

Plains Talk

2024 May Edition

New Simons Playground



Morris Plains
the Community of Caring

Mayor: Jason C. Karr **Council President:** Nancy Verga

Art Bruhn Sal Cortese Joan Goddard Cathie Kelly Dennis Wagner



Spring Soccer is Here

Over 200 youth players joined Morris Plains Soccer this year for the spring clinic at Simons Park. New in 2024, MPSA offered a free youth referee clinic for grades 5-12 led by a professional referee. Morris Plains Soccer also organized a group to attend a local pro match on in June. Tune in on Paramount+ to watch MPSA players in the youth halftime match on the pitch at Red Bull Arena during the June 8th Gotham FC match against Angel City FC.

This spring, Morris Plains Soccer also organized and funded field improvements, closing sections of the grass fields at Simons Park for aerating and re-seeding. Special thanks to MPSA Fields Coordinator, Nick Rafanello, for organizing the initiative, to the many volunteers from Morris Plains Soccer and the Rotary Club of Morris Plains for helping with the field work, and for collaboration with the Morris Plains Department of Public Works. This project was made possible with donations from Eastern Janitorial Services and the Morris Plains Democratic Committee.



Law Enforcement Night



Friday night March 15, Mennen Arena held Friday Law Enforcement Night! The Morris Plains Police Department setup a table at the event. Joining Chief Koroski was our fellow Morris Plains officers, along with other Morris County agencies. Special thanks to The 200 Club and Morris County Sheriff's Office for showcasing their equipment in a fun 'police show and tell'. Honored to have the Morris County Sheriff, Prosecutor, Mayors, Kellie Doucette from Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill's office and most importantly, families and their young ones in attendance.



Spring Has Sprung Downtown

Downtown Morris Plains (DMP) is abuzz with activity making it the perfect time to provide an update. Our recent call to action received a tremendous response from the Community of Caring. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who answered the call for volunteer and Board positions. If you haven't reached out yet, there's still time. Just shoot us an email.

Thanks to a grant from Morris Arts, the Bike Parking Design Contest is now underway. And, DMP wants your help to bring even more creativity, safety, art and accessibility to the Borough. Individuals and groups are encouraged to submit ideas by 6/30, with winners to be announced in the fall. Get your wheels turning!

Speedwell "Speedy" the Stone Snake, has grown during the winter months and we're eager to see him grow even more! Stop by to add a painted stone or shell, commemorating your family, team, school, business, organization, or any source of inspiration. You can find Speedy between Taylor's Consignors & Perrone's Barber Shop.



Bike Rack Design Contest

art + accessibility

We're making our town safer while incorporating art in a meaningful new way. Get those wheels turning and submit your ideas for bike racks to be installed in Morris Plains.

downtownmorrisplains.org

Any individual, group, team, or business may participate.

Designs due by June 30th



Check out www.downtownmorrisplains.org for more information and event details, or connect with us on social media

Mayors Corner

Happy Spring. It is time to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Our annual Memorial Day Parade is being held on May 25th and Fireworks along with Family Day are scheduled for June 29th. Community Park pool is being worked on and plans to be opened on June 22nd and you won't be disappointed by joining.

Simons Park Playground installation is complete! The construction of the new playground at Simons Park was funded by a \$100,000 allocation from the American Rescue Plan, thereby alleviating any financial burden on local residents. This recreational space is now open to all for their enjoyment.

SMCMUA started a replacement project to update aging water main and service lines on Glenbrook Road, Bangiola Court and Keenen Place. Stiles Ave will possibly be starting this fall. This project includes the installation of new, concrete-lined ductile-iron pipes, fire hydrants, valves and water service.

Paving projects for this summer will include Lealand Road, Cedar Avenue, Laurel Street, Hillside Court, East, Allen Place, Wyckoff Way, Jaquai Ave, Sun Valley Way and Freight Station Ramp.

Our annual Farmers Market will run from June 8th thru October 12th with a winter market planned for November 30th. Councilmember Joan Goddard is the new market manager and I wish her well for the upcoming season. Please come out and enjoy new and returning vendors.

The annual budget was recently finalized. The amount to be raised by taxes for support of the municipal budgeted increased by 1.45%. This is approximately \$300,000 less than the maximum allowed. The borough has seen an increase in ratables between 2024 and 2023. Ratables have kept the tax burden down and we have matched and exceeded our 2009 high ratable base of \$1,486,37,326 by 2 million dollars.

