To all healthcare professionals, first responders and essential workers...**THANK YOU!**

**DOING OUR PART**

Empty streets and darkened storefronts appear alongside lights and signs of hope as Morris Plains helps “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases.
I love the poignant words of Dana Ullom-Vucelich:

“At the very core of our humanity is our care for one another. Heartfelt appreciation provides sustenance for another day, especially in turbulent times.”

Due to strict CDC regulations, we have more alone-time. This is a good time to connect with family members and friends. Take time to reach out, ask how they are doing, share feelings, and enjoy a hearty laugh. Remember your senior neighbors, check on them to see that they are well and have necessary food and medications.

Please take time to say a prayer for all of the first responders, the nurses, doctors, EMTs, OEM, and all of those working to keep us healthy, nourished and comfortable. To our Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Administration, along with the many Volunteers, never doubt that we are eternally grateful for your sacrifices.

It was not an easy decision, but with May approaching, we made the decision to cancel “Uncle Frank's” Fishing Contest and Memorial Day Services and Parade. Morris County’s largest Memorial Day Parade. The events will return bigger and better next year!

The quarantine situation has made it difficult to honor the passing of some dear neighbors who each have had great impact on our Boro. Please keep the family and friends of Jack Van Orden, Andre Jensen, Mark Heckler and Frances Selle in your thoughts and prayers. They will all be missed.

I ask residents to please continue to be patient with reduced forces in the Boro - brush collection, garbage collection, recycling collection, and grass collection may be delayed but the services are not suspended. Thank you for your understanding.

If you find that you have a concern or question, please call Borough Hall, 973-538-2224. Although offices are closed to the public during this pandemic, offices are staffed while abiding to CDC regulations allowing your call to receive a timely response. Remember always that we, the Community of Caring, are resilient and will come out of this challenging time stronger and more confident, in celebration of thanks to the Heroes who spent endless hours away from their families for the health and love of us all.

God Bless you and the USA,

Jason C. Karr, Mayor
The spring of 2020 has brought some unique challenges that none of us ever imagined we'd face. In a season we normally spend outdoors at sporting events, picnics, parades and barbecues, we've instead retreated to the safety of our homes. The picnics have been replaced with “virtual parties.” Spring cleaning has taken on a whole new meaning. At a time when we should all be going out and celebrating the warm weather together, we have been encouraged instead to stay (at least six feet!) apart.

Hard times, however, have a way of bringing out the very best in a community. And as you’ll see in the pages of this issue of Plains Talk, The Community of Caring continues to live up to its name. Food, homemade face masks, time, love, support - Morris Plains has given all this and more, and this is only the beginning.

The future is uncertain but there is one fact we can always count on: in Morris Plains we take care of each other. I hope that as you read, Plains Talk brightens your day. I hope these stories and photos serve as reminders that our friends and neighbors are here to support us. And I hope you feel as lucky as I do to be a member of the Morris Plains community.

Stay safe, stay well, and stay hopeful!

Lindsey Fu

Chief Koroski Sworn In

Congratulations to Morris Plains’ new Police Chief Michael Koroski! Chief Koroski was sworn in at the April 2nd Council meeting (held by video conference to meet social distancing guidelines).
Daniel Myers, Morris Plains Historian, was honored at the museum’s reorganization meeting on February 22, 2020. Mayor Jason Karr (l), presented Dan with a rocking chair engraved with his name and the Morris Plains’ town seal. Maryclare Myers, Assistant Historian, is pictured standing.

The Morris Plains Museum Association would like to thank Dan Myers for his 28 years of service as the director of the Morris Plains Museum. Dan was instrumental in moving the museum from two rooms at the town library over to the Community Center, its present location. His mission has been to collect, preserve and exhibit the rich history of our Community of Caring. He has organized, cataloged and expanded the museum’s collection.

At the recent reorganization meeting, Dan was presented with an impressive Morris Plains rocking chair. We are fortunate to have Dan, who co-authored the book, Images of America: Morris Plains, remain as our town historian and welcome Nancy Mirabelle, who takes the reins as the new director. Dan is a most valuable resource of Morris Plains history and Nancy is a fine addition for running the association.

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 until 1 pm. To help call town historian Dan Myers at 973-267-3303. The Morris Plains Museum Association fulfills our mission statement - to collect, preserve & exhibit information about the history of our town.
We’ve all been asked to stay home, limit our movement, and keep our social distance. For kids celebrating a birthday or other milestone, this means they can’t celebrate with friends and family in person. We want to step in and bring them a little happiness if we can.

If you’re stuck at home with a little one who is celebrating a birthday, we’d like to offer a public safety mini-parade. We’ll try our best to drive by with police cars and/or firetrucks from the Morris Plains Fire Department to brighten up your day. We’ll turn on some lights and sirens, and give your little one a bunch of smiles and waves. It’s just our way of letting your child know they’re special and that we’re thinking of them on their very important day.

