

## Schedule of Events

**December 31, 2010:**  
7pm-Midnight: **First Night Morris County**  
(check [www.firstnight-morris.com](http://www.firstnight-morris.com) for more info)

**February 7, 2011; 7:30pm**  
-Township Planning Board: continued discussion of Honeywell General Development Plan.

**April 15, 2011: Revolutionary Times Weekend**  
(contact National Park Service for details)

**April 23, 2011: BPA Arbor Day**, plantings, cleanup and food, 9am-12:30pm

**May 21, 2011: Burnham Park's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party!**

For other **Town and Township meetings** visit [www.morristwp.com](http://www.morristwp.com) and [www.townof-morristown.com](http://www.townof-morristown.com)

**Moms and Tots** information, contact Jen Carcich.

# BURNHAM PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*Fall/Winter 2010* Volume, 52, no. 2

## Burnham Park Association Board of Trustees

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## Burnham Park Turns 100! Mark Your Calendars NOW for May 21, 2011!!

You might know that Burnham Park was established April 11, 1911. In commemoration of the foresight and generosity of Frederick and Catharine Burnham, the BPA is planning a celebration on May 21, 2011! We welcome volunteers for the planning committee...and are thinking about having children's games, perhaps some historic re-enactors dressed for the 1911 period, music and all around fun. As the date approaches, watch for updates on this special celebration of our neighborhood gem!

*Nov. 29, public hearing on Honeywell's plans for townhouses, hotel, new office buildings and CCRC on Morris Township site*

Honeywell International has presented plans to the Township which would bring hundreds of townhouses, a hotel, new office buildings and, possibly, a Continuing Care Retirement Center (CCRC) to its current corporate campus on Columbia Turnpike in Morris Township.

The Township Committee held a public meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to inform the public about the plan's details. The Nov. 10, 2010 issue of the *Daily Record* reports that the proposed development would

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## LOOK INSIDE

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include 893,000 sq. ft. of office space, a 250 room hotel, 313 townhouses and 12,500 sq.ft. of retail space. A second plan calls for fewer townhouses and a 416 unit CCRC. This follows the announcement that Honeywell agreed to maintain its world headquarters in Morris Township in exchange for tax credits for up to \$1,500 per job retained.

Although the Township Mayor is quick to tout the possible tax benefits of such development, we would be wise to also measure the true costs: to the local environment including both the impacts on natural resources and on municipal services. We all know that increased tax revenue is only one side of the equation and the costs in terms of municipal services can often surpass the newly generated revenues.

To date, no application has yet been filed with Township. Once one is filed, there will be discussion about zoning

variances required before the official hearing process would begin.

**Newsflash:** The Nov. 29th meeting before an overflow crowd of well-informed, concerned citizens lasted from 7:30 until midnight. Residents voiced their concerns and posed questions about the true costs of such development, the impacts on traffic, taxes, environment, pollution, quality of life, and the marketability of the proposed housing and hotel elements. Healthy skepticism greeted many of the Township and Honeywell assertions. Considering how this massive development might affect all of us, it behooves us to learn as much as we can and ask our elected officials to keep our interests uppermost in their minds. Discussion will continue at the next public meeting on this topic on February 7th at 7:30pm (arrive early to get a seat and parking!). For an excellent summary of the evening's discussions, visit Morris Township and Morris Plains PATCH at <http://morris.patch.com/articles/tense-meeting-on-honeywell-redevelopment-halted-unfinished-at-midnight>

## Update on Burnham Park Encroachments

As reported in the last newsletter-see article, p. 4 - two Mendham Rd.-Rt. 124 residents had pipes originating on their properties draining directly into the North (sometimes called East pond). In addition, someone had clear cut (to the water line) portions of the North Pond's riparian buffer zone of native plants installed over a multi-year period by many volunteers from several organizations, including The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, BPA, The Morris Land Conservancy, Boy Scouts and others, with funding provided by: Morristown, Morris Twp., NJDEP and EPA, The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Whippany Watershed Action Committee and private donations.

The riparian buffer zone stabilizes the pond banks (preventing erosion), helps filter rain water (improving the pond's water quality), and deters geese who tend to avoid dense vegetation that obscures their line of sight/ flight path to the water, and might harbor predators.

There has been sustained and thoughtful effort to address the issue, made by concerned residents (both within and beyond BPA) and officials including Sal Iannacone, Chair of the Whippany Watershed Action Committee; Art Clarke, Chair of the Morristown Environmental

Commission; Ted Largman, Chair of the Morris Twp. Environmental Commission; Julia Somers, Executive Director of the NJ Highlands Coalition; Paul Miller, Chair of Sustainable Morristown and John Codd, former Chair of the Morristown Board of Adjustment (who first informed Morristown, then BPA, of the encroachments). All agree that these alterations are wrong for the environment, should not be tolerated and Morristown should take action.

