Borough of Morris Plains • Quarterly Newsletter

Plains Talk

2024 August Edition





Memorial Day 2024 Parade

Additional pictures on Pg. 10

Morris Plains
the Community of Caring

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

Art Bruhn Sal Cortese Joan Goddard Cathie Kelly Dennis Wagner

Trep$ Market Grades 4-8 at Borough School






VFW Installation Dinner



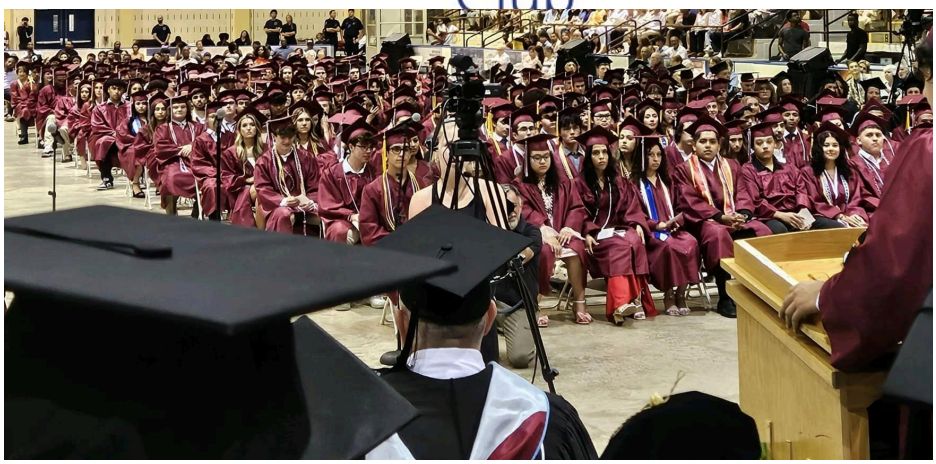




VFW member, Past Commander and Bar Chairman, Bob Oehley was recognized and honored with the presentation of a plaque and a Flight Jacket with his Vietnam Combat Brigade Colors on it by JB Smith and Commander D'Armiento for his years of Service to the VFW.

Morristown High School Class of 2024

CONGRATULATIONS!

Be a Champion for Education Sponsor the 5K!

STRIDES FOR EDUCATION
EFMP 5K Run/Walk

Save the Date

7th Annual
Sunday
November 3rd
9am

When you become a sponsor for the Strides for Education 5K Run/Walk, you raise your company's profile—and benefit all students in the Morris Plains School District. This year, the beloved annual event will take place on Sunday, November 3. Sponsored by the Education Foundation of Morris Plains, the 5K attracts walkers, serious runners and teams of all ages from our great community.

Sponsorship levels begin at $250. Find out more about this unique opportunity for your business, and learn how it benefits Morris Plains students, at www.educationfoundationmp.com

Sponsorship deadline September 15

Mayors Corner

I hope summer is treating everyone well and you are taking advantage of all that the Borough offers for all ages and interests. Congratulations to all the Morris Plains graduates and best of luck in the next chapter of your life. The Roberts Garden concerts in the park were enjoyable to all ages; an annual event that will continue for many, many years. The annual Block Dance is scheduled for the end of the month with music, fun for kids and of course plenty of prizes from our local businesses and I hope to see you there.

Our road and infrastructure projects have started and will be finished before the start of the new school year. The SMCMUA water main project along Glenbrook Road will be completed soon and paving of the roadway will be next year. The SMCMUA will continue with a new water main project on Stiles Avenue anticipated to begin this fall. The roads to be upgraded in this project with new water mains and service lines are Central Avenue, Carlye Avenue, Homer Avenue, Hawthorne Avenue, the west side of Maple Avenue, Diana Road and Burch Drive. Once the plans and dates are finalized I intent to hold a town hall meeting with the residents of the affected streets along with the water authority to discuss details and answer your questions.

Make sure to check the Borough's website for upcoming town wide fall events.

Morris Plains is happy to welcome the following new businesses to town: Be Creative and Bliss Hair Studio reopened in a new location. We are looking forward in the very near future to more new and exciting establishments opening. Please remember to patronize these and all of the businesses in town. Take advantage and utilize outdoor dining at our local restaurants as well and remember, shop local!

Community Park Pool opened with great success and has had a very busy, hot season. Please check the pool's Facebook page to see all the excitement. Congratulations to all of our spring and summer sport teams on their successful seasons. The Marlin's Swim Team was back this season and the team couldn't be happier and has done very well. Summer Camp had a very successful month with many new activities and trips that kept your children engaged and happy which transpired to a lot of fun. Thank you to all of our Recreation Employees for all they have done to open our pool and camp, keeping them exciting and entertaining.

On a final note, as most of you may have already received your tax bill and if you haven't noticed I wanted to make you aware of a reduction of roughly $77.00 for an average home assessed at $460,000.00. This was a collaborative effort from everyone and we are very proud of this reduction while continuing to maintain a high standard of services, activities and assets needed to keep everyone healthy and safe. This is a result of our ratable increase, a strong knowledge of the budget and planning for the future.

