Borough of Morris Plains

PLAINS TALK

February 2018

Mayor
Frank J. Druetzler

Council President
Sal Cortese

Councilmembers
Art Bruhn
Joseph Cecala, Jr.
Laurie Fu
Jason C. Karr
Suzanne B. McCluskey

MPPD TRADING CARD CAMPAIGN

Read the full story inside!
GOOD EVENING:

Tonight, my fellow citizens, at our reorganization meeting, we report very briefly on the results of our efforts in 2017 and some of our plans and goals for our town in 2018.

As always we continue to work on improving our Borough infrastructure. In 2017, we paved Old Wood Road, Borough Terrace and the paths from Diana Road to Simons Park and Parker Drive to Community Park.

The largest one-year paving project in Borough history was done by PSE&G and was supervised by the Borough. Nearly 50 streets were partially or fully paved at no expense to the taxpayers.

In 2018, we plan on paving Diana Road, Court Road, Drake Way and the parking lot at Memorial Field. And with a $140,000 state grant; we will pave Washington Avenue and the second phase of Watnong Drive. The Southeast Morris County Municipal Authority will be putting in a new water line on Park Road and we expect they will pave that road.

This past year some final work was done on the Speedwell Avenue beautification project. We are very pleased how the bricks and new lights look, especially during the holiday season. As you know our downtown is one of our greatest assets. It is important to keep it viable. So, I ask all citizens to BUY LOCAL! These are the businesses that support our sports teams and schools.

We are happy to report that work on the access road from West Hanover to Central Avenue has started. We thank the Morris County Freeholders. Completion of the access road is expected late this year and will certainly give relief to the traffic on Central Avenue during Central Park events.

The State of New Jersey is also in the process of repairing the bridge over Watnong Brook on Central Avenue. We expect this project to be completed by summer.

Arbor Terrace, the new senior and assisted living facility next to Provident Bank opened to rave reviews. It is beautiful, and a number of residents reported moving their loved ones in and all are so very pleased.

Roseland Properties is constructing high-end apartments at 250 Johnson Road. We are happy with its progress and appearance. We await its opening which is currently scheduled for early spring. A Chick-Fil-A restaurant will be opening in the Kohl’s shopping center by summer.

Affordable Housing litigation with M&M Properties, located on the west side of Route 53, continues to take up a lot of your governing body’s time. With much pressure from the courts, we anticipate closure this year. M&M Properties is currently working on soil contamination clean-up at the site.

Across the street, Johnson & Johnson has sold their property to Vision Real Estate Partners. We expect the closing during the first quarter of 2018. They have plans before the Planning Board which involve some demolition of buildings and new construction.

Our Police Department started a program called “Coffee with a Cop.” It’s an effort to become more engaged with the residents of Morris Plains. Look for the next event and meet the police as they can answer questions which you may have of them.

Our police, in conjunction with the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office, conducted two “Drug Take Back” days this year. Look for the next scheduled event to bring unused drugs so they may be destroyed properly. Let’s do our part to help put an end to the drug problem.

Congratulations to our Community Gardeners. They donated over 2,100 pounds of food to the Interfaith Food Pantry this year. That’s over a ton of food...an all time record. It is estimated that the Community
Garden produced over 10 tons of food this year on less that 3/4 of an acre. Amazing!

A big shout-out to the Morris Plains 50/70 Little League Team...13 youngsters, ages 12 to 13, won the District I and Section I titles and placed 3rd in the New Jersey State Little League Tournament. Congratulations to the players and their coaches!!

In only its second year, our Community Band is getting better and better! Under the direction of Morris Plains’ “Music Man” Larry Ripley. They could always use more members, so give Larry a call at 973-984-2505 and join in the guaranteed fun.

Part of the charm of our community is the many volunteers who make it work. So if you are looking to volunteer, and I hope that you are; our Museum and Teen Center need people. Our Garden Club could use more volunteers to help plant the flower tubs along Speedwell Avenue. If interested please call the Clerk’s Office at 973-538-2224, or see Pearl Law. Also, our Beautification Committee could use an additional green thumb or two. Our Clean Communities program under the direction of the enthusiastic Ellie Falco, is getting many sports groups, Girl Scouts, school groups and others working to keep our town clean and litter-free. Together they are doing a super job.

Several prospective Eagle Scouts from Troop 39 are proposing projects that will benefit our community - with a dock at Community Park pond, a new welcome sign when entering the Borough and the refurbishing of the flag drop bins. Thank you, Scouts.

