Full Speed Ahead into 2023

Morris Plains residents made Strides for Education in the annual EFMP 5K Run/Walk last November. More on Page 9 >>
Good evening. Tonight at our annual Reorganization Meeting, I will report on 2022 accomplishments and share our goals for 2023.

In a great feat, the Borough received its second installment from The Local Fiscal Recovery Fund American Rescue Plan in 2022. With this second installment of over $327,000 of the allocated $655,000, there are many highly anticipated upgrades approaching. Of the first installment, $28,503.63 was used for Covid-19 expenses and $112,000 has been allocated for upgrades to our Municipal Buildings for door security and contactless entry. We’ve dedicated funds to Borough properties and parks as well as upgrades that benefit health and safety: $89,000 has been allocated for pool repairs, leaving $98,000 for playground upgrades in 2023. New air conditioning and air purifiers were installed in the Annex building and $75,000 is allocated for thermostat controls, HVAC upgrades and electronic/ultraviolet air purifiers in the Municipal building. The Borough allocated $200,000 from the fund to refurbish the Fire Department’s Engine 3 to extend the life of the apparatus by 10 years. In addition, $52,400 is designated for needed computers, additional COVID expenses and salary for our grant writer.

In 2022, the approved road-paving projects were Schoolview Dr, Coursen Way, Beaver Ridge Rd, Holiday Dr, Oregon Trail, Walsh Way, Lakeview Dr, Rudden Ln, and Sunrise Dr for which a grant of $250,000 was received from the NJ Department of Transportation, and there was more concrete sidewalk work completed at the freight train station. In addition, the State and County continued the paving projects to include Speedwell Ave from Hanover Ave to Route 53 and continuing on Route 202 to Route 10. Also, Route 53 was paved through the Borough to Route 10. At the end of 2022, two new pickleball courts at Watnong Park were approved. The work has started and is expected to finish in the Spring. These projects were all fully-funded, without incurring any new debt.

In 2023, the Borough again will be as aggressive as possible to continue infrastructure upgrades. We have eagerly applied for, and received, a grant from the NJDOT in the amount of $250,000 for upgrades and paving the entire length of Glenbrook Road. A full list of approved roads and projects to be completed will soon be announced and will be found on the Borough website, in Plains Talk and via email alert.

“The American” on American Road continues to see construction. Lennar, the builder of 96 townhomes and 60 condominiums, continues erecting units and the Borough has issued 54 Certificates of Occupancy (CO) to date. Also, on the same project, you will see the 125-unit apartment building nearing completion and CO’s soon to follow. On the M&M property on the west side of Route 53, Lennar is building 139 townhomes and continues the site work for their portion, resulting in 65 CO’s issued to date. In addition, M&M is continuing site work for their apartments, retail and restaurant space, and the hotel components of the development. An Affordable Housing building has been completed and a CO has been issued there. The last large project on the east side of Route 53 will be under 500,000 sq. ft. of flex space on the old Johnson & Johnson parcel. The developer has completed the demolition of the former building and continues addressing conditions of approval included in the Developer’s Agreement. The new owners have amended their site plan and have received Planning Board approval. As for the Acme, Friendly’s, and Collin’s properties, there have been no encouraging signs of interest, work continues to actively attract interested parties.

New business openings have continued this past year with 16 new openings. Our business-friendly ‘Community of Caring’ welcomes the following businesses that opened in 2022 - Uncle Giuseppe’s Marketplace, Crumb Cookies, Chopt Creative Salads - all occupy space in the vibrant Kohl’s Shopping Center. Cryoport, Morris Plaza Pharmacy, Live Urgent Care and Monroy Design/Florist also joined Morris Plains, along with Evernorth (a branch of CIGNA), which employs nearly 2,000 employees and occupies 200,000 sq. ft. of the Honeywell Building on Route 53. Tokyo Ramen, Woodam Korean BBQ, 4E Fitness, F45 Fitness, Kiori Japanese Restaurant, Meineke and the Plaza Diner (under new ownership) have also brought great food, opportunity, and convenience to our town. We are anticipating the opening of the following businesses in 2023: B&E Furniture, Morris Plains’ first microbrewery - Autodidact Brewery, a new Indian Restaurant along Route 10, and City MD in the Kohl’s Shopping Center.

There is, and has been, a tremendous amount of development in our small town and I would like to thank the Building Department inspectors and staff for keeping up with all of the daily tasks that are involved in opening new businesses or living units to make all construction safe. The staff at the Building Department are also seeing many of our residents as they begin and complete construction on their homes, while the inspectors are simultaneously executing inspections in residences and commercial buildings.

The new Borough website was launched in the beginning of 2021. This new platform is easier to navigate with more useful information and an online payment option which is now available for taxes and many activities. The site is still capable of expansion with more options being made available to residents. There are many forms, employee email addresses and phone numbers, meeting dates and minutes, a business directory, ordinances and much more that can be found there.