If you do your part by staying home, we’ll bring you a small bit of social-distance approved happiness.

If you’d like to take us up on our offer, please contact Lt. Michael Rolph at mrolph@morrisplainsboro.org. We’ll do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible and promise to try to accommodate your request. We’ll obviously have to handle all our emergency calls first, so there’s no guarantee we can be there at a specific time, but we’d love a chance to brighten up somebody’s day.

The Morris Plains Museum Prepares for the New Decade

On February 22, the Morris Plains Museum named its new director, Nancy Mirabelle, of Morris Plains, to replace Dan Myers, who served as Museum Association Director since 1992.

The Museum was founded in 1974 by Muriel Rennie. Dan will continue to serve as Borough Historian along with his wife, Maryclare Myers, Assistant Borough Historian. Under Dan’s direction, the Museum grew from one room on the second floor of the Library, to the spacious lower level of the Community Center. The Morris Plains Museum Association is a stand-alone museum.

The Museum Association provides educational Scholarships to a graduating Borough high school senior. They are funded by donations, grants, sale of postcards, royalties from two books, and a generous inheritance from Helen Schnack. The Morris Plains Museum boasts many original Homer Davenport works of art and collects, preserves and displays memorabilia from 1685 to present.

Volunteers are needed as researchers, photographers of local events, docents. Ms. Mirabelle explained the goal is to provide two new exhibits a year. Dan also recognized Jean Johnson, former secretary of the Museum Association, who has also retired.

Thank you Dan and Jean!

Pictured Right: Jean Johnson with flowers presented by Museum Association
Pictured Above: Dan Myers, Maryclare Myers and Nancy Mirabelle

MAKERS TO THE RESCUE

Volunteers from the Community of Caring donated their time and materials to make more than 750 fabric masks (and counting) for residents and essential workers. The masks were distributed to members of the Morris Plains Fire Department, Morristown Memorial Hospital emergency room, the Boonton NJ Firemen’s Home, and other essential workers in Morris County through the Morris County Office of Emergency Management.

Kraus USA donated 800 masks to our PD, FD, Minute Men, and the NJ Firemen’s Home! Thank you!!

Proud to be able to help the essential workers tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we can make a difference!
#KrausCares

MPFD/PD Birthday Parades

We’ve all been asked to stay home, limit our movement, and keep our social distance. For kids celebrating a birthday or other milestone, this means they can’t celebrate with friends and family in person. We want to step in and bring them a little happiness if we can.

If you’re stuck at home with a little one who is celebrating a birthday, we’d like to offer a public safety mini-parade. We’ll try our best to drive by with police cars and/or firetrucks from the Morris Plains Fire Department to brighten up your day. We’ll turn on some lights and sirens, and give your little one a bunch of smiles and waves. It’s just our way of letting your child know they’re special and that we’re thinking of them on their very important day.

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If you’d like to take us up on our offer, please contact Lt. Michael Rolph at mrolph@morrisplainsboro.org. We’ll do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible and promise to try to accommodate your request. We’ll obviously have to handle all our emergency calls first, so there’s no guarantee we can be there at a specific time, but we’d love a chance to brighten up somebody’s day.
The Mayor, Borough Council and all of the Citizens of Morris Plains, the “Community of Caring”, proudly offer CONGRATULATIONS to you on your graduation!

**Mayor’s Address to the Graduates of Morris Plains Borough School**

Class of 2020, it is my hope that this message of congratulations reaches you at a safe and healthy time in your life as we all do our best to follow the “stay-at-home” order and all regulations issued by the Center for Disease Control. As Mayor of this great community, the backdrop for your high school career, never did I think that the Morris Plains Borough School Graduating Class of 2020 would not get to enjoy the memories of your last months of 8th grade. Never would I have thought that you would not be listening to the words of encouragement from teachers who have prepared you for high school. Never ever would I have envisioned that you would not enjoy the glory of receiving your well-deserved diploma to the accolades of family and friends. Quite honestly, it just does not feel right. I will miss the excitement of offering you congratulations for your hard work and applauding your family members who have prepared you for high school. Never ever would I have envisioned that you would not enjoy the glory of receiving your well-deserved diploma to the accolades of family and friends. Quite honestly, it just does not feel right. I will miss the excitement of offering you congratulations for your hard work and applauding your family members who have guided and worked with you for 14 years. You all did a great job. You are not forgotten, and you deserve to celebrate your academic accomplishments face-to-face, especially with the friends you are missing. In time, it will happen!

Like your Mayor, as a 1982 graduate and Borough School alumni – yes, a fellow “Beaver” -- the foundation of everything, from where you started to where you are going, started right here in Morris Plains. All of you should be proud. Growing up in Morris Plains, you are instilled with the importance of family, community and country, who will always be there for you in good times and in bad. Never be afraid to reach out to them.

