Tonight, at our annual Reorganization Meeting, I will report on 2019 accomplishments and share plans and goals for 2020.

The Governing Body continues to work on the Borough’s infrastructure. In 2019, we paved Idlewild Drive, Kathleen Place, Bryce Way, Municipal Parking Lots off Franklin Place and the entrance to Simons Park. Concrete sidewalk repairs were made throughout the Borough and Town Hall with ongoing work to the handicap ramp and stairs at the Annex. The Council approved 2020 projects which include the paving of Granniss Avenue, in which we received a grant for over $110,000, Sunset Road, Sylvan Drive from Trowbridge Road to Mountain Way, Janeway Place, Fire Department Ramp, and an area at the rear of the Teen Center, a small section at Watnong Park. Our largest paving project is Parker Drive, which we received a grant from the NJDOT for $225,000.00. We anticipate the replacement of a gas main by PSE&G along the north side of West Hanover Avenue from Stiles Avenue to Littleton Road, with road restoration by PSE&G.

Additional flags were added along Route 202 and Route 53 going past the 9/11 Memorial to the VFW celebrating Patriotic holidays. The Council, along with the Planning Board and other departments, have steadily moved forward with the latest recommendations to the Master Plan and will continue working to its completion. Handicap parking spaces as well as a loading and unloading zone were added in front of the Community Center. Also, I anticipate in the coming weeks three new “Veterans Only” parking spaces will be implemented at the Community Center for recognizing our Veterans.

With input from the Council, Police Department, Traffic Engineer, Borough Engineer and Residents; a crosswalk, which was agreed to be in a dangerous area, was moved to the area of Stiles Avenue and Glenbrook Road which is considered much safer after a study was conducted by our professionals. The Department of Public Works did a fantastic job in relocating and constructing an ADA compliant sidewalk and ramp, as well as the installation of new signage and painting of the crosswalk located on Stiles Avenue. This decision was made for the safety of all pedestrians using the crosswalk.

The Council is in receipt of the Trans Options Walkability Study which was conducted over the summer with the assistance of the Police Department, Department of Public Works, Borough Engineer, Crossing Guards, and Governing Body. It is my desire to work to implement their recommendations, both short term and long term. Thank you to Trans Options for this service.

The adding of a third lane on Route 10 East from Route 53 to Route 202, looks to be moving forward after 20 years of pushing by our previous administration. The NJDOT is now in the conceptual plan phase which will take between 6 to 12 months. Conversations will continue between the Borough, our professionals and NJDOT to monitor the progress. The Borough also discussed with NJDOT a turn lane into the train station from Route 202 South and two lanes on Route 53 approaching Route 202 in order to allow for a right turn lane onto Route 202 South.

This year the Council and I worked with Rabbi Benjaminson on adding a second menorah to the holiday decorations to stand strong and show our support for the Jewish Community. The menorah lighting was the largest since it started ten years ago.

The SMCMUA completed projects in town which included a new a water main section from Jim Fear Drive to Parker Drive and from Forest Drive to Park Road in order to eliminate dead ends in the system. All roads were paved and restoration is complete.

Upgrades to the Borough’s website are ongoing and our Town Code Book and Land Development Ordinances were added in 2019. Watch for additional upgrades in 2020.

The new ladder, or Quint, fire truck has been ordered after numerous development meetings which have been a huge undertaking by our 100% volunteer 100% of the time Fire Department and Truck Committee. Members from the Truck Committee have traveled on their own time to Wisconsin to finalize design plans and will again, when the building phase of the apparatus begins. Anticipated delivery will be sometime this summer.

Everyone noticed JCP&L and their tree crews throughout town during summer months conducting vegetation control around power lines. This work is conducted every 4 years and I believe it works. While others are dealing with power outages, downed trees and wires, the Borough is in good shape.

I found “The Community of Caring’s” second slogan “It Never Rains in Morris Plains,” hard to believe at the
In 2019, the Blood Bank, coordinated by Larry Ripley, had its most donors since 2005, and is looking to have a better year in 2020. Thank you, Larry. Along with the Blood Bank, our Community Garden had the best crops ever, donating over 3,700 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to the local food pantry. Thank you to all our gardeners and to the nearly 800 blood donors.