The Borough recently purchased 1 Jim Fear Drive. The plan is to demolish the existing home and make the 2.035 acres' open space to keep the pristine wooded area intact. We will explore possible future plans for this area.

My wish for all is to stay well and enjoy the Spring and Summer season. I hope to see you around the Community of Caring while we patronize our local businesses and enjoy all our summer events from swimming to concerts!

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to send me an email.
God Bless You and God Bless the U.S.A.

Mayor Jason C. Karr
jkarr@morrisplainsboro.org



Simons Playground



Community Kindness Day - 3rd Grade Art



With the arrival of spring means we have just a few months left to wrap up the school year. As we approach summer recess, I would like to thank the Morris Plains school community for your continued support and partnership. We have had a wonderful school year thus far, and we are excited to end with a sprint to the finish line.

Numerous end of year activities and events have been planned at Borough School and Mountain Way, including transition activities for our second and eighth grade students, spring concerts, the Borough School drama production, field day activities, 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. Our schools are bustling with energy and enthusiasm.

State Monitoring - On January 31st, Morris County Office officials conducted QSAC monitoring on-site, measuring our compliance against the following indicators: Personnel, Governance, Operations, Instruction and Program, and Fiscal. The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is the Department of Education's monitoring and district self-evaluation system for public school districts, and districts are required to go through the audit process every 3 years. I am excited to announce that we far exceeded the 80% compliance standard for each domain. Our preparation started during the summer of 2022. Throughout that time, we attended numerous county-level meetings that addressed the expectations and indicators for each of the five domain areas. Additionally, we have dedicated nearly every administrative team meeting over the past two years to chart our progress against the indicators. We modified our practices and procedures, and we made sure that we had accumulated the necessary paperwork and evidence to share with the county officials. We also built a QSAC team that met several times this year and worked very hard to support the monitoring process. The positive feedback we received from the county office during their visit, and afterwards, have been very humbling. The County Superintendent shared the reflections from her team following their visit with me in an email, stating, "We met as a team this morning and said it was the best

QSAC we've ever had, Thank you!" After all that we have been through over the past years, and all the changes we have made as a district, it is remarkable that we have performed to the level of excellence that was reported during the QSAC process, and it is a true testament to the quality of folks that work in our district.

2024-2025 Budget - The winter months were dedicated to generate next year's budget, and much care, consideration, and attention was taken throughout the process to ensure fiscal responsibility. Fortunately, the district received an increase in State Aid from the previous year, which allowed us to balance the budget. Additionally, the district saw a reduction in MHS tuition and special education tuition. As a result, no budgetary cuts were made to any educational programs or staffing positions. The 2024-2025 preliminary school budget was approved at the 3/19/24 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 ongoing fiscal challenges we continue to encounter. I would like to thank our Business Administrator, Ms. Cathy Jenisch, for effectively managing the budget process.

Next year's budget includes the following new positions:

- Second Grade Teacher
- Part-Time Music Teacher
- Part-Time Basic Skills Math Teacher

Other budget highlights are listed below

- 3-year chromebook lease to support 1:1 chromebook for students and staff.
- \$47K reduction in special education tuition, with the potential of more with several possible tuition students pending from our STARS and RISE programs.
- Keyboarding program for our K-2 students.
- Pocket Talk Translation devices for both schools and the Board Office.
- Funds to support professional development opportunities.
- New door access control systems (Mountain Way and Borough).
- New boiler pumps and exterior lighting enhancements.
- A system (Mountain Way) and safety and security upgrades (district-wide).

Overall, we feel very confident that next year's budget will afford us the opportunity 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 with minimal tax impact. The public hearing on the 2024-2025 budget was held on Tuesday, April 30th, at 7:00pm. MPSD administration facilitated a presentation addressing the state of the district. The presentation highlighted school and district accomplishments and identified next year's goals, programs, and initiatives for Borough School and Mountain Way. The budget and State of the District presentation is available on the main page of our district website.

Board of Education News

At the February 27, 2024 board meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2024-2025 school calendar. At the April 19, 2024 board meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2023-2024 revised school calendar. The calendar was revised to reflect the use of two snow days. The last day of school for students is Friday, June 14, 2024. Eighth grade graduation is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:30pm in the Borough School Auditorium. Both calendars are made available on the district website.