Your Borough School teachers have prepared you for high school and the future. For all of you it will be a change, a challenge, but a new opportunity - an opportunity for new ideas and careers. It takes many to keep this great nation of ours the best in the world - electricians and plumbers, police officers, firefighters and teachers, truck drivers and lawyers, EMTs, nurses, doctors - and even mayors! Wherever your future takes you, to be happy is what’s most important. As you graduate from the best middle school in New Jersey, you should be very pleased by all you have accomplished at Borough School. Share your love with family and friends, they will always be looking out for you.

Before closing, let us offer best wishes to Borough School teacher, Ginny Hussey, on her retirement. Thank you for your dedication to 20 years of educating our Morris Plains students.

In closing, Class of 2020, now more than ever, your generation is learning a new patience and perseverance because of this pandemic. You are our future leaders who will create a stronger society and great love for this nation – a task in which I know, you will succeed. I share with you a quote from an unknown author:

*Never regret a day in your life; Good days give happiness, Bad days give experience, Worst days give lessons, and Best days give memories.*

Remember to help others, take advantage of all that is offered to you, ask questions, enjoy what you do, and most of all - just have fun.

**God Bless You and Congratulations!**
Happy Retirement Mrs. Hussey!
The Morris Plains Borough Council and MPSD extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Ginny Hussey for her 20 years of service to the Morris Plains School District. Mrs. Hussey has announced her upcoming retirement at the close of the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Hussey has served as an integral member of the school community. Her time, dedication, and service to our students will never be forgotten.
Pictured right: Mountain Way Teacher Mrs. Ginny Hussey receiving the 2019-2020 NJ State VFW K-5 Teacher of the Year, representing grades K-5.

Class of 2020
Graduating High School Seniors

Morristown High School
Abdullah Abdul-Hakim
Antonio Aguayo
Samuel Annuiik
Daniel Arias
Chloe Aznar
Anna Barlotta
Mark Belles
Logan Blankinship
Megan Bruhn
Anthony Carvajal
Kayla Chame
Sarah Chupak
James Cohen
Jarred Colaiacovo
Gavin Cunningham
Kaila Cunningham
Ryan Daniolowicz
Lance Dela Cruz
Marc Dilluvio
Bryanna Espinosa
Ryan Falkowski
Harrison Fleetwood
Gabrielle Fletcher
Andrew Flores
Madeline Gallagher
Jillian Gaudioso
Kyle Gibson
Amanda Gillespie
Hannah Gross
Peter Hong
Nikko Inserra
Evan Jinks
Grace Keane
Jessica Kenneweg
Liam Kolb
Genevieve Lang
Logan Lenahan
Kevin Lynch
Kolby Lynch
Cameron Macdonald
Damary Malo
Caroline Manion
Connor Manion
Timothy Manning
Michelle Marin
Jared Marsan
Taylor McEntee
Katherine McGotty
Casey McNichol
Jack Merendino
Anthony Morelli
Aidan Myers
James Myers
Valerie Nagle
Eve Newman
Jonathan Nicholson
Yosuett Nunez Rojas
Charlotte Nunn
Michael O’ Kane
Stephanie Ona
Hailey Ostrander
Daniela Pacheco
Ava Plott
Nicolas Quarno
Julieta Quinteros Amat
Charlotte Ribaudo
Crosby Ruhalter
Maya Ruhalter
Jameson Rulon
Michael Salvatore
Evelyn Savchenko
Kayla Simon
Nida Sinha
Rebecca Snyder
Dylan Sommer
Daniel Stallone
Olivia Stelletell
Ava Steneck
Brianna Tanga
Colby Thorne
Nicholas Tirone
Madelyn Wagner
Annalise Webber
James Wolf
Joshua Wolff
Miriam Yarger
Edward Zinckgraf
Robert Zurcher

Delbarton School
Brendan Clark

Morris Catholic High School
Brandon Parkin
Lindsay Whelan
Meghan Burrows

Morris Knolls High School
Colleen Fetherston

Newark Academy
Peter Swope

Oratory Preparatory School
Matthew Enderly

Seton Hall Preparatory School
Thomas Angulo

Villa Walsh Academy
Alexandra Bowers
Christina Rosamond
Maureen Walsh

Morris Plains extends a warm congratulations to its Class of 2020 graduating high school seniors! We are so proud of all you have accomplished!
A Message from Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mark R. Maire

I hope this correspondence finds you safe and well. Like all school districts in New Jersey, and throughout the country, we are navigating through uncharted territory as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective March 13th, all school buildings in Morris Plains have been physically closed. On March 18th, the Morris Plains School District transitioned to a virtual learning format in order to ensure continuity of education for all students, grades K-8.