Our Municipal Alliance, Library, “Kids Helping Kids” program, Recycling program, Recreation Commission, Farmers’ Market, Community Center, Blood Bank, and Railroad Club, all continue to flourish also.

On behalf of the Borough Council, I wish to thank the Borough employees, all of the many, many volunteers on boards, commissions, committees, and all citizens for your devotion to our town.

Your governing body thanks you for your support and we always welcome your thoughts.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Mayor Frank Druetzler

GROUNDBREAKING FOR GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE DRIVE

Construction will begin soon on the new access road connection from West Hanover Avenue to Central Park of Morris County. The road will help to divert traffic away from local neighborhoods in the vicinity of the park.

Pictured above:

LEFT: Retiring Councilman John “Jack” Doherty (with wife, Rosemary) is thanked for his service on the Borough Council.

CENTER: Volunteer Firefighter, Jack Van Orden (shown with grandson, Jack) is selected as the recipient of the 2018 Community Service Award for serving 50 years with the MP Fire Department.

RIGHT: Ron Nicola is honored as he retires after almost 20 years of service as the Borough’s Public Defender.
Morris Plains Museum
51 Jim Fear Drive, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950
973 - 683 -1089

MUSEUM SCHOLARSHIPS - 2018

The members of the Morris Plains Museum Association are looking forward to presenting our annual scholarship and award. The Helen H. Schnack $2000 Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior at Morristown High School. The student must be a resident of Morris Plains. See the Guidance Office at MHS for an application. The Kenneth C. Kramer $100 Award is presented to a graduating student at Morris Plains Borough School with a sincere interest in history.

Ken Cramer was a 1941 graduate of Borough School who went on to Gettysburg College with a post graduate degree from Reserve University. He was the archivist at Dartmouth College in NH. Further, he was a faithful Life Member of the museum who supported the museum financially and with donated historical memorabilia.

Helen Hildebrant Schnack was a resident who was an active member of the museum association. She attended the College of Saint Elizabeth and Seton Hall University and served on the faculty of both NJIT and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

WORLD WAR I EXHIBIT EXTENDED TO 11-11-2018

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR TOWN! CALL FOR INFORMATION.

The Morris Plains Museum is open on the first, second & third Saturday of each month from 10 until 2 pm. The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement - to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town. For information call town historian Dan Myers at 973-267-3808.
Participate in Our Community Health Survey

Your insights can help improve health and wellness in our community! The Morris Plains Municipal Alliance (www.mpmac.org) is partnering with the North Jersey Health Collaborative to conduct a survey of the strengths and needs related to health in North Jersey. By sharing your opinions in the survey link below, you can provide a snapshot of issues that are important and unique to Morris Plains, and ultimately improve the delivery of health and wellness services.

To access the online survey, type in: https://goo.gl/ccLhyf in your web browser. Or, stop by the Borough Clerk's Office to complete a paper copy. Survey responses will be kept strictly confidential; however, if you enter your name, you can request a copy of the results, and enter to win $100.

For information about the survey, visit www.njhealthmatters.org. Results will be published on this website in the summer of 2018.

Thank you!

Health Buzz – From the Board of Health

Stress Less for a Healthy Heart

Your body can react to stress in different ways. In minimal doses, it boosts your body adrenaline. Too much and you may be putting your heart at risk. When you are continually exposed to stress hormones, your body builds up a resistance and can override your natural flight-or-fight response. Stressed, your body may also begin to suppress your immune system. Although the link between stress and heart disease is widely suspected, it regularly leads people to proven risk factors of heart disease: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking.

Here are ways to de-stress your life – and boost heart health at the same time:

- Relax your heart and mind: Yoga, meditation and focused breathing all can slow your heart, clear your mind and defuse tension.
- Work out stress: Regular exercise can strengthen your heart and lower blood pressure.
- Establish healthy habits: Drinking less alcohol and caffeine, eating more fruits and vegetables, and consuming more water help keep your heart healthy.
- Do what you enjoy: Many of us know what works for us. Maybe it’s listening to music or spending time with nature, or reading a good book. Laughter is widely recommended as it improves both mood and heart health.

For more information on stress management, visit the American Heart Association at: www.heart.org “To Stress or not to Stress? You Decide.”
MAKING MEMORIES - One Thursday a month, a special afternoon is planned for those living with Dementia and other mild to moderate cognitive impairments along with their caregivers. The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains offers a social time featuring a musical performer or a creative activity. This is an opportunity for caregivers to socialize and network with others in a similar situation about how they handle the daily challenges associated with these conditions as well as to get ideas regarding how to plan for their financial and personal future.

