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May 2012: Morris Township News Update

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:

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Dear Neighbors,

I am sorry that I have not written to you recently with my updates on our community, but I have been caught up in the throes of managing a little league team for the first time, and it has taken up much more time than I expected (but has also been a very rewarding experience).

However, I did want to inform you of an important meeting taking place this Wednesday May 16 when the Township Committee will be presenting the annual municipal budget at a public hearing.

**Township Committee to present
Annual Municipal BUDGET this Wednesday May 16th**

At their regular meeting tomorrow the Township Committee will be voting on the annual municipal budget. Prior to the vote there will be a presentation by Mayor Mancuso that will provide an overview of the budget and its implications. Following the presentation will be a Question & Answer period where residents may ask any question or make comments related to the budget.



A summary of the municipal revenue and appropriations can be found on the Township's website: <http://morristwp.com/pdfs/2012revenue.pdf>

A more detailed budget document can be found here: <http://morristwp.com/pdfs/2012budgetdocument.pdf>

I hope you can find time to attend this important presentation. The May 16th Township Committee meeting starts at 7:00pm at the Municipal Building located at 50 Woodland Avenue.

**Planning Board to continue public comment session
for draft Master Plan Amendment for Honeywell on May 17**

The Planning Board has been accepting public commentary on the draft amendment to the Township's Master Plan at recent meetings on March 5, April 2, and April 19, 2012. This amendment would 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. The

Planning Board will continue to hear public comments at their upcoming meeting on May 17.

You will find a copy of 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. See their website:

<http://c4bpmt.org/call-to-action/>

Read the master plan amendment:

<http://c4bpmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Draft-Master-Plan-Amendment-Morris-Township-Jan-9-2012.pdf>

In preparation for a large public turnout, the Planning Board has published "Rules Governing Public Hearings on the Township Master Plan" which can be found at

<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2012MasterPlanRules.pdf>

The May 17th Planning Board meeting starts at 7:00pm at the Municipal building.

The Passing of two long-serving volunteer firefighters

I am sad to report that in the past two months Morris Township lost two long-serving volunteer firefighters. In mid-April Robert Polo of the Hillside Hose company passed away. Early in May we lost Michael Smith of the Mt. Kemble Fire Company. We are all thankful for their years of service to our community. Our condolences go out to their families on their loss.

Other items of interest...

- The annual "Mansion in May" event is ongoing through the end of the month. This year the featured mansion is Glynallyn Castle located right here in Morris Township. Proceeds from the event will benefit a new Inpatient Hospice and Palliative Care Center at Morristown Medical Center. For more information visit their website at www.mansioninmay.com
- Ten historic sites and museums throughout Morris County are inviting the public to "Be Our Guest" on Sunday, May 20, from noon to 4 p.m. in celebration of National Tourism Week. Participating institutions will open their doors and waive their admission fees during those hours. Venues in the immediate vicinity include Acorn Hall, Fosterfields Historical Farm, Macculloch Hall, Morris Museum, The Schuyler-Hamilton House. The event is sponsored by the Morris County Alliance for Tourism. For more information, see www.morristourism.org
- The 2012 Morristown Colonials Summer Flag Rugby registration is Open. Both of my kids have participated in this wonderful program for many years. Practices will begin on Tuesday right across from the parking lot outside at the Woodland School in Morristown. More information can be found online at www.morristownrugby.com
- New Jersey's [Department of Environmental Protection](http://www.nj.gov/dep/) recently urged citizens to conserve as much water as possible. Despite the flooding last year and the nor'easter earlier in the spring, New Jersey is experiencing a rainfall deficit thanks to a dry winter and an equally dry start to the spring season. In fact, here in Morris County, rainfall amounts stand at 5.8 inches BELOW normal (as of a couple of weeks ago). So I urge everyone to start conserving water in any manner they can. A copy of the DEP press release can be found here: <http://morristwp.com/pdfs/12water.pdf>
- FREE mulch available: As a result of last October's snowstorm, the Township of Morris was left with an enormous amount of brush and tree parts. In association with the Morris County Park Commission we were able to convert the collected debris into mulch. This mulch is now available to all residents at no cost. Mulch is self-serve and available on a first come, first-served basis. For more information please see the Township website: <http://morristwp.com/pdfs/12Mulch.pdf>

Upcoming Committee Meeting...

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00pm at our municipal building.

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

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