Please see an Affordable Housing update in this issue. (Pg. 7)

Stay well and enjoy the remainder of the summer.
God Bless You and God Bless the U.S.A.
Mayor Jason C. Karr
jkarr@morrisplainsboro.org

Borough Launches "Green Team" Focused on Sustainability

The governing body approved the charter for a new Morris Plains Green Team at their July meeting. The mission of the Green Team is to help ensure an environmentally sustainable and thriving future for our community. As an advisory board, the group will promote and support environmentally sustainable practices through research and outreach in collaboration with Borough officials, committees, and residents.

Founding members – community volunteers Tom Battagliese (Chair), Eric Santaiti (Vice Chair), and Ellie Falco as well as Council President Nancy Verga – were instrumental in developing the Borough's Community Energy Plan. The Community Energy Plan outlines strategies to reduce local greenhouse gas by reducing energy use and exploring renewable energy.

Morris Plains was one of only 44 New Jersey municipalities to submit a plan, which increases the likelihood that the Borough will receive one of the up to $250,000 implementation grants. The Green Team's research for the Community Energy Plan found that 77% of local greenhouse gas emissions come from on-road vehicles, so the team enthusiastically supported the Borough's application for implementation grants to build additional EV charging stations at our parks and purchase hybrid vehicles for the Borough's fleet.

The primary focus will be to support Community Energy Plan initiatives, but they also will continue to organize an annual Earth Week event each April and assist with researching sustainability initiatives outlined in the Borough's Master Plan Reexamination Report of 2018.

If you have a passion for sustainability and skills in communications, social media, event planning, etc., consider joining the Green Team's newest member Brian Leone. Visit "Green Team" on the Borough website.

Selling Lemonade for a Cause

Girl Scout Troop 96845 hosted a lemonade stand at the farmers market on June 15th. Gabby DelRusso and Kaitlyn Shenloogian took lead on setting this up for the troop and the troop collected $300 all of which was donated to the Table of Hope in Morristown.

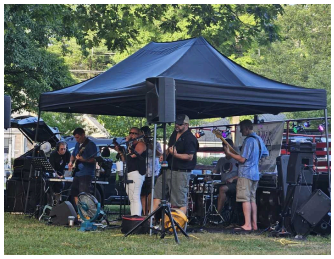




Roberts Garden Concerts



Another summer of concerts in the garden. Thank you to all the bands and everyone who came out to enjoy the sunshine & music. Until next year!





Around The World Food Festival

This event held in September was a multicultural event celebrating the diverse culinary traditions and flavors from different countries. Besides the food, the festival often includes cultural performances, a Hinglish dancer, henna artists and more. It's was a great event for our community to come together in a joyous celebration of food and culture.

Thank you to the students of Beyond Differences, the teachers of MPEA, the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, and the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance with the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) for organizing and sponsoring this event.











A very special thank you to the local restaurants Kiori, Hibiscus Island Grille, Delicias Latinas, & Yagna's Kitchen for their delicious contributions!

WWII Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday

World War II Veteran, Sydney Levitt's 100th birthday was celebrated on July 20th in Morris Plains. Mayor Jason Karr presented him with the Key to the Borough. The ceremony was attended by various town and county officials and his son. Richard Olsen, Morris County VFW District Commander, represented the local VFW Post 3401. Veteran Levitt, a distinguished local hero, received numerous awards for his WWII service, including two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He was also honored at the recent 80th D-Day Anniversary in Normandy, where he received the Legion of Honor from the French Consul General.

Happy Birthday Sid!









MORRIS PLAINS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Navigating a changing world through excellence and innovation

DO YOU FOLLOW US @WEAREMPSD?

A Message from Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mark R. Maire

We hope that this message finds you well and you are enjoying the warm and humid summer months. The Morris Plains School District is working hard preparing for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Our custodial and maintenance crews are preparing buildings for the opening of schools, and summer cleaning is progressing nicely. Classrooms have been emptied, cleaned, and sanitized, and floors have been stripped, waxed and sealed.

Our principals are filling open staffing positions, preparing student schedules, and finalizing their September plans. Additionally, administration is coordinating summer programs for new staff and substitutes, drafting department and school-based goals, and preparing their buildings for students and staff. Over the next month, district leadership will spend significant time planning comprehensive, instructional programs and initiatives, along with preparing new instructional tools and resources for students and staff.

The administrative team dedicated time throughout the summer to identify District Goals for the upcoming school year, which will focus on the following:

- Engaging with the school community and working with key stakeholders to draft a 5-year Strategic Plan.
- Improving the ability to utilize data to inform instructional programming and implement strategies that target areas of growth for all students.
- Evaluating current practices and programs to meet the growing needs of the music department in order to support the expansion of music offerings across both schools including budgetary and staffing implications.
- Defining and describing a consistent approach to behavior and student attendance, based on situational and developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative, supportive and corrective accountability.
- Generating revenue and demonstrating fiscal responsibility and efficiencies in order to increase reserve account balances to address maintenance and capital projects identified in the Long Range Facility Plan.