Business was good in “The Community of Caring” during 2019, with the opening of nine new businesses. Morris County’s first and only Chick-Fil-A, First Watch Cafe, Skechers, Freshii, Delicias Latinas, Morris Wine and Liquor, All State, Blacktree Residential Reality and Bollywood Grill 2. 2020 will see more openings. Please patronize our local businesses as they do support local teams and students throughout the year.

As for the anticipated new construction for the Borough, the JMF property named “The American” on American Road, should be progressing starting in February. The old buildings have been demolished and the developer is anxious to begin site work and building. Streets in this development will be named for resident military war veterans. The M&M property on Route 53 and Vision Property also on Route 53 both completed the Planning Board process and received respective approvals. Vision property which is on the east side of Route 53 has demolished the child day care center and will be exporting dirt across Route 53 to the M&M site. The Council has approved their demolition permits for the large beige brick building on their property. M&M will be starting site work beginning the 2nd quarter of 2020. Most importantly, the lawsuit brought by MANE has been dismissed and the developers and Borough can now move forward.

Our Police Department continues their successful “Coffee With a Cop” where residents can get questions answered, have your child meet an officer up close and talk with him or her, or just shake their hand to say, “Thank you.” Be sure to look for announcements of their scheduled dates in 2020. Thank you to our men and women in blue. I would like to congratulate our Police Department on receiving the “Morris County Sheriff’s Crime Stoppers Leaping Leo Award,” for professionalism and creativity in the use of the Crime Stopper Programs to solve crimes and make arrests. In my opinion, and that of others, this is a very big deal. Congratulations again.

Eagle Scout candidates from Boy Scout Troop 39 and other local troops have started and/or completed various projects around the Borough and surrounding towns. A few of the projects include the dock being completed at Community Park Pond, a welcome sign, bat houses and the mapping of Borough trails which will soon be posted on our website. Thank you to our Eagle Scouts, volunteers and businesses for these successful and beneficial projects.

During 2019, we lost some truly instrumental figures in Morris Plains’ growth and prosperity through the years. Ralph Lopez, 32-year Planning Board member and Rotarian. Jack Kimble, 31-year retired employee of the Department of Public Works and Jack Doherty, Recreation Committee, sports coach, former Borough CFO, SMCMUA Commissioner, Rotarian and past Councilman. Thank you for all your service to “The Community of Caring.” You all will be missed.

At this time, I would like to say a few words recognizing the following: Mackey Pendergrast, Superintendent of the Morris School District for being named the 2019 Regional Superintendent of the Year for North Jersey and also named New Jersey Superintendent of the Year. We are very lucky to have such an educator at the helm for our students at Morristown High School. Further, I would like to recognize Karen Coffey and our retiring Police Chief, Jason Kohn, for their 25 years of employment at the Borough in 2019. Karen and Jason, thank you for your service and dedication to “The Community of Caring,” its residents and your respective departments. Your hard work doesn’t go unnoticed. Last, but certainly not least, our retiring Councilwoman Suzanne B. McCluskey. Thank you for 18 years of countless hours as a Councilmember. Your commitment to the residents of Morris Plains was always evident and the Council, residents and employees will miss you. Congratulations on your retirement from the Council.

This has been a year of firsts for many of us, including myself, but with the continued support from each other, our professionals and employees of this great Community, we are in good hands. Our Department of Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, Employees, and Professionals are second to none. The accomplishments and strides
we made this year never skipped a beat and I am extremely proud! A saying I came upon by an unnamed author says, “We cannot change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails...” We have adjusted our sails many times and will again many more times in 2020 to keep Morris Plains, “The Community of Caring” pointed in the right direction for all.

I encourage everyone to sign up for the Morris Plains Email Alert and Smart911. Links may be found on the Borough’s website. This will enable you to keep up with the happenings of Morris Plains and will assist Fire Responders in the event of an emergency.

One thing that continues to make our Borough unique is the dedicated volunteers who keep “The Community of Caring” working. Anything that interests you, we have a position. This includes playing in the Community Band—for all ages; the Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department, that you can join at age 14; the Morris Minute Men First Aid Squad that you can join at the age of 16; our Museum for those who enjoy history; the Garden Club, Beautification Committee and Clean Communities Program, for those who enjoy the outdoors; and the many sports groups and scouts. We can always use volunteers, and there is something for all ages and interests. They all do a spectacular job; and our residents appreciate all that they do, whatever it may be.

