



JEFF GRAYZEL

PROMOTING OPEN GOVERNMENT



October 2015: Morris Township News Update

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you my periodic E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality.

There's lots of good information here about:

- Morris Township's November 3rd elections
- Summary of the September Township Committee meeting
- Update on the Honeywell development (Note: Planning Board meeting TONIGHT)
- Time slot change for cable TV broadcast of Township Committee meetings
- Listing of upcoming events in the area

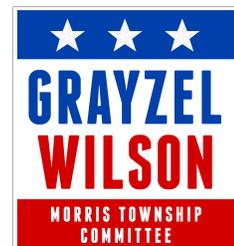
If you missed any of my past newsletters, you can find them at my website: www.JeffGrayzel.com

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

Upcoming Morris Township Election

On General Election Day, November 3, there will be an important election for the Morris Township Committee. As many of you know, after serving two terms on the Township Committee, I lost my reelection bid last year by just 15 votes out of about 7,000 voters. There are two seats up for election this year, and I am pleased to be running with Cathy Wilson, my formidable 2014 running mate.

The close 2014 election shows how evenly divided the Township electorate is, and highlights the desire by many to have diversity on the Township Committee which is now controlled 5-0 by a very small group of Republicans. This is not to say that Republicans are poor leaders, but it is always good to have balance and diversity of opinions at all levels of government, including right here in Morris Township.



Last week the League Of Women Voters hosted a debate for the four candidates. You can read

about it in this Newsbee article:

http://www.newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/morris-township-candidates-do-battle-at-candidates-night/article_460c1836-5535-5a76-bbc7-bb9a152cdfab.html

The Newsbee article also contains a link to a video of my 2-minute opening statement. I hope you can take a moment to watch it. Or you can view the entire debate on the MorristownGreen website:

<http://morristowngreen.com/2015/10/07/video-morris-township-candidates-clash-over-open-space-taxes-communications-honeywell/>

During my time on the Township Committee, I was a member of the Sewer subcommittee and the municipal court subcommittee (among others) and worked to save taxpayers money. I am non-partisan and advocate for what is in the best interest of all Morris Township.

On the Court Committee I led the effort to join the joint court in Madison, which now saves the municipality \$170,000 per year. On the sewer Committee we worked to accept more flow from other towns in order to reduce overhead costs for our own residents.

I am running again because I feel that while I was on the Committee, both my analytical skills and technical background brought very good questions to the forefront and led the Township Committee to alternatives they otherwise would not have considered. The others usually chose to disagree with me as a matter of course, but there was definitely greater discussion of issues. Because of that, the public could observe the decision making process. The current Township Committee seems more predisposed to making decisions based on pleasing a relatively small interest group or following a party line. A 5-0 power block allows for that, but this is not how good government should work.

Cathy and I have met many residents this past month as we have knocked on doors all around Morris Township. Should we miss you and if you have a question or a concern you would like to discuss, please send me an email at jeff@jeffgrayzel.com



As the election draws near, please remember that this is not a popularity contest or a "who has lived in Morris Township longer" contest. It is about selecting the best possible leadership team for our community.

You can find more information on my campaign website, which also includes copies of each of the campaign mailers I have sent out to date: www.JeffAndCathy.net

I have been privileged to serve as a Committeeman for two terms previously, and I would appreciate your support to bring me back for another term. Election Day is Tuesday November 3.

Township Committee Meeting of September 16

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on September 16, 2015. The agendas for the meeting can be found at the Township's online "Agenda Center" on the municipal website:

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



The **September** meeting was very short as there were no ordinances offered either for introduction

or final adoption.

The resolutions voted upon included the following:

- Awarding a contract to Tilcon New York, Inc to resurface Kitchell Road.
- Authorizing a two year agreement with the Morris School District for a School Resource Officer (at Frelinghuysen Middle School).
- Change order to the Butterworth Sewage Treatment Plant sand filters upgrade project.
- Change order to the Convent Station Paving Project contract.
- Resolution authorizing a special payment to the Morristown and Morris Township Joint Free Public Library for repairs.
- Rejected all bids for the Butterworth Control Panel Replacement Project and authorizing a contract to be negotiated.
- Authorizing the removal of four hundred (400) yards of soil from the Honeywell premises with limited tree removal.

Remember that you can now watch the Township Committee meeting taped re-broadcast on either Cablevision channel 21 or on YouTube. See additional information below.

The next Township Committee meeting will be held this coming Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

Honeywell Development Site Plan before the Planning Board

The developers of the Honeywell property have begun the process of bring their formal site plan to the Planning Board. The hearings began on October 5 and will continue TONIGHT Monday October 19 at 7:30 at the municipal building.