In addition, the district remains committed to staff training and building capacity amongst our teachers. Administration will schedule meaningful professional development opportunities throughout the school year that will focus on:

- Implementing best practices in mathematics instruction;
- Evaluating and selecting a reading program for the 2025-2026 school year that is rooted in best practices;
- Providing teachers with resources and strategies to meet the Science standards; and
- Sustaining a positive school culture by norming student behaviors and fostering an environment of mutual respect and accountability through the use of evidence-based strategies.

SUMMER PROJECTS:

Both schools have been bustling with activity during the summer months hosting capital and referendum-based projects. The bathroom renovation project in Borough School has been progressing nicely. All the bathrooms have been demolished, the piping for the fixtures are in place, and tiling work has started. Once the tiling is finished, they will pour the epoxy flooring (maroon color) and install the fixtures, drop ceiling/LED lighting and bathroom stalls (black color/composite texture to prevent rusting). Below is an unfinished photo of the renovation project, which highlights the new tiles:



The Mountain Way expansion project is nearing completion. Below are images of the new addition dating from mid-July. Most of the remaining work is interior, including finishing classrooms, bathrooms, etc. Work in the play area will start shortly once grading is completed and additional drainage is put in place. The play area project includes the installation of playground equipment and rubber flooring, along with nearly 10K square feet of turf. Please follow along on our Referendendum Construction Blog at bit.ly/mwrefblog where you can find regular updates and photos.





The Mountain Way library is being renovated this summer. The renovation project includes removing the hanging, ceiling-mounted partition and all existing shelving from the space, replacing the flooring, and installing all new shelving and furniture. Furniture includes tables, chairs, a circulation desk and soft seating. We are very excited to renovate and expand the library space, update and catalog our collection, and return to a true library model that allows classes and students to visit the library, utilize the space, and access our book collection. Finally, the exterior doors in both schools received new door access code equipment and the intercom systems in both schools have been enhanced to function more efficiently, and to further strengthen and streamline our emergency notification/response operations. Additionally, paving will be scheduled throughout the year to enhance the Borough School parking lots and extend the Mountain Way parking lot.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE: At the July Board of Education meeting, Marc Posey was appointed as the new Borough School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, effective August 15, 2024. Mr. Posey replaces Mr. Ruiz, who secured an administrative position closer to his home and family. Mr. Posey has 17 years of experience as a physical education and health teacher at the elementary school and middle school in Sussex-Wantage. Outside of his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Posey also served as the boys' basketball head coach, and the girls' and boys' track & field and cross country head coach. Mr. Posey implemented numerous programs at the middle school, including a Social Club to support students' successful return to school after the pandemic, and a before and after-school Achievement Academy that focused on enhancing students' social emotional skills, attendance record, and academic performance. Mr. Posey is committed to creating a positive school environment, and he takes great pride in being visible, immersing himself into the school community, and partnering with families.





MPSD STAFF RECOGNITION: During the June Board of Education meeting, the Morris Plains School District 2023-2024 Teachers and Support Staff Members of the Year honorees were recognized. Congratulations to Borough School Teacher of the Year Alissa Schonmann, Mountain Way Teacher of the Year Andrea Quinzel, Borough School Support Staff Member of the Year Chandell Kramer, and Mountain Way Support Staff Member of the Year Jill Cecere. The school community is grateful for their dedication and commitment to the MPSD.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS: Congratulations to the Borough School boys' and girls' track and field teams for winning their 2024 Group 1 Morris County Championship Meet. They are an impressive group of student-athletes. The coaches, Ashley Morris and Jessica Drew-Suttile, and their respective team were recognized at the June 11th board meeting.

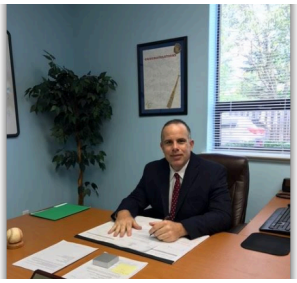




CONGRATULATIONS BOROUGH AND MHS GRADUATES: We would like to congratulate the Borough School and Morristown High School students in the class of 2024. We are extremely proud of our alumni, and we wish all of our graduates much success as they continue on their educational journey.

NEWARK ECOSYSTEM INVITATION: Recently, I received an invitation from my partners at NJIT to serve as a founding member of the Newark STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Executive Committee. As part of the committee, I will be tasked to help shape and guide the ecosystem to better serve all those that live in Essex, Warren, Union, Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties. They invited individuals from across this region and from all sectors such as business, government, nonprofits, public and private schools, etc. I am happy to participate to further support and promote STEM education across the state, and to expand opportunities and resources that can benefit our K-8 STEM programs.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED: The district is continuously looking to increase our substitute pool. Substitute candidates must have either 60 college credits, or 30 college credits, over 20 years of age, and enrolled in a college program. The daily substitute rate is $125/day. Please contact Karen Koster, at kkoster@mpsdk8.org if you are interested.