The Church started this outreach four years ago because a member of the congregation was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease and discovered there were no other Memory Cafés in the area. Memory Cafés originated in the Netherlands when Dr. Bere Miesen, a Dutch psychiatrist, introduced the Memory Café concept in 1997 as a way to break through the stigma associated with various forms of Dementia. He determined that Dementia simply “wasn’t discussed” and those with the disease – and their caregivers – were suffering as a result.

People come from all over Morris County to participate in the Café’s activities. For some, this is the only social interaction they have. It is a positive, non-judgmental environment for all. We have been blessed with teaming up with the musicians from the NJ Folk Music Project. They have very talented performers who have entertained us over the years.

For more information, please call 973-229-4145.

At our October meeting, Kathy Kelly was presented the Gardener of the Year Award for 2016-17. Kathy has been instrumental in our program development, fund raising and overall management of the club. Margo Rische, President, presented Kathy with the award to the applause of all members. Congratulations Kathy.

At our November meeting, we made the bows that decorated the Christmas trees and birch branches in the tubs along Speedwell Avenue. In assembly-line like production, we were able to make about 600 bows that night and still enjoy refreshments, socializing and tend to some business. I hope you enjoyed all the decorations. A big thank you to the children at Mountain Way, Borough and the Co-op schools, the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts who enhanced many of the trees with their hand made decorations.

In lieu of a December meeting, we celebrated Christmas with our annual party. Delicious food, drinks and dessert were enjoyed by all, including our spouses. Most entertaining was the presentation by one of our club member’s husband about his 10 years hiking the Appalachian Trail. He gave us insight into the provisions needed, challenges along the trail and glorious vistas experienced. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, September thru May, in the evening. If you are interested in joining or you just want to find out more about our club, please call me at 973-644-4612 or call our club president, Margo Rishe at 973-267-7116. We’d be happy to have you join us for a meeting.
The Morris Plains Basketball Association recently made a generous donation to support Borough School Gymnasium enhancements.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Morris Plains Public Schools will hold their annual Kindergarten Registration and Screening on April 18, 19, and 20 at Mountain Way School. Any parents who have Kindergarten age children should contact Mrs. Cristie Bruhn at Mountain Way School (973 538-0339 or cbruhn@mpsdk8.org) to be added to the registration list. Registration packets and appointment times will be mailed out in March.

Children must be residents of Morris Plains and five years of age on or before October 1, 2018, to be eligible for a September entrance into kindergarten. A birth certificate, proof of residence and health information are required at the registration.

4th Annual NJEFP Fundraising

UNCLE FRANK’S FISHING CONTEST

Saturday, May 12, 2018
Community Park Pond
7:00 to 10:30 AM
ALL residents 13 years or younger

sponsored by Morris Plains Rotary Club
Message from Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mark R. Maire

Happy New Year to our entire Morris Plains school community! It’s hard to believe we have welcomed in another new year, sure to be filled with exciting adventures for our students.

As we approach the midway point of the school year, it is important to reflect on our district’s progress. We have implemented many new initiatives and goals throughout the current school year. Our staff has been working diligently to provide an optimal learning experience for our students. Our young learners have embraced their role in our educational vision; steering the course of their journey.

MPSD Receives High-Marks from NJDOE
The Morris Plains School District has once again been designated as a “High-Performing” district by the State Department of Education. The NJDOE rates school districts based upon quality performance indicators in each of the five components of school district effectiveness (Instruction and Planning, Operations, Personnel, Governance, and Fiscal). This achievement means the district will not have to undergo the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) evaluation for the next three years. This is the second consecutive waiver due to high performing status.

Drafting the 2018-2019 Budget
Building the school budget is one of the most important tasks of the district administration and the board of education each year.

We are working diligently to ensure that all the items in the budget are essential to the effective operation of our district and enhance the learning for all of our students. We will continue to creatively look for new opportunities to reduce costs, share services and generate revenue. Some of the areas the proposed school budget will address include reading intervention support, professional development, iSTEAM, classroom libraries, classroom furniture, HVAC, and enhancing our successful programs and initiatives. A board presentation on the proposed 2018-2019 will be announced shortly. The presentation will be open to the public, and it will also be available on the district website.

New Board of Education Members
At the Re-Organization meeting of the Board of Education on January 2nd, we welcomed new Board of Education members Mrs. Amy Lyons and Mrs. Jessica Williams, and swore in returning board members Mrs. Shawna Longo and Dr. Denise Rawding.

Dr. Denise Rawding was nominated as Board President, and Mrs. Shawna Longo was nominated as Board Vice President.