Referendum Update

The expansion project at Mountain Way is progressing nicely and remains on schedule for a mid-August completion date. The photo below was taken during the week of April 8th. The steel beams and roofing work is scheduled to start the week of April 15th. The playground equipment, flooring, and turfed play area will be installed in late July/early August.

The Borough School bathroom renovations are scheduled to start during the week of June 17th and they will be completed before the start of the school year. You may track the progress of the referendum projects by accessing our referendum blog, which can be found on the main district website.



2024-2025 Curriculum Planning

The administrative team is already working on curriculum planning for the 2024–2025 school year. Several initiatives have been outlined, and they will most likely drive next year's District Professional Development Plan:

- Continue with Big Ideas Math training (K-8).
- Revise the 3rd-8th grade Science Curriculum, led by an outside consultant. The consultant will lead professional development sessions for the curriculum writers, breaking down the standards and identifying best practices before they begin to write the curriculum.
- Use the Reading Committee to review, screen, and select a K-3 Reading Program with the intention to implement during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Enhance the Responsive Classroom model in Mountain Way.
- Embed the Social Studies standards into LAL (humanities model) in Mountain Way to establish a daily flex period. The daily flex period will provide time for intervention groups, accelerated groups, and handwriting/keyboarding instruction.

MPPD/MPSD School Security Planning

Recently, MPSD administration sat down with MPPD officials to conduct a tabletop exercise. Tabletop exercises are small group discussions that walk through a scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during, and after an emergency situation. Attendees problem-solved together through detailed discussions of roles, responsibilities, procedures, and anticipated courses of action. Our simulated scenario was an active shooter in Borough School.



NJSLA Testing

Shortly, Borough School will be conducting the NJSLA assessments in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science. This state-mandated assessment tests students in grades three through eight. This year, the testing window for Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics is scheduled for the week of May 13th. NJSLA testing in Science will also run during the week of May 13th 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. Last year’s NJSLA data serves as a great baseline for us. Our student growth scores from 2022-2023 were exceptionally high, landing 9.6 for ELA and 9.2 for Math out of a possible 10, essentially falling within the 92-96 percentile. We are looking forward to tracking our achievement for this year’s assessment. We have dedicated much time and resources implementing a new math program, restructuring and enhancing our Title I program, working with staff on data analysis, scheduling benchmark assessments, simulating testing conditions, etc. Therefore, we expect to yield good results.

MHS Girls in STEM

Morristown HS hosted their annual Women In STEM event on March 1, 2024. The event included professional women in STEM, MHS STEM students, and 8th grade girls from Morris Plains and FMS. Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Schonmann brought along 14 Borough girls. Our girls were introduced to the MHS Girls in STEM officers. Then, they did suturing and binary bracelet activities with the HS club, followed by a boat engineering design lesson and a meet and greet session with professional women in STEM. All attendees had a great time!



Morris County SBA Unsung Hero

Congratulations to 8th grade student Sophia Sick, who was recently honored as this year’s Morris Plains School District’s Unsung Hero. Sophia was introduced by Mrs. Gropp and recognized at the NJSBA Morris County Student Recognition Ceremony at the County College of Morris.



MPEA Friend of Education Announced

At the March 22, 2024 MPEA Volleyball Fundraiser, the MPEA presented the Friend of Education Award to Mr. John Titterton. The Friend of Education Award is the Association's highest honor and is designed to acknowledge someone who volunteers their time to help the school community, as well as the community of Morris Plains in various ways. As part of the VFW, Mr. Titterton is actively involved with both Mountain Way and Borough Schools. He has attended Veterans Day events at both schools as an honored guest. He facilitates the VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award, which identifies and recognizes educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. He also organizes and promotes the Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest for 8th graders, which is an essay contest that encourages young minds to examine America’s history, along with their own experiences in modern American society. The MPEA and MPSD would like to thank Mr. Titterton for his service to our schools and the community of Morris Plains.



School Community Support

The MPMAC has partnered with the Morris Plains School District to provide meaningful programs for students and families 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.