The Planning Board and Council have received a draft of updated and modern uses for all of our non-residential zones from the Master Plan Committee. This is a document that has been over a year in the making and may be introduced late in the first quarter or early second quarter of 2023. This will only help the Borough and its
The Borough has been informed about receiving a trail grant in the amount of $34,081 from Morris County Park Commission for the design and permitting phase of Community Park trails and paths. The Borough also received over $136,000 in federal grant funding for sidewalks and walking paths along Route 53 near Foxwood and our Recycling Center, which will connect residents to the Route 10 corridor.

This year we welcomed and enjoyed all of our annual traditions. The Memorial Day Parade was one of the largest ever, and yes - the rain held off until the end! The Borough School and Morristown High School Graduations, Family Day and Fireworks, the Block Dance, Bonfire, Halloween Window Painting, Halloween Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting, and a bigger and better Menorah Lighting and Gelt Drop with a fire juggler were enjoyed. I was happy to see so many residents and families enjoying the festivities, especially after an unprecedented start to this decade. This past summer the Community Pool season was a huge success, with many new members, events and memories made.

Our Watnong VFW Post 3401 once again made a moving tribute to our fallen veterans, active military and first responders by hosting a “Field of Flags” at the corner of Route 53 and Route 202 which increased by more than 50 flags this year. This was a beautiful sight, and I would like to thank the VFW members who made it possible. It was truly a beautiful way to honor all of our local heroes. Another project that continued and expanded by 13 entries this past year was the Borough’s Bravest Project. This project allows friends or family members to purchase a banner for a veteran to be displayed along Speedwell Ave during our Memorial Day Parade and through the month of November. The project has been a huge success, and the opportunity to purchase more banners will be coming each year in the future. This is another great way to honor heroes, and what a beautiful sight seeing these banners as you drive or walk on Speedwell Avenue. Thank you to my son, Nicholas Karr, for spearheading this project and to Commander John Titterton of the VFW Post 3401 as well as the Morris Plains Road Department for hanging the banners. Thanks also go to Melissa Gibson for many behind-the-scenes tasks, and to all of the donors who participated. Thank you again!

I offer a special ‘congratulations’ to Cavan Markt on being named Morris Plains Recreation’s 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Cavan is the youngest recipient ever to receive this honor at the age of eight. Cavan, under his own initiative and some help from his brother, raised funds for a playground and collected necessities for children and families in Ukraine. Cavan also distributed Ukrainian flags to Borough residents’ doors for donations and spent several hours and days at the Farmer’s Market. Cavan deserves all our support with a round of applause. Congratulations and thank you Cavan!

Volunteer Firefighter, Russ Haas, was recognized in June 2022 for his 50 years of continued service to the Morris Plains Fire Department. Thank you, Russ, for all of your dedication to Morris Plains, and thank you to all of our 100% volunteer 100% of the time fire department.

During 2022, the Borough experienced the retirement of a few volunteers:

- Pearl Law - Shade Tree Commission
- Steve Rosenstein - (Chairman) Shade Tree Commission
- Lucia Galdi - Shade Tree Commission
- Jack Cox - Board of Adjustment
- Don Geary - Traffic Committee

We thank them for their countless hours, ideas, commitment and passion for our community.

One thing that continues to make our Borough unique is the dedicated volunteers who keep the ‘Community of Caring’ working. For anything that interests you, we have a position. This includes playing in the Community Band for all ages; the Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department that young men and women can join as early as age 14; the Morris Minute Men First Aid Squad that young men and women can join at the age of 16; our Museum for those who enjoy history, the Garden Club, Beautification Committee and Clean Communities Program, for those who enjoy the outdoors; and the many sports groups and scouts. We can always use volunteers, and there is something for all ages and interests. These groups all do a spectacular job; and our residents appreciate all that they do, whatever it may be.

On behalf of the Borough Council, I want to thank the many volunteers on boards, commissions, committees and all citizens for your commitment to our town. This is what makes Morris Plains truly special.

At this time, on behalf of the Borough Council and myself, I would like to sincerely thank every one of our dedicated, hardworking employees for everything they contribute throughout the year. All they do to keep Morris Plains moving forward does not go without a heartfelt thank you. To our Police and Fire Departments, thank you for everything you each have done to keep every resident safe and protected 24 hours a day all year. The Fire Department received four new volunteer members and five junior members. To the respective Department Chiefs, thank you for keeping your departments safe and guiding your members through this past
year, with all the challenges thrown at you, in a professional way without skipping a beat or missing any call for service. To Supt’s John Signorelli and Leo Mulligan and the DPW - residents never saw a day missed with your department. Work has been performed without hesitation and you and your department have continued to make our town look terrific. Grass was cut, spectacular decorations put up, leaves picked up and roads cleared of snow. Nothing stopped in Morris Plains, and it has never looked better. The Borough grew in 2022 with many new employee additions, including three new police officers: Anthony Cardoniga, McLean Lipshutz and Nicholas Mossey; four new DPW employees: Philip Datollo, Robert Fredette, Justin Pittaro and Christian Votapek; full-time Clerk-Typist, Nicole Saranita; and part-time Construction Office Clerk, Lori Monica. As for all our essential workers, health care workers and first responders, everyone goes above and beyond and continues to do so every day. Each and every one does their best to keep us all safe and healthy!