During this challenging time, I am regularly enamored by the dedication, flexibility, and productivity of the Morris Plains staff. In addition, our students have demonstrated incredible resilience and independence. As a Future Ready Silver Distinction District, our teachers are technologically prepared, and they have been working diligently to incorporate 21st century learning tools into their daily interactive lessons. Our 1:1 technology initiative has prepared students and staff for this next phase of digital learning. Likewise, our technology-oriented staff development approach and robust infrastructure have served us well.

I am truly grateful for the close partnership and open communication with township and local officials throughout this health crisis. We will continue to work closely with the New Jersey Department of Education, the Morris County Office of Emergency Management, the Morris County Department of Health, and other local agencies to ensure that our district stays abreast of all relevant orders and mandates.

We clearly recognize virtual learning’s impact on our students, staff, and parents. We deeply appreciate the partnership and collaboration we have forged with our families during this unique situation. Please know, our entire MPSD professional family remains deeply committed to supporting the needs of our school community members.

To ensure the safety, health, and welfare of our wonderful school community, please continue to follow all health guidelines proposed by the state, including social distancing, proper handwashing, etc.

The winter months were dedicated to generating next year’s budget. Much care and consideration were utilized while planning a budget that is fiscally responsible. The 2020-2021 preliminary school budget was approved at the March 17, 2020 board meeting. The proposed budget maintains current class sizes, programming, co-curricular opportunities, and K-8 transportation. In addition, the budget supports:

- Commitment to professional development
- Social and emotional resources (K-8)
- K-2 phonics program
- Student resources and support services
- District-wide Math Coach
- Expansion of English as a Second Language and Special Education program
- New phone systems
- Interactive Board replenishment project
- Middle School Esports program
- Class III Officer

The public hearing for the 2020-2021 budget was held on Tuesday, April 28th, at 7:00pm. MPSD administration facilitated a presentation addressing the state of the district. The presentation highlighted school and district accomplishments and identified next year’s goals, programs, and initiatives for Borough School and Mountain Way. The budget and State of the District presentation is available on the main page of our district website.

Board of Education News

At the April 28th Board Meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 revised school calendar, which is available on the district website. The calendar was revised to reflect the removal of 4 unused snow days, moving the last day of school for students to June 19, 2020.

The Morris Plains Board of Education would like to thank the MPMAC, HSA, EFMP, and MPEA for their continued support throughout the school year. These school community organizations work tirelessly to enhance the educational experience of our students. Their time and commitment to the Morris Plains School District are greatly appreciated. Please visit their websites to learn more about the wonderful work they do, and their amazing contributions to our district.

In addition, the Morris Plains Board of Education would like to thank MP resident John Lovelsmith, for the countless hours he has dedicated to beautify the school grounds at Borough School and Mountain Way. They look amazing! The district has greatly benefited from Mr. Lovelsmith’s time and expertise.

Working Together to Support the Whole Child

Through the strategic planning process, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) was identified by district and community members as a critical area of need. SEL is a broad term, which includes skills such as grit and perseverance, relationships and social skills, responsible decision making and problem solving skills, as well as empathy. This school year, the district-wide SEL Committee, comprised of over 20 staff members, school community members, and key stakeholders, convened several times to develop a SEL implementation plan. In specific, the committee analyzed student, staff, and parent survey data to identify district needs and select a K-8 curriculum for implementation next year. I would like to thank our committee members for their time and input. We are excited to provide SEL resources for both staff and students next year.

NJSLA Testing

On March 24, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that the State of New Jersey has cancelled all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window. This includes the springtime
administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments - Math, ELA, and Science (NJSLA) and ACCESS for ELLs.

Do You Follow @WeAreMPSD? Did you know... the Morris Plains School District has won several New Jersey Schools Public Relations Association awards supporting School Communications. If you don’t currently follow @WeAreMPSD on Twitter, please consider doing so. Our staff and administration tweet throughout the day, giving our followers a window into the classrooms and the learning experiences of the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Morris Plains school community for their continued support of our vision and programs throughout this past school year. The success of our educational programs is directly related to the ongoing support and commitment of our staff, students, parents, Board of Education, and school community organizations.

On behalf of the Morris Plains School District, I extend best wishes for a safe, healthy and relaxing close to the school year and upcoming summer.

Best,

Mark Mauro

Catch a glimpse into virtual learning in Morris Plains!
Signs popped up all over town: restaurants advertised take-out and delivery, stores advised patrons of new procedures, and most importantly the community thanked all the essential workers and healthcare professionals risking their health and devoting their time and energy to assist during the crisis.
Parks Closed

In efforts to reduce the risks of public exposure to the virus, Morris Plains closed its parks for most of April - including Simons Park, Community Park and Watnong Park.