SUMMER WISHES: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for your unwavering partnership and support, and I am grateful for the efforts of our students, teachers, and administrators in collaboration with parents. Together, we have established and implemented a vision of success and excellence for all students. We will remain committed to creating the very best possible learning environment in our classrooms, our schools, and in all that we do.

On behalf of the Morris Plains School District, I extend best wishes for a safe, healthy and relaxing summer. We look forward to welcoming back students on **Thursday, September 5th.**

All my best,

Mark Mario

Affordable Housing Update

Morris Plains, along with every municipality in New Jersey, is required to undergo yet another assessment for the possible construction of affordable housing. The borough must undergo the process to avoid a costly court procedure and to be protected from expensive litigation known as builder's remedy suits.

We are not against affordable housing. It is a density issue which impacts traffic, infrastructure, schools, water, sewer capacity and zoning.

I've put together a committee of our professionals that includes borough engineer William Ryden, borough planner Elizabeth Leheny, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair David Schultz, Sue McClusky from the planning board, members of the Borough Council Cathie Kelly and Art Bruhn, Edward J. Buzak, our affordable housing obligation attorney for more than a decade and myself.

We've met twice to develop strategies, as well as to assess current affordable housing credits and available land to navigate Morris Plains through this fourth round of obligations. Those meeting will continue.

The primary bill, A-4/S-50, established a new framework for determining and enforcing municipalities' affordable housing obligations under the New Jersey Supreme Court's Mount Laurel doctrine and the state's Fair Housing Act. Established in 1975 and evolved through numerous court decisions, the Mount Laurel Doctrine requires towns to provide their "fair share" of a region's affordable housing. It might also provide more certainty for housing developers and reduce litigation-related delays to construction.

Starting with the compliance period that begins in 2025, the state's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will publish non-binding calculations of municipalities' current and prospective need for affordable housing using a formula based on prior court decisions. Disputes about municipalities' affordable housing obligations and plans to meet those obligations will be resolved on what the state has described as "an expedited basis" by the courts with assistance from a new dispute resolution program.

This process will replace the role previously played by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), which was abolished under the new law. The new process will streamline compliance and reduce litigation-related delays to construction and will give municipalities and developers more certainty, which will enable smarter planning regarding where housing should be built.

This is an unfunded state mandate that ultimately falls on the backs of taxpayers and will affect us all.

The court process includes:

1. Filing a Declaratory Judgment action with the court to declare the municipality's housing element and fair share plan constitutionally compliant.
2. Negotiations between the municipality, Fair Share Housing Center, and other intervenors (typically builders or developers) to reach a settlement agreement.
3. The Special Master would then make a report to the judge, to which the judge can order an updated housing element and fair share plan.
4. The housing element and fair share plan would then be adopted by the municipal planning board and endorsed by the governing body.
5. The court would then issue a judgement of compliance and repose.

Multiple deadlines start this October 20, when the state DCA must publish reports on calculations of regional need, as well as present and prospective municipal obligations for the Fourth Round. The DCA calculation of need is non-binding, allowing municipalities flexibility in calculating their specific affordable obligations.

There are more deadlines during 2025, including January 31 for municipal resolutions on present & prospective fair share obligations; February 28 for challenges to municipal present & prospective fair share obligation calculations; March 31, when the program provides its decision to the municipality and all parties that have filed a challenge; June 30, municipalities must adopt their housing element and fair share plans; August 31, challenges to housing element and fair share plan; December 31, communication between the municipality and any interested parties for a challenge; and, then March 15, 2026, adoption of implementing ordinances.

The borough is looking at a potential affordable obligation of between 111 and 127 units. A developer can build five (5) market rate units for each affordable unit required. A worst-case scenario would be 127 (affordable) x 5 (market rate units) equaling 635 new units of housing in Morris Plains.

We will continue to explore options and strategies to reduce these numbers. I'll keep everyone informed with regular updates.

Solutions for Stormwater Pollution - Easy Things You Can Do Everyday to Protect Our Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet-waste – you name it, and it ends up in our water.
Stormwater pollution is one of NJ's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it. By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up after it's dirty. For more information visit https://dep.nj.gov/cleanwaternj

As a resident, business, or other member of the NJ community, it is important to know these easy things you can do everyday to protect our water:

Limit You Use of Fertilizers & Pesticides

- Make sure you properly store or discard unused portions
- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer
- Look into alternatives for pesticides
- If you use fertilizers or pesticide, follow the instructions on the label on how to apply them correctly.

Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- Remember to obey local laws to clean-up after your pet (on public and private property) and dispose of solid pet waste promptly and properly.
- Don't litter. Use proper trash bins & RECYCLE
- Dispose of yard waste properly.
- Don't feed wildlife such as ducks or geese.