On behalf of the Borough Council, I wish to thank the Borough employees, all of the many volunteers on boards, commissions and committees, and all citizens for your commitment to our town. This is what makes it truly special. We thank you for your continued trust in us. We are always available, and always welcome your thoughts.

Happy New Year and God Bless You:
Mayor Jason C. Karr

Chief Jason Kohn Honored with “Walk-Off” as He Retires from the MPPD

Police Chief Jason Kohn’s retirement was honored with a Community-of-Caring-style “walk-off” at Borough Hall, with Borough staff and many local dignitaries in attendance. The Borough thanks Jason for his 25 dedicated years of service to the MPPD and we wish him a very happy retirement.

We Extend Our Congratulations & Appreciation to

**KAREN COFFEY**
Secretary to the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board and Shade Tree Commission.

**TRACY ROONEY**
Assistant Financial Officer

Recently Honored for Their 25 Years of Dedicated Service in the Borough
**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!

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**MOMS Club of Morris Plains**

The MOMS Club of Morris Plains is dedicated to providing support, camaraderie, and activities for moms and their children. In September, our Club adopted ten students, ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, so they could begin the school year with backpacks full of supplies. For Thanksgiving, we collected over 180 pounds of food for the Morris County Interfaith Food Pantry, and we didn’t slow down as the holiday season came. We spread cheer by continuing the tradition of adopting a local family during the holiday season. Our Club members are having a great time not only planning wonderfully fun activities for ourselves and our little ones but also helping to instill in our youngest community members a great sense of citizenship, service, and pride! For more information about The MOMS Club of Morris Plains or to join our club, please visit us on Facebook or Meetup.com.

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**Important Reminder from Our Department of Public Works**

There is no curbside pick up of leaves done in the Spring. Please either compost any remaining leaves or have them removed by your landscaping contractor. Leaves may not be included with grass clippings. Thank you for your cooperation!

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**Thank You, Morris Plains Rotary Club!**

The folks from Morris Sign Co. braved the 16 degree weather to install the *new Welcome to Morris Plains* sign at Rotary Park. On hand to supervise was the one and only Frank Druetzler. The installers from Morris Sign are Brendan Curry on the left and James Hoehn on the right.

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**Please Feed the Barrels**

**Morris Plains Clean Communities**
Happy New Year to our entire Morris Plains school community! As a district, we renew our commitment to helping all children succeed to the best of their own individual abilities. We resolve to continue to offer a wonderful, safe, and nurturing learning environment for all of our students. We also look forward to our continued partnership with our community.

As a school district, we remain committed to our strategic goals:

- Improve the social and emotional wellness of our students.
- Improve our data collection of stakeholder perspectives, student learning, and school process.
- Foster empathy and global awareness in our student body.
- Increase student access to learning spaces that align to the district’s instructional vision.

As we look towards the future of the Morris Plains School District, we are encouraged by the dedication and passion of our staff and the enthusiasm and diligence of our students.

Drafting the 2020-2021 Budget

In creating the annual budget, we conduct a challenging balancing act between two, often competing interests: providing the resources necessary to maintain excellence in education and exercising fiscal responsibility in order to minimize the impact on our taxpayers.

Administration is working diligently to ensure that all the items in the budget are essential to the effective operation of our district and support the needs of our students. A board presentation on the proposed 2020-2021 budget is scheduled for April 28th at 7:00pm in the Borough School STEAM lab. The presentation will be open to the public, and will also be available on the district website.

Board of Education News

At the January 6th board meeting, incumbent board members Adam Higgins and Maria Manley were sworn into the Morris Plains Board of Education to begin a three-year term. Denise Rawding was re-elected Board President and Shawna Longo was re-elected Vice President. The third elected board official, Christina Perry, was sworn into the Morris Plains Board of Education at the January 21, 2020 board meeting.