On the cover: The tree at Town Hall, lit red & white to honor our first responders and all health care workers.

“Quiet Streets”

Schools statewide closed for the remainder of the school year.
Support for the NJ Firemen’s Home

Volunteers Art Bruhn and Chris Spillane recently delivered pizza’s to the NJ Firemen’s Home in Boonton. The pies were donated by the Morris Plains Fire Department with support from Lovey’s Pizzeria in response to a call from Terry Carroll to the home to inquire what their current needs are. Deann Carroll also provided homebaked muffins! Many staff and residents of the home have been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and the Morris Plains community is offering assistance in their need for supplies and food. The Firemen's Home provides long term care and residential care services for those brave firefighters who have worked selflessly to protect their communities.

MPFD Honors Jack Van Orden

Morris Plains Fire Department honors the memory of Jack Van Orden, who volunteered his service for over 50 years. Jack served in all line officer positions, culminating with serving as Chief in 1977, and as President of the MP Fire Association in 1970, ’71, and ’73. Jack was also a member of the Library Board for over 40 years, as well as the 200 Club of Morris County. Thank you for your service, Jack - you will be dearly missed.

Sneak Peek: MPFD’s New Truck

The Fire Department’s new truck is “in progress” and on schedule - we can’t wait to see it in person!
When you buy a TV, dishwasher, computer or other electronic equipment, you don’t typically expect that it will last forever. Eventually, one of the many components fails, rendering the device inoperative and usually requiring replacement. Smoke detectors too can stop working when either the power source is removed or a part breaks. Unlike your TV, a smoke detector is not used on a regular basis, making regular testing critical to maintaining protection. Even with proper care, smoke detectors eventually require replacement to prevent an unrecognized failure from leaving your home unprotected.

**Requirements in the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code**

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 907.20.1 requires that fire detection equipment must be maintained operational at all times, or be repaired or replaced as necessary. Furthermore, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 72 (the adopted fire alarm standard in New Jersey) requires smoke detectors to be replaced after 10 years of service. All battery powered units shall be the 10 year sealed type.

**Recommendations**

Operating smoke detectors have been shown to cut your chance of dying in a home fire in half. To improve the level of protection, smoke detectors should be replaced when any of the following occur:

- The detector fails to respond by the test button or with an aerosol smoke spray. Check to make sure the detector is powered and if necessary retest the detector after power has been returned.
- The detector has been painted, physically damaged or received water damage.
- The detector has been exposed to a fire, or large accumulations of grease.
- The detector frequently produces false alarms for no reason.
- The smoke detector has exceeded the manufacturer’s recommended service life, or has been in use for more than 10 years.

If you have any further questions please contact the Morris Plains Fire Prevention Bureau at mpfp@morrisplainsboro.org.

Thank you,

M. Christopher Shay

*Chief Fire Marshal*

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**Socially Distant Food Drive**

**Morris Plains resident Sophia Manley organized a socially distant food drive to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry**

Sophia reached out to Mayor Karr with a great idea! She was concerned that during these challenging times that there had to be a way to help others that may be struggling to meet their basic needs. That spark of an idea led to her implementing a town-wide call to action to encourage Morris Plains residents to donate non-perishable groceries to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP). And, boy, did the residents of Morris Plains deliver!

Sophia and her family spent the afternoon of Thursday April 16th in the Simons Park parking lot, with proper social distancing, collecting donations from residents and then delivering six carloads of donations to the IFP.

**How much did she collect?**

Are you ready for this number? 3,508 pounds of food AND over $1,397 worth of cash donations. Truly an amazing accomplishment!

A very special thank you goes out to Sophia for her amazing efforts (during her spring break) and a big thank you goes to the residents of Morris Plains for your generous donations and support!
Hello Morris Plains,

We miss all of your friendly faces but hope you and yours are staying safe and healthy at this time. The Staff is eager to get back in the building and re-open when allowable.

Although the library was closed to the public with Governor’s Ordinance 104, we are still here to help get physical books in your hands or get you set up on our FREE Cloud Library App. I am in the library every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-2pm to answer the phone and any questions you may have.

We can put together a few books/movies for you to pick up curbside and I can even drop off books for our senior neighbors who can’t make it out. Our catalog of books and movies can be accessed through our website www.morrisplainslibrary.org. Sorry, no inter-library loans can be processed or filled at this time.

Every cardholder has access to our Cloud Library App to download free eBooks and Audiobooks. You will need your username (full library card number) and 4 digit PIN. If you can’t remember your PIN, just call on Tuesday or Thursday or email us at circ-mp@mainlib.org and we can reset it for you. When you visit our website, click on the DIGITAL tab for more FREE resources plus check out our consortium site www.mainlib.org for virtual library programing and story times.