On behalf of the Morris Plains school community, I would like to express our gratitude to outgoing board members Mr. Scott Bober and Mr. Anthony Galdi, who have dedicated their time to serve as a member of the Board of Education. We acknowledge their commitment to our students, and we thank them for contributing to the excellence of the Morris Plains School District.

January is School Board Recognition Month. Our school board members are elected by the community and represent the public’s voice in public education. This voluntary post requires a significant time commitment. We thank our Board Members for their service to our schools: Mrs. Lucia Galdi, Mr. Adam Higgins, Mrs. Shawna Longo, Mrs. Amy Lyons, Mrs. Maria Manley, Mrs. Tina Perry, Dr. Denise Rawding, Mr. Ken Wilbur, and Mrs. Jessica Williams.

PARCC Update
In the spring of 2018, Morris Plains Schools will administer a new standardized test in science, as well as the PARCC test in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The PARCC test provides a deeper level of information about student progress than previous tests, which makes it a valuable tool to measure student performance. PARCC identifies the areas in each subject where a student needs additional support and where he or she has mastered the content and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter—information that is useful for parents, teachers, students, and school administrators. While no single test can give a complete picture of achievement, when they are combined with student grades and teacher reports they can provide important information about
student progress. Teachers use the information to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students.

Results from the 2017 PARCC assessments can be found on the district’s website, under “Quick Links.” With more than 95% of our students taking the PARCC assessment, the test results for Literacy and Math show that our students continue to demonstrate achievement and growth each year in both Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy.

The 2018 PARCC testing window is scheduled to start on May 9, 2018.

Strategic Planning for Modern Learners
As you may already know, the District is embarking upon a strategic planning initiative that will ultimately chart the course towards attainment of our renewed 2023 vision, promote continuous improvement, and ensure sustained educational excellence for every child we serve.

In order to achieve optimal results, the strategic planning process, itself, must be effectively planned and well-orchestrated. Therefore, we will work closely with The Madison Institute, an educational consulting firm, to guide us through the alignment framework. To be effective, the alignment process must proactively seek out and embrace the diverse voices of our organization’s stakeholders. Shortly, we will disseminate communication seeking community participation through the various Strategic Planning Committees, and seek to collect important feedback and data from the school community at large on how we can best continue to serve the Morris Plains students.

Kindergarten Registration
The Morris Plains School District will hold its annual Kindergarten Registration and Screening on April 18, 19, and 20 at Mountain Way School. Any parents who have Kindergarten age children should contact Mrs. Cristie Bruhn at Mountain Way School (973) 538-0339, option 1 or cbruhn@mpsdk8.org to be added to the registration list. Children must be residents of Morris Plains and five years of age on or before October 1, 2018, to be eligible for a September entrance into kindergarten. A birth certificate, proof of residence, and health information are required at the registration.

Inclement Weather Decisions
We recognize that February and March are known to produce fierce winter storms. When icy and snowy weather is forecasted, weather closings and delays may be required. Decisions about delays and closings are made in consultation with our local Police Department, the area superintendents, and our Buildings and Grounds Supervisor. In addition, I receive weather updates from the Morris County Department of Emergency Management. It is my intention to make a decision early, so parents and families can plan accordingly.

Notifications to parents and staff are sent via email, text, and phone call through Honeywell, and posted on our district main website (www.mpsdk8.org). Announcements are also made on school voicemails, and New Jersey News Channel 12.

Community Support
The Morris Plains School District is extremely fortunate to work in collaboration with generous and supportive school community organizations, comprised of Morris Plains residents who volunteer their time to enhance our district.

The Education Foundation of Morris Plains recently awarded two grants at Mountain Way totaling $4,500.

Grant 1. Coding robots for Mountain Way: The devices requested represent a range of difficulty. The robots will be available to all classes, so that children with a special aptitude as well as children who need more help will be able to work with devices at their level.

Grant 2. Root Vue plant system for second grade classes. The 20 kits will service the entire second grade. The learners will take care of their own mini-garden and see the root system and underground growing veggies.

The Home & School Association agreed to fund a POS management system through June 2018. The POS system is an online food service management program for parents. Parents will have the ability to manage their child’s food service account online; including payment, etc.

The Municipal Alliance continues to provide resources and materials for students and parents within the school community. They have sponsored several student and parent presentations that address Mental Health and Wellness, Vaping, and Digital Citizenship.

Our children benefit a great deal when we practice the philosophy, “Together we can make a difference!” Please don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WeAreMPSD. In addition to posting important school activities and headlines, our social media sites serve as a window into the classrooms, showcasing best practices and student engagement.