During the business portion of the January 6th board meeting, the Morris Plains Board of Education appointed Mrs. Catherine Jenisch as Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective February 1, 2020. Mrs. Jenisch comes to Morris Plains with over 10 years of experience as a Business Administrator. Her experience will serve us well in Morris Plains. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Jenisch to the Morris Plains school community.

Mrs. Jenisch replaced Ms. Barkman, who resigned to accept the same position in a district closer to her residence. I would like to thank Ms. Barkman for her time, professionalism, and commitment to the Morris Plains School District over the past 4 years. Together, we have accomplished many great tasks. We wish her continued success on her next chapter.

January – National School Board Recognition Month

One of the most important groups of a school district’s organization is the Board of Education. Nine people from our community volunteer to help provide guidance and direction to our school system. January was National School Board Recognition Month. I would like to express to the members of our Board, and to our community, my sincere thanks for the work, talent, and time that each member dedicates to our district. Throughout my tenure, I have had the pleasure of working with a diverse group of individuals who share ideas, debate issues and work very hard to be a supportive and caring unit. Individual board members have come and gone, but the one consistent trait of all those who have served has been the fact that they always put students first in their decisions.

Each of our nine board members is elected to a three year term. As the lead governing body, the board advocates for our children by setting a clear direction for the district while upholding the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

Please join me in expressing to our Board of Education that we recognize and appreciate them for what they do for our community and our schools.

Inclement Weather Decisions

When inclement weather strikes, the decisions surrounding delayed openings, early dismissals, and school closures take many factors into account. Student safety remains paramount. Honeywell Instant Alert for Schools is our main notification tool for school closings, early dismissal, and delayed openings due to inclement weather. Families have the option to receive Honeywell text message notifications, in addition to the usual phone and email messages. If you have not yet completed a registration form and would like to be included in the Honeywell alert system, please email Cristie Bruhn at cbruhn@mpsdk8.org.

In addition to utilizing the Honeywell Alert system, school closing
information is posted on the district website (mpsdk8.org) and on New Jersey News Channel 12.

2020-2021 School Calendar

The board of education is in the process of approving the 2020-2021 school calendar. Once next year’s calendar is approved (February board meeting), it will be posted on the district website for folks to access. The Morris Plains School District works closely with the Morris School District to maintain continuity and consistency.

Community Support

MPSD is extremely fortunate to work in collaboration with generous and supportive school-community organizations, composed of Morris Plains residents and staff who volunteer their time to enhance our district.

Below are some upcoming events that are worthy to note:

**MPEA Volleyball Fundraiser - March 6:**
The Morris Plains Education Association raises money each year to offer scholarships to high school seniors who graduated from Borough School.

**HSA Friday Night Strikes Bowling Fundraiser - March 20**
Mark Your Calendars! Friday Night Strikes is the MPHSA's biggest fundraiser of the year! Join the MPHSA for a fun night of bowling, food and another AMAZING basket raffle! If you would like to make a donation or sponsor a lane, please contact the MPHSA at MorrisPlainsHSA@gmail.com. Please keep an eye on the HSA website and Facebook page, along with your student's backpack mail, for ticket information and sales. We hope to see you all there....Let’s Bowl, Let’s Bowl, Let’s Rock & Roll!

**EFMP Strides for Education - May 31**
The Strides for Education 5K is back, and better than ever! The Education Foundation of Morris Plains is pleased to announce that the 5th Annual Strides for Education 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run will take place on Sunday, May 31, at 9 a.m., beginning and ending at Simons Park. This year, the race is a flat course on the streets of Morris Plains, suitable for runners and walkers of all kinds. To learn about becoming a sponsor or to help out as a volunteer write to educationfoundationmp@gmail.com.

**Borough School Spelling Bee Winner**
On December 19th, Borough School held a school-wide spelling bee. Students representing all six grade levels competed against one another in front of the entire student body. At the conclusion of the Spelling Bee, Anna Grace was crowned the Borough School 2019-2020 Spelling Bee Champion.

Please don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @WeAreMPSD.

It is an exciting time to be involved in education and working collaboratively to support our community’s educational programs. Our children benefit a great deal when we practice the philosophy, “Together we can make a difference!”