Properly Use & Dispose of Hazardous Products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because the storm drains are usually connected to local water bodies and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or work place, make sure you store or dispose of them properly.
- Read the label for guidance
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives
- Recycle used motor oil
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the location of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

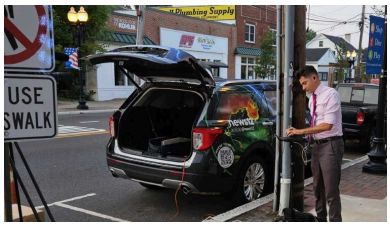
news12 NEW JERSEY

Live Report from Morris Plains

Meteorologist Mike Rizzo reporting live from Downtown Morris Plains for News 12.







Introducing The "Tech Titans"

After conducting water testing at Community Park Pond the "Tech Titans" (Thomas Ecker, Michael Fanelli, Matthew Murzenski, Sean Murzenski, Hudson Osborne and Briggs McGowan) discovered elevated levels of phosphorus, which are contributing to the formation of harmful algae blooms. To eliminate the algae and nutrient pollution, the "Tech Titans" planted iris, cardinal flower, ferns and switchgrass at Community Pond on July 2nd.





Another successful year in the books! A heartfelt thank you to Coach Chris, Coach Ashley, and Coach Claire for their unwavering dedication and expertise. Go Marlins! Congratulations to all our swimmers for their outstanding performances and perseverance. We couldn't have done it without the incredible support of our volunteers—thank you for your time and effort!









Family Day & Fireworks













Morris Plains Soccer on the Field of Dreams

We returned to Red Bull Stadium this June for their second annual trip to cheer on Gotham FC with 100+ players, families and friends. With impressive attendance, we earned an on-field experience, and the players took the field to compete in the Field of Dreams youth halftime match on the pitch!

Back at home, our volunteer board has continued efforts to build our own "field of dreams" at Simons Park. This spring MPSA board and volunteers collaborated with volunteers from the Morris Plains Rotary on a comprehensive field improvement plan to maintain the grass fields.

Join us for our MPSA fall Opening Day at Simons Park at 9 AM on Saturday, September 7th.



Division 1 Signing Day



These Morris Plains, Morristown High School student athletes signed their letter of intent on April 17, 2024. Congratulations to Sean Newman who will be playing baseball at the University of Hartford, Callie Volker who will be playing softball at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Claire Annuik who will be running track at Rutgers University



Recycling is a vital part of preserving our environment, and it's great to see local businesses and communities getting involved. Reimer Recycling Center, located conveniently on Rt. 53, accepts specific rigid plastic containers for recycling like the one pictured and put them into designated container. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Memorial Day
Opening Ceremonies













Memorial Day Parade































ANNUAL MORRIS PLAINS 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

9/11 remembrance is to be held on:

Wednesday, Sept. 11th at 10:00 AM

Morris Plains 9/11 Memorial
(corner of Rt 53 & 202)

Special Olympics Torch Run

Members from the Morris Plains Police Department participated in the 41st Special Olympics Torch Run.
Chief Koroski, Lt. Guild, and Ptl. Ferris, along with potential new recruits for the MPPD Lt. Guild's children, carried the torch with pride. Many from our community, including The Borough School students, lined Littleton Road and Speedwell Avenue to cheer them on.





NEW Location for Bliss Hair Studio



740 Speedwell Ave
Morris Plains

Uncle Franks Fishing Contest

















Congratulations to **Leila Osborn** for the first catch of the day, with a 14 inch Rainbow trout! Special thank you to the Rotary Club for putting on this annual event! What a great morning at Watnong Park!



A Safety Message from Your Fire Prevention Bureau
Understanding the Risks & Safety Measures of Lithium Batteries

As lithium-ion batteries continue to power our everyday devices and electric vehicles, concerns over their safety in both residential and workplace settings have gained prominence. While these batteries offer unparalleled efficiency and convenience, incidents of fires and explosions have highlighted the importance of understanding and implementing proper safety protocols. Lithium-ion batteries are ubiquitous in modern life, found in smartphones, laptops, power tools, and increasingly in home energy storage systems and industrial equipment. Their compact size and high energy density make them ideal for a wide range of applications, but these same attributes can pose risks if mishandled or improperly managed.

One of the primary risks associated with lithium-ion batteries is thermal runaway—a chain reaction that can occur when the battery overheats, leading to rapid heating, gas generation, and potentially, explosion. Factors such as overcharging, physical damage, manufacturing defects, or exposure to high temperatures can trigger this dangerous phenomenon.

In residential settings, the proliferation of electric vehicles and home energy storage solutions has brought lithium-ion batteries into closer proximity with homeowners. While these technologies offer sustainability benefits and energy independence, they also require careful installation and monitoring to mitigate fire risks.

At workplaces, lithium-ion batteries power a wide array of tools and equipment used in construction, manufacturing, and logistics. Ensuring safe handling, storage, and disposal of these batteries is crucial to protecting workers from potential hazards.

To address these concerns, regulatory bodies and industry organizations have developed guidelines and standards for the safe use of lithium-ion batteries. Proper storage conditions, including temperature control and ventilation, are essential in preventing overheating and reducing the risk of thermal runaway.

Furthermore, regular inspection and maintenance of battery-operated equipment are recommended to detect early signs of damage or deterioration. Employers and homeowners alike are advised to follow manufacturer instructions for charging and storing batteries and to refrain from using damaged or counterfeit products.