All my best,
Morris Plains welcomes new business neighbor - Figtree Consulting, business software and technology experts, to 475 Speedwell Avenue. Owners are Borough residents Steve and Abby Rosenstein.
Menorah Lighting

“Peanuts!”
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Borough School Auditorium

This program is sponsored by the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance, with funding provided by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders in conjunction with the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Borough of Morris Plains.

THE MORRIS PLAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND VFW
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHRISTMAS TREE SALES!

Morris Plains Municipal Alliance
2018 Stage Fun
Presents

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 19, 2018
7PM TO 11PM

CASINO NIGHT
AT
GARDEN STATE HARLEY-DAVIDSON
1775 ROUTE 10 EAST ~ MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950 ~ 973.898.7100

BENEFITING OUR OWN...
MORRIS PLAINS FIRE ASSOCIATION

ROLL THE
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A
2018 H-D MOTORCYCLE!
BLACK JACK     ROULETTE     TEXAS HOLD 'EM     CRAPS
50/50, RAFFLES, PRIZES, REFRESHMENTS, MUSIC & MORE

*** DETAILED FLYER TO FOLLOW ***
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT RANDI @973-898-7100 OR INFO@GARDENSTATEHD.COM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHRISTMAS TREE SALES!
The Morris Plains Community Band is always looking for more members. We are a concert band of about thirty members, and would like to grow even larger. So if you play a band instrument - or you used to play in a band, come and check us out!

There is no audition, cost, commitment or obligation. Our members join us for rehearsals and concerts whenever they are available or wish to. The player that attends a few times a year is just as welcome as those who come every week. This is all about having fun playing music!

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.
Happy New Year! I’d like to thank everyone who has donated to our annual fundraising appeal. We have so many exciting things planned, so your donations are greatly appreciated.

I’d also like to thank our wonderful Morris Plains Garden Club for decorating our Library for the holidays. They always do such a great job and add so much to our holiday spirit.

Nothing’s worse than being snowed in without something good to read. Try these suggestions from our staff:

- ‘The Rooster Bar’ by John Grisham
- ‘Origin’ by Dan Brown
- ‘The People vs. Alex Cross’ by James Patterson
- ‘End Game’ by David Baldacci
- ‘Uncommon Type’ by Tom Hanks
- ‘Two Kinds of Truth’ by Michael Connelly
- ‘Hardcore Twenty-Four’ by Janet Evanovich
- ‘A Column of Fire’ by Ken Follett
- ‘Leonardo Da Vinci’ by Walter Isaacson
- ‘Grant’ by Jennifer Ron Chernow
- ‘Astrophysics for People in a Hurry’ by Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- ‘Sisters First’ by Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush

For our younger readers:

- ‘Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy’ by Doug Savage
- ‘Bird & Squirrel on Fire’ by James Burks
- ‘Duncan the Story Dragon’ by Amanda Driscoll
- ‘I Want that Nut’ by Madeline Valentine
- ‘Windows’ by Julia Denos

As the winter weather can be unpredictable, please remember that if the Morris Plains Public Schools are closed, our Library will be closed also. If it’s snowy on a Saturday, please call the Library at 973-538-2599 after 10:00 a.m. or check our Facebook page before venturing out.

To learn more about the Morris Plains Community Band, contact Larry at 973-984-2505 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!

While we are an all-volunteer organization, we do have expenses and we do need equipment. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the Borough of Morris Plains, and write “Community Band” on the memo line, then send it to Ana Thomas, CFO, Borough of Morris Plains, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, NJ 07950.

Happy New Year! I’d like to thank everyone who has donated to our annual fundraising appeal. We have so many exciting things planned, so your donations are greatly appreciated.

I’d also like to thank our wonderful Morris Plains Garden Club for decorating our Library for the holidays. They always do such a great job and add so much to our holiday spirit.

Nothing’s worse than being snowed in without something good to read. Try these suggestions from our staff:

- ‘The Rooster Bar’ by John Grisham
- ‘Origin’ by Dan Brown
- ‘The People vs. Alex Cross’ by James Patterson
- ‘End Game’ by David Baldacci
- ‘Uncommon Type’ by Tom Hanks
- ‘Two Kinds of Truth’ by Michael Connelly
- ‘Hardcore Twenty-Four’ by Janet Evanovich
- ‘A Column of Fire’ by Ken Follett
- ‘Leonardo Da Vinci’ by Walter Isaacson
- ‘Grant’ by Jennifer Ron Chernow
- ‘Astrophysics for People in a Hurry’ by Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- ‘Sisters First’ by Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush

For our younger readers:

- ‘Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy’ by Doug Savage
- ‘Bird & Squirrel on Fire’ by James Burks
- ‘Duncan the Story Dragon’ by Amanda Driscoll
- ‘I Want that Nut’ by Madeline Valentine
- ‘Windows’ by Julia Denos

As the winter weather can be unpredictable, please remember that if the Morris Plains Public Schools are closed, our Library will be closed also. If it’s snowy on a Saturday, please call the Library at 973-538-2599 after 10:00 a.m. or check our Facebook page before venturing out.