All my best,

Mark Mauro
GET READY FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

Since 1790, the U.S. Constitution has required that every person living in the United States be counted every 10 years. Census data are used to determine the number of seats for each state in the House of Representatives and serve as the basis for drawing districts for federal, state, and local offices, including school districts. Results also determine how much federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for roads, schools, health centers, emergency services and more.

Beginning March 12, 2020 the Census Bureau will mail census materials inviting residents to respond online at www.2020census.gov using a unique code, by telephone, or by mail. Households that do not respond may receive a phone call or in-person visit from a Census Bureau employee.

Your cooperation in providing timely, accurate data is appreciated and important to Morris Plains' future. The questionnaire should take about 10 minutes, and all personal data is kept strictly confidential. For more information about the 2020 census, please visit www.census.gov.

Winnie The Pooh Kids Performance at Borough School

Winnie The Pooh Kids was performed on November 21 by children in grades 4 - 7 as part of the Stage Fun children's theater program sponsored by the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC).

This theater arts program engages kids to learn the music, choreography and dialogue to perform a theater production. The program is under the talented Stage Direction of actor, director and playwright Joe Wohlgemuth, with Musical Direction by actor, musician, composer, and local music teacher Matthew Pomel.

MPMAC is a coalition of Morris Plains citizens, community leaders and representatives of organizations and schools working together toward the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. Part of our mission is to provide children with positive experiences like Stage Fun - to build confidence, self-esteem, coping skills, which foster resistance skills. It also helps guide them toward positive outlets in their youth, so they make responsible choices as young adults.

Stage Fun Program Coordinator Role opening up on the MPMAC: Whether you have a child in grades 4 - 7 who enjoy theater, want to channel your own creative interests, or you want to make a difference in children’s lives, we hope you will consider contacting MPMAC to help continue this incredible program for our community. Position responsibilities include program marketing, registration, weekly coordination, parent communications, coordinating parent volunteers as well as coordinating costume development, props, and sets as needed.

For more information, please contact Laurie Cama at osullivancama23@gmail.com or MPMAC at mpmacinfo@gmail.com.

All Seasons Garden Club

1,000 red and silver bows at the November meeting and then decorated the 94 tubs with the bows – awesome job. A big thank you also to the Public Works Department for planting the trees for us, and to all the children in the town who decorated them with such creative ornaments.

As we wait for the warmer weather to plant the annuals into the tubs, we get to relax and enjoy our scheduled programs. February’s program focused on house plants while March will be dedicated to the Plight of the Pollinators. On April 15, the club will host a program on Herbs. Open to any Morris Plains resident, if you would like to attend, please contact Lu Ann (973 644-4612).

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., and we always welcome guests. If you want to find out more about our club, please call Sue Strelec at 973-476-6325. We’d be happy to have you join us for a meeting.

Morris Plains Seniors

The Morris Plains Seniors are open and inviting all Morris Plains residents 62 years and up to join us at our next meeting. We meet at the Community Center the second Monday of each month at 12:30 PM. At our meetings we have lunch every other month and a speaker or entertainment. There are always homemade desserts, coffee and tea. Our members have the opportunity to sign up for group day trips. Please drop by and give us a try!

For more information call our President, Peter Dombrowski at 973-214-6803.
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF MORRIS PLAINS,

This year marks the 113th year of service of the Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department. “100% Volunteer, 100% of the Time.” As Chief of the Department, I would like to recap 2018 and 2019. In 2018, the department responded to 333 incidents, and in 2019, we responded to 342 incidents. 2020 looks to be just as busy, with the anticipation of the arrival of a new Pierce 100’ Ascendant Aerial Tower which will be replacing our current 1993 Seagrave 100’ Aerial. Members visited the factory back in October to finalize the plans, and production began this month. The scheduled arrival date is late May, to be followed by a “Wet Down” in September. We will be receiving photos and written reports as the build proceeds. These will be posted on our website as well as the Borough’s website.