I encourage everyone to sign up for the Morris Plains Email-Alert and Smart911. Links can be found on the Borough’s website. This will enable you to keep up with the happenings of Morris Plains and will assist First Responders in the event of an emergency.

In closing, I am excited to have shared with you the current status of Morris Plains and some of our achievements. The Borough's year ahead looks bright in welcoming new commercial, residential and businesses to our community. These accomplishments are direct results of dedicated individuals and knowledgeable planning for both the short and long term. The Council and I will continue to work hard this year and in years to come to keep Morris Plains moving forward and remaining the ‘Community of Caring’ that we all know, respect and love. We are always available and always welcome your thoughts. My plan for the Borough is to once again fully fund our capital projects so as not to accrue future debt, and to pay down current debt further.

Open Space will continue to be on our radar, as it is important to all of our residents. Uses of Open Space will always be important and taken into consideration when making our decisions. We have funded our Police Department by investing in new officers, hybrid vehicles - two so far which is a direction we will continue to follow. We supply them with equipment they need to stay safe, keep the residents safe, and help combat our current vehicle theft epidemic with the installation of a new license plate reader and video cameras in strategic locations in the town. Two more cameras will be installed in the near future. We have funded our Fire Department as mentioned earlier, and equipped them with new radios, turnout gear, and equipment - again to keep everyone safe. We have accomplished this and more while lowering our residents’ 2022 municipal portion of taxes an average of $43.

In 2023, the Borough will be faced with substantial increases in healthcare cost to the tune of over 20% and increases in pension costs of 10% as mandated by the State, with little time to prepare. We will handle this problem moving forward in the best way possible and we are obviously against and upset about these increases.

I would like to leave you with a quote by Steve Jobs: “If you are working on something you really care about, you don’t have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.” Have a Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless You, Morris Plains, and God Bless America!

Mayor Jason C. Karr

2023 Community Service Award:
Lt. Michael Rolph

Lieutenant Michael Rolph was selected by Mayor Karr as the 2023 Community Service Award recipient for his years of dedicated service in the Morris Plains Police Department. Michael, who is retiring from the department, will be this year’s Grand Marshal for the Annual Memorial Day Parade. Congratulations Lieutenant Rolph and thank you for your service!
Congratulations to Chief Michael Koroski and the Police Department on receipt of their fifth Certificate of Accreditation as a Law Enforcement Agency. This makes the MPPD part of an elite group of just 3.6% of agencies in the State to attain such status (maintained since 2007). Accreditation is achieved by taking the steps required to ensure that the department is implementing policies and procedures which are conceptually sound and operationally effective. It is a significant professional achievement.

Chief Koroski with Officers McLean Lipschutz and Anne Marie Ferris and Det. Joseph Heinz, who recently received 2021 awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their continued diligence in arresting persons suspected of driving while intoxicated/impaired.

Morris Plains congratulates our incredible Volunteer Fire Department Officers!

2023 Fire Dept Officers:
Chief: Kevin Rongo
1st Assistant Chief: Bob Webster
2nd Assistant Chief: Mark Belles
Engineer: Donald Underhill
Assistant Engineer: Tyler Shay

Fire Official: Chris Shay
Captain 1: Mike Geary
Captain 2: Thomas Denman
Captain 3: Ed Duffy

Lieutenant 1: Joe Barlotta IV
Lieutenant 2: Sean Huth
Lieutenant 3: Tim Manning
Lieutenant 4: Steve Dilluvio

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE OFFICIAL

This is a friendly reminder to all residents that snow is coming! Please adopt your nearest fire hydrant and make sure that it is cleared of all snow. Help our fire department help you in a time of need. Thank you!

Important Reminder from Our Department of Public Works

There is no curbside pick up of leaves done in the Spring. Please either compost any remaining leaves or have them removed by your landscaping contractor. Leaves may not be included with grass clippings. Thank you for your cooperation!
It’s Winter Time! The best time of year to cuddle up with a good book. We have added lots of new titles to our shelves this month including all the popular Colleen Hoover books. In March, we will have our St. Patrick’s display up again with a chance to win a large homemade Irish Soda Bread made by yours truly.

On February 4th from 11am-1pm, we hosted a Lunar New Year event, hosted by Morris Plains resident Mary Chao. We had story time with an origami craft and New Year treats.

Our regular story time is on Wednesdays at 10:30am. Mrs. Geiger, our wonderful story time volunteer always has great books to read to the little ones with a fun craft to follow.

We are still planning our Spring shredding event and we will post and advertise once we have a date confirmed.

I’d like to thank all of those who have volunteered their time and talent with us here at the library from our great Library Board to those who have helped with programs and taking the time to spruce up the outside of our building. It has included a much needed full power-wash, weeding the front and even fixing our Library sign that got damaged in a storm. We really appreciate all of you!

The Board and I would also like to thank all of our wonderful residents who have sent in donations during our annual fundraising appeal. It’s not too late to send in your donation via check or Venmo. Every amount is greatly appreciated and used to benefit our community as a whole to ensure we can continue with all the resources our Library Association offers.

