinance, which can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/ordinances/ord2013-08-13.pdf>

You can see the various ordinances and resolutions voted on by reviewing each agenda. The full

**Click here
for a
complete
list of all
Jeff's
meeting
remarks.**

text of each ordinance can be found here: <http://www.morristwp.com/ordinances2013.asp>

The Township Committee ended the meeting with commentary from each member of the Committee. My public commentary is posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 5/15/13 meeting:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202013-05-15.pdf>

Township Committee Meetings: JUNE

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on June 19th. The agenda can be found here: http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_13-06-19.pdf

The meeting opened up with the swearing in of two new police officers. These new officers replaced one that retired and another who had resigned to take a position with another police department (closer to his home).

The meeting continued with recognition of several youth from our community:

- Catherine Wong and Brett Harvey were presented with Certificates of Achievement for attaining a PERFECT score on their SAT's. Morristown High School is believed to be the only schools in the country having two kids achieve a perfect SAT score.
- Zach Certner, also a student at Morristown High School, was recognized for his work with SNAP, which stands for Special Needs Athletic Programs. Not only does it serve a great need to these special needs kids but it also inspires the youth mentors who volunteer in the program to work together through athletics, peer mentoring activities, and educational programs. SNAP's goals are to ultimately raise awareness about the impact students can make in the lives of children with autism and other disabilities. For more information of if you want to donate to this local non-profit organization, please visit their website at www.snapclinics.org

Next on the agenda were ordinances to be voted upon.

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

- **10-13: AMENDING CHAPTER 17 "POLICE DEPARTMENT"**
Note from Jeff: Several months ago we swore in a new police Chief. This ordinance was requested by Chief McGuinness to update several rules and regulations on how our police department operates. This provided him with the opportunity to put his personal touch on how to run his department, although nothing in the ordinance was a major departure from how we have operated previously.
- **11-13: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,004,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$954,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST**
Note from Jeff: This ordinance covers additional bonding (on top of that voted upon at the May meeting) covering a multitude of general capital improvement projects. Each project, and the associated cost, is listed within the body of the ordinance, which can be found here: <http://www.morristwp.com/ordinances/ord2013-11-13.pdf>
- **12-13: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$775,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$736,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.**

Note from Jeff: This ordinance covers bonding of a multitude of SEWER utility capital improvement projects. Each project, and the associated cost, is listed within the body of the ordinance, which can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/ordinances/ord2013-12-13.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/ordinances2013.asp>

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.

The meeting continued with a report from the bid committee and the award of several contracts for those projects up for bid. A list of the projects can be found by clicking on the link for the agenda above.

The Township Committee ended the meeting with commentary from each member of the Committee. My public commentary is posted to my website so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 6/19/13 meeting:

<http://jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202013-01-16.pdf>

**The next Township Committee meeting
will be held
Wednesday, July 17th at 7:00pm
in our municipal building.**

Yard-waste Collections Reinstated

This year the Township reinstated monthly yard-waste and brush pick-up. This program had been part of the many budget cuts over the past few years. The Township has been split into two zones and collections will be made once a month in each zone.

Read the full notice containing the specific dates

here: <http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2013YardWasteRecyclingChanges.pdf>

Find out which zone your street is located in:

<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2013StreetsCollectionServices.pdf>

For additional information about the program, please contact the Department of Public Works at 973-326-7398.

Colgate-Palmolive Announces Closure of Morris Township Facilities

Coming closely on the heels of the recently announced departure of Honeywell from Morris Township, just last week Colgate-Palmolive announced that they would be leaving their facilities on East Hanover Avenue on 2015, a place they have occupied for the past 60 years. Read the story in the Daily Record:

www.dailyrecord.com/article/20130711/NJNEWS/307110044/



250 James Street Condominiums Under Construction

Now that the James Street bridge has reopened, if you have traveled south on James street you probably have seen a large building lot under construction at the corner of Southgate Parkway. Ninety-two condos were approved by the Township Planning Board to be built on this lot. (Yes, ninety-two more condos are coming to Morris Township.)

Other items of interest...

- **Swim Pool Memberships:** There is still time to join the Morris Township swim pools for a partial-season rate. For more information contact the recreation department at 973-326-7371.

- **Become a Poll Worker!** Poll workers are needed for the upcoming special elections. Poll workers receive training and will be paid \$200 for the day. Find additional information here:
<http://www.morriselections.org/pollworkers/index.asp>



- **MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days:** See the list of acceptable materials and drop-off dates here:
<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2013MCMUADropOff.PDF>
- **The passing of Cecilia Laureys:** Cecilia Laureys, a retired four-term Morris County freeholder and mother of 10 children, died on July 7. Read of her accomplishments in this Newsbee article:
http://newjerseyhills.com/echoes-sentinel/news/morris-county-mourns-death-of-longtime-freeholder-cecilia-laureys/article_b3e7d3ac-e99d-11e2-b842-001a4bcf887a.html
- **The passing of Ella Filippone:** Ella Filippone, the director of the Passaic River Coalition who died at age 78 on Friday, June 21. Read of her accomplishments in this Newsbee article:
http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/filippone-memorial-saturday-at-willow-hall-in-morristown/article_27ae171a-ea61-11e2-a26b-001a4bcf887a.htm
- **National Night Out at Mennen Arena on August 6:** This is a FREE event consisted of free food, entertainment, ice skating, giveaways, and more! Join the Morris County Park Police, and over 40 law enforcement and community agencies. Explore a variety of emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, police motorcycles and squad cars, ambulances, all-terrain vehicles, and meet the horses of the Morris County Park Police's Mounted Equestrian Unit. Special appearance by New Jersey Devils Alumni players and mascot, NJ Devil himself! Take part in the Child ID Initiative. There is something for everyone at National Night Out!
Date: Tuesday, August 6
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Mennen Sports Arena, 161 Hanover Avenue, Morris Township
Cost: FREE!
For Information Contact: 973-326-7654
- **Fright Night Skate at Central Park of Morris County on July 26:** It's time to celebrate Halloween...in July! Back by popular demand, Fright Night Skate returns to the inline rink at Central Park of Morris County. Join the Jerzey Derby Brigade and

DJ Earl for a spooktacular Halloween party with skating, DJ entertainment, games, contests, prizes, and more. Enter the costume contest and win a prize! Admission is FREE so bring family and friends and enjoy an evening of ghoulish good fun. Don't forge

Date: Friday, July 12 Friday, July 26

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Central Park of Morris County, 91 Central Avenue, Parsippany, NJ 07954

Cost: FREE!

Contact: 973.326.7616 or recreation@morrisparks.nett your skates!



- **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 TOMORROW Wednesday July 17h at 7:00pm at our municipal building.

Please try to attend one of our Township meetings to see how your local government operates. Your presence improves the quality of the proceedings, and your "in-person" questions require the Township Committee to be responsive to our citizens.

Looking forward, next month's meeting of the Township Committee will be on Wednesday August 21st.

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 enjoy serving the residents of Morris Township on the Township Committee and I like hearing from people. 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 17th**