To learn more about the Morris Plains Community Band, contact Larry at 973-984-2505 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!

While we are an all-volunteer organization, we do have expenses and we do need equipment. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the Borough of Morris Plains, and write “Community Band” on the memo line, then send it to Ana Thomas, CFO, Borough of Morris Plains, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, NJ 07950.
Morris Plains Recreation 2018 Summer Programs!

Summer Program Registration Begins April 16th
Registration Fee Increases May 10th

Informative Flyers & Registration Materials will be available beginning April 13th @ morrisplainsboro.org

The Fun Begins June 25th – July 27th for Grades K-9/Fall of 2018!

Morris Plains Recreation Summer Program News!

Morris Plains Recreation Summer Counselor Employment

Morris Plains Community Park Pool
Pool Booklet & Membership Form available March 1st @ Morris Plains Community Center & morrisplainsboro.org

Come Swim With Us This Summer!

Preparations are underway for 2018 Summer Programs!

Applications for Summer Counselor Positions available at the Morris Plains Community Center Monday - Thursday, 9 AM-4 PM
Morris Plains Recreation 2018 Spring Programs!

Winter/Spring Recreation Programs: (pre registration required)

- Tuesday Evening Yoga with Lauren Deodino
- Thursday Evening Yoga with Peg Clark
- Gentle Beginner Yoga with Diane Tartaglia
- Karate - Olympic Sport for Kids with Goncalo Esteves
- Krav Maga Self Defense for a Better Life with Goncalo Esteves
- Drawing (Adult & Youth) with John Darvie
- Painting (Adult & Youth) with John Darvie

US Sports Institute Spring Programs: (pre registration required)

- Foundation Tennis
- Development Tennis
- Tennis Squirts

“Kids Helping Kids”, (pre registration required)

“The Magic of Reading”

Senior Programs (no fee or pre registration required)

- Adult Book Club with Charlot Lamm
  Every 4th Wednesday at 2PM
  Morris Plains Community Center
- Senior Exercise with Stacy Williamson
  Thursdays at 10AM
  Morris Plains Community Center

MP Residents: Men’s Basketball (no fee or pre registration required)
Thursday, 8:30-10PM MP Borough School

MP Residents: Men’s Soccer
(no fee or pre registration required)
Wednesday, 8:30-10PM MP Borough School

MP Residents: Young Adult Basketball (no fee or pre registration required)
Tuesday, 8:30-10PM MP Borough School

Professional Martial Arts Instructor, Goncalo Esteves, is bringing his award winning expertise to the Morris Plains Community Center offering two exciting New Programs:

Karate - Olympic Sport For Kids

Karate inspires behaviors of self worth, discipline, respect & promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Esteves will focus on the technique & mental aspects of martial arts while offering children a fun, safe, competitive sport.

March 5 to April 30
6 PM to 7 PM
Morris Plains Community Center
Ages: 7 to 12
Fee: $100.

Krav Maga
Self Defense for a Better Life

Krav Maga inspires behaviors of self worth, discipline, respect & stress reduction resulting in a healthy lifestyle through focused workouts.

Primary focus will be on the technique & behavior aspects of self-defense.

Students will effectively learn how to defend themselves & others through key scenarios.

March 5 to April 30
7 PM to 8 PM
Morris Plains Community Center
Ages: 5 - Adult
Fee: $100.

save the date...

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!

March 24 ~ 9 AM
Morris Plains Community Center

For additional information and registration forms, contact the Morris Plains Community Center at 973-538-3455
Monday - Thursday, 9AM - 4PM
or visit us @ morrisplainsboro.org
On January 1, 2018, the Morris Plains Police Department in conjunction with several local businesses, kicked off an exciting program designed to enhance the relationship between the community and your police officers. This program is the Morris Plains Police Trading Card Campaign. This exciting campaign allows the children of Morris Plains to meet their police officers by approaching them and asking for a trading card. The trading card is similar to that of a football or baseball card, with a photograph of the officer on the front and a small biography about the officer on the back. Additionally, you will see the name of several business sponsors who supported the program. When the child collects the card, it is his or hers to keep. The first four children to collect the entire card series can return to police headquarters for a prize that will be given to them by the Chief of Police, Jason A. Kohn. Please follow our Department on Facebook, where we will post when the prizes have been awarded.