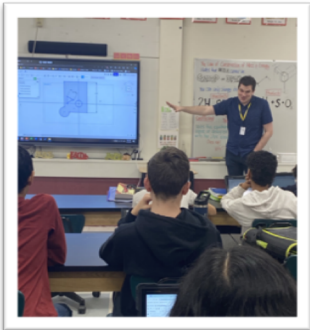
The HSA continues to serve as a reliable resource for the District. Specifically, their dedicated parent volunteers coordinate Book Fairs, fund and schedule assemblies, fund school and district-based programs and events, approve donations to enhance both our facilities and the students’ learning experiences, organize fundraisers, help to manage classroom activities/festivities, etc. In March, they sponsored a visiting author that met with Mountain Way and Borough students.

The Education Foundation of Morris Plains has approved many grants this year totaling approximately \$10,000. The grants included a first grade Traveling Planetarium experience, world dance residency for our second grade students, Trep\$ Entrepreneurship for our 5th grade STEM students, adaptive and integrated classroom tools and resources for our kindergarten students, and supplies and materials to maintain a pollinator garden at Borough School.

The Morris Plains Board of Education would like to thank all of our school community organizations for their continued support throughout the school year.

NJIT Partnership

Lead grant writers from NJIT visited Borough School science classes on April 10th to share their Onshape CAD program with students, and to highlight their recently awarded \$10 million NSF grant that could change how emergency response units address catastrophic floods.

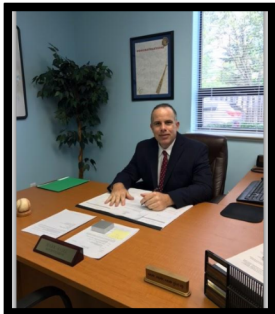


MPSD Band

On March 26th, Morristown High School hosted the Bands of Morris Concert. The Frelinghuysen Middle School, Borough School, and Morristown HS bands showcased their talented students performing several pieces. At the end of the show, they combined together to play the grand finale. The 7th and 8th Grade Borough Band played their pieces beautifully, and they represented Borough School with great pride! Congratulations to Borough School Instrumental Teacher Kate Michalowski and her musicians on a successful evening!



I would like to take this opportunity 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 collaboration 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.



All my best,
Mark Mauro

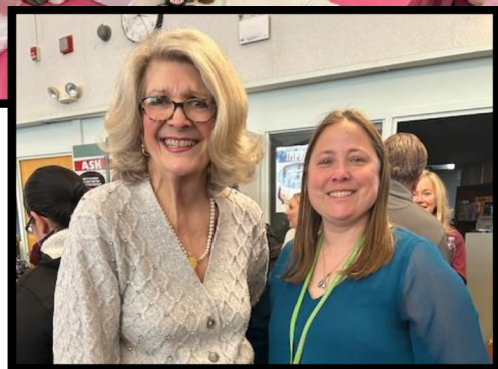


Morris Plains Farmers Market

Opens June 10th
Saturdays from
9am to 1pm
Merchant Block
June 10th through
October 7th



5th Graders at Morris Plains Borough School Learn to Be Entrepreneurs



Cathi Kelly and Alissa Schonmann,
STEAM Teacher

Borough School STEAM Teacher for Grades 3 - 8 Alissa Schonmann received a grant from the Education Foundation of Morris Plains to bring TREP\$, an entrepreneurial program, to 5th graders. In the program, students learned about the business model and studied topics such as money, marketing, advertising, sales, and reflection of the process. Students worked individually or in pairs/threes to plan, create, market and sell their products. Mrs. Schonmann guided students through five workshops to help them develop their businesses. Students learned about product development, as well as determining expenses and pricing their products. Each business created advertisements to be shared and posted online. Many entrepreneurs made guest appearances on BTV, Borough School's television station, to promote their products. Before the big TREP\$ Marketplace, students worked on sales pitches and money handling.

The program culminated in a sales event on March 26 in a packed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) lab, where students sold homemade wares including flowerpots, stress balls, lip scrub, friendship bracelets, dog treats and scented sleep masks. The student entrepreneurs had evidently studied their market well, as many products sold out.



"It was so wonderful to see the pride and excitement beaming from the students during the marketplace sales," says Morris Plains Superintendent Mark Maire. "It was evident that they were well prepared, and that they understood the objective for the program. We thank the Education Foundation of Morris Plains for funding this valuable program. Kudos to Mrs. Schonmann for seeing the value of it and bringing it to Morris Plains! The program would not have been a success without her leadership, vision, and attention to details."



A second cohort of 5th graders will present their product at a marketplace on May 23.

To learn more about the Education Foundation of Morris Plains and how it funds innovative programs for all students in the Morris Plains School District, visit www.educationfoundationmp.com.



