Happy Retirement!
Thank you Sue McCluskey for 20 years of volunteer-managing the Morris Plains Farmers' Market!
Mayor’s Corner

After an extremely mild winter, spring weather has sprung early, and it is wonderful to see families out and about.

Our annual Memorial Day Parade is being held on May 27th, and Family Day and fireworks are scheduled for June 24th. The Community Park pool is being worked on, with plans to be opened on June 24th -- you won’t be disappointed if you join! I am happy to report the Borough received a grant for $65,000 to upgrade playground equipment at Community Park along with the Simons Park playground equipment, which will be upgraded in July with funds received from the American Rescue Plan. Two pickleball courts are being constructed at Watnong Park with hopes of being completed soon. The tennis courts were lined for pickleball at Community Park, as was the multi-purpose room at the Community Center, for all local fans of the sport to enjoy.

Paving projects for this summer will include Glenbrook Road, for which we received a grant for $250,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Additional roads that will be paved are Greenwood Road, Briarcliff Road, Simons Drive, Stony Brook Road, Homer Avenue, Cutler Road, Crestview Court East, Brook Drive South, Mountain Way and the Freight Station walkway/stairs, all with no new debt.

The Borough Council introduced a strong budget despite increasing obstacles handed down by the State of NJ - such as an over $200,000 increase in health insurance and a nearly $100,000 increase in pension contributions - along with many other rising costs we are all experiencing. Our goal is to keep all town services available while maintaining top notch infrastructure.

Congratulations go out to these Borough employees who have retired in recent months: Lieutenant Michael Rolph of the Morris Plains Police Department; Sherwood Stevens and Tom Silk, who are both employees of the DPW; and Ed Easse of the building department. These four have a combined 116 years of service to the Borough of Morris Plains, which is extraordinary. Thank you to Michael, Woody, Tom and Ed for your dedication to Morris Plains and its residents, and good luck on your next chapter!

I would also like to congratulate Suzanne McCluskey on her retirement from her volunteer management of the Farmers’ Market after 20 years. The Farmers’ Market has brought many shoppers and vendors to our downtown, and it was amazing to see the many smiling faces each week. Sue’s love and effort showed, and now the Farmers’ Market tradition will continue through our Business Development Committee. I look forward to seeing you all there! A heartfelt ‘thank you’ to Sue!

My wish for all is that you stay well and enjoy the Spring and Summer seasons. I hope to see you around town while we patronize our local businesses and enjoy all our summer events - from swimming to Concerts in the Park!

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to send me an email.

God bless you and God bless America

Mayor Jason C. Karr
jkarr@morrisplainsboro.org

Happy Retirement!

Congratulations to Ed Easse on his retirement from the building department after 23 years.

Congratulations to Sherwood ‘Woody’ Stevens (left) and Tom Silk (right) of the DPW on their retirement, and thank you for your many years of hard work and dedication to the Borough!

A retirement recognition ceremony was held at town hall for Lt Michael Rolph (more on page 3).
**Annual Memorial Day Parade**

**Saturday, May 27th**
9:00 AM - Memorial Service at Roberts Garden
Parade to step off immediately following the Service

Parade begins at Roberts Garden, then heads south on Mountain Way to left on Rosedale Ave, then makes a left onto Speedwell Ave to head toward town center. Parade continues to Rte 23 and ends at VFW Post 3401, where their volunteers provide hot dogs and beverages. Rides and other activities will also be made available by the Parade Committee.

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**2023 Grand Marshal**

With deep gratitude, our 2023 Grand Marshal is Lt. Michael E. Rolph. Lt. Rolph is recognized by Morris Plains for over 25 years of dedicated service to the Borough as a valued member of the Morris Plains Police Department. Mike has retired this year, reaching the rank of Lieutenant.

Mike has also been a dedicated volunteer of the Morris Plains Parade Committee, a member of the Morris Plains Fire Department, volunteered at Ground Zero following the September 11th 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, current Chair of the 9/11 legacy committee, President of the PBA, NJ Special Olympics and was part of a presidential security detail in Washington DC for the 2005 Presidential election.

Mike is also a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and was Honorably discharged in 2003 holding the rank of Sgt.

Mike will be joined in the parade by his wife Kara and their daughter, Amber.

