WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION!

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I want to welcome you to the first Newsletter. This is truly a work in progress, which we hope will be improved, with your feedback. In each edition, there will be an interview with a Department Head or Committee member so that you can learn about the workings of the people that do the day-to-day managing of your Borough. This edition features an interview with our Police Chief. Also, inside is a Postal survey that will help Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, who, along with Council President Rotando, is working at improving the quality of the Postal Service. We also have news from around town: upcoming events, and information about our various departments. We look forward to hearing from you, and I invite feedback on how to make this better. Please send all Comments to my attention at Borough Hall or e-mail me at michael@lawduo.com

MICHAEL A. CARLUCCI
EDITOR

POSTAL SURVEY

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen has requested that we conduct a service survey of the U.S. Postal Department. Completing the form enclosed will aid us in correlating and categorizing service problems that can be brought to the attention of Postal Officials.

Based on prior complaints received by the Congressman’s Office, he, along with Council President Ralph Rotando has held several meetings with Postal Officials to discuss corrective measures. Once current issues are reviewed and compared with those previously identified, a new series of meetings will be held and the results published in future newsletters.

Please return forms to the attention of Councilman Ralph Rotando at the Morris Plains Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue.

TEEN CENTER GRAND OPENING
September 15, 2000

HEALTH FAIR
September 23, 2000

MORRIS PLAINs DAY
September 23, 2000
ON THE RECORD
WITH MORRIS PLAINS
POLICE CHIEF
DOUGLAS SCHERZER

Q: Can you tell us about your background in Law Enforcement that got you to the Chiefs position?

A: While in high school, I made a conscious decision to become a police officer. Upon graduation from Morristown High School, I attended County College of Morris and received an Associates Degree. From there, I went onto William Paterson College and received a Bachelors Degree in Public Safety Administration. My first law enforcement position, with the Greystone Park Police, afforded me the opportunity to attend the NJ State Police Training Academy, where I received my police training certification.

During my career I have had the opportunity to attend many advanced training courses sponsored by the FBI, Secret Service and the DEA, just to name a few.

Presently I hold a Masters Degree in Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, with a Certificate in Public Management.

Q: I understand that you are involved with a number of professional organizations at the State level, what are they, what is your involvement and why do you believe it is important to be so involved?

A: I am presently 4th Vice President of the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police. We have over 450 members, responsible for overseeing the more than 45,000 police officers in the State of New Jersey. I am committed to ensuring that New Jersey remains at the forefront of law enforcement initiatives. I presently chair a committee, which is investigating the need to set minimum qualifications for the position of Chief Law Enforcement Officer. This program would require a certification process along with continuing education requirements. This program would have an impact on every citizen of the State, by insuring a future of quality trained and educated police management professionals.

Q: Would you describe your department, its members and their roles and if you could include the dispatchers and support staff?

A: The authorized strength of the Police Department has been 16 sworn police officers since 1995. The department is basically divided into two major divisions; the Patrol Division and the Investigative Division.

The Patrol Division consists of 12 officers: four Patrol Sergeants and eight Patrolmen. They are the uniformed personnel, who are required to work around the clock, weekends and holidays.

They are the backbone of the department. They respond to every type of situation from a child not breathing to assisting a motorist locked out of their car and every eventuality in between.

The investigative division consists of two Detectives. They are responsible to follow-up on all criminal investigations, license applications, and coordinate all court procedures at the Local and State level.

The Administration of the department comes under one of the many responsibilities of the Chief of Police. The Chief is assisted by one Lieutenant. The lieutenant oversees the Patrol Division, and is responsible to coordinate scheduling of personnel and all training issues.

The support staff consists of a Records Clerk and the Chief's Secretary. The Records Clerk is responsible for all department records and reports. The Chief's Secretary is much more than a secretary. She is truly an Administrative Assistant and assists all personnel with data entry and preparation of reports.

The unsung heroes of the department are the four Telecommunicators. More commonly referred to as Dispatchers. These trained and certified individuals are an integral part of a comprehensive service delivery system that provides the citizens of Morris Plains with direct contact to the Police Officer in the field. These Dispatchers provide the officers with a link to all other services.
available and coordinate those responses such as Fire Fighters, Emergency Medical Services and the like. They are the vital link between the citizens and the emergency services they receive.