I would like to recognize some achievements of the members over the last two years:

**2018**
- Gavin Angulo, Cody Bubryckie, Daniel Webster on successfully completing Rapid Intervention Crew/Safety & Survival Weekend
- Stephen Dilluvio, Thomas Denman, Thomas Ragucci, Jameson Rulon on successfully completing Fire Fighter I
- Timothy Manning, Edward Zinckgraf on successfully completing Junior Fire Fighter I

**2019**
- Marc Dilluvio, Nicholas Duffy, Clayton Fleetwood, William Duffy, Jr. on successfully completing Fire Fighter I
- Joe Coughlin, Evan Ragucci, Tyler Shay, Andrew Sullivan on successfully completing Junior Fire Fighter I
- Edward Duffy, Thomas Denman, Thomas Ragucci on successfully completing Fire Fighter II
- Lawrence Keller on successfully completing Fire Instructor Level II

As a reminder, please replace the batteries in your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors twice a year. Also, this year I’m asking you, the residents, to help us help you by clearly marking your address number on your house. Sometimes it is hard to read the writing, especially at night. We ask that you put legible numbers either on your mailbox or on the street side of the house. We really appreciate your help. Winter is here and with snow, we ask that if you have a fire hydrant close to your residence, please help us by clearing the snow away. If you would like to join our family, we are always looking for people that want to volunteer their time for the community. Please contact me.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mayor and Council and all of the residents, but most of all, the members of the department for their time and dedication towards the community.

Thank you and be safe,
Kevin Rongo,
Chief of Morris Plains Volunteer Fire Department, 201-572-8879
Morris Plains Community Band

The Morris Plains Community Band and Choir, under the direction of conductor Larry Ripley, performed several holiday concerts in December, including a community concert held at the Presbyterian Church, as well as a “surprise” performance at a local shopping mall.

Wheel of Fortune

Wheel watchers might have seen a familiar face on New Year’s Eve... our own Summer Swim Team Coach, Corrine Cecala! Corrine won a trip to Barbados and $14,330 - congratulations Coach!
Morris Plains Recreation 2020 Summer Programs!

Summer Program Registration
Begins April 22nd
Registration Fee Increases May 13th

Informative Flyers & Registration Materials will be available beginning April 17th @ morrisplainsboro.org

The Fun Begins June 29th - July 31st for Grades K-9/Fall of 2020!

Morris Plains Recreation Summer Program News!

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

Come Swim With Us This Summer!

Morris Plains Recreation
Summer Counselor Employment

Preparations are underway for 2020 Summer Programs!

Applications for Summer Counselor Positions available at the Morris Plains Community Center Monday - Thursday, 9 AM-4 PM
Morris Plains Recreation 2020 Spring Programs!

Winter/Spring Recreation Programs:
(pre registration required)
- Tuesday Evening Yoga with Lauren Deodino
- Thursday Evening Yoga with Peg Clark
- Wednesday Morning Yoga with Diane Tartaglia
- Watercolor Basics with Lauren Rudisill
- Acrylic Landscapes with Lauren Rudisill
- Painting for Seniors with John Darvie
- Painting for Adults with John Darvie

US Sports Institute Spring Tennis Programs:
(pre registration required)
- Wednesdays
- April 22 - June 3
- (7 sessions)
- Foundation Tennis (ages 5-8) 4 PM to 5 PM
- Foundation Tennis (ages 8-10) 5 PM to 6 PM
- Foundation Tennis (ages 11-14) 6 PM - 7 PM
- Development Tennis (ages 11-14) 7 PM - 8 PM
- Morris Plains Community Park
- Fee: $142.00

Senior Programs
- Adult Book Club
  with Charlot Lamm
  Every 4th Wednesday at 2PM
- Morris Plains Community Center
  (pre registration not required)
- Senior Exercise
  with Stacey Williamson
  Thursdays at 10AM
  Morris Plains Community Center
  (pre registration required)

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

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

Family Night
Join us for a Night of Family Fun!
February 28th
7 PM to 8 PM
Morris Plains Community Center
Refreshments! Prizes!

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!
April 4 ~ 9 AM
Morris Plains Community Center
We hope your holiday and New Year were filled with happiness and good cheer!

If you stopped by the Library in December, we hope you enjoyed all the decorations in each of our rooms. The staff and I would like to thank the Garden Club for the beautiful Christmas Tree that graced our Kylie Room this holiday season.

Over the holiday, the Library Board sent out our Annual Appeal Letter and we thank each and every one of you that has sent a donation in thus far. We are truly grateful to have such a caring and supportive community.