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**Annual Memorial Day Parade**

**Saturday, May 27th**
9:00 AM - Memorial Service at Roberts Garden
Parade to step off immediately following the Service

**Morris Plains Annual Fireworks**

**Saturday, June 24th**
Watch the Boro website for details on the Fireworks and Family Day

***Rain Date: June 25th***

[www.morrisplainsboro.org](http://www.morrisplainsboro.org)
Morris Plains School News
A Message from Superintendent of Schools,
Mr. Mark R. Maire

On behalf of the Morris Plains School District and the Board of Education, I would like to thank the voters of Morris Plains for your overwhelming support of the school district’s referendum vote on March 14, 2023. Nearly 75% of the 1,035 voters said YES to our plans to expand Mountain Way School and renovate the Borough School bathrooms. We are truly honored by the trust and continued support of our school district by a community that believes in strong schools. Your votes signify a partnership to provide for our students’ needs, and your support of the vision we have for their future.

I want to thank the Morris Plains community, from the many parents who got involved in sharing information with neighbors, supporters who put signs on their lawns, community members who spoke up at meetings or during tours to share their views and perhaps convince someone else to change theirs. I can only begin to express my appreciation to the countless folks whose hours of work and dedication brought this referendum to a successful conclusion. Now, the work has begun to move the projects forward. We hope to break ground during the latter part of the summer. We will continue to be transparent and keep you updated on our progress.

The arrival of spring means we have just a few months left to wrap up the school year. Numerous end-of-year events have been planned at Borough School and Mountain Way, including transition activities for our 2nd and 8th grade students, the Borough School drama production and spring concert, field day activities, visiting authors, field trips, a second grade Dance residency, 5th grade LEAD graduation, etc. In addition, our co-curricular clubs and interscholastic spring sports teams are in full swing.

2023-2024 Budget
The winter months were dedicated to generating next year’s budget. Much care and consideration went into planning a budget that is fiscally responsible. The 2023-2024 preliminary school budget was approved at the March 16th board meeting, and it was approved at the County Office shortly thereafter. Currently, all of the district’s needs for the next school year are incorporated into the final budget. This was a monumental task, considering the fiscal challenges we continue to encounter. Thank you to our Business Administrator, Ms. Cathy Jenisch, for effectively managing the budget process. We feel confident that next year’s budget will allow us to continue investing in staff development, safety and security, competitive class sizes, enrich our educational programs and resources, maintain our buildings and grounds, and continue our efforts to meet the needs of all of our student learners.

Specific components of the budget include:

- Expansion of Reading Specialist and Special Education Preschool Program personnel (Part-Time to Full-Time)
- Creation of Mountain Way STARS Teacher (Special Education Emotional and Behavior Support Program)
- Class 3 Officer
- New K-8 math program (Big Ideas)
- Decodables (K-2)
- New preschool curriculum - Creative Curriculum
- Continuation of Fundations (K-3)
- District-wide wireless access point replacement project
- Commitment to professional development
- Social and emotional resources (K-8)
- Curriculum writing
- Change in transportation provider (Morris School District)
- Reduction in MHS tuition

The public hearing on the 2023-2024 budget was held on Tuesday, April 25th, at 7:00pm, where MPSD administration presented the state of the district. The presentation highlighted school and district accomplishments and identified next year’s goals. The budget and State of the District presentation is available on our district website.

Board of Education News
At the April 11th board meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2022-2023 revised school calendar, which was updated to reflect the use of snow days. The calendar is available on the district website. The last day of school for students is Thursday, June 15. Eighth grade graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 7:30pm in the Borough School Auditorium.

NJIT Panel
On March 30th Morris Plains school officials participated in a virtual panel hosted by NJIT in recognition of STEM Month (March). The program began with a keynote speaker, then transitioned to panel discussions led by Morris Plains (Mark Maire, Christine Lion-Bailey and Maria Manley) and Morris School District. During the panel, Morris Plains participants highlighted the district's commitment to STEM by discussing the state of the art STEAM lab, innovative K-8 STEM program, LiFE Club, NJIT partnership, etc. Also discussed was the importance of having a shared vision between administration and the Board, and the importance of providing mentorship opportunities for students.

Middle School Math Contest
Each year, our middle school math teachers administer the Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ (AMTNJ) middle school math contest test to our accelerated math students. AMTNJ requires us to submit our top five students (based on their scores on the contest test) as a team representing Borough. This year our Middle School team came in 3rd place in the statewide competition! Congratulations to Lucas Hsu, 8th grade, Holden Leidl, 8th grade, Eli Gelfand, 7th grade, Rafael Gelfand, 7th grade, and Diya Borundiya, 7th grade.