**Rules for the trading card campaign to ensure the safety of the children are as follows:**

- Approach the police officer only when they are not busy
- When you approach a police officer, do so as you would any other adult, using the words, “excuse me and thank you”
- If the police officer is engaged in conversation, please wait until they are finished
- Do not chase police cars. If cars drive down your street wait until they stop, or for another opportunity
- In addition to meeting the officers on the street, many officers spend time at Police Headquarters, so feel free to stop down and meet them
- There is no deadline for collecting the cards
- Remember, this is a great opportunity to meet the officers of the Morris Plains Police Department. Parents are encouraged to bring the children to meet the officers, however do not pick cards up for your children

---

**Checklist of the officers to be collected:**

- [ ] Chief Jason Kohn
- [ ] Lieutenant Mike Rolph
- [ ] Lieutenant Mike Koroski
- [ ] Detective Sergeant Bruce Rapp
- [ ] Sergeant Jeff Hochman
- [ ] Sergeant Pete Rolph
- [ ] Officer Adam Klymko
- [ ] Detective Ryan McKay
- [ ] Officer Chris Cornine
- [ ] Officer Mike Kelly
- [ ] Officer Nick Grawehr
- [ ] Officer Robert Guild
- [ ] Officer Anne Marie Ferris
- [ ] Officer Joe Heinz
- [ ] Officer Brett Cerrato
- [ ] SPO Steve Donnelly
- [ ] SPO Jeff Paul
- [ ] Chief’s Secretary Sigal Rice
- [ ] Records Clerk Deann Carroll
- [ ] Records Clerk Mary Moore

---

**SOLICITOR OR SUSPICIOUS?**

Local Ordinance in the Borough requires that all solicitors, persons who visit homes or businesses with the purpose of selling or taking orders for items or work, have a permit to do so. The permit process includes a written application, fingerprinting, and background check completed by the Morris Plains Police Department. Once approved, the solicitor is required to carry their Borough issued permit with them while conducting business.

Soliciting may only be conducted during the hours of 10 o’clock in the morning and sunset, Monday through Saturday. If your home or business should be visited by a solicitor who does not have a permit or is acting suspiciously, you should contact the Morris Plains Police Department and request that an officer check on the individual.

For soliciting complaints or any other incident where you are reporting suspicious activity or a crime in progress, be able to provide the police dispatcher with a description of the person or vehicle involved and a license plate if possible.

www.morrisplainspolice.org
The Morris Plains Teen Center Board Members would like to share and review the mission of the Morris Plains Teen Center. The Morris Plains Teen Center is a non-profit organization created to provide a safe and engaging environment for young teens (grades 6-8) to socialize and have fun. We have three staff members that attend events and plan activities, as well as 7 parent volunteers that serve on the board. Additionally, we have Morris Plains Town Council representation that guides our funding, processes, and procedures. We rely on grant funding from local organizations, such as the GCADA (Governor’s Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse) through the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance, to make our events possible.

- **MPTC Goals/ Objectives:**
  - To provide structured/ supervised opportunities to promote positive peer interaction
  - To provide opportunities to increase independence and personal responsibility
  - To encourage appropriate self advocacy skills

With parent and community support, the MPTC will continue to assist in the cognitive, social and emotional functioning of our young teens. Research supports that teens with secure attachment to their family and their communities, are associated with less engagement in high risk behaviors, fewer mental health problems, and enhanced social skills and coping strategies.

With that in mind, please consider offering your time to become a member of the Morris Plains Teen Center Board. As of June 15, 2018, three Morris Plains Teen Center Board Members are ending their service term. The Board is in need of Board members to participate in the following capacities: Treasurer, Secretary, and Chaperone Coordinator.

As a Board member, the commitment is one evening meeting monthly from September through June. We have the specific responsibility descriptions available, by role, if you are interested. This is a Morris Plains appointed position. For more information, please email us at teencentermorrisplains@gmail.com. If you would prefer to speak with one of us directly, please indicate the role you are interested in and the current person in that role will call you.