Education and awareness also play a vital role in lithium battery safety. Informing consumers and workers about the risks associated with these batteries and providing training on safe handling practices can significantly reduce accidents and injuries.

Looking ahead, advancements in battery technology, such as the development of solid-state batteries and improved thermal management systems, hold promise for enhancing safety in both residential and workplace environments. These innovations aim to provide safer alternatives without compromising performance or efficiency.

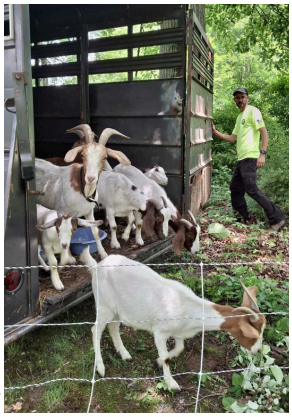
In conclusion, while lithium-ion batteries have revolutionized the way we live and work, understanding and managing their risks is paramount. Through adherence to safety guidelines, ongoing research, and education initiatives, stakeholders can ensure that the benefits of this transformative technology are enjoyed safely and responsibly in homes and workplaces worldwide.

Conclusion:
As the adoption of lithium-ion batteries continues to grow, so too does the importance of implementing and adhering to rigorous safety measures. By staying informed, following guidelines, and investing in technological advancements, we can harness the full potential of lithium batteries while minimizing associated risks in our daily lives. When purchasing new or replacement batteries, always look for the UL mark on the item. This is the Underwriters Laboratory. This will ensure that the battery or device has been tested and approved for sale. Unlabeled batteries should never be purchased or used.

If anyone has further questions, please feel free to contact the Morris Plains Fire Prevention Bureau. Our email is mpfp@morrisplainsboro.org or our office phone number 973-590-2401.

MP
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Goats Galore at Morris Plains Community Park



Morris Plains now has a plan in place to try to combat invasive plants like knotweed and poison ivy. The Beautification Committee looked at options to rid our open spaces of these plants. Goats were the answer!

Spearheading the project in Morris Plains is committee member Chris Graziano. Neighborhood Farms set up a solar powered electric fenced area next to the pond at Community Park in late spring to be moved periodically during a three-week period. Graziano stated that, “There were 12 goats within the electrified fencing, ranging in age from adult to approximately 2 months old. They seem to get lost in the bushes, but when they don't see their buddies will cry out to find them.”

The goat herder from Neighborhood Farms, Matt, said that he doesn’t get calls from municipalities. Most of their business comes from estate owners. They are often used at golf courses and at arboretums. So, Morris Plains is now in the forefront when it comes to ecologically sound invasives removal.

Contributors to Our Morris Plains Community



This year the attention of the Recreation Commission focused on our Seniors and their contribution to our Community. Three of our Seniors especially stood out as they have touched so many members of our community. They are there if you need a ride to an appointment or to the grocery store. They are there with a home cooked meal when you arrive home from a treatment or a “comfort” pound cake after experiencing the loss of a loved one. They are there visiting residents at our Assisted Living facilities to brighten up an otherwise long and lonely day. They make sure they check in on you and offer a sympathetic ear when needed. They send little “thinking of you notes” and remember your birthday and have a mass said to honor your loved one.

They are always at the ready, without question or pause, and the motivation is simple…they feel grateful and blessed that they are able. And We feel grateful and blessed to have them in our lives.

The Morris Plains Recreation Commission is honored to recognize these three remarkable, outstanding, generous, truly extraordinary Seniors: Left to Right - Joan Sambrowski, Paul Sambrowski, Mickey Toye-Young and Jean McGuinness

REMINDER

Grass Clipping Pick up

Pick up is on Wednesdays through November 6th

The only material which should be put into covered containers for these Wednesday collections is GRASS. Please: No twigs, branches, leaves, stones or other materials.

Leaf Pickup

October 15th - December 6th

DO NOT put grass, brush, sticks, vines or stones with your leaves. Rake leaves to curbside. DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN BAGS. Put them in neat piles at curbside.

BrushPickup

Scheduled for the weeks of August 26th & September 30th (this is the last one of the year) it starts up again next year January 27, 2025.

For a safer, cleaner street, brush should be placed out for pickup no earlier than 48 hours prior to scheduled pickup date.

Branches should not protrude into the path of cars. We ask your cooperation in making brush pickup more efficient by observing the following guidelines:

1. No branches or limbs more than 3inches in diameter will be picked up. Only branches, limbs and logs that can be chipped will be collected - due to chipper limits.
2. Small limbs & twigs should be tied in 1-ft round bundles no longer than 6ft., neatly stacked, all in one direction.
3. Vines & pricker bushes must be tied in bundles.
4. Stumps are to be free of dirt & debris.
5. No leaves or grass clippings are allowed with brush pickup.
6. No lumber, metal, building material or foreign debris are allowed.