Sheila Jain
Library Director

Please check Morris Plains Library’s website for the date of the next Paper Shredding Event.
https://morrisplainslibrary.org/

Morris Plains Community Band Concert

The Morris Plains Community Band, led by Larry Ripley, performed a wonderful holiday concert at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains.
A Message from Superintendent of Schools,
Mr. Mark R. Maire

Happy New Year to our entire Morris Plains school community! As we approach the midway point of the school year, it is important to reflect on our district’s progress. We continue to make progress towards our district’s Professional Development Plan, creating a culture that values professional growth and development. Our staff has been working diligently to provide an optimal learning experience for our students. Our young learners have embraced their role in our educational vision; steering the course of their journey. As a district, we remain committed to continue evaluating our current programs and initiatives, and address our district goals, and the goals and action items identified in our Strategic Plan and Professional Development Plan.

MPSD Announces Referendum

In a January 3, 2023 correspondence to Morris Plains school community members and residents, the District announced a March 14, 2023 Referendum vote that includes an expansion project at Mountain Way School and a bathroom renovation project at Borough School.

The Mountain Way expansion project will:

- Create five new classrooms and will be flexible to accommodate seven new instructional spaces including a sensory room.
- Reinvigorate six existing learning spaces.
- Add two single-occupancy accessible bathrooms.
- Include an outdoor classroom and a new outdoor playground with rubber flooring, along with a turfed play area along the perimeter of the new play equipment.

Please see the chart below, which outlines the needs driving the expansion, and the impact of the Referendum project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limited Space</th>
<th>The Future of Mountain Way</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs on a Cart</strong></td>
<td>* Art &amp; Cultural Arts * ESL * Reading Specialist * Enrichment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs in Shared Spaces</strong></td>
<td>* OT w/ RISE * PT w/ Preschool 4s * Resource Room w/ Art Prep * STEM w/ Creative Literacy * BSI Math w/ BSI LAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evolve Learning Spaces</strong></td>
<td>* Designate full classroom spaces to support STEM, Creative Literacy, Related Therapies, Resource Room, and RISE * Transition from cart to classroom for Art, Cultural Arts, Basic Skills, and Reading Specialist * Addition of Sensory Room to service all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expand Programs</strong></td>
<td>* New STEM approach with hands-on learning and guided discovery opportunities * Additional Related Services to support the needs of all students * Expansion of special education programs to retain students and to generate potential revenue * Increase arts offerings through space that supports a wide range of materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Current State of Mountain Way**

**Inclusive Outdoor Environment**

- Sensory Room
- Conference Room
- Inclusive playground area
- Outdoor Classroom
- General Education Classroom

**New playground structure with rubber flooring will provide equitable opportunity for all children to engage in play & social interactions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Areas of Need</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th><strong>New outdoor classroom space for all students</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New outdoor play area inclusive for children with gross motor delays</strong></td>
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The Borough School renovation project will upgrade 12 hallway bathrooms for students, including 44 toilets/fixtures and faculty bathrooms that allow for a more accessible and modern environment.

These necessary projects are unattainable through our operating budget and would be great long-term investments for our property values. Securing these enhancements would also allow us to continue attracting the best teachers and families to Morris Plains. As a result, we will be issuing a referendum of $9,498,000, which includes $2,257,650 for the Borough School bathroom renovation project and $7,240,350 for the Mountain Way expansion project.

These funds are issued via a 20-year loan and will result in a minimal impact to taxpayers; 40% of the Borough School Bathroom project will be offset by state aid, which reduces the impact on property taxes.

**TAX IMPACT: Average $440K Home = Approximately $63/year or $5.25 per month**

*Although the initial estimated tax increase is $63 per year for the average homeowner ($440K), the overall net tax impact during the entire period of the loan (20 years) will be $-0-, making it a favorable time to borrow money to invest in our children’s educational experience.

To learn more about the upcoming referendum vote, Public Forum sessions have been scheduled in the Mountain Way Library:

- March 1st at 7pm
- March 4th at 10am

Voting will take place in the Morris Plains Community Center (Multi-Purpose Room) on March 14, 2023 from 2pm-8pm. Early voting begins on March 7th. For further voting information please contact the Morris County Board of Elections Office at (973) 285-6715.

Please visit the district website at www.mpsdk8.org to access our Referendum webpage, which includes project renderings, current state of facilities content, slideshow presentations, videos, FAQs, etc. We are asking for your support and to join us in the evolution of our school district and protect your investment as a Morris Plains resident.

Drafting the 2023-2024 Budget

Building the school budget is one of the most important and challenging tasks of the district administration and the Board of Education each year. It is imperative that we explore and implement sustainable revenue generating source(s) and cost savings opportunities for the district, while at the same time remain committed to enhancing instructional
resources, promoting professional development, addressing curricular and programmatic needs, and maintaining our buildings and grounds, while ensuring the health and safety of our members.

We are presently collaborating with key stakeholders to develop next year’s budget. On April 25, 2023 at 7:00pm, a board presentation on the proposed 2023-2024 budget shall be held in the Borough School STEAM Lab. The presentation will be open to the public, and it will also be available on the district website.