Catherine Wagner, President /Chaperone Coordinator
Sheryl McNichol, Treasurer
Jenifer Dicker, Secretary
Kristen Coughlin, Fundraising Coordinator
Lisa Shay, Registration Coordinator
Ashley Daly, Program Coordinator
Hunter Parrillo, grandson of Buck and Hollie Parrillo and Andrew Nicholas, son of Brian and Jamie Nicholas, both of Morris Plains returned New Year’s Day from a week long trip to Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden as members of the USA Bulldog Youth Ice Hockey Team. The USA Bulldogs is an invitation only team for outstanding 9 and 10 year old players. Parrillo plays right-wing and Nicholas goalie. The team members come from seven different Morris County towns.

The team played very well in the European Holiday Ice Hockey Tournament. Their opponents included the top players from Sweden and Finland. According to Kevin Melly, General Manager, a couple hundred local spectators came out to support the home teams against the team from America, but that didn’t deter Team USA. Team USA went 5-0 in the tournament.

“I told our boys that the best compliment I can get about our team is when the game is over, win or lose, our opponent says “we would like to have you back”, said Melly. The team played against 5 different teams while abroad, winning all 5 games. They shared dinner and camaraderie with their European counterparts.

The team and more than 50 family members who traveled with them, did more than hockey. In between games they went on a cruise between Stockholm and Helsinki, visited the world famous Vasa Museum, the Royal Palace of the King and Queen of Sweden and attended a professional hockey game between Djurgarden Stockholm vs. IF Malmo Redhawks. Before the team left for their European trip, the members were presented with a U.S. Congressional Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Senate for their high level of play.

Members of the team are: Morristown’s Jordan Papadopoulos, 9 Roxbury’s Ryan Van Zile, 10, Randolph’s Shane Melly, 10, Roxbury’s Nick Colatrella, 10, Denville’s Jake McCloud, 10, Randolph’s Keegan Melly, 10, Randolph’s Robert Magnotta, 10, Morris Plains’ Andrew Nicholas 9, Jefferson’s Hunter Parrillo, 9, Stanhope’s Ryan Puco, 9 Head Coach Rob Magnotta and General Manager Kevin Melly.
**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE OFFICIAL**

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

**Happy 100th Birthday!**

Happy Birthday to Lucretia (Laura) Acquaviva who will be 100 years old on February 7, 2018! She is a happy healthy mother, grandmother and great grandmother who is loved dearly and is the cornerstone of her big extended family. Laura has 2 sons, three daughters, 2 daughters-in-law and two sons-in-law along with 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and two on their way. Her life has been that of love, giving, caring and prayer.

**Conflux**

*Threat from the Troika*

**William Brazzel**

A new threat to the United States has emerged within its own borders. Deutsche Christen, a powerful paramilitary organization, led by a ruthless ex-Special Forces Officer, Carl Dietrich, is threatening to overthrow the U.S. government and assume absolute power over the country.

Hoping to garner additional members for his organization, he demands an interview with Sean Carrol, an ex-Special Forces officer and an investigative reporter. Dietrich orders that their meeting be held at one of the Deutsche Christen paramilitary camps. To assure Sean’s cooperation, he kidnaps his niece and nephew.

Understanding Dietrich’s rationale for the meeting and further realizing that his niece and nephew aren’t going to be released, Sean develops a plan to rescue the children. Desperate, he along with Colonel Gannon, his ex-commander, reorganize his old Special Forces team and create a rescue mission.

While tensions rise worldwide and threats of war loom, panic takes center stage, as the prospect for cataclysmic destruction promises to annihilate civilization as we know it.

*Conflux* is the 2nd novel produced by author and long-time Morris Plains resident, Bill Brazzel

---

**BLOOD DRIVE DATES**

Mark your calendars! All blood drives will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains at 400 Speedwell Avenue from 8 AM to 2 PM.

- March 3rd
- April 14th
- May 5th
- June 9th
- July 7th
- August 4th
- September 1st
- October 13th
- November 24th
- December 29th

Sponsored by Morris Plains Rotary
MPFD TEACHES SCOUTS WHY WE RESPECT OUR FLAG

Mark Maire, Superintendent of Schools and Mark Guida, Cub Scout Leader recently reached out to the Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department to have our members and veterans teach the Cub Scouts why we respect the flag, how to care for it, the reason for the colors and number of stars and how to fold it.

Jack Van Orden - Army Veteran, Lt Mike Rolph - Marine Veteran, Phil Wilk - Army Veteran and Al Florin - National Guard Veteran were the instructors for the evening. We also had a number of firemen present to assist with showing the kids our fire trucks after the presentation.

It was an awesome evening and we were just as impressed with the young Scouts as they were with us volunteer firemen and veterans.

The deadline for the next issue of Plains Talk is April 13th, 2018. Please submit articles and pictures to plainstalknews@gmail.com.