NJSLA Testing
Borough School will soon be conducting the NJSLA assessments in Language Arts Literacy, Math, and Science. This state-mandated assessment, formerly known as PARCC, tests students in Grades 3-8. This year the testing window for Language Arts Literacy and Math is scheduled for the week of May 8th. NJSLA testing in Science will also run during the week of May 8th for students in grades five and eight.

Traditionally, our students have outperformed their peers in standardized assessments at the state level across every grade level. We work hard to focus on student achievement and growth through ongoing professional development, data analysis, implementation of student support services/programs, state of the art resources, and curricular programs that promote 21st century learning.

MPPD Partnership
Many thanks to Chief Koroski, Lt. Rolph, and members of the MPPD for their time and expertise conducting emergency crisis training sessions with staff members at each building during a staff development day on February 21st. They reviewed our crisis manual, showed a training video, discussed best practices, and showcased their SWAT gear. Their commitment to protecting the school community they serve was evident, and we are grateful for their partnership, expertise, and ongoing presence in our schools.

Over the past few months, MPPD personnel have visited Mountain Way and conducted read-alouds to students. The Mountain Way School loves the Book With a Cop program!
Morris County SBA Unsung Hero

MPSD’s Director of Special Services, Mrs. Gropp, worked with the 8th grade teachers to nominate 8th grader Brian Viola for the Morris County SBA Unsung Hero Award. Selection criteria included students who have overcome difficult academic or personal challenges, model good citizenship and exhibit a spirit and quiet strength that inspires others. Brian and his family attended the April 11th board meeting, and Mrs. Gropp presented Brian with the county-wide award.

School Community Support

We continue to receive generous contributions from our school community organizations. Throughout the school year, the MPEA sponsored numerous family programs, fundraisers, and outreach activities. At the March 3rd MPEA Volleyball Fundraiser, the MPEA raised $7,500 for graduating Morris Plains students headed for college.

We have also received generous support from the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Coalition (MPMAC), and the Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA), who funded visiting authors and exciting assemblies (K-8), and purchased eight Macbook computers that will directly enhance the BTV experience for all Borough School students and support the Borough School STEM class.

Throughout the school year, the Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) approved numerous teacher/administrative grants that included: 2nd Grade Dance Residency, Needle Felt Kits for the Borough School Art program, a gong for the Borough School music program, math games and materials for our K-8 math program, cameras for BTV, and an earthquake simulator for the Borough School science program.

The Board of Education is grateful to all of our school community organizations for their continued support throughout the school year. They work tirelessly to enhance the educational experience of our students. Please visit their websites to learn more about the wonderful work they do, and how you can get involved.

STEM Sweepstakes

For the second year in a row, Borough School STEM Teacher Alissa Schonmann was one of three winners of the 2023 NJ STEM Interest Sweepstakes. The winners were selected randomly from among the valid submissions. Ms. Schonmann received a $100 gift card, which she will use to purchase STEM materials for her classroom. Ms. Schonmann submitted a video highlighting her STEAM Tank club, with a focus on their STEAM Tank proposals. New Jersey Institute of Technology and the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network held the STEM Interest Sweepstakes in recognition of NJ STEM Month 2023.

MPSD Band

Congratulations to Borough School Band Director Kate Michalowski and the 7th and 8th grade band students for their unbelievable performances during the Morristown High School Evening of the Bands in early March. Bands from Frelinghuysen, Borough, and Morristown High School performed several pieces, then the bands combined (over 150 band students) to play several songs.

Model UN Competition

Congratulations to 8th grade students Cooper and Holden for earning the award of Best Delegation at the Drew MUN. They exhibited outstanding skills in leadership, debate, knowledge, and professionalism!

Do You Follow @WeAreMPSD?

If you don't currently follow @WeAreMPSD on Twitter, please consider doing so. Our staff and administration tweet throughout the day, giving our followers a window into the classrooms and the learning experiences of the students.

I would like to thank the entire Morris Plains school community for their continued support of our vision and programs throughout this past school year. The success of our educational programs is directly related to the ongoing partnership between our staff, students, parents, Board of Education, and school community organizations. On behalf of the Morris Plains School District, I extend best wishes for a safe, healthy and relaxing close to the school year and upcoming summer. I look forward to working closely with all members of the school community as we continue our steady course towards excellence.