We can now report the following:

1. In response to Joe Attamante's August 5 meeting with the Morristown Environmental Commission, the Commission sent a letter on September 21 to Mayor Dougherty, Town Administrator Michael Rogers, and the Town Council stating:
  - A. that the "pipes are an illegal encroachment onto Town property." As such, We recommend that the town take all legal and equitable actions to remove the pipes..."
  - B. ..."the stormwater discharging to the pond through the pipes is a clear violation of state law"....and it "recommends that the

*continued on page 3*

## It's so nice being green: Morris County OKs purchase of Open Space on Hillcrest

As of November 11, the Morris County Preservation Trust presented its recommendation to the County Freeholders which approved 738 acres of open space purchases, among which was the acquisition and preservation of 20 Hillcrest Ave...2 acres for \$254,000. This plot had been essentially abandoned and could become a small park on the street...with its lovely view of Burnham Park. We are delighted it will be preserved.



## MOM AND TOT EVENTS:

Morristown Moms & Tots & More has a busy fall and winter planned. We played kickball on an adult league, held a food drive for the Interfaith Food Pantry, held a toy exchange/give away among members and held a discussion course about your health and its connection to the planet. We have CPR course planned for Saturday December 4th and a Cookie Exchange on December 14th. All families/caregivers welcome to join Morristown MATAM...just search for us on [www.bigtent.com](http://www.bigtent.com) using zip-code 07960. We hold weekly infant playdates, All ages playdates, Stroller fit, and Running group as well as occasional Book Club meetings. There is something for everyone!

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Administration refer this matter to the NJDEP enforcement."

C. "that the Administration institute a monitoring program to regularly check on the buffer zone to assure that it is not disturbed and to step up its enforcement efforts to protect the buffer."

D. ..."to correct the immediate damage, the EC would be happy to coordinate tree plantings in the park, with the aid of the BPA, to remediate the areas where plantings were removed."

2. On October 21, Morristown sent a letter to Mendham Ave residents bordering the pond. That letter reads in part:

"It was brought to our attention that Town property was being destroyed around the pond (Burnham Pond) and an investigation revealed that brush and vegetation located on town property was being cut and removed from around the pond. As you may be aware, the protective vegetation around the pond is necessary for the purposes of filtering rainwater being discharged into the pond.... The Town will aggressively pursue prosecution of any individual tampering with or destroying Town property."

The letter continues:

"The Town is also investigating the installation of pipes over its property, discharging water into the pond." And "that certain homeowners may have installed PVC piping, encroaching on Town property and without Town permission...any such encroachment upon Town property is improper and should immediately cease and desist." The letter concludes that..."the Town intends to diligently enforce its property rights."

We have recently learned that one Mendham Ave resident has removed his pipe up to his property line, while the town removed the remainder of this pipe within the park.

In addition, Morristown DPW has agreed to avoid mowing a 15' swath of the pond's shoreline (where plantings were removed) as a first step in restoring the riparian buffer.

We are pleased and hopeful that, with the cooperation of Mendham Ave residents, Morristown's Mayor, Administration and Town Council, and with the help of our partner, the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, the riparian buffer zone will be restored and illegal discharge will cease - resulting in a cleaner, healthier Burnham Park for all our neighbors and visitors.

We thank Mayor Dougherty and his administration for their cautionary and forceful, advisory letter to Mendham Ave. residents and their commitment to monitoring and restoring the riparian buffer zone and the health of Burnham Pond.

**Newsflash:** We have also just recently learned that the Mendham Ave property owner of the remaining pipe discharging into Burnham Pond has requested a meeting with Morristown officials. As we learn the facts, we will provide updates.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE?

### Efforts to stop PSE&G's unwanted and unnecessary Susquehanna-Roseland project

**W**e are pleased to offer the following guest article from Dave Slaperud of "Stop the Lines"

re PSE&G's proposal to construct a powerline from Pennsylvania, to Roseland NJ crossing some of NJ's most beautiful and sensitive Highlands' areas (the source of most of our pure water), including the Delaware National Recreation Area and the Appalachian Trail. (See our article on the proposal on pp. 6&7 of our Spring/Summer newsletter.)

PSE&G (in NJ), PPL (in PA) want to expand a transmission line that currently exists from Berwick, PA to Roseland, NJ. The project is known as the Susquehanna-Roseland project. The current line is a 230KV line that is on 80 foot high towers. PJM, the grid operator in our region is claiming that an expansion to the line is necessary for reliability. The reality is that PJM ONLY looks at transmission as a solution to future energy needs. Another reality is that energy demand has been dropping for the last 3+ years in our region due to conservation, more efficient appliances being sold, and a thing called "demand response" where large energy users are paid to curtail energy use during peak energy demand.