Finding Nemo Kids Performance



Stage Fun, a program run by the Municipal Alliance made possible through a grant from GCADA - Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse performed Finding Nemo Kids. Grades 4-8 took to the stage on 3/8 for a fabulous performance. A special thank you to our Municipal Alliance for making this possible for our children.

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MP Juniors Troop 97792 Pinewood Derby Day



What a turn out for the Derby Day! From the car weigh-ins to the awards ceremony. Everyone had a fantastic time. Special thank you to our judges Joan Goddard, Nancy Verga and Dennis Wagner



2024 Grand Marshal of the Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade, Jack Haren



Congratulations to Jack Haren, a beloved and respected resident of Morris Plains, on being named the 2024 Grand Marshal of the Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade! The St. Patrick's celebrations kicked off with a special parade through Morris Plains. The very special parade was organized by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick starting at Robert's Garden and ended at Jack's home in Morris Plains. What a very special tribute! Thank you for all you do Jack Haren!





Welcome! to Morris Plains Grand Opening in March



Coffee with a Cop

“The Morris Plains Police Department hosted a Coffee With A Cop Event on March 23, 2024 at the “The Venue” on American Road. At the event, we met with new residents of Morris Plains, engaged in important conversation regarding public safety and got to interact with community members in a more informal setting. With new condominium and apartment complexes being completed, we are going to be hosting more events to meet as many new residents as possible. As we understand this is an important piece of our Community Policing function, we are always open to hosting an event and you can inquire about the events through our Social Media or contacting us at 973-538-2284.”



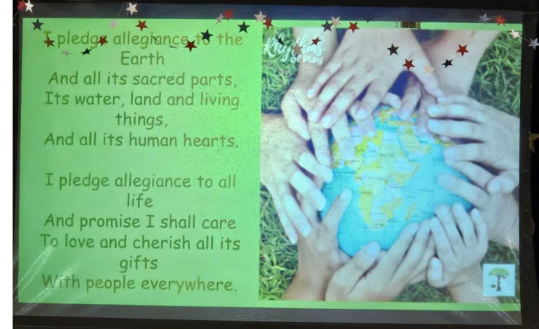





TREE CITY USA®

An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Mountain Way School celebrated Arbor Day with the help of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission. 300 seedlings were distributed to the students at both Mountain Way & Borough School. We are proud to be part of ‘Tree City USA’. This is our 48th year!











Thank you to those that came out for our Library Fundraiser! We had wonderful weather & a great turnout

Annual Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt Sunday, April 2



Annual Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshals - Marcia and Gary Windt

Memorial Service at Roberts Garden
Saturday, May 25th 9:00 AM

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 53 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

Congratulations to Marcia and Gary Windt on being honored as the 2024 Grand Marshals of the Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade! Their dedication to the Community of Caring and their long-standing service to the Morris Plains Parade Committee truly deserve recognition. Their efforts in organizing and managing the parade for over twenty years have undoubtedly contributed to its success and smooth operation.

As proud residents of Morris Plains, Marcia and Gary have not only served their community but have also instilled a sense of patriotism and community spirit in their children, Skip and Katie.

This year, Marcia and Gary will be able to enjoy the parade from a different perspective, riding in the Central Park carriage. What a well-deserved honor for their years of hard work and dedication!



Happy 101st Birthday Martin Annese

Martin Annese, celebrated his 101st bday with family, friends and neighbors on Thursday, April 11th at Arbor Terrace. For many years he resided on Maple Avenue, in the Borough and presently resides at Arbor Terrace.

Mayor Jason Karr, presented Martin with the Key to Morris Plains honoring his successful life, thanking him, also for his service in the Navy as 1st Class Seaman who Served in the Aleutian Islands at the Adak Naval Facility WW II 1943-1946. Mr. Annese also reminded us all that he owned Square Luggage in Morristown.

Family along with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were there to help celebrate!!



Izzy Bergeron Speaker at Gloria Steinem's 90th Birthday

Isabella Bergeron, a senior at Morristown High School, was selected by the Ford Foundation for Social Justice to speak at a recent ceremony in New York City celebrating Gloria Steinem's 90th birthday.

Izzy met Steinem in the summer of 2021 through Izzy's connection with Tools & Tiaras, a New York City non-profit that aims to promote and prepare young girls for jobs in the construction trades. Izzy, who has been a member of the organization since 2018, serves on the youth advisory board.