Read about the first meeting in this Newsbee article:

http://www.newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/first-site-plan-hearing-for-honeywell-property-begins-in-morris/article_4bcd5ce4-7b84-587d-8a91-f6aedb984074.html



The plan calls for sandwiching in a corporate component between two residential sections on the property. There will be 164 townhomes built on the northern portion of the property (adjacent Columbia Road and Park Avenue) and 71 townhomes will be built at the southern end of the property -- for total of 235 townhomes. The residential sections would be built by developer K. Hovnanian, and the corporate component would be built by Rockefeller Group. The Rockefeller Group will build 715,000 square feet of new office space.

Televised Township Committee Meetings Now at NEW time

As reported in my last newsletter, our Township Committee meetings are now being broadcast on cable TV. This is being done by a private citizen who has met with constant resistance to the effort by the Township Committee.

Now, thanks to that person - Cathy Wilson - the Township Committee meetings are now available

in a new time slot on Cablevision channel 21 every Friday evening at 4:30pm, which will be rebroadcasting the latest meeting until the newest one is available. Cathy is working to get Verizon FIOS to broadcast the meetings as well.

Cathy has also made the meetings available on YouTube. To see the latest meeting on YouTube; click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQFH1RFRH-59gPGpiMoaHgQ/videos>

Cathy Wilson is a resident of Morris Township who has been advocating for televised access to our meetings for 2 years. She has worked tirelessly to put all the pieces in place so that Cablevision could broadcast the taped telecast.

Read the Morristown Green article about Cathy's efforts:
<http://morristowngreen.com/2015/05/18/morris-township-committee-meetings-to-be-televised-candidate-says/>

**Tune in
Cablevision
Channel 21
Fridays
at 4:30 pm
OR
watch it on YouTube**

Kudos to Cathy Wilson for her hard work on behalf of Morris Township residents.

Leaf Collection Begins

Leaf collection begins on Monday October 19. Throughout the leaf season the Department of Public works will make several passes through each sector of the Township to collect leaves from the street. Find your sector here: <http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/3003>

Only leaves, grass, and plant vegetation may be combined in a pile together. The pile should be placed loosely along the curb (no bags paper or plastic). Note that brush, dirt, logs, tree parts, tree stumps, & tree trunks are NOT allowed, so please do not place these items in the leaf pile.

Remember to try to keep your leaves out of the street and to definitely keep them away from storm drains. Leave can clog storm drains during heavy rain and cause flooding on neighboring properties.



If you have any questions, please contact our Department of Public Works Office at 973-326-7398.

New Garbage Cans - Phase 2

The second phase (of three) of the new "Automated Trash Collection" program began in September. The residential areas participating in this second phase have received brand new garbage cans that are captured by a mechanical "arm" attached to the truck that grabs the can and dumps its contents in an opening at the top of the truck. A second specialized garbage truck has been purchased to cover the new residences which were added to the program.

Get more information in this Newsbee article:

http://www.newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/one-armed-bandit-phase-two-goes-into-effect-in-morris/article_ad92c4c6-daea-5691-9c32-d888ca9dd8b7.html

Also see this notice put out by Morris Township Department of Public Works:

<http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/2955>

Other items of interest.

- **Congratulations to Morris Twp resident John Hyland** for being named Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade: <http://patch.com/new-jersey/morristown/morristown-native-beats-cancer-named-st-patricks-day-parade-grand-marshal-0>
- **Halloween Movie Night with Bonfire:** The Morris Township recreation department is hosting this event on October 24 at the Ginty Field complex on Woodland Avenue. The activities get underway at 7pm. For more information contact the recreation department at 973-326-7371.
- **Harvest Wine Festival** hosted by Morris County Parks Commission: This annual event has been rescheduled for October 24-25 at Fosterfields. More info can be found here: <http://www.morrisparks.net/>

Tickets are \$25 at the door or can be purchased for \$20 in advance here:

<https://tix.extremetix.com/Online/?siteID=545>

- **Winter Farmers Market** coming December 6: NEW LOCATION: Alexander Hamilton School, 24 Mills Street, Morristown
- **State offers tips on coming face to face with a bear:** Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is reminding those residents of ways to reduce black bear encounters. Read the tips in this Newsbee article:

http://www.newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/state-offers-tips-on-coming-face-to-face-with-a/article_a292093b-59de-5fa9-94ca-3afd660114d9.html

Upcoming Committee Meetings...

The next two regular meetings of the Township Committee will be this week on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00pm in our municipal building. The November meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY November 10 (note the changed date).

**Next
Township
Committee Mtg.
this week:
Wed., Oct, 21
7:00pm**

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.

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

I look forward to another year of communicating to and with the residents of Morris Township about issues that affect all of us. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns.

Your neighbor,
Jeff

© 2015 - Jeff Grayzel

See what's happening on Jeff's Facebook page:



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to rosary2@mac.com by jeff@jeffgrayzel.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Grayzel MorrisTownship Committee | P.O. Box 10 | Convent Station | NJ | 07961