Although we hope to be open soon, we have decided to cancel our May Shredding Event. We still have one planned for the fall so keep saving those papers. I know I have plenty after cleaning the house way more than I ever thought possible!

On the brighter side, I’d like to thank the Morris Plains Rotary Club and President Steve Augenblick for our new defibrillator. Our Staff and Library Board are very grateful for this gift which can make all the difference in an emergency. I can’t wait to thank the Rotary Club in person at one of their Friday meetings when we are all able.

Lastly, this closure has given us the chance to add some art murals to the walls in our kid’s section. Karen London, a teacher at Frelinghuysen Middle School and former Morris Plains resident has volunteered her talent and time to add some kid-friendly art to our walls. We can’t wait for you to see them all in person!

Stay safe and keep reading,
Sheila Jain
Morris Plains Library Director

PLEASE NOTE: The library's May Paper Shredding has been canceled.
Please watch for details for our fall event.
Our Garden Club accepted the challenge and adapted to new social-distancing guidelines by holding our April meeting online. Members enjoyed an informative and entertaining presentation by Caron White about Herb Container Gardening. We hope that by next fall we will be able to resume our normal monthly events.

During the summer. This is one of our major community projects, and we seek volunteers through our Adopt-a-Tub program. If you would like to plant and care for a tub this summer, or would like to involve your children or grandchildren in caring for a tub, please send an email to Pearl Law at pearllaw15@verizon.net. All plants and instructions are provided.

Our 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 send an email to morrisplainsasgc@gmail.com. We’d be happy to have you join us for a meeting.

Nothing Stops Morris Plains’ Beautification

As the weather is getting warmer, small groups of gardeners are spreading out across Morris Plains to tidy up our parks and roadways. The Morris Plains Beautification Committee has the town covered! The latest project was in Watnong Park — the entrance to the park is flush with white daffodils and hyacinths where Lorraine Quevillon and her son Victor, along with other committee members, came out to help weed and mulch. Thanks to the extra hands and help from the Morris Plains Department of Public Works the work went quickly and looks just great.

A Message from Clean Communities

KEEP GREEN AND PICK UP LITTER

JMF Development Street Names

The Borough Council has approved the naming of the new roads to be added in the JMF residential development on American Road. One street will be named for President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and others will be named in memory of Morris Plains military heroes, James Whitney, Benjamin Signorelli, Jack Higbie and Walter Kelsch.

Eisenhower Place
Whitney Avenue
Signorelli Lane
Higbie Way
Kelsch Drive

Paving Projects

Scheduled borough road paving projects are as follows:
Granniss Ave, Janeway Place, Sunset Road, Sylvan Drive, Borough Firehouse driveway, the Teen Center paved court, Watnong Park van parking area, the paved walkway to the Train Station, and various sidewalks throughout town. The Granniss Ave project is to begin mid-May.

All Seasons Garden Club

Our Garden Club accepted the challenge and adapted to new social-distancing guidelines by holding our April meeting online. Members enjoyed an informative and entertaining presentation by Caron White about Herb Container Gardening. We hope that by next fall we will be able to resume our normal monthly events.

Perhaps you have enjoyed the tubs of flowers along Speedwell Avenue during the summer. This is one of our major community projects, and we seek volunteers through our Adopt-a-Tub program. If you would like to plant and care for a tub this summer, or would like to involve your children or grandchildren in caring for a tub, please send an email to Pearl Law at pearllaw15@verizon.net. All plants and instructions are provided.

Our 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 send an email to morrisplainsasgc@gmail.com. We’d be happy to have you join us for a meeting.
Make Morris Plains Count in the 2020 Census

It’s not too late to complete your 2020 US Census and help shape the future of Morris Plains! Visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) and in less than ten minutes, you can participate online, by telephone or by mail. Our collective responses will help determine how much federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for roads, schools, health centers, emergency services, and more. This year, the census will rely more than ever on your self-response, since in-person visits from Census Bureau employees may be limited. All personal data is kept strictly confidential.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Why are MP blood drives being cancelled when the Red Cross and Vitalant are advertising like crazy for blood?

Due to elective surgeries being cancelled and much less vehicular travel these days, the demand for blood is down 45%. The Greater NY Blood Center (of which we are a part) has 19 “walk-in” donor centers in the NY/NJ area through which they are able to meet their obligations to the region’s hospitals.

The Red Cross has only one donor center in northern NJ (Fairfield), and Vitalant only has a few (one in Parsippany and most of the others in Bergen County). So they are not able to meet their obligations to hospitals without holding mobile drives.