This project was born in 2005 as "Project Mountaineer," a plan devised to get more cheap and dirty coal-fired energy to the Northeast. The coal lobby has been pushing hard to get

this project through. They continue to try to push it through despite the fact that the public strongly opposes the project.

With so much solar power being installed in NJ and offshore wind soon to come, the last thing NJ needs is an extension cord to coal fired energy in Western PA and West Virginia. They want to take down existing 80 foot high towers and install 195 foot high towers, taller than any transmission towers in our region and nearly as tall as High Point Monument! They need the tall towers because of the electric field strength from the 3000MW of additional power that would travel through an additional 500KV line that would be strung horizontally beside the 230KV lines on the tall lattice structures.

For every dollar that PSE&G and PPL spend on this project, they make 12% return on investment. This cost is passed along to ratepayers (since this is being deemed a "reliability project"). They are also promised to get their initial investment back at some point in the future, whether the project ultimately gets approved or not. So they have nothing to lose in recklessly spending ratepayer money.

In the meantime, Google and some other large organizations recently announced plans for an offshore undersea cable from VA to the NYC area that will also allow for offshore

wind projects. We are supportive of this proposal, PSE&G is not. PSE&G has been dragging its feet on its small offshore wind project, so hopefully this one comes quickly.

PSE&G recently pulled their wetlands permit from the DEP after it was found to be administratively incomplete. That will need to be re-filed, and that review process takes approximately 1 year.

Currently the National Park Service is working on an Environmental Impact Statement. This EIS is due to be completed in the fall of 2012. There will be at least one more chance for Public Comment during their review process. If interested in learning more about this project, please visit [www.stophelines.com](http://www.stophelines.com) and sign up for e-mail updates. Stop The Lines regularly sends out articles related to the project status, and keep the public informed on opportunities to provide public comment. This project can and must be stopped - we need the continued support of the public to speak out against this proposal.

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/10/google\\_to\\_invest\\_18b\\_in\\_offsho.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/10/google_to_invest_18b_in_offsho.html)

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*David Slaperud, Trustee for Stop The Lines*

# Deer = Bambi? Think again!

We are pleased to include an article by Dr. Emile DeVito, NJ Conservation's Manager of Science, explaining why and how we must significantly reduce deer population. We thank him for taking the time to inform and update our neighbors!

The overabundant white-tailed deer population is the most serious threat to the integrity and stability of New Jersey's protected open space. In virtually all of New Jersey outside the core Pine Barrens, deer have eliminated the next generation of forest trees, and seriously degraded the understory shrub and herbaceous components of the forest. These changes are causing large losses of sequestered carbon in the root zone and organic humus layer, losses of carbon sequestered above ground in living seedlings, saplings, and woody shrubs, and seriously reduce the potential for the future forest to store and sequester carbon, since young trees are absent from most forest systems in NJ.

As the native vegetated layers of the forest are removed by deer, biological diversity becomes impoverished. Increased sunlight and temperatures at ground level favor aggressive alien species with weak surface roots. The alien species invade the forest and work in concert with deer to eliminate native species.

Beyond carbon sequestration and huge species losses, these transformed forests do not regenerate after storms, insect outbreaks, and forestry. Forestry projects aimed at habitat enhancement are doomed to failure; forestry cannot be successful without enormous expenditures on deer fencing. Atlantic White Cedar, the most valuable timber tree in New Jersey, is down to 20% of its former prominence, and cannot be re-grown in most parts of the Pine Barrens without expensive fencing.

Deer-degraded forests have impacts downstream on aquifer recharge and sedimentation. Denuded forests have increased erosion and surface sheet flow during large storms. Water flows across the surface instead of recharging groundwater, and streambank erosion is exacerbated, at a large cost to public infrastructure maintenance and water supply issues.

The deer problem is widespread and serious everywhere in NJ, even in the core Pine Barrens. NJ has invested billions of dollars in protecting open space, yet we have refused to tackle the most serious threat to our 50-year investment head-on! Popular assertions claim that increasing hunter access to protected land brings deer populations under control; the condition of the forest shows the opposite. Our public forests are being degraded, and NJ's deer population is being managed with recreation as the primary goal, instead of long-term forest stability.

There are roughly 50% fewer hunters than 30 years ago, and no matter how game management rules are adjusted using the current system, our forest health cannot be secured. There are 3 ways to increase hunter effort and/or reduce the deer population to levels that will allow forest regeneration:

- **Small-Medium Scale Park Management via Hunting:**

Engage in a Community-Based Deer Management Program with a special permit from the NJ Div of Fish and Wildlife, where hunters are given extra opportunities to harvest antlerless deer during extended seasons. Many counties and communities have been engaged in this activity for up to 15 years, with mixed success. Where forests are particularly degraded, it is difficult to drive deer numbers low enough and sustain the effort in order to precipitate rapid forest recovery.