2021-2022 Audit Report
During the November 22, 2022, Board of Education Meeting, Valerie Dolan, Audit Manager and Partner of Nisivoccia, presented the 2021-2022 Audit to the Board. There were no audit recommendations and the district is in a stable financial position. This is a major accomplishment considering we operated schools during a pandemic. Thank you to our Business Administrator, Ms. Cathy Jenisch, and the Business Office staff, Mrs. Geralyn Dilluvio and Mrs. Heather Carney, for their commitment and dedication to keeping our district in good financial standing.

Mountain Way Staff Member Receives VFW Honors
Congratulations to Mrs. Karen Penkoski, Mountain Way School First Grade Teacher, for receiving the VFW Post and District (County) Teacher of the Year Award. We wish her all the best as her nomination moves onto the state level. She is a true STAR who shines brightly!

Community Support
MPSD is extremely fortunate to work with generous and supportive school-community organizations, comprising Morris Plains residents and staff members who volunteer their time to enhance our district.

Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Coalition (MPMAC)
The MPMAC has partnered with the Morris Plains School District to provide meaningful programs for students at Mountain Way and Borough School. Recently, 7th grade students took part in a weekly program, led by Prevention is Key, that was intended to improve their resiliency and assist them in making positive life choices. For Mountain Way students, the MPMAC sponsored “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully” program, which combines martial arts with self-discipline and mindfulness. Additionally, the MPMAC coordinated Mental Health First Aid training on January 21st for parents, teachers, coaches, and counselors. We greatly appreciate the MPMAC and their commitment to supporting the needs of our students.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
In December, Mrs. Lion-Bailey partnered with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to host Henna for the Holidays. Over 30 parents, students, and teachers attended this fun and interactive event.

Home and School Association
The HSA continues to serve as a reliable resource for the District. Their dedicated parent volunteers coordinate Book Fairs, fund and schedule assemblies, sponsor school and district-based programs and events, approve donations to enhance both our facilities and the students’ learning experiences, organize fundraisers, help to manage classroom activities/festivities, etc.

Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) 5K Race (on cover)
On November 6, 2022, the EFMP held its annual Strides for Education 5K Run/Walk, and it exceeded expectations. Over 260 folks registered for the race. The EFMP received over $9K in sponsorships, and overall proceeds totaled approximately $18K. The funds raised from the race will help to further support the implementation of innovative programs and resources in both schools. I extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the EFMP, along with everyone who dedicated their time and support to help make this year’s 5K race a success. Additionally, I congratulate 8th grader Addie Emge for recording the best overall female time.

Recently, the EFMP approved five teacher grants. The grants address math games for Basic Skills students, a gong for the Instrumental Music program, an earthquake simulator for our sixth grade Science program, three new cameras for the Broadcasting Club, and Magnatiles for our sixth grade Math program. We greatly appreciate the EFMP for their continued support!

Morris Plains Education Association (MPEA)
Throughout the holiday season, the MPEA coordinated numerous food, toy, and pajama drives for families in need and organized holiday cards for troops. Borough School hosted their annual Friendsgiving event in November, sponsored by the MPEA with a FAST grant. Over 150 folks registered to attend. Thank you to Mrs. Dese-Moran for coordinating this meaningful and fun-filled event, along with the teachers and staff members who volunteered their time to support the program.

The MPEA volleyball fundraiser, where staff play the eighth graders, is scheduled for March 3, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Borough School Gym. During the event, the MPEA raffles off various prize baskets to raise additional funds. Proceeds raise money for a scholarship fund for Borough School graduates who are current seniors at Morristown High School.

Communication
Communication is an essential component to support the partnership between a school community and their school district. To enhance the home and school relationship, the district will publish newsletters throughout the 2022-2023 school year. The newsletters are available on the district website (www.mpsdk8.org).

The district website serves as a great resource to learn more about our district. It contains board-related information, school calendars, access to school websites, links to district social media sites, district resources, headlines and news items, and important dates and events. Lastly, please don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WeAreMPSD.

We hope this year brings you good health, happiness, and prosperity, and thank you for your continued partnership!

All my best,

Mark Mauer

Spelling Bee Champion
Congratulations to seventh grade student Hannah Singh for finishing in 1st place at the recent JV NJ School Consortium Delbarton Spelling Bee. MPSD is proud of her amazing accomplishment!

Borough School Student Council Presents at Morris Plains Rotary
Recently, Borough School Student Council members, joined by their advisors Ms. Boyer and Ms. Huiszing, presented to the Morris Plains Rotary. They did a wonderful job highlighting their contributions to our schools and local community!
Morris Plains Soccer can’t wait to see all our players, youth referees, coaches and parents on Sundays at Simons Park this April and May for our spring clinic! These 1-hour, weekly sessions are designed to give budding Morris Plains athletes an affordable and flexible option to keep up soccer skills while still participating in other sports and activities. We are deeply grateful to the amazing local businesses who make our programs possible through sponsorships and to all the community volunteers who bring our programs to life.

Keep your eyes out in May for early bird fall registration at www.morrisplainssports.com! In the meantime, have fun, stay safe, and LET’S PLAY!