NJ Blood Services hopes to resume our blood drives in June. If you would like to donate in the interim, the nearest “walk-in” sites are:

- Vitalant on Rt. 46 in Parsippany
- American Red Cross on Fairfield Road in Fairfield
- NJ Blood Services on New Street in New Brunswick

For more information, please visit: [www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey](http://www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey)

Kindergarten Registration

The Morris Plains School District is currently collecting Kindergarten registration information for the 2020-2021 school year. It is important for any parents who have Kindergarten age children to pre-register immediately by accessing the following link: [https://sites.google.com/mpsdk8.org/k8reg/home](https://sites.google.com/mpsdk8.org/k8reg/home)

Given the current circumstances, more details will follow regarding the full registration process and screening event.

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 cbruhn@mpsdk8.org.

United Way Launches ALICE Recovery Fund to Assist Households Affected Financially by the COVID-19 Pandemic

The ALICE Recovery Fund (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) officially launched and is ready to help support ALICE families, friends, and neighbors and those living in poverty who have lost their jobs, businesses, or had a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ALICE Recovery Fund (#ALICErecovery) was established by United Way of Northern New Jersey in partnership with United Way of Hunterdon County.

The Fund is strictly limited to assisting residents of Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Suburban Essex, Sussex and Warren counties.

Eligible households will receive a minimum financial award of $500. Applicants will need to provide documentation that their household income qualifies as falling below the ALICE threshold prior to the pandemic. In addition, applicants must show a loss of income due to the pandemic, beginning February 1, 2020. The income guidelines are as follows:

- Single adults must have had an annual income below $35,560 without dependents or no more than $88,128 with two or more dependents.
- Two adult households must have had an annual income below $52,444 without dependents or no more than $103,836 with two or more dependents.

To complete the application, go to: [http://www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/ALICEassistance](http://www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/ALICEassistance). FAQs are also included on the site.

As the need is great, United Way asks that anyone who can afford to donate, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Fund. The more we raise, the more we can assist ALICE families. Donations can be made to the ALICE Recovery Fund online at [www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/ALICErecoveryfund](http://www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/ALICErecoveryfund).
Odyssey of the Mind Teams Take Home Awards from the NJ Regional Tournament

On February 29, 2020, four Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) teams from Morris Plains, with 25 participants, competed at the NJ Skylands Regional Tournament in Branchburg, NJ.

These highly creative teams worked from November through February to solve complex problems, and each team’s hard work paid off as they presented their solutions on time, on budget, having met all requirements and without penalties. They also successfully solved quick, on-the-spot problems at tournament in only a few minutes.

Two of our four MP teams were awarded trophies, and one qualified for the NJ State Finals. While the NJ State Finals were cancelled due to the health crisis, the team will submit a video of their solution to be judged in the virtual World Finals.

Coaches facilitate participants through the problem-solving process, but every idea, decision, device, script, costume, or other aspect of the solution is 100% conceived and built by kids without outside assistance. The process builds lasting skills for successful problem solving in life.

Morris Plains OotM is sponsored by the Morris Plains Municipal Alliance (MPMAC) and is possible because of the tireless efforts of our volunteer coaches throughout the season and volunteer judges at tournament. Special thanks to our coaches: Lisa Bauman, Laurie Cama, Mark Foldy, Jean Foldy, Greg Howe, Noelle Jensen, Rob Lawson, Karen Memory, Mary Rydstrom, Tina Perry, Alyson Vander Ploeg.

If you are interested in coaching a team for the 2021 season, or coordinating the program for Morris Plains as a member of the MPMAC next year, please contact Laurie Cama at osullivancama23@gmail.com or mpmacinfo@gmail.com.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division I (Grades 3-5)</th>
<th>Division II (Grades 6-8)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 participants (10 new)</td>
<td>12 participants (2 new)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem 3 - Classics – Effective Detective (8th Place)</td>
<td>Problem 2 - Mechanical – Net Working (5th Place)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem 4 - Balsa Wood – Balsa Limbo (3rd Place)</td>
<td>Problem 3 - Classics – Effective Detective (1st Place)</td>
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STAY CONNECTED – We’re Here for You!

VISIT THE BORO WEBSITE at www.morrisplainsboro.org for news about how COVID-19 is impacting the Borough of Morris Plains.

SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY ALERTS: Be sure to receive text or email alerts about local road closures, crime alerts and other special community news. Visit www.morrisplainspolice.org and click on the “Community Services” tab. Then select “Rave Alert.” Click “sign up now” and enter your registration information.

CONTACT THE BOROUGH CLERK: Borough Hall is currently closed to the public, but our employees are still working! Call the Clerk’s Office at 973-538-2224 or email juhrin@morrisplainsboro.org for assistance.

CALL YOUR MAYOR OR BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Mayor Jason Karr: 973-538-2224
Council President Art Bruhn: 973-714-4729 Councilwoman Cathie Kelly: 973-722-4308
Councilman Sal Cortese: 973-714-8781 Councilwoman Nancy Verga: 973-714-8246
Councilwoman Joan Goddard: 973-647-2177 Councilman Dennis Wagner: 973-452-4706

***The Borough Council meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. Instructions for joining the meetings online remotely can be found 48 hours prior to each meeting at www.morrisplainsboro.org. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. Stay healthy and safe!