Steinem, who became a global leader in efforts to bring more opportunities – and equal rights – to women in the 1960s and 70s, remains an activist and icon today. Steinem was immediately attracted to the ideals behind the Tools & Tiaras program and has become an ardent supporter.

Izzy and Paige Brown, a New York high school student, were selected to speak at the event to honor Steinem, detailing how she has been an inspiration to the current generation.

"It was a great honor to speak at an event that honors such an icon," Izzy said. "To learn how she did so much to help females of future generations has inspired me to do the same."

The event drew an all-star cast of speakers who gave tributes, including Alice Walker (the novelist who wrote, 'The Color Purple'), Abby Disney (a documentary film producer, philanthropist and social activist) and Marlo Thomas (an actress, author and social activist).

Tools & Tiaras promotes its mission during one-day weekend workshops throughout the year and week-long camps during the summer. In 2019, the organization held a week-long camp at the Community Center in Morris Plains that was attended by more than a dozen local girls.

For more information on Tools & Tiaras, click here.

<https://www.toolsandtiaras.org/>



Izzy Bergeron, right, and Paige Brown address the audience gathered to celebrate Gloria Steinem's 90th birthday party, March 25, in New York City. (Photo courtesy Kisha Bari of the Ford Foundation)



Gloria Steinem, left, with sisters Anastasia and Isabella Bergeron. (Photo courtesy of the Bergeron family)

Central Park School Celebrations

St Patrick's Day party held at the school on March 15. Rotarians served hot chocolate, green bagels, cupcakes, and green beads. The students decorated shamrocks with streamers and stick-on letters. Rotarians helped with crafts and sang and a bagpiper played. The students were very happy to meet the leprechaun.



Blood Drive Dates

Located at the Community Center
Weekday drives 1pm - 7pm
Saturday drives 8am-2pm



May 23rd
June 1st & 20th
August 22nd & 31st

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

Morris Plains Community Band Summer Concerts

The Morris Plains Community Band is planning a series of concerts this summer. The concerts offer an opportunity for the public to hear and enjoy a true American tradition – the town band, consisting of friends and neighbors, performing a concert in the town park.

The first concert of the summer season will be on “Family Day”, June 29th at 8:30 pm, right before the fireworks begin at Community Park on Jim Fear Drive. This will be a performance of American patriotic music, appropriate for our celebration of Independence Day.

On Wednesdays throughout the month of August at 6:30, the concerts will feature a different program with a different theme each week. The concerts will be held in Roberts Garden Park at the corner of Glenbrook Road and Mountain Way. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this truly American small town tradition.

August 7th The MP Community Band will feature “Music of the Great American Composers”. Included will be works by John Williams, Richard Rogers, John Phillip Sousa, Henry Mancini, LeRoy Anderson, Leonard Bernstein and others.

August 14th Our traditional swing jazz big band, “Swing Tones” will present “The Count and The Duke”, featuring the music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington. The “Swing Tones” will also feature the vocal stylings of Mark Gold, who will perform songs recorded by Frank Sinatra with the Count Basie Orchestra.

August 21st The MP Community Band will present “Music from Around the World”, featuring music by Grieg (Norway), Holst (Britain), Offenbach (France), Ravel (France), Rossini (Italy), Shostakovich (Russia), Strauss (Austria) and Tchaikovsky (Russia) among others.

August 28th The MP Community Band will present “Pop Hits Through the Years”, featuring hit songs from the Big Band Era right up to the present time. The performance will represent artists such as Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, Lady Gaga, Sam and Dave, Wilson Pickett, Cold Play, Chicago, the Four Seasons, Bruno Mars and others.

The Morris Plains 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 about the Morris Plains Community Band, contact Larry at 973-998-1081 or larryripley@verizon.net



Special thank you to the Recreation Department for this wonderful family event

WITH PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

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- Use safety glasses or goggles
- Store eye protection out of the sun
- Clean contaminated eyewear immediately
- Different gloves provide different levels of protection
- Inspect regularly for holes or tears
- Discard disposable gloves after every application or use
- Wear hats or bandanas for more skin coverage
- Always wear long sleeves and pants
- Wash contaminated clothes separate from other clothes
- Wear closed-toe shoes with socks
- Easy-to-clean shoes can limit residue transfer

For more information on safe use practices for pesticides, visit: npic.orst.edu/health/safeuse.html



BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS
BOARD OF HEALTH
531 Speedwell Ave, Morris Plains, NJ, 07950
Telephone: (973) 538-2224
Fax: (973) 538-8834
www.morrisplainsboro.org



Whispering Woods Project Morris Plains

Looking for Volunteers!