School Crossing Guards also come under the control and supervision of the Police Department.

Q-Your officers tell me that you are committed to improved technology in the department. What changes have you made and what is in the future?

A-The most recent improvements are a state of the art two-way radio system and a “Windows” based information management system.

The radio system took several years to plan, design and install. The project was completed in early 1999. This system allows the officer to be virtually anywhere in the Borough and utilizing a hand held radio speak with our dispatch system.

This radio system replaced a system that was over 30 years old and over the years had become unreliable. This system also allows inter-agency communications with surrounding police departments, which the old system did not.

The new computer system not only stores and retrieves information more quickly, it is more user-friendly and has reduced duplicate system entries. With a “Computer Aided Dispatch” program, the dispatcher enters information on the initial call, and subsequent information is added to the record by the officer. This system also provides the Dispatcher with information about a specific location that an officer is dispatched to that could be critical in nature. Additionally, the program has been approved by the State Police, and mandatory reporting can now be accomplished in a matter of a few seconds. Previously, record retrieval took several hours.

This year, with the help of a federal grant computers will be added to each patrol vehicle. This will allow officers to complete all reports without the necessity of returning to Police Headquarters, virtually increasing patrol time of each officer.

These computers will have the capability of being directly linked to Headquarters by advanced wireless technology. This is a future goal of the department and would provide instantaneous record information to officers on the road. Critical and confidential information would be immediately available to the officer without any delay.

Q-Which of your many accomplishments in the department are you most pleased to have achieved?

A-Apart from the technical equipment, I am most pleased with the selection process we have used in recent years to hire the best and brightest Police Officers in the state. I am proud of our accomplishments and the citizens of Morris Plains should know that their Police Officers are second to none. The supervisors of the department deserve much credit for maintaining a loyal and dedicated staff.

A-What do you see as the next hurdle you and the force will face?

Personnel development will remain key to the future of the department. It takes time to develop young officers to internalize their feelings of being an integral part of this community.

All this must be accomplished while officers today face a greater threat of physical violence than at any other time in the history of law enforcement. This, at a time in history when the public has the least respect for the police and scrutinize even the most minute action that they take.

Calls for service have not only increased in recent years, but the complexity of these calls has also changed.

A continuing and proactive approach to training and development will assure that the personnel of this department are afforded the tools and techniques to be able to deal with these complex issues and be the leaders that this community deserves in the future.
COMING SOON IN A BOOKSTORE NEAR YOU: A NEW HISTORY OF MORRIS PLAINS!

Morris Plains: where Teddy Roosevelt, Gustav Stickley and Thomas Edison dined with Buffalo Bill, Lillian Russell and the Flora Dora girls.... Home to the first mighty Arabian horses ever to be spirited out of the Arabian Desert.... Where the wealthy and powerful built luxurious mansions and rode the "Millionaire's Special" to New York.

Find out about these fascinating stories of Morris Plains" past and more, in a brand new book that shows you how things use to be in your hometown. With more then 200 pictures, many of them never before printed, you will see Morris Plains as you never saw it before. You have probably seen some of Arcadia Publishing's histories on other towns in bookstores and other outlets. Now it is our turn! The Morris Plains Museum's book proposal was accepted by Arcadia last winter; and after a very busy spring and summer writing and researching the book, we are about to go into production.

The book will be available in early fall, plenty of time to be tucked into stockings or wrapped in holiday paper for a really special gift.

Morris Plains Historian Dan Myers guided the research for the book. Museum President Virginia Vogt did the writing. Maryclare Myers identified and tracked the photographs.

Many current or former Morris Plains residents donated the Book's sensational photographs.

Morris Plains is full of surprises, and we have the pictures and stories to prove it!

"A PLACE FOR TEENS TO GO"

Under the guidance of Art Elias, Chairman of the Teen Center, Jennifer and Christopher Brady, our Teen Center Coordinators, Council Liaison Michael Carlauci and a group of dedicated parents our New Teen Center will open on Friday September 15, 2000.

The Borough, in a creative and caring fashion, acquired the center, located at 27 Tabor Road. The previous owners were given a "Life Estate" in the home, allowing them to remain in the "Community of Caring" while selling their house to the Borough. When the family relocated, the home became the Borough's. The Mayor and Council, seeing the need for a more comprehensive teen activity center, committed the property for the use of the teens in the Borough.