- **Small to Medium Scale Deer Fences:** Results are rapid, even in highly degraded areas, when the number of deer is maintained at or near zero. Fences are becoming more cost effective, some can be installed for as little as \$4-5 dollars per linear foot, and may last 20 years with appropriate monitoring and maintenance. The State of Pennsylvania uses this method widely in their forestry projects; the largest project in New Jersey (300 acres) is now being installed at the Apshawa Preserve in West Milford by Passaic County and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.
- **Region-Wide Ecosystem Scale Deer Reduction:** The only way to eventually realize a low-density deer herd on a regional basis, in order to ensure a widespread forest landscape where native plant species can maintain their populations, is to make deer products a marketable commodity. Age-old laws which make it illegal to sell any deer product were designed to increase deer density from near zero in 1900, and to protect against the development of a black-market poaching economy. Tinkering within the framework of these archaic rules has not worked.

Today, we need a completely new, out-of-the-box set of laws and rules aimed at making deer uncommon, like they were in the 1940 and 1950s, when forestry projects were successful in managing habitat, and native species could re-grow and fill either natural or man-made disturbances in the forest.

A new system must be designed, in which markets for various deer products are encouraged to develop. Ultimately, the NJDEP Div of Fish and Wildlife and the successful hunter should both benefit from the commodity value of the deer products. Wildlife managers and sportspersons must embrace the idea that deer herds must be cut significantly, hunting must eventually become difficult, deer/car accidents must become uncommon, and our forests must have a chance to recover.

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Emile DeVito, Ph.D., Manager of Science, NJ Conservation Foundation

# HELP WANTED for BPA

Join our dedicated volunteers in contributing time and talents to our community. At present, BPA is currently seeking volunteers to serve as

- 1. Treasurer of BPA (Bill Claxton is considering retiring. Training will be provided).
- 2. Assistant Webmaster of BPA (We'd love some additional help in updating the website on a regular basis)
- 3. Volunteers to help with Centennial Celebration planning

If you are interested in being considered for any of these, please contact Lynn Siebert, President, at [donlynn1@optonline.net](mailto:donlynn1@optonline.net) or Joe Attamante, Vice President, at [jrattamante@optonline.net](mailto:jrattamante@optonline.net).

# The world comes to Morristown on FIRST NIGHT: No plane ticket necessary

Want to celebrate New Year's Eve with family and friends and not spend a fortune? Come to First Night Morris County where, for \$20 (four pack of tix is \$70), you can sample any of the 80+ events in 21 venues within walking distance of the Green! There will be a huge variety of offerings...from world music (Japan, China, the Andes, Africa, Balkans and Ireland), dance (including Native American dance in full regalia, ballroom dance lessons), to multiple genres of music (classical, early music, blues, contemporary and hot jazz, bluegrass, folk, and British Invasion rock 'n roll). Of course, there will be kid-friendly programming (magicians, giant puppet theatre, a reptile show, The Harlem Wizards) along with a Poetry Slam, readings of Mark Twain's wit and wisdom, a visual art exhibit and even two sets of fireworks! The outstanding performers have appeared at such venues as The White House, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, on NPR, PBS, in movies, and venues like The Stone Pony, Birdland and with performers like RIngo Starr, Les Paul, Queen Latifah, Bon Jovi, Madonna, and such. Come with neighbors, family and/or friends and share the excitement!

For more details go to [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com) and for a sneak preview of the programming, be sure to check out Kevin Coughlin's writeup at <http://morristowngreen.com/2010/11/11/start-planning-now-for-first-night-morris-the-talent-roster-is-deep/>. Additional information is available at [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org). Ring in the New Year in style!!

Fill in your name, address and telephone number on this stub. Make checks payable to the Burnham Park Association. Sent to our treasurer, Bill Claxton at 32 Dorothy Drive, Morristown, NJ 07960. Thanks to those neighbors who have supported BPA so generously. **DUES PAID IN THE THE LAST 3 MONTHS OF 2010 GET CREDITED TO CALENDAR YEAR 2011**

Membership/Dues Payment I/We enclose our 2010 Burnham Park Association dues of:

\$10 Basic/Pine    \$25 Sponsor/Maple    \$50 Patron/Beech    \$100 Benefactor/Oak    \$250 Thomas Paine Club

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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If making additional contribution, please indicate amount and purpose (e.g. plantings for Arbor Day, etc.)

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Classified

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