Morris Plains CO-OP Play School



The Co-op is proud to announce that we are recognized as a Grow NJ Kids star-rated early childhood education program! Congratulations to our hard-working directors, teachers, staff, and parents who work together to help our kids grow and learn!

Grow NJ Kids is a state-sponsored initiative to raise the quality of childcare and early learning throughout New Jersey.

FREE Infant/Toddler Playdate
Thursday, October 17 - RSVP

Morris Plains Co-op congratulates its newest Lifetime Member, Joann Holick!



Lifetime Members are voted in by the Co-op community to recognize an individual's long-standing contributions to our school.

Joann has been a valued member of the Co-op staff for 21 years! Joann grew up in Morris Plains and she lives with her family in Morristown. Both of Joann's children attended the Co-op and she stayed to play!

Joann brings a loving, lighthearted, and fun energy to our classrooms. She embodies our values of learning through play, and she treats every child with genuine respect and care. We couldn't imagine the Co-op without her!

Downtown Morris Plains

Downtown Morris Plains volunteers loved being at the Farmers Market in June. Want to be apart of our special community? We are always looking for volunteers!
Details at www.downtownmorrisplains.org



Welcome! to Morris Plains Grand Opening in May



Patriot's Path Council Boy Scouts of America 27th Annual Morris County Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner

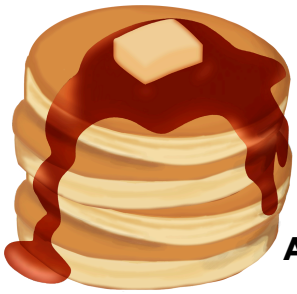




Honoring Michael M. Koroski,
Chief Morris Plains Police Department

You're Invited!

50th Annual MORRIS PLAINS ROTARY CLUB Community Breakfast



Sunday, October 20th
8:00 am to 11:00 am

Morris Plains Community Center
51 Jim Fear Drive

Tickets (Available at the Door):
Adults - $10 Children - $5 (age 3-12)

For More Info: www.morrisplainsrotary.org
email: info@morrisplainsrotary.org

2024 New Eagle Scouts





On June 8, an Eagle Court of Honor was convened at the Community Center honoring Aarush Khanna, Thomas D. Schnipp, Shiven Joshi, Jr. and Owen A Barone of Troop 39. The ceremony honored the 96th - 99th scouts to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Special thanks to: William "Bud" Ravitz, Morris Township Committeeman, NJ Senator Anthony Bucco, Morris Plains Mayor Jason Karr, Morris Plains Council Member Cathie Kelly, Borough Committee members, Morris Plains VFW, as well as many others.

Many moving speeches were given, and awards presented, including a Key to the Borough of Morris Plains and the Eagle Scout Trophy, with inscribed names of the new Eagle Scouts along with those of all the previous Scouts that achieved the rank of Eagle. In addition, an American Flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. in their honor. With this accomplishment, these scouts join only 4% of Scouts who ever attain this achievement.

Troop leader Kevin Hayes was recognized by the Scouts, as providing great support and encouragement, every step of the way. Each Eagle Scout completed a local community project, which included trail blazing, information Kiosk construction, as well as building benches/tables, flower beds and fishing rod holders.

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.





Max Hamilton & VFW 4301





Hamilton is working toward Eagle Scout, Troop 39 on the Armored Personnel Carrier at the , Rt 53, Morris Plains

MORRIS PLAINS COMMUNITY BAND EST. 1888

Wednesdays in August 6:30pm at Roberts Garden

The concerts are free of charge! Attendees should bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on. Roberts Garden is a very shady public park, with an arboretum-like environment.

8/14 - "Swing Tones" • 8/21 - "Music from Around the World"

8/28 - "Pop Hits Through the Years"

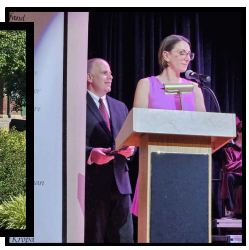
Our concert series is sponsored by the Borough of Morris Plains, First Indemnity of America Insurance Co. and First Managed Care Options, Inc. We are very grateful for their support.

Borough Middle School Class of 2024









CONGRATULATIONS!

Bishop McLaughlin's Council 3495 Knights of Columbus Family Life Night

It was an honor to recognize all of the recipients, with the "Community of Caring" represented by Jean McGuiness, who received the Sir Knight James Mc Erlane Memorial Award; Patrol Officer Anne Marie Ferris, who received the Police Shield Award; June Sambrowski, who received the Thaddeus Kosakowski Memorial EMS Award and John Boudreau who received the Knight of the Year Award. Congratulations and Thank You for all you do!

Morris Plains Museum

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

Helen H. Schnack Scholarship

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

All MHS seniors from Morris Plains are eligible and this year's winner is Kate Goldberg – our congratulations Kate!

THE GROWTH OF OUR MORRIS PLAINS BUSINESS DISTRICT



-





Currently 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.
Clean out your attic and donate any historical finds.
WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR TOWN!