Best,

Mark Macell
THEN AND NOW

Back in 1917, Heinrich Elzerman, who was already well established in Morris Plains as a restaurant owner and longtime chef, built a new restaurant on the southwest corner of Franklin Place. It was known to residents as “The Brook”. Today the building remains, painted in black and white and under the name Arthur’s!

Two New Exhibits Are Now Open:

Odds and Ends - Including unique items from the museum collection, some of which are being displayed for the first time,

and

Advertising from 1917-1919 - Featuring full-page color ads from the museum’s collection of the 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.

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.
The All Seasons Garden Club wrapped up its 2022/23 meetings with a great presentation on mushrooms by Dorothy Smullen. Now we look forward to our spring and summer projects.

Several members are planning the revamp of the library garden. Make sure to stop by on your walks or library visits.

All club members are involved with the planting, watering, and weeding of the Speedwell Avenue tubs. I’m sure you’ve noticed that the old tubs have been removed and new (and fewer) tubs have replaced them. This is one of the few garden club projects in which all members participate.

The club is also joining forces with the Beautification Committee to spruce up the railroad station. While still in the initial stages, this project promises a big impact on the visual landscape around the station.

Finally, our native tree plantings near the community garden continue to do well. We hope you get a chance this summer to stop by and take a look at the trees.

Our meetings, held the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September through May, are always open to visitors. Our website, morrisplainsasgc.org, lists all upcoming events. We especially welcome guests and those interested in becoming new members.

Please look carefully at the message on this aluminum can, and then take it to heart: “SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!” Needless to say, in order to see the can again soon, one must RECYCLE it when it’s empty. Thanks to all those in Morris Plains who recycle properly!

Mountain Way Walk to School Day

Tuesday, April 12th was Walk to School Day at Mountain Way School to encourage healthy physical activity and to cut down on traffic congestion.

The day was fantastic. Fifty-five children (out of over 200) in Grades K-2 who lived close enough were able to walk to school. Each child who walked received a pledge (pictured left).

It was wonderful to see the stream of children, with parent(s), walking up Mt. Way, and fewer cars idling while dropping off students.
Thanks to generous donors like YOU, the children of the Morris Plains Co-op Play School have a beautiful new outdoor climber! The commercial set, which cost nearly $40,000, was installed and opened for play in March 2023. The chilly weather did not stop them from climbing on, sliding down, and tunneling through the new big green climber. “Best Day Ever!” and “We’re keeping it!” were some quotes that could be heard on the playground that day (and still today)!

As a non-profit organization, The Co-op relied on multiple years of fundraising efforts to help cover the cost. Events such as Dine to Donate with local restaurants, seasonal plant sales, an annual Spring Fling Tricky Tray, and a farewell fundraiser for their longtime director’s retirement, as well as direct monetary donations from Co-op families and community members made this possible!

As a benefactor of the community, The Co-op recognizes the importance of teaching children about giving back. The Co-op is proud to host collections and drives throughout the year for national and local organizations, such as a food drive for the Interfaith Food Pantry, Pajama Drive and Cleaning Supply Drive for Morris County’s Deirdre’s House, and a Diaper Drive benefiting JBWS. They are currently holding a LEGO collection for LEGO Replay, where they will collect LEGO bricks of all shapes, sizes and colors. They will send all collected bricks back to LEGO, who will then donate to charities that work with children in need.

All donations may be dropped off on the front porch of The Co-op (8 Cleveland Ave, Morris Plains) through June 1st.

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**Getting Ready to Play Ball!**

The snack stand has been repaired and crews have been hard at work this spring getting our ball fields ready.

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Thank you Little League Team sponsors!

Aires Jewelers
Arthur’s
Columbia Bank Foundation
Dangler
Dean Exteriors
Eastern Janitorial
Goldkind Family Orthodontics
Harding Livery
Harley Davidson
Horan Electric
Karr Landscapes
Lush Medspa
Morris Brick & Stone
Morris Plains Democrats
Morris Plains Fire Department
Morris Plains Rotary
Morristown Agway
Patrician Photo
Pure Barre Denville
Sotheby’s (Louann Fellers)
Terri DiGrande, State Farm
Webber McGill
Webster Plumbing & Heating
MHS GLAX State Champions Megan O'Brien and Katie Clark led a free clinic at Simons Park for girls lacrosse players in grades 3-8. Participants were asked to bring food donations (pictured above) to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry.
The Easter Bunny visited Morris Plains on Sunday, April 10, hopping to several locations around town with the help of the MP Fire Department. Pictured above: Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt at Mountain Way School.