"Special Thanks" to our DPW staff, who were always there to help in the renovations, the parents who spent many hours painting the interior, and Gary Windt and his Company, Re:Source New Jersey, Inc. who completely carpeted the home at no expense to the Borough!!

RECYCLING NOTES

Hazardous Waste Day in this area is on Sunday, September 17th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fire & Police Training Academy on West Hanover Avenue.

FROM THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Fact Sheet on West Nile Virus

What is West Nile Virus?

A virus of Birds that is transmitted by the common house mosquitoes. Threat usually in those over 40 years old; fatalities rare, usually limited to those over 60 who are not in good health. Symptoms, if they appear, show in one to two weeks. If the Virus occurs, threat is in the summer.

How can you help?

Clean up containers that hold water around your yard – buckets, birdbaths, tires, pool covers, wading pools, and gutters. The house mosquito needs standing water to multiply—YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! If you remove these sources, you eliminate the problem.
**"TELL A FRIEND"**
**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SEeks Volunteers**

Become part of a community-wide effort to make sure that every woman who needs a mammogram gets one! Breast cancer detected in its early stages is highly curable, and mammography is the best tool available for early detection. **TELL A FRIEND** a program designed to seek a network of women (Volunteers) to contact friends and encourage them to get a mammogram. This program has been proven to work! Interested? Call Marie Accetturo, Eastern Division director of Breast Health at the American Cancer Society, (908) 453-2103. For general questions about services offered at the American Cancer Society call 800-ACS-2345. The calls you make might save a life of a friend!

**IN MEMORY OF A LIFE LONG Morris Plains Resident**

**Arthur G. Windt**

Life long Morris Plains resident and community cornerstone died this April. He was a lieutenant in the Morris Plains Police Force for thirty -one years. He also served as a member of the Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department and their exempt Firemen's Association; the Morris Minute Men volunteer rescue squad and the Saint Virgil's Church. He was and is a reminder of why this Borough is called the Community of Caring.

**BOROUGH EAGLE SCOUT GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY**

On April 6, 2000, Scott J. Kaczmarek, came to the Council requesting permission to complete a volunteer Eagle Scout Service Project in Community Park. He wanted to construct a nature path. The Council was quite impressed by the presentation of this mature young man. Permission was given and the project began. As of June 3, 2000 the Borough Park has a new addition to the beautiful environment. Scott, with his volunteers rerouted and expanded the trail, bags full of litter and waste were removed, and soil erosion bars were placed along the path. A new bench on the shore of Community Park Pond was built, mulch placed in muddy areas and the entire path marked with red markers. From the Council and the Community Thanks Scott!

**THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 2000**

**FINANCE:**
Stephen S. Welsh (chair)
Leo J. Buckley
Donald F. Underhill

Responsibilities:
Borough Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Attorney, Library, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Borough Auditor and Elections.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**
Ralph Rotando (chair)
Ted Kosakowski
Stephen S. Welsh

Responsibilities:
Police Department, Municipal Court, Licenses, Juvenile Delinq., Liaison-Transportation, Fire
THE COMMUNITY OF CARING

PLAINS TALK AUGUST 2000


PUBLIC WORKS

Ted Kosakowski (Chair)
Michael Carlucci
Ralph Rotondo

Responsibilities:
Leaf collection, brush collection, snow removal, sewer maintenance, Public works, storm drains, Park maintenance, roads curbs and sidewalks, Engineer, Liaison to State & County Highways.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Leo J. Buckley (chair)

PUBLIC WELFARE, SANATION & SEWERS

Ted J. Kosakowski
Ralph R. Rotando

Responsibilities:
Swimming pool, public parks, Roberts Garden, Municipal Grounds, Patriotic Celebrations, Borough Owned Lands, Recreation Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Municipal Buildings

ORDINANCE & PUBLIC UTILITIES

Donald F. Underhill (chair)
Michael A. Carlucci
Stephen S. Welsh

Responsibilities:
Ordinances, Street lights, Zoning Officer, Planning, Board of Adjustment, Building, Plumbing, Electrical & Fire Sub-code Officials, electricity, Water, Telephone & Cable TV

“POP” QUIZ

Complimentary Sundae at Friendly’s for first person to submit correct answer:

Q – Who was the first mayor of Morris Plains?