To join the association, just call the museum at 973 - 683 -1089 and leave a message.
The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement - to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PERTUSSIS

Before a vaccine was introduced in the late 1940s, pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough, was a leading cause of childhood illness and death in the United States. The vaccine was so effective that the number of cases in the U.S. went from more than a million diagnosed between 1940-1945, to less than 3,000 a year by the 1970s. Pertussis has again become increasingly common due to varied factors including improved diagnostic tests, more spread of the bacteria that causes pertussis, and waning immunity from current vaccines. In recent years several states have reported significant outbreaks, with most deaths occurring in babies younger than three months old.

To help protect yourself and your family from pertussis, here's what you should know:

- **Whooping cough most commonly affects babies and young children but can affect anyone at any age.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one third of babies younger than one year old who contract whooping cough end up in the hospital. Young children are also at risk of other complications, such as pneumonia, pauses in breathing (apnea), and dehydration. The population at highest risk for severe complications are very young infants who are too small to get vaccinated against it, older adults, pregnant women and those who are immunocompromised.

- **Pertussis is known for the distinct "whooping" sound made at the end of a coughing episode, giving it the name.**

Pertussis usually starts with cold-like symptoms, it is often not diagnosed until after 1-2 weeks, when the illness progresses from a mild cough into the second stage of persistent and rapid coughing spells. This stage is known as the paroxysmal stage, which is categorized by violent coughing fits that often result in vomiting and is followed by a whooping sound. These coughing episodes may occur a few times a day up to several times an hour and are often worse at night and can interfere with sleep. This stage can last up to three months.



- **Vaccines are available to help prevent whooping cough across the lifespan.**

Vaccination is the best protection against pertussis. There are two types of vaccines to protect against whooping cough:

- DTaP to protect young children against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.
- Tdap for use during pregnancy and to protect preteens through adults against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.

For more information on Pertussis, visit:
www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/pertussis

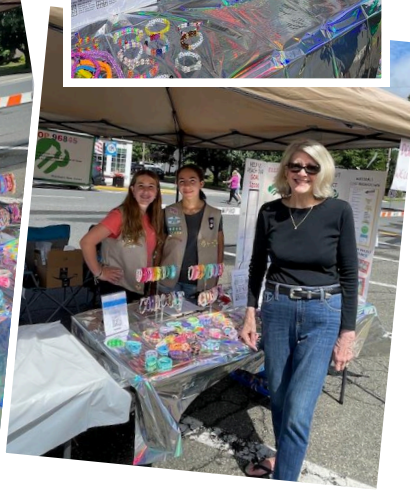
BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS
BOARD OF HEALTH
531 Speedwell Ave, Morris Plains, NJ, 07950
Telephone: (973) 538-2224
Fax: (973) 538-8834
www.morrisplainsboro.org

Public Health

Girl Scouts Working Towards Silver Award







Girl Scouts, Sophia Viola and Elle Goyeneche, are working toward their Silver Award by making and selling bracelets at our local Farmers Market.
Their plan is to build a 9-Square Game at Simons Park. They have received permission from the Girl Scout leadership.
These Scouts have also presented their plan to the Mayor and Council.

Rachel Sambrowski Recieves Key to Morris Plains







Rachel Sambrowski has been the Girl Scout Service Unit Manager for the past 10 years. She has tirelessly represented Morris Plains at the GSNNJ (Girl Scouts of Northern NJ, made sure the girls would not miss a promotion or event and helped each aspiring troop leader promote the girl scouts. Rachel has never missed a back to school night to encourage new girls entering the school system and to encourage new trooper leaders to join us as well. In addition to the above she has been her own daughters leader for the past 11 years! Rachel all we can say is thank you! Your dedication and support has been incredible these past years. Thank you for your dedication to our Morris Plains Girl Scouts.





Fall Recreation Events

Town-Wide GARAGE SALES



October 5th & 6th 9am-5pm

Annual Community Bonfire

Saturday, October 26th
6pm-9pm
Raindate
Sunday, October 27th



Halloween Parade

October 31st
4pm
Roberts Garden

Fall Recreation Programs

NEW » ZUMBA®

Tuesday Night with Reut Segall
Details to follow at: morrisplainsboro.org



Senior Exercise
Every Thursday beginning September 5th at 10 AM -11 AM
Community Center
Pre registration required
no fee



Fall USSI Tennis
Beginning September 17
Please see informative flyer/registration form on Borough Website



Third Wednesday of every month, 2PM, Morris Plains Community Center pre registration not required, no fee



Morris Plains Residents Adult/Young Adult

Soccer and Basketball

Morris Plains Borough School Gymnasium
Pre Registration not required, no fee
Dates to be announced



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

Save T.H.E DATE

Morris Plains 59th Annual Block Dance

Saturday, August 31
6:15 to 9:30 pm
on the Merchant Block
Rain Date: Sept. 1st

Morris Plains Dance Block Party Drawing

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____

Drop Ticket off at collection jars at Block Dance
No purchase necessary to enter - two entries per person

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Morris Plains Dance Block Party Drawing

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____

Drop Ticket off at collection jars at Block Dance
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