Baby it's cold outside but the Library has some great new book recommendations to keep you warm throughout the rest of the winter. For those with a more adventurous spirit, may we suggest you give one of our “Blind Date for Valentine’s Day” books a try. You may just end up with a book that will sweep you off your feet. Come see our display in the Adult Fiction room during the month of February. For the little ones, come see Ms. Gail for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 am and help us decorate our Children’s Room by coloring in a Valentine. We hope to fill the room with Love.

**January/February Hot Reads:**

- *The Giver of Stars* – JoJo Moyes - Fiction  
- *Ninth House* – Leigh Bardogo - Fiction  
- *Me* – Elton John – Non Fiction  
- *Family Upstairs* – Lisa Jewell - Fiction  
- *The Guardians* – John Grisham - Fiction  
- *Treason* – Stuart Woods - Fiction  
- *Moral Compass* – Danielle Steel - Fiction  
- *Lost* – James Patterson - Fiction  
- *Ribbons of Scarlet* – Kate Quinn - Fiction  
- *Delish Insane Sweets* – Joanna Saltz - Cookbook  
- *Catch and Kill* – Ronan Farrow – Non Fiction  
- *Grumpy Monkey* – Suzanne Lang – Picture Book  
- *Reverie* – Ryan La Salla – YA Fiction  
- *Such a Fun Age* – Kiley Reid – YA Fiction

We are continuing to grow our older Juvenile and YA collection. We now have more Graphic Novels, YA books, YA audiobooks and movies for loan. Please let your middle school kids know we are always open to book suggestions. They can find Book Suggestion Slips at our front desk. We’d love to enhance our collection with titles and authors they love to read.

Looking ahead to the Spring, our next Shredding Event will be held in May. This is always such a great fundraiser for our Library so start getting your boxes and bags stuffed with all those old bills and paperwork cluttering up your life. Please call the Library for more info and take a look at our website morrisplainslibrary.org and Facebook page for updates as we get closer to the Spring.

See you at the Library!

Sheila Jain, Director
The Retirement of our Police Chief Jason Kohn

Looking back at our town history, Alex Paterson was the first police officer appointed by the newly elected Mayor and Borough Council in 1926.

Edward Barry was then appointed the first Police Chief in 1948.


Jason Kohn, a Morris Plains native, was appointed our 10th Police Chief in 2014 and has continued the work of the dedicated men who served before him. He began his career with the Department in 1994 as a dispatcher, and will retire from his position as Chief on April 1, 2020.

We wish Jason success in his future endeavors and look forward to supporting our 11th Police Chief this year.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

The Borough With One Street

Home Grown Artists

The Story of Lake Passaic

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

Due to a lack of staffing, the Morris Plains Museum is now only open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 am until 1 pm. To help, call town historian Dan Myers at 973-267-3808. The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement - to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town.
**Health Buzz: From the Board of Health**

**Services in Morris County**

The Morris County Office of Health Management is a public health infrastructure that provides local health services to several municipalities, coordinates the emergency response for a bioterrorism attack/pandemic flu epidemic and provides environmental enforcement and compliance. The mission of our office is to promote public health, prevent the spread of disease and protect the environment through awareness, compliance, education, training, and emergency response. For more information, visit our website at [https://health.morriscountynj.gov/](https://health.morriscountynj.gov/)

Information for Morris County Warming Centers can be found at [https://oem.morriscountynj.gov/warming-centers/](https://oem.morriscountynj.gov/warming-centers/)

Information for the Prescription Drug Drop Box Program can be found at [https://sheriff.morriscountynj.gov/community/drug/](https://sheriff.morriscountynj.gov/community/drug/)

NJ211 connects people to health and human service resources in local communities and throughout the state. It is a statewide information and referral service that began in 2002 to inform residents of resources in their community. For more information, visit [https://www.nj211.org/](https://www.nj211.org/)

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**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Morris Plains School District will hold their annual Kindergarten Registration and Screening on June 2, 3 & 4 at Mountain Way School. Any parents who have Kindergarten age children should access the link below and follow the instructions to pre-register their child.

[https://sites.google.com/mpsdk8.org/k8reg/home](https://sites.google.com/mpsdk8.org/k8reg/home)

Children must be residents of Morris Plains and five years of age on or before October 1, 2020, to be eligible for a September entrance into kindergarten. A birth certificate, proof of residence and health information are required at the registration.