SOME HELPFUL SERVICES – In and Around Morris Plains

ASSISTANCE WITH GROCERY / PHARMACY ITEMS: Community volunteers are available to pick up and deliver groceries for senior citizens and residents who are immuno-compromised. Call the Borough Clerk at 973-538-2224 to request assistance.

FABRIC MASKS: Community volunteers are sewing fabric masks for Morris Plains residents. The Center for Disease Control recommends that you wear a mask in public. To request a mask, send an email with your name and address to nvergamp@gmail.com.

FRESH FOOD DELIVERED TO YOUR CAR: Visit www.ortfarmstore.com to order boxes of fresh produce or other items from Ort Farms each week. Pick up is on Mondays between noon and 3:00 PM at Roberts Garden.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: This non-profit organization provides emergency or supplemental food to Morris County residents in need. Call 973-538-8049 ext. 210 for immediate assistance in English or Spanish.

SPECIAL SHOPPING HOURS: The following stores are open early for senior citizens and those with underlying medical conditions. Acme: 7AM - 9AM M-F Shop and Stop: 6:00AM - 7:30AM Shop Rite: 7AM – 8AM.


MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19: NJ Mental Health Cares, the state’s behavioral health information and referral service, will now offer help to people dealing with anxiety and worry related to the Coronavirus outbreak. Call (866)202-HELP (4357) between 8AM and 8PM daily for free, confidential support by a trained specialist.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE and Mental Health Service Administration 24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-985-5990.

SUICIDE PREVENTION: Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255, or New Jersey Hopeline for 24/7 Peer Support/Suicide Prevention at 1-855-NJ-HOPELINE (654-6735)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence at 1-800-572-SAFE (7233): Deaf Videophone: 1-855-812-1001 or Text LOVEIS to 22522
Jersey Battered Women’s Service, Inc. (JBWS) – Text Line 937-314-4192 or Hotline 937-267-4763

TRIVIA

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

A: (L to R) Mike Butchko, Bob Sturtevant, Frank Druetzler, Leo Buckley, Carl Denzler. Breaking ground for construction of the first new DPW building on Borough Terrace.
Sam Annuik Achieves Eagle Scout

A warm congratulations and community thanks goes out to Troop 39, Morris Plains and new Eagle Scout Sam Annuik, who achieved the rank of Eagle in March. Every year, Troop 39, Morris Plains supports the annual July 4th Family Fun Day at the Community Park, which includes providing fun canoe rides in the vast and tranquil park's pond. In working the event, Sam realized that a dock would not only improve the look of the landing area, but allow for better canoe launches and an observation area for families.

Completing this Eagle project was rewarding and fulfilled a dream that Sam had from his beginning days as a Scout. Sam did a great job of raising money for materials, ensuring all county permits were in place and acted as a “servant leader”, supporting troop members in the construction of the dock, which was built from scratch. Because of its location being close to the water, with limited earth-support, the project became complex and complicated fast. However, Sam and the troop were able to overcome all obstacles to complete the project within code and in a timely manner.

“I loved leading this project to earn Eagle, and I will remember this experience, and what I learned from it, for the rest of my life!” This is a great example of an ultimate achievement in Scouts, that promotes learning, leadership and team building. Representing the pinnacle of achievement, the troop members rank advance and plan to become an Eagle Scout for many years. This, and other activities throughout the year, supports the Boy Scouts of America mission - to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

During the school year, Troop 39 meets weekly at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains to plan camping trips, community service events and learning required to earn rank advancements. For more information, visit troop39bsa.org.

Outstanding Cabin Camping Weather for Scout Troop 39!

A 5-mile hike ended with the troops climbing to the top of the 60-foot-tall Catfish Fire Tower, on the Kittatinny Ridge. The troop received a warm welcome from state fire warden, Bob Wolff, who has been manning the tower and watching for fires along the Appalachian Trail for more than 30 years. This is just a part of the activities accomplished on the late February scout camping trip. The mild winter weather this year was ideal, with blues skies and temperatures reaching the 50's, compared to previous years, where temperatures dipped into single digits.

This is a great example of a Scout outing that promotes learning, leadership and team building. The troop members look forward to this annual outing, which took place at Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco, in Blairstown, NJ. This and other events throughout the year, support the mission: The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Boy/Girl Scouts Pinewood Derby

Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts held their Annual Pinewood Derby’s at the Community Center on March 1, 2020.
The deadline for the next issue of Plains Talk is July 17th, 2020. Please submit articles and pictures to plainstalknews@gmail.com.