Morris Plains Soccer Association
Enjoying some holiday fun with Santa and the Morris Plains Fire Department and our annual Menorah lighting.
Traditionally, individuals nominated for this tribute have been affiliated with our Sports Organizations. This year, however, one individual stood out - that was the embodiment - the perfect example - of volunteerism and we were compelled to break with tradition and honor him with this award.

It all started with a little boy enjoying the annual Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade. Enamored by members of the Ukraine Cultural Center waving their country's blue and yellow flags he wondered how he might have a Ukraine flag to display at his house?

His grandmother ordered 24 flags; 4 he displayed in his front yard, the remainder he delivered to neighbors asking them to display in support of the Ukraine and...by the way...if you would care to, a donation box could be found on his front steps...and, so it began...

From there, it was on to the Farmer’s Market, dressed in the Ukraine flag colors, explaining his mission of raising money for a playground at a Ukraine Orphanage, as he handed out items in blue and yellow - bagels, lollipops, bracelets, stickers and flags, making donation notations on his homemade "thermometer" donation board, then delivering donations to the Ukrainian Cultural Center...

Over Two Thousand Dollars...Amazing!

On behalf of the Morris Plains Recreation Commission, it was an honor and privilege to name

CAVAN MARKT

Morris Plains Recreation Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations, Cavan!
Morris Plains Recreation 2023 Summer Programs!

Summer Program Registration Begins April 17th
Registration Fee Increases May 9th

Informative Flyers & Registration Materials will be available beginning April 14th at morrisplainsboro.org

The Fun Begins June 26th - July 28th for Grades K-9/Fall of 2023!

Morris Plains Recreation Summer Program News!

Morris Plains Community Park Pool
Pool Booklet & Membership Form available March 3rd @ Morris Plains Community Center & morrisplainsboro.org
Come Swim With Us This Summer!

Morris Plains Recreation Summer Counselor Employment
Preparations are underway for 2023 Summer Programs!

Applications for Summer Counselor & Lifeguard Positions available at: Morris Plains Community Center & morrisplainsboro.org
Senior Programs

Book Club
Every 3rd Wednesday at 2PM
Morris Plains Community Center
(pre registration not required)

Senior Exercise
with Jessica Battagliese
Thursdays at 10AM
Morris Plains Community Center
(pre registration required)

Winter/Spring Recreation Programs:

Pickleball
at the
Morris Plains Community Center
Multi Purpose Room
Indoor Court until April 11th

For available dates and times to schedule the court:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4AAFA72BAAFB6-pickleball

New Outdoor Courts at Watnong Park coming SOON!

US Sports Institute Spring Tennis Program
(pre registration required)
Tuesdays
April 20—June 8
(8 sessions)
Foundation Tennis (ages 5-8) 4 PM to 4:50 PM
Foundation Tennis (ages 8-11) 5 PM to 5:50 PM
Foundation Tennis (ages 11-14) 6 PM to 6:50 PM
Development Tennis (ages 11-14) 7 PM to 7:50 PM
Morris Plains Community Park
Fee: $180.00

Evening Programs at Morris Plains Borough School
(No fee or pre-registration required)
Limited to Morris Plains Residents

Young Adult Soccer
Tuesday - 8:30-10PM

Young Adult Basketball
Tuesday - 8:30-10PM

Men’s Soccer
Wednesday - 8:30-10PM

Men’s Basketball
Thursday - 8:30-10PM

Join us for a Night of Family Fun!
February 24th
7 PM to 8 PM
Morris Plains Community Center
Refreshments! Prizes!

Save the Date!
Saturday, April 1st
Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

For additional information and registration forms, contact the
Morris Plains Recreation at 973-538-3455 ~ Monday - Thursday, 9AM - 4PM
or visit us @ morrisplainsboro.org
First of 2023 - BSA Troop 39 Eagle Scout Court of Honor

On January 8th, the first 2023 Eagle Court of Honor kicked off the year, at the Morris Plains Community Center honoring Anand Bannerji, making him the 95th Scout to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 39. Special thanks is given to: NJ Senator Anthony Bucco, NJ Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Morris Township Mayor Mark Gyorfy and Deputy Mayor “Bud” Ravitz, Morris Plains Mayor Jason Karr and Borough Committee members, as well as the Morris Plains VFW. Many speeches acknowledged the magnitude of this accomplishment, as well as awards presented, including a Key to the Borough of Morris Plains.

The Troop 39 Eagle Scout Trophy was passed on to Anand by previous recipient, Eagle Scout Carson Barone. Anand's name is engraved on the trophy along with the other Troop 39 Eagles dating back to 1937. Anand will keep the trophy until he passes it to the next Scout who achieves Eagle rank. An American Flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of Anand's achievement and will be presented to him at a later date. With this accomplishment, Anand joins only 8% of Scouts who ever attain the Eagle rank.

The new Eagle thanked everyone for attending and reinforced that it could not have been accomplished without the support from fellow troop members and leaders, his service project mentor Ron Swanson, friends, and family. He also spoke about the meaning of his Eagle Scout project and the value it will provide to the community.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Anand led a team of more than 30 volunteers in constructing and installing four book exchange boxes in Morris Township parks including Butterworth Park, Freelan Green Field, Children's Park and Collinsville Playground. Anand's project was inspired by his love of reading. The book exchange boxes are stocked by the Morristown and Township Library. Library Assistant Director, Mary Lynn Becza spoke of how these “Little Free Libraries” would benefit youth and adults by encouraging reading and book sharing. Once approved by his troop, local BSA Council and the Morris Township Department of Parks and Recreation he developed and delivered the project within budget and on time.

Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting. Since 1912 more than two million Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank. In the words of the Eagle Scout Promise, Eagles do their best each day to make their training an example, their rank and their Influence count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship in the troop, in their community and their contacts with other people. To this they pledge their sacred honor.

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law. During the school year, Troop 39 meets weekly at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains to plan camping trips, community service events and learning required to earn rank advancements. For more information, visit troop39bsa.org.
Helen H. Schnack Scholarship

The Morris Plains Museum Association Helen H. Schnack Scholarship (for $2,000) is given annually to a qualifying Morris Plains Borough resident graduating from Morristown High School.

Applications are available at the MHS Guidance Office. The deadline for the application is March 30th. All MHS seniors from Morris Plains are encouraged to apply.

Visit the Morris Plains Museum to see two new exhibits:

Odds and Ends

This includes unique items from our collection, some of which are being displayed for the first time, and

Advertising from 1917-1919

This features full-page color ads found in Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper.

At the present time the museum is open every third Saturday of the month from 10 AM until 1 PM. Please be fully vaccinated and wear your mask.

We are happy to accept items that pertain to the history of our wonderful town.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR TOWN!
To help just call the museum and leave a message. The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement - to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town.

REMEMBER:
Weekly Curbside Mixed Recycling Pickup Will Continue in 2023 EVERY TUESDAY

- Acceptable plastic containers are Marked #1, #2 and #5 ONLY
- DO NOT put recyclables in plastic bags
- Curbside recycling containers should weigh no more than 50 lbs.
On Sunday, November 13, Morris Plains residents Megan O’Brien and Katie Clark hosted two free lacrosse clinics for the Lady Colonials. Players from grades 3 through 8 participated in the clinic with these two Morristown varsity lacrosse players at Simons Park in Morris Plains to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry. Over 360 pounds of food and $75 in donations were collected!

Mayor Karr dropped off his generous donation, while commenting, “What a great thing to see when kids feel compelled to give back and show compassion to those less fortunate than them! Again, the true meaning of ‘The Community of Caring’. These are kids that have grown up here and have watched others give back and learned a very valuable lesson. Thank you, Megan and Katie!”

These two girls were able to use their talents to give back to the community and make a positive impact. The Interfaith Food Pantry was thrilled to have their support.

“We are seeing a significant number of new families requesting turkeys and holiday baskets this year, as are some of our community partners,” said Carolyn Lake, Executive Director. “We greatly appreciate the support of the public in helping us ensure all Morris County families can have a Happy Thanksgiving and holiday season.”
The All Seasons Garden Club's final project for 2022 was decorating the greens in the tubs along Speedwell Ave. We had lots of help from our local scouts and area school children who made such unique and decorative ornaments for many of the tubs. Thanks to all the children as well as the staff who helped coordinate with our club. We also want to thank the Department of Public Works for installing the greens and birch branches. 

Our club members also decorated the Christmas tree at the library. We hope you were able to stop by and enjoy the tree's lights at night from the large bow window.

We wrapped up 2022 with our annual holiday party. Members, spouses, and partners enjoyed dinner, wine, and dessert at Woodam. After a year of hard work, All Seasons’ members are always up for fun and a relaxing evening.

Our meetings, held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Morris Plains Community Center, are always open to visitors. Our website, morrisplainsasgc.org, lists all upcoming events. We especially welcome guests and those interested in becoming new members.

Ellie Falco, Morris Plains Clean Communities Coordinator, is on a mission to keep Morris Plains cleaned up and looking its best and wants residents to take charge and keep the town litter free.

“One step at a time is the only way to get some things accomplished,” Falco said. “It seems that wherever people gather in Morris Plains to play or talk, or to stop for a light when there’s a traffic backup – that’s where litter accumulates from candy wrappers to cigarette butts. It’s just plain ugly!”

Litter gets swept by rainstorms into the gutters and down storm drains, eventually ending up in the ocean, if it’s not caught first. It endangers our wildlife. We’ve all seen the many pictures of turtles and other sea creatures wrapped up in plastic or choking on straws.

She doesn’t understand how local residents can ignore it and even add to it by throwing down cigarette butts or tossing drink cups or food wrappers out of their car windows when they can wait and throw the items away at home.

“I suppose people think that it makes it someone else’s problem,” she said. “There are several of these areas around such as Speedwell Avenue, the railroad bridge area at Route 202 and 53 and around the intersection of Hanover and Speedwell.” Twelve to fifteen groups go out every spring and fall and collect hundreds of pounds of trash and recyclables to help Morris Plains looking its best.

“We know that a number of business owners work very hard to keep the front of their stores tidy and that many residents spend extra time to keep the front of their properties looking lovely,” she continued. “It is noticed by many and the town is very appreciative.”