Morris Plains Soccer Association News

Sign up now to join Morris Plains Soccer at an upcoming Gotham FC match (5:30 PM on Sunday, June 4th at Red Bulls Stadium). We are pleased to offer FREE player tickets* courtesy of our sponsor, the Law Office of Cara Parmigiani. Friends and family are welcome and can purchase discounted group tickets at morrisplainssports.com.

Early bird registration opens May 21st for Morris Plains Soccer fall programs for players (age 3 through 4th grade) and youth referees (grades 6-12). We can’t wait to see everyone at the fields this fall!

*Limited free tickets available.
Morris Plains Recreation
Summer Camp

“Super Kids Camp”
June 26 to July 28 9 AM - Noon
Early drop off @ 8 AM!
Morris Plains Community Center & Park
Grades K - 5; Fall, 2023

“Teen Camp”
June 26 to July 28 9 AM - Noon
Grades 6 - 9; Fall, 2023

Senior Picnic
Save the Date!
Morris Plains Community Center
Thursday ~ July 13th
1PM
Please join us!

Morris Plains Recreation
Summer Enhancement Programs:
Theatre Workshop, Science Wizards, Amazing Animal Sculptures,
Crafty Kitchen, Cheerleading, Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis

New this Summer!
Making Music - Playwriting
Kickball & Dodgeball

Morris Plains Recreation
Summer Concerts at Roberts Garden

July 2 ~ Millie’s Closet
(rain date: July 3)

July 9 ~ Moon Dogs
(rain date July 10)

July 16 ~ London Calling
(rain date July 17)

July 23 ~ The Breeze
(rain date July 24)

July 30 ~ Genesee Stills Band
(rain date July 31)

Concerts are from 6 PM - 8 PM
Bring a lawn chair!

Family Day!
Saturday
June 24
3PM
Fireworks!
9:30PM!

Great Food, Fun and Entertainment!
Morris Plains Community Park
Rain date: Sunday, June 25

Summer Fun
Who's Ready for Summer?

Morris Plains Community Park Pool News!

Check out our Pool Website!
Keep updated on what’s new this year as well as:
Pool membership registration and booklet, closing announcements and extended hours,
Friday night activities and events, Marlin’s Swim Team news and so much more!
Visit: www.morrisplainspool.com

What’s Happening at the Pool ...

Swim Lessons
Sign up at the Pool
beginning June 26th
Pool Membership required
for Swim Lessons

Friday Night Events!
Check Pool Website for
Friday Night Dinners & Events
Friday night events are for
Pool Members.
Pool Members are
permitted guests, provided they
purchase guest passes at the gate

Join the
Marlins Swim Team!
details @
morrisplainboro.org
morrisplainspool.com

Senior Aquasize
Every Wednesday in July
Beginning July 5th
12:15 to 1:00 PM
No Fee for Pool Members
$10 Guest Fee for
Non-Members
No pre-registration required
As warm weather hits NJ, BSA Troop 39 remembers the Klondike

Each year, the Klondike Derby camping trip puts Boy Scouts to the test – 2023 was no exception.

BSA Troop 39 led by new Troop Scoutmaster Kevin Hayes, endured the harsh winter weather on February 4th, at the Fishawack District Klondike in Camp Somers, Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation.

The Kondike is an annual-traditional winter event, where Scouts must work together as a team to compete with other troops in the district and complete outdoor winter events and challenges. Stations are set up and visited by the Scouts which require practical problem solving and reinforce basic Scouting skill. The skills tested include fire and shelter building, first aid, orienting, lashing, knot tying, as well as team building, and leadership born out of the weekend. An exciting highlight for the troops is to compete in sled races after the stations are completed.

Despite lack of snow this year, it was a cold one with temperatures reaching low single digits. However, that did not deter attendance, participation, and fun. BSA Troop 39 turnout and active participation was great this year. Scouts look forward to this annual event and tell adventurous stories of years past. With the Summer weather now upon us in New Jersey, the 2023 Klondike will become another great memory and add to the troop stories and discussion in planning for next year's event.

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 www.troop39bsa.org.

Juliettes Tour Borough Hall

A group of ‘Juliette’s’ (independently registered Girl Scouts) recently came to explore Borough Hall for a badge requirement. The girls were met by Mayor Karr as well as police officer, Ann Marie Ferris, who took them on an impromptu tour.

Girl Scout Troop 96845

Troop 96845 was recognized at a town hall meeting on Thursday April 20th for their hard work and effort keeping Simons Park clean.

Brownies Bring Cookies and Smiles to Arbor Terrace

In early April, Morris Plains 3rd Grade Brownies Troop 97912 was invited to Arbor Terrace to sell cookies! Both parties loved seeing each other; they talked, shared stories and had a great time.
Mental health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being for individuals of all ages, and it is especially important for adolescents. Adolescence is a time of significant change, including physical, emotional, and social development. This can be a challenging period for many young people and it is not uncommon for adolescents to experience mental health issues.

Importance of Mental Health for Adolescents
- Mental health is essential for overall well-being and quality of life.
- Adolescents with good mental health are more likely to succeed in school and other areas of life.
- Mental health issues can interfere with normal development, including social and emotional growth.
- Early intervention for mental health issues can lead to better outcomes for adolescents.

Common Mental Health Issues
- Depression: a mood disorder that can cause feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and loss of interest in activities.
- Anxiety: a condition characterized by excessive worry or fear.
- Eating disorders: a group of mental health conditions that can lead to abnormal eating behaviors.
- Substance abuse: the use of drugs or alcohol in a way that causes problems in daily life.
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity.

Mental health is crucial for the well-being of adolescents. Adolescents who struggle with mental health issues may experience difficulties in various areas of life, including school, relationships, and daily functioning. Fortunately, there are resources available to support adolescent mental health:
- The Mental Health Association of NJ: Offers education, advocacy, and support services for mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- NJ Children's System of Care: Provides a network of services and supports for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral challenges.
- Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services: Provides 24/7 crisis intervention and referrals for ongoing support.
- The Center for Family Services: Nonprofit organization that offers counseling, education, and support services for individuals and families.
- The Trevor Project: a national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ youth.
- Crisis Text Line: A free, 24/7 text message service for people in crisis. Text HOME to 741741

For more information, visit: www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Student Fundraiser

Team Lily for Life
Lily Wendorff, student at Villa Walsh Academy, hosted a fundraising event at Community Park to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, as part of its Student Visionaries of the Year campaign.
Morris Plains Rotary Club Invites Prospective Member Inquiries

The Rotary Club of Morris Plains, currently celebrating its 50th year of service, is inviting interested men and women who enjoy being active in our community to consider joining our club.

Rotary is the world’s oldest international volunteer service organization. It was founded almost 120 years ago, and has over a million members in over 200 countries and territories around the world. It consists of men and women of all walks of life that are dedicated to making the world and their community a better place to live.

Our Rotary Club currently has almost 50 members; men and women from Morris Plains and the surrounding area who endeavor to perform good work in our community and around the world and have a good time doing it.

The club meets weekly on Friday mornings before the work day at Uncle Giuseppe’s Market (upstairs), 1711 Route 10 (eastbound). The meetings include reports on our current projects, enjoyable camaraderie time and always a very interesting and informative program.

For more information, please contact Sean Kelly, Membership Chair at skrotary@yahoo.com or at 973-714-1795.

MPPD News

First Operation Takeback of 2023

In conjunction with the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office and Sheriff’s Office, the Morris Plains Police Department-sponsored drug takeback was held in April at the Morris Plains Stop & Shop. The event yielded a large collection of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications, which will be destroyed and disposed of safely and responsibly.

MPPD Awards and Recognition

In recognition of the often difficult and at times dangerous work your Morris Plains Police Officers perform, the Department revised its Awards and Recognition policy this year to acknowledge their efforts. A plaque recently made for the lobby of police headquarters, identifies the distinguished awards our police officers may earn and the citation bars that are issued for each accomplishment.

Some of those awards include:

- The Chief Alexander Paterson, named after the Department’s 1st Chief of Police, earned by an officer who under adverse conditions with some degree of hazard to life, prevents the death or serious injury of a citizen.
- Life Saving, awarded for an officer’s prompt response and actions that results in saving a life.
- Gallantry Star, is awarded for the arrest of a person who is a major threat to the community.
- The Military Service citation is worn by any member of the Department that has served in a branch of the United States Armed Forces.
- All officers wear The Patriot citation bar, dedicated to the defense and protection of the United States Constitution and the Flag of the United States of America and the In Memoriam citation bar, in honor of those law enforcement officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition to these departmental awards, your officers appreciate the community’s support and words of thanks for their service.
VFW Post 3401 Officer Installation

Congratulations to John Boudreau on his election as President of the post auxiliary along with his slate of officers. Congratulations also to the new Commander of VFW Post 3401, Commander Basil D’Armiento, along with his officers; and a special thanks to the latest past Commander John Titterton. The Boro looks forward to continuing to work closely with our VFW as we have in the past for so many town events and activities.

Morris Area Community Blood Program Urgent Need

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morris Plains and the Borough of Morris Plains, the Morris Area Community Blood Program drives are held in association with the New Jersey Blood Services, whose professional staff collects the blood. These drives are open to the public, and are held at the Morris Plains Community Center, 51 Jim Fear Drive.

In New Jersey, the typical blood supply is only 1-1/2 days. During vacation and holiday times, that supply can shrink to as low as ½ day. While 60% of the general population is eligible to donate blood, only 2% of those eligible in northern New Jersey bother to donate. If only 1% more of the population would donate, there would never be a blood shortage.

Blood Drive Dates – 2023
@ the Morris Plain Community Center
Weekdays: 1pm - 7pm; Saturdays 8am - 2pm
Thursday, May 25th
Saturday, June 3rd
Thursday, June 22nd
Saturday, August 12th
Thursday, August 24th
Saturday, September 2nd
Thursday, September 14th

For an appointment to donate blood, or for further information, contact Larry Ripley at 973-998-1081 or larryripley@verizon.net.

VFW Field of Flags

Over 200 American flags will fly on the corner of Rt. 202 and Rt. 53, starting June 29th through July 6th.

Donate $50 to sponsor a 3’x5’ flag and have an honor tag affixed to it. One honoree for each flag. Your donations will be distributed by Watnong VFW Post 3401 to our many deserving veterans and service organizations. Deadline: Sunday, June 25th

Order form and more info is available on the VFW Facebook page or visit Watnong VFW Post 3401, open daily from 12 to 5 PM.

Arbor Day at Mt. Way

The kids at Mt Way School attended an Arbor Day assembly presented by the NJ Forest Fire Service to learn about forest safety and protecting our trees. In attendance were Mayor Karr, Borough Councilmembers and Shade Tree Commissioners Smokey the Bear visited too!

Congratulations to John Boudreau on his election as President of the post auxiliary along with his slate of officers. Congratulations also to the new Commander of VFW Post 3401, Commander Basil D’Armiento, along with his officers; and a special thanks to the latest past Commander John Titterton. The Boro looks forward to continuing to work closely with our VFW as we have in the past for so many town events and activities.

Over 200 American flags will fly on the corner of Rt. 202 and Rt. 53, starting June 29th through July 6th.

Donate $50 to sponsor a 3’x5’ flag and have an honor tag affixed to it. One honoree for each flag. Your donations will be distributed by Watnong VFW Post 3401 to our many deserving veterans and service organizations. Deadline: Sunday, June 25th

Order form and more info is available on the VFW Facebook page or visit Watnong VFW Post 3401, open daily from 12 to 5 PM.

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Greetings from the Library,

Our beautiful daffodils out front have bloomed so Spring is surely upon us. That means it is time for our next Shredding Event. It will take place on Saturday, May 20th from 9am-Noon. The cost per box or bag is $10.00 this year. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for helping to support the Library with your donations.

Speaking of donations, I wanted to thank all those in the community who donated children’s books this past December for our book drive to benefit Irvington Elementary students. After such a generous response, we will definitely be running a book collection for them again in the fall. I wanted to share the letter I received from Irvington’s head Librarian Mrs. Correale:

Good morning Ms. Jain,

I wanted to thank you and the Morris Plains Public Library for your generous donation of books. It was kind of you to take the time and effort to collect so many wonderful books for us. All of the books will be used to benefit the students of Madison Avenue School in Irvington. Some of the books will be added to our elementary library collection; although most of the books will be made available for our elementary students to choose a book to keep prior to their summer vacation. Any remaining books will be distributed to our community through our Free Little Library. Your donation will help encourage the love of reading for my students and is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Correale

As summer approaches, our story time will switch to Saturday mornings starting on July 8th. They will be held every Saturday at 10:30am on our front lawn until Saturday August 26th. We will have Ms. Maya (before she leaves for college at Elon University!) and several guest readers for this summer’s story time. Thank you Mrs. Geiger for the wonderful Wednesday story time and crafts you hosted during the school year, enjoy your summer vacation!

Sheila Jain,
Morris Plains Library Director

Pictured: The Library hosted its first annual Lunar New Year event to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. Special thanks to Mary Chao for organizing!
Morris Plains Community Band Concerts This Summer

The Morris Plains Community Band is planning a series of concerts this summer. The first concert of the summer season will be on “Family Day”, June 24th at 8:30 pm at Community Park, right before the fireworks begin.

On Wednesdays in August at 6:30 pm in Roberts Garden (weather permitting), the concerts will feature a different program with a different theme each week. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this truly American small town tradition!

8/2 MP Community Band presents “Music of the Great American Composers”
8/9 Swing Jazz Band, the Swing Tones present “A Tribute to Glenn Miller”
8/16 MP Community Band presents “Music from Around the World” feat. selections from Grieg (Norway), Holst (Britain), Offenbach (France), Ravel (France), Rossini (Italy), Shostakovich (Russia), Strauss (Austria) and Tchaikovsky (Russia) and more
8/23 The Swing Tones present “The Count and The Duke” - the music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington
8/30 MP Community Band presents the music of the WWII era: Big Band hits, Frank Sinatra, Henry Mancini, and more.

The Morris Plains Community Band, a reincarnation of the original Morris Plains Cornet Band (1888 to 1953), was re-established in October 2015 and currently has over 60 members. The band is a volunteer organization, and normally features about 40 musicians at concerts, with musicians ranging in age from 14 to 89. The Community Band is conducted by Larry Ripley, a retired musician and bandleader who is the third member of his family to lead a town band. To learn more, contact Larry at 973-998-1081 or larryripley@verizon.net or just get that horn out of the closet and stop in at the Morris Plains Community Center some Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00.

The Morris Plains Community Band Needs Your Support!

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for people to enjoy playing music, and to perform our music for those who would enjoy it. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the Morris Plains Community Band, Inc., and mail it to the Morris Plains Community Band, Inc., P O Box 25, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. The Morris Plains Community Band is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Any donation is fully tax deductible as a charity contribution.

Arbor Day Tree Planting with JCP&L

JCPL representative, Bob Flynn, worked with the Shade Tree Commission to plant two trees at Watnong Park in honor of Arbor Day. The planting is part of the company’s initiative to support healthy environments in the communities they serve and to plant in areas that are clear of utility wires and other obstacles.

Grand Opening: Autodidact Beer

Borough Council members welcome new business neighbor Autodidact Beer, brewery and taproom, to 1745 Route 10. We wish them lots of success, and congratulations on the Grand Opening! Stop in and say hello!

200 Club of Morris County

Three of our Morris Plains volunteer firefighters received a Valor Award for saving a life in a house fire: Joe Sanfelice, Tex DeGroot and Will Koller. Morris Plains is proud of these three brave firefighters!
Morris Plains Celebrates Earth Day

Many Students from Mt. Way School Participate in "Walk to School Day" for Energy Conservation

Young Students from Mt. Way & Borough Schools Learn About the Dangers of Litter to Wildlife and Sea Life

Town Council Recognizes Litter Cleanup Efforts by 15 Groups

Girl Scout Troop #96845

Boy Scout Troop #233

Girls Scout Troop #97792

Earth Day Event

Morris Plains Clean Communities
Along with Mayor Kerr, Chair Councilwoman Cathie Kelly and the Town Council
The Morris Plains Farmers Market is back for the 2023 season!
The market will run every Saturday starting June 10th through October 7th at the Merchant Block. The hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Farmers Market is being managed by Morris Plains resident, Mike Cocheo with support from the Borough’s Business Development Committee.

We’re excited that all of our anchor vendors will be returning including Ort Farms, Hoboken Farms, Olives and Pickles, and Paolo’s Kitchen. In addition, we’re thrilled to announce new additions including a weekly coffee vendor, Morris Plains’ Autodidact Brewery, Sourland Mountain Spirits, Morris Plains Business Partnerships and additional food, bakery and craft vendors.

We look forward to seeing you at the Morris Plains Farmers Market.