

Schedule of Events

Check Morristown at www.townofmorristown.org and Morris Township at www.morristwp.com for upcoming municipal meeting schedules. For information on the Moms & Tots activities, events and get togethers, check: <https://www.bigtent.com/groups/motownmomtot>



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All numbers are in the 973 area code unless otherwise noted

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Honeywell Project

Spot Zoning on Trial, Feb. 18th, 19th at 9am in Morristown

The Citizens for Better Planning in Morris Township (C4BPMT) is challenging Morris Township Ordinance 13-12C (which allowed the rezoning of the Honeywell site to "mixed use"), asserting the ordinance permits illegal spot zoning.

Where and When: Judge Hansbury of the Superior Court of NJ will conduct a trial on February 18 and 19, 2014 – starting at 9:00am, Courtroom #21 on the 4th floor of the old courthouse (on the corner of Washington and Court Streets). Ask directions when entering the building.

What will happen: Testimony from expert witness from both sides will be delivered and the Judge will likely render an opinion soon thereafter.

If the judge rules there was NO illegal spot zoning, Honeywell will quickly sell off their land to developers under the mixed use zoning – leading to dense construction of townhouses on the Great Lawn and over the majority of the property, as well as 13+ acre turf field and senior center at the back of the property. Honeywell will continue to have a presence in its existing buildings (likely 400

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employees). No solutions have been provided to the significant traffic and tax impacts of the proposed development.

If the judge rules illegal spot zoning occurred, Ordinance 13-12C becomes null and void. Hopefully, then the Township Committee might start the process of developing a new ordinance that better fits our Township's needs.

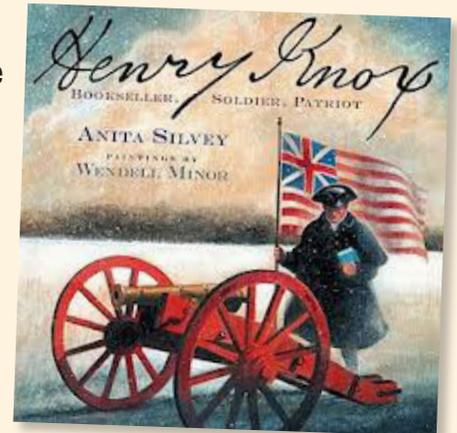
What can you do as a Township taxpayer/citizen? As always, the best results come if we are all engaged in the process. You may not realize it but your presence at some or all of the trial really does underscore the importance of this case to our Township and lets the judge know people care about this matter. C4BPMT also have asked for continued financial support - to cover legal fees and expert testimony by Daniel Somers (attorney) and Peter Steck (planner) – to insure that citizens, not just big corporations' interests are represented fairly.

C4BPMT is a non-partisan group of concerned residents working together to provide input to the Township Committee and the Planning Board regarding development in Morris Township. They advocate for balanced, evidence based planning option that will preserve the open space and residential character of our Township, while improving its desirability as a place to live, work and visit.

Knox Encampment update

Morris Township's Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) is finalizing details that when officially accepted will designate the General Henry Knox Brigade of Artillery encampment a national and New Jersey historic site. The site, which overlooks the western side of Rt. 124 across from Burnham Park, now officially eligible for historic designation, must still go through a process to memorialize its designation.

The HPC will discuss the final details re the Knox site on February 18 at 7:30 PM at Morris Township Municipal Bldg, 50 Woodland Avenue. We will update you as the process moves forward.



Hot Stuff: Burnham Park Chili Cook-off needs you!

Have you been told your chili is not only spicy, but "to die for" or are you aspiring to chili fame, or maybe you simply have a favorite chili recipe that you'd like to share with neighbors and friends in the area? Or maybe your mouth is watering just thinking about it and you can't wait to savor that thick, mouth and soul warming heat of home-made chili? If you are, then maybe you'd like to help put together the Burnham Park/Alexander Hamilton Associations' first annual Chili Cook off.

If you are interested, please contact Douglas Vorolief at douglasbv@optimum.net.

Is idling, warming up of trucks and cars needed?

You might have noticed that trucks, school buses and even private cars sit and idle for long periods. But is that idling necessary, harmful or even legal?

Most people probably don't know that idling for more than 3 minutes (with certain exceptions) is illegal in NJ. This law applies to both diesel vehicles: N.J.A.C. 7:27-14(Diesel vehicles) and gasoline engines: N.J.A.C. 7:27-15

The obvious exceptions are: sitting in traffic, commercial loading or unloading, police and emergency vehicles. (For more information, Please see www.stopthesoot.org to read/download their fact sheet and brochures or contact the DEP at 609-292-7953).

Most automotive experts say that the best way to warm up a car or truck is by driving, and idling for 30 seconds is enough to warm the vehicle even

in very cold weather. Automotive engineers also note that idling for extended periods (aside from wasting fuel) can eventually harm the engine and camshaft.

Of particular concern to parents with children and those with respiratory issues like asthma is the fact that this idling adds unnecessary soot and other pollutants such as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the environment. Moreover, these pollutants, especially the particulates, tiny particles that can lodge in lungs, can cause and exacerbate respiratory problems while long term exposure can cause cancer. So if you or a friend or relative is in the habit of idling for extended periods, bear in mind that it is not only against the law, it pollutes the air we all breathe and is harmful to you and your neighbors.



A Massive Piece of History: Greystone - Can/Will it be Saved?

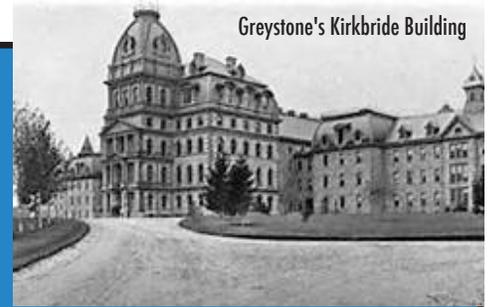
Over the years since its closing in 2008, the fate of the former Greystone Psychiatric Hospital has been uncertain. The property's architectural centerpiece, the historic Kirkbride building, dedicated in 1876 by Ulysses S. Grant, reputedly the largest (prior to the completion of the Pentagon) continuous concrete foundation building in the world, is now scheduled for demolition (perhaps this year) unless some organization or consortium steps forward to purchase or repurpose it. New Jersey, which owns the property, says remediation and preservation is too expensive.

Dustbowl poet / folksinger / activist Woody Guthrie (who suffered from Huntington's disease) spent the last years of his life there. (In fact, Morris Museum just presented a multimedia presentation -Wardy Forty - about Guthrie and cultural legacy of Greystone - with a book signing featuring Phil and Nora Guthrie).

In 2001, Morris County purchased 300 acres of the 671 acre Greystone property (designated "Central Park of Morris County") and concurrently, a law was passed stating that Greystone land could not be used for any purpose other than "recreation and conservation, historic preservation or farmland preservation." In 2011, Gov. Christie dedicated 165 acres of the state's remaining vacated property as open space parkland.

One example of the several proposals to preserve and repurpose the property as well as the Kirkbride Building is that of a group which said they could raise the \$100,000.00 (cited by a NJ ordered impact study) needed to redevelop, or restore the property, provided that New Jersey pays the \$5-\$10 million required to remediate the building and tunnels contaminated with asbestos; the remediation cost remains the same whether or not the Kirkbride Building is razed or preserved. At this writing, although six proposals have been proffered which could preserve the Kirkbride Building and much of the land (including proposals by developers who've accomplished successful transformations of similar sites), each proposal has been rejected as "too expensive" or "unsuited" to the area.

A partial solution was offered by Senators Anthony Bucco and Joe Penacchio who co-sponsored S-3112, which provides that remaining state-owned Greystone property can only be sold to Morris County, and that the property's use will be limited to recreation, conservation, preservation, farmland preservation and associated public services. Their bill preserves the remaining 371 acres of land contiguous to the 300 acres owned by Morris County. However, neither the senators nor the Morris County freeholders support preserving the Kirkbride Building; and they oppose repurposing the land to accommodate shopping cen-



Greystone's Kirkbride Building

ters or apartment blocks as envisioned in some of the six proposals.

Parsippany's Town Council as well as the non-profit group "Preserve Greystone" oppose the Bucco/Penacchio bill since it does not call for preserving the Kirkbride building, while Morris Plains Mayor supports the measure. As of this writing, S-3112 submitted on December 16 of last year to the "Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee," has yet to be considered. Stay tuned for further developments on this matter and, in the meantime, if you've never seen it, take a few minutes one day to drive by the Kirkbride Building...it is an awe-inspiring experience.

Some additional recent coverage:

From MorristownGreen.com with video coverage from NJTV included:

<http://morristowngreen.com/2014/01/23/video-guthrie-at-greystone-the-last-word-on-a-giant-man-and-a-giant-hospital/>

From the Star-Ledger:

http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2014/01/woody_guthries_daughter_wants_to_preserve_greystone_woods_home_for_5_years.html#incart_river

and from Northjersey.com

http://www.northjersey.com/news/242523791_Efforts_continue_in_Parsippany_to_save_Greystone_s_Kirkbride_Building.html?c=y&page=1

Be a good steward: Help us prevent Dumping in our Green Spaces...

Over the last six months or so, some of our residents have reported plastic bottles, yard waste, coffee cups, at the Hillcrest Avenue entrance to Jones Woods (on the curve just past the junction with East Lake Blvd.), while others have noted similar refuse and even dog poop bags on the East, West Lake roadsides or within the protected green strip that runs between them. Note that there are "No dumping" signs on East and West Lake and one is promised for the entrance to Jones Woods.

Clearly, no one wants to see garbage in these beautiful areas we all enjoy; it is not only unsightly, but if not stopped can lead to more of the same, making our neighborhood a less attractive and desirable place to live!

Please do your part - help us to prevent additional dumping by reporting any refuse or evidence of dumping between East and West Lake to Tom Eschmann, Morris Township DPW Supervisor@ 973-326-7377; and, for dumping in Jones Woods, call Laura Cummings, SMCMA (Water authority) Executive Director @ 973-326-6866. If we all keep an eye on these lovely areas, we can prevent this unsightly mess from growing



A Loss: Clean Water Rules Delayed for Another 2 Years!

(as reported in the Star Ledger) — Over objections by the Federal Government and environmentalists, Gov. Christie signed into law a measure that essentially flushes years of clean water progress "down the toilet." The legislation (A4531) again delays implementation of water quality rules that are now FIVE YEARS OVERDUE! It also removes clean water protections while expanding where developers can construct houses in rural areas in NJ. Environmentalists contend it will threaten the state's drinking water supply and accelerate suburban sprawl in the