Everyone can help by just picking up trash as they are walking along and putting it in a garbage container. Falco keeps a small trash bag and a latex glove in her purse to pick up litter she finds when she’s out and about. Many people already do this, and every little bit helps.

For more information about the Morris Plains Clean Communities program residents can go to the Borough of Morris Plains Web Page https://morrisplainsboro.org/clean-communities-program/ and can sign up for the Mini-Grant program by contacting Falco at (973) 538-9103.
Why You Should Not Feed Wildlife This Winter

The winter season is officially upon us and with that we can expect snow and icy conditions to stay until early spring. Many people will begin to start leaving food for the wintering wildlife in the area but unfortunately, many problems tend to occur when wintering wildlife are fed. Although it is thought that providing easy to find food draws in wildlife and allows for them to be observed, this causes more harm than good. Feeding wildlife can interfere with the natural balance between them and their own habitats.

Reasons why wildlife should not be fed during winter months:

- **Safety Concerns**
  - Feeding wildlife poses a threat to human and animal safety. As wild animals hunt for food, they can become aggressive or lose their fear around people and domestic pets, putting safety at risk.
  - Wild animals fed along roads tend to stay near where they are fed, causing severe accidents.

- **Damage to Environment**
  - An overabundance of wildlife can cause damage to natural habitats. For example, having too many deer in an area will damage native forests by completely removing the shrub and tree seedling layers.

- **Poor Diets/Nutrition**
  - Wild animals have specialized diets and can become malnourished or die if fed improper food. Deer digestive systems can change in winter so when they are provided with alternative food sources, they may stop eating what is naturally occurring in the environment and become dependent on humans for food.

- **Exposure to Diseases**
  - Feeding wildlife may lead to public health concerns. Feeding deer in one area can increase the chances of diseases such as chlamydiosis, leptospirosis, campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and giardiasis to be passed to people and other animals.

- **Pollution of Waterways**
  - Large concentrations of geese and ducks can add to pollution with their fecal contamination near waterways. Fecal matter contains phosphorous and nitrogen which is essentially food that fuels the growth of hazardous blue-green algae and some species can drop up to a pound of feces each day.

- **New House Guests**
  - Depending on the kind of animal you might be feeding, smaller animals such as raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, mice and rabbits may be attracted to take up space in a person's garage, shed or home.

Residents should be mindful this winter to not feed wildlife. The best way to help wildlife survive the winter is to take a step back and allow the animal's natural instincts to take over.

Record-Breaking Turnout for 2023 Rabies Clinic

Morris Plains town council, Board of Health, and Werner Animal Hospital hosted a Free Rabies Clinic Saturday January 7th. We had a record breaking turn out and were able to vaccinate approximately 295 cats and dogs!
The National Guard was established on December 13, 1636. Since that time, many have volunteered; and many have assumed their family member’s role. This is just one example:

On November 23, 2022, Gradie Carroll, a resident of Morris Plains, graduated Basic Infantry Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina where fifty years ago Terry Carroll (Gradie’s father and longtime resident of Morris Plains) marched on Fort Jackson’s Hilton Field for his Basic Training Graduation. Terry served with the 50th armored division and the 112th Field Artillery from 1971 to 1977. Inspired by her father’s military service, Gradie enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard on June 24, 2022.

Among Gradie’s accomplishments, she received the highest physical fitness score in her Company, was Platoon Leader, and had the honor of carrying the GUIDON (company flag) for the graduation ceremony.

Gradie returns to the New Jersey National Guard with the rank of Specialist 4th Class and plans to attend Officer Candidate School.

Gradie is currently employed by the State of New Jersey as a Parole Officer.

Congratulations to Gradie; and thank you to all who have stepped up to preserve our freedom.

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**Veterans Day 2022**

On Veteran’s Day 2022, Morris Plains VFW Post 3401 celebrated and honored our local veterans. Commander John Titterton welcomed Veterans, their families, and guests who were in attendance and spoke of the meaning and significance of Veterans Day. Present at the event were Brigadier General John T. Reim, Picatinny Arsenal Commander; Command Sergeant Major Ian Brundage, 3rd Battalion-112th Artillery Commander National Guard Morristown; and Morris Plains Mayor Jason Karr who all spoke. Bob Keyes and Rich Olsen organized a Pin Ceremony in which seven VFW members received their 25- or 30-year membership pins. Congratulations and thank you to all our veterans!

Courtesy of Morris Plains VFW 3401

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**Grand Opening of Monrroy Design Flower Shop**

A warm Morris Plains welcome to Monrroy Design LLC, the new flower shop located at 724 Speedwell Ave that offers bouquets, floral arrangements, wreaths, plants - and deliveries! Please stop by and say hello!
New on the Map!

New street signs in the M&M and Lennar developments carry some familiar names!

Cecala Rd - named for former Councilman, Joe Cecala

Signorelli Ln - named for Benjamin Signorelli, KIA in WWII

Law Dr - named for Pearl Law, retired employee and longtime volunteer

McCluskey Pl - named for former Councilwoman, Suzanne McCluskey

The deadline for the next issue of Plains Talk is April 14th, 2023.
Please submit articles and pictures to plainstalknews@gmail.com.