Any questions please call or email Cristie Bruhn at 973-538-0339, option 3 / cbruhn@mpsdk8.org.

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**70th Wedding Anniversary Wishes**

Long time Morris Plains residents Bob and Dusty Thomson are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on February 18, 2020. They met in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada when Bob was in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and were married a week later. Bob and Dusty have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. They moved to Morris Plains in 1969 when Bob became owner of Thomson Volkswagen in Morristown. Dusty was active in the welcome wagon, golfing and bowling.

They will be celebrating with their family. Congratulations, Bob and Dusty!
On December 30, 2019, at her last meeting as a councilwoman, Suzanne B. McCluskey was celebrated for her many years of service to the Borough. (More on back cover!)

### Paper Shredding - May 16th
Mark your calendar for the MP Library’s next Paper Shredding Event – Saturday May 16 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Please Note:** This year the cost is $6 for each box or bag to be shredded.

### New Veteran Parking at Community Park
Veteran Parking Only signs were recently installed by the DPW at the Community Park parking lot, helping to make Morris Plains a Veterans' Friendly Community.

Mayor Karr and Council and Acting Chief Michael Koroski with Cub Scout Pack 233, Den #2 Morris Plains Co-Leaders - Shannon Mulvey and Tom Annuik. Cub Scouts from left to right are: Ben Chesney-Lang, Elliot Eck, Easton Wendorff, Max Annuik, and William Foldy
MPSA SPRING SOCCER
REGISTRATION OPEN FEB 1ST - MARCH 31
Sessions held Sundays (April 19th - May 24th) at Simons Park
PreK Clinic (ages 3, 4 and K): 6-week clinic run by professional trainers
Two sessions from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM and from 12:35 PM - 1:35 PM
1st - 4th Grades: 6-week clinic run by volunteer coaches
Register at www.morrisplainssports.com

JOSHUA WOLFF ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT
Joshua Wolff, of Boy Scout Troop #333, was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle project he was asked by the Borough Council to map all of the trails in Morris Plains. He led a group of volunteers to clean up the trails and then to collect pertinent information about each trail. This included distance, topography, location of benches/picnic tables, landmarks, type of pathway, where the trail begins and ends, etc. After the information was collected Josh compiled everything into a digital document that will be uploaded to the Morris Plains town website for citizens to access so they will know where to find the trails and what to expect. He also created a paper document that will be shared with all new residents as part of a welcome packet that is delivered to them. Morris Plains is a very scenic community and this project helps highlight some of what our town has to offer!

MPPD CRIMESTOPPERS AWARD
The Morris County CrimeStoppers selected the MPPD to receive the 2019 CrimeStoppers Leaping Leo Award for creativity in using and promoting CrimeStoppers. The award was presented on December 9th at the Birchwood Manor by the Morris County Sheriff’s Department and Crimestoppers Chairman John Sette. The MP Detective Bureau received the award for their detective work in identifying the people who attempted a robbery at Aires Jewelers. Great work!

REMINDER: Weekly Curbside Mixed Recycling Pickup Will Continue in 2020 EVERY TUESDAY

- Acceptable plastic containers are Marked #1, #2 and #5 ONLY
- DO NOT put recyclables in plastic bags
- Curbside recycling containers should weigh no more than 50 lbs.

TRIVIA

Q: Can you name these five fellows, and identify the project for which they are breaking ground?

Look for the answer in the May Edition of Plains Talk!
The Council and Mayor extend appreciation to Suzanne McCluskey for her 18 years of service as a Councilwoman in the Borough, as well as her many other contributions to our community. Among her many accomplishments, Sue brought the Farmers’ Market to town in 2005 and has served as its manager since that time. She was very instrumental in the development of our Community Center and of the Davenport Village construction project. She has also been a member of the Memorial Day Parade Committee for many years, has worked closely with our Morris Plains Seniors, has been a mentor for many Eagle Scout candidates, and so much more. The Borough is a better place due to Sue’s boundless commitment and service!

The deadline for the next issue of Plains Talk is April 17th, 2020. Please submit articles and pictures to plainstalknews@gmail.com.