About Us

The **Whispering Woods Project** was formed with the goal of encouraging children of all ages to get out into nature and discover the magic within the trees. Through whimsical woodcrafts made from natural materials, WWP reinforces the importance of respecting and celebrating nature – abiding by the minimum impact hiking credo of "leave no trace."

Location

The WWP can be discovered along the **Thonus Pond Trail in Community Center Park** (51 Jim Fear Drive Morris Plains, NJ) with other locations planned throughout Morris Plains.

Interested in Building?

Get in Touch

Information on the Whispering Woods Project can be found on Facebook & Instagram:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/whisperingwoodsproject/>

Instagram: WWP_MorrisPlains

Any questions contact us via our social media or Liz at 908-625-2550.



Arc MORRIS
TEEN Club

A new club within McARP (Morris County Adaptive Recreational Program) for teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities

May 23rd - Dave & Busters
June 6th - Lazer Tag

See calendar of activities & register at:
www.arcmorris.org/services/recreation

LIBRARY STORYTIME SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM
-EVERY WEEK UNTIL JUNE 26TH-

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH STORYTIME

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024 &
SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024 AT 10:30 AM

SUMMER STORYTIME BEGINS SATURDAY JUNE 29, 2024

COME JOIN US
ON THE FRONT LAWN
WITH YOUR WAGONS,
STROLLERS AND BLANKETS
-WEATHER PERMITTING AT 10:30AM-

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973-538-2599

Visit us: <https://morrisplainsboro.org> or scan the QR code



Opening Day for New Morristown Area Little League

This January, Morris Plains Little League underwent the process of merging with Morristown American and National Little League to create one combined league. Opening Day was at Ginty Field on 4/20. The event welcomed 45 baseball teams and 30 softball teams, 150 coaches, and countless members of our Morris Plains community. In attendance were Mayor Jason Karr, Council President Nancy Verga, Councilmembers Cathie Kelly, Joan Goddard and Dennis Wagner. Mayor Karr threw out the first pitch to Morris Plains' very own Alyssa Rolph to celebrate the new season and league! In addition to the celebration of this year's players, the league celebrated our summer all stars, including Morris Plains' Ryan Niznik, Dean Conway, Jack Fitzgerald, Graeme Longo, Eli Webber, Kyle Bauman, Addison Ochab, and Madeleine Stavisky! We look forward to a wonderful season ahead and a beautiful partnership with Morristown as we continue to work together! **PLAY BALL!**



We can thank pollinators for one out of every three bites of food we eat. About 75% of all flowering plants need pollinators to reproduce. Without pollinators,

these plants would not survive, and neither would we! By adding a few native flowering plants that are not overly invasive, and limiting pesticide use, you can help provide a healthy habitat for pollinators, our bees and butterflies.

ADD POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN HELP THE BEES AND BUTTERFLIES!



Some easy to grow native plant annuals and perennials to consider are Bee Balm, Snapdragon, Butterfly Weed, Sedges, Lobelia, Foxglove, Bachelor Button, Coneflower, Daisy, Delphinium, Wild Geranium, Zinnia, Bleeding Heart, or Sweet William. For fall flowers, consider Asters, Goldenrods, Joe-pie Weeds and Sedums. Pollinator shrubs include Lilac and Viburnum.

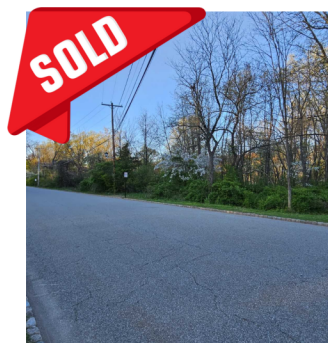
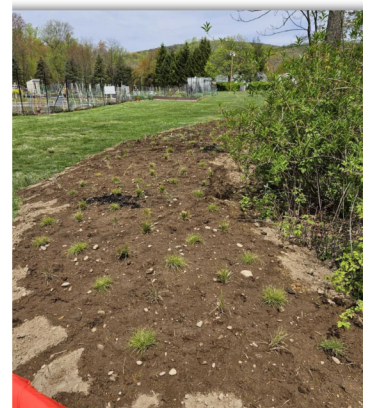
A great resource for discovering native plants local to our area is the Native Plant Society of NJ. Visit <https://npsnj.org/>

