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October 2014: Morris Township News Update

Dear Neighbors,

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 Morris Township.

There is a lot of important and interesting information below, so please take a few moments to read this newsletter and keep 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 Meetings of August and September

The Township Committee held their last two monthly meetings on August 27, 2014 and September 17. The agendas for both of these meetings can be found here:

<http://www.morristwp.com/AgendaCenter/>

The August meeting opened up with a special presentation to Dr. Thomas Ficarra, the retiring superintendent of the Morris School district.



In **August**, there were ordinances up for final adoption:

- **16-14:** ACCEPTING DEED OF DEDICATION; LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN AS BLOCK 3202, LOT 6
This ordinance accepts a deed for a property located on Whitehead Road. This property was recently sub-divided by the SMCMUA for the purpose of donating some land for Open Space. The house on the remaining parcel will now be put up for sale.
- **17-14:** ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3(i) OF BOND ORDINANCE NO. 08-13 FINALLY ADOPTED MAY 15, 2013 IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT THEREIN IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS
This ordinance amends a prior ordinance relating to road improvement funding to now include the repaving of Kitchell Road.
- **18-14:** ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$500,000 AVAILABLE IN THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL FUND BALANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SAND FILTER SYSTEM AT THE BUTTERWORTH SEWER PLANT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS
This ordinance appropriates available funds in the Sewer Utility Capital Fund to be used to upgrade the Butterworth Sewer Plant with a new sand filter system.

In **September** there were three ordinances up for final adoption:

- **19-14:** ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$800,000 FOR A PROGRAM OF REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP
This ordinance appropriates \$800,000 for the revaluation of all properties (both residential and commercial) in Morris Township. This revaluation was mandated by the Morris County Tax board. The process will take place this coming year and new valuations will be in affect for the 2016 tax bills.
- **20-14:** ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES AND REAPPROPRIATING PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS OTHER PURPOSES REFERRED TO HEREIN IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS (GENERAL)
This ordinance re-appropriate unspent appropriated funds from past general capital improvements have been completed. The funds will be used for projects outlined in the ordinance.
- **21-14:** ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES AND REAPPROPRIATING PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS OTHER PURPOSES REFERRED TO HEREIN IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS (SEWER)
This ordinance re-appropriate unspent appropriated funds from past sewer utility capital improvement projects that have been completed. The funds will be used for projects outlined in the ordinance.

At both the August and September meeting, the Township Committee followed ordinance actions with votes on a long list of resolutions relating to various matters. You can review all of the ordinances and resolutions passed by the Township Committee by viewing the link above that will take you to the Township's "agenda center" on our municipal website.

Each meeting has a portion for public commentary when residents can stand up to ask questions of the Township Committee or make statements about Township business or matters relating to the community. In September, a member of the public made a notable suggestion to the Township Committee. She made a case for televising Township Committee meetings. She pointed out that virtually every other municipality in the area broadcasts their meetings in one form or another (either on cable TV or over the internet), that broadcasting can be done at little or no cost to government, that it builds community, appreciation for government service, and trust in government by adding transparency and understanding. She called it "win-win" for residents and local government. She presented the Committee a document on which almost 400 residents expressed interest in TV broadcast of meetings. She asked the Committee members what their position was on televising our meetings. I am the only one who supported it. TV broadcast is something I myself had urged in the past. The other four Committeemen dismissed it as having no interest to our residents and being very low priority to our government.

The Township Committee concluded 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 August meeting:

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202014-08-27.pdf>

Here are my remarks from the September meeting:

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/pdf/Grayzel%20Remarks%20-%20TC%20Mtg%202014-09-17.pdf>

General Election on November 4

There are elections for two of the five Township Committee seats on November 4th. I am finishing my second 3-year term and am seeking reelection. I have worked hard for our residents over those 6 years, and I want to continue my efforts to make Morris Township a better place to live for ALL its residents.



My running mate is Cathy Wilson, whose communication, problem-solving and collaboration-building skills would be a great addition to the Township Committee. Cathy and I share an interest in televising our Township Committee meetings and would like us to share more services with surrounding communities so we can save tax dollars for our residents. We could be mutually supportive to bring these improvements to our community. Working together for you, we would also be balancing the Township Committee and assuring that ALL interests get the attention they are due.

Many of you have probably received our campaign literature in the mail, but if you have not, you can find a copy of our brochure here:

http://www.jeffandcathy.org/Jeff_Cathy_2014-Mailer-1.pdf

Democracy works only when people exercise their right to vote. Please keep our democracy strong by going to the polls on November 4.

Also, "walk-in voting" has begun at the County Elections Office at the County Administration Building on Court Street in Morristown. Paper ballots are available for each municipality for any registered voter who would like to vote early.

Alternatively, you may apply for a mail-in ballot. I suggest you post an application for the mail-in ballot by October 21st to allow plenty of turn around time. For an application form to mail in, see <http://www.morriscountyclerk.org/index.php/elections/vote-by-mail/> .

If you have any questions about the election, or any other issue affecting Morris Township, please write to me at Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com

**Voter Registration Deadline
is Tuesday Oct. 14**



Residents can still register in person at the Morris County Board Of Elections office. Their hours have been extended until 9 p.m. this Tuesday. Anyone who needs to register or change personal information can take advantage of the extra hours.

The BOE office is located on the 2nd floor of the Morris County Administration Building on Court Street in Morristown. Registration applications can be found online at <http://morriselections.org/>

Flu Season has Begun and Enterovirus Hits New Jersey

October 1 marked the official beginning of flu season in New Jersey. I wanted to pass on some information and also recommend you visit the NJ Department of Health's website: <http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/generalinfo.shtml>



Here you can get information on:

- What you need to know to stay healthy during flu season
- Tips to take care of yourself and others, should you get the flu
- When children should stay home from school
- How to distinguish the flu from a cold.
- Also, you can access the "Find a flu shot" locator at <http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/findflushot.shtml> By just entering a zip code, you can use this tool to learn the locations for inoculations that are closest to you.
- You will also find a link to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Seasonal Flu website (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>), which includes some excellent free educational resources, including printed material, podcasts and PSAs.
- At the Department's website, you can also access information on the threat posed by Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). As of October 1, there were seven laboratory confirmed case of the disease (which has already killed four people, nationwide) in the Garden State. According to the CDC, 443 cases of EV-D68 have been confirmed in 40 states and the District of Columbia since mid-August.

See the information below about the upcoming Morris Township flu shot clinic.

Other News of Interest

- **Morris Township offers flu shots:** Morris Township Health Department is hosting a Seasonal Flu Clinic. It will take place at the Morris Township Municipal Building at 50 Woodland Avenue on Monday October 20, 2014 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

This clinic is open to all residents of Morris Township and to children who attend school or child care in Morris Township. The vaccine is Free for all who have Traditional Medicare B (be sure to bring your Medicare Card with you). For those with a Medicare HMO, or no Medicare B the cost is \$ 25.00

No pre-registration required. If you have any questions, please call the Morris Township Health Department 973-326-7392

- **Health Classes offered by Atlantic Health Systems:**

Morristown Hospital has a number of programs and classes designed to make a difference in the health and wellness of the communities they serve. Check out their events calendar for more information. For more information visit their website: <http://www.atlantichealth.org/classes>



- **The Morris Township Parks and Recreation Department's 2014-2015 Fall-Winter Recreation Brochure:** The Rec Department offers more than forty Fall/Winter programs for Morris Township residents. 2014-2015 Fall/Winter program offerings for children include: Sports Squirts for ages 3 to 5, sewing, fashion club, babysitting skills, beginner tennis instruction, jump rope, basketball, indoor and Nerf soccer, gymnastics, chess, pottery, engineering with Legos, and winter holiday events. The brochure also provides information on registration dates for spring 2015 T-Ball and Girls Softball programs. Adult programs include volleyball, indoor soccer, basketball, golf, tennis, yoga, and watercolor.

The Parks and Recreation Department also offers ongoing activities for our experienced 60 plus residents including bus trips, exercise classes, bocce, bingo, card parties, and special events co-sponsored by the Morris Township Senior Citizen's Club.

The brochure also offers a comprehensive guide identifying all of the Township's active recreation sites, and important contact information for the many local sports and recreation organizations that provide activities for residents of the area.

The 2014-2015 Fall-Winter Parks & Recreation Brochure is available on-line on Morris Township's official website www.morristwp.com. The Department can be reached by telephone at 973-326-7371.

- **5 Months of Deer Hunting Coming to County Parks in Morris County:** County-wide management program to allow hunting on various parks in Morris Township.

In an effort to cull white-tailed deer and "minimize severe threats posed to the biodiversity of native flora and fauna," the Morris County Park Commission is continuing its annual deer management program and has released a hunting schedule.

That schedule includes a total of 21 weeks of active hunting allowed in six county-owned parks that are either all or partially in the Morris Township area. The Morris County Park Commission is responsible for the stewardship of over 18,000 acres of land. It recognizes that a controlled hunting program is the most efficient and effective way available to minimize the severe threats posed to the biodiversity of native flora and fauna by overabundant white-tailed deer populations.

More details about the program, along with the hunting schedule, can be found on the Parks Commission website: www.morrisparks.net/deer/index.asp

Upcoming Committee Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Township Committee will be Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

**The Next Meeting is
Wed., October 15th**

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 assist the Township Committee in being responsive to our citizens.

And wouldn't it be great if these meetings were televised to make it easier for you to "get there" when your schedule is very full?

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 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

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns.

Your neighbor,
Jeff

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