Interested in joining the Morris Plains Beautification Committee, contact Nancy Critchley (973)-390-1129 or nancycritch@optonline.net



Happy Earth Day

Volunteers were busy on Saturday, April 27 at The Morris Plains Community Garden. Building new raised beds, adding mulch to all the beds and adding new native plants to help pollinators



Open Space purchased by the town at 1 Jim Fear Dr. for the purpose of preserving the natural space adjacent to our Community Center.



Morris Plains Museum

51 Jim Fear Drive, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950
973 - 683 -1089 www.morrisplainsmuseum.com

Greystone's Legacy



Greystone is torn down and no longer visible in Central Park. But in 1876, five years after a state commission decided to build a new insane asylum, the doors opened to the first 292 patients. Morris Plains, with 400 acres purchased from local farmers and Judge George Vail, was chosen for its expansive location and railroad access. From the first imposing building the compound grew. It was known as Greystone for the color of the stone used to build the facility. The hospital was a huge enterprise, almost like a self-sufficient small town. Greystone patients lived in uncrowded conditions, with lots of fresh air, ample crafts and work around the grounds, as well as the overriding philosophy that patients were curable. This was a very progressive approach during the Victorian Age. Its initial capacity was 600 beds, but by the 1960's it housed 7,847 patients. Many Morris Plains residents worked at the facility at one time or another and had interesting stories to tell about their experiences.

The museum has a wonderful website www.morrisplainsmuseum.com. We encourage our residents to check it out and discover information about our many collections.

CURRENT EXHIBITS:

The Museum Association is finishing two new exhibits opening soon:
Greetings! and Historic Families of Morris Plains

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR TOWN!

The Morris Plains Museum is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am until 1 pm.

The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement -
to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town.

Morris Plains Recreation

2024 SUMMER Camp

"Super Kids Camp"

June 24 - July 26

9 AM - Noon

Early drop off option @ 8 AM!

Morris Plains Community Center & Park

Grades K - 5; Fall, 2024

"Teen Camp"

June 24 - July 26

9 AM - Noon

Morris Plains Teen House

Grades 6 - 9; Fall, 2024

Enhancement Programs

Theatre Workshop, Science Wizards, Animal Sculptures, Making Music, Crafty Kitchen, Sports Camps, Cheer Camp, Basketball, Flag Football, Dodgeball, Kickball, Tennis



New Enhancement Programs this Summer!

Let's Make Jewelry! YOGA, Learn the Ukulele, "Harry Potter"



SAVE THE DATE

Senior Picnic

Morris Plains Community Center

Thursday, July 18th

1PM

Please join us!



Summer Concerts at Roberts Garden

July 7 - Millie's Closet
(rain date: July 8)

July 14 - London Calling
(rain date: July 15)

July 21 - The Breeze
(rain date: July 22)

July 28 - Dowden Brothers
(rain date: July 29)

Concerts are from 6 PM - 8 PM

Bring a lawn chair!

Are you receiving our weekly
Friday email newsletter?
If not scan the QR Code to signup



Not sure how to use a QR Code?

1. Open the Camera app from the Home Screen, Control Center, or Lock Screen.
2. Select the rear facing camera. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

<https://morrisplainsboro.org/newsletter-signup/>

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

Swim Lessons

Sign up at the Pool
beginning June 24th
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 3rd
12:15 to 1:00 PM
No Fee for Pool Members
\$10. Guest fee for
Non Members
No pre registration required



FOLLOW



**BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS
531 SPEEDWELL AVENUE
MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950**



Morris Plains Farmers Market

Opens June 10th

Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at the Merchant Block
June 10th through October 7th



Morris Plains Annual Family Day & Fireworks Saturday, June 29

* * * Rain Date: June 30 * * *

Morris Plains Community Park

Family Day starting at 5pm & Fireworks at 9:30pm

Additional details -> www.morrisplainsboro.org

Special thank you to those that contributed to this newsletter

The deadline for the next issue of Plains Talk will be the week of July 15th, 2024

Please submit articles and pictures to our **NEW** email plainstalk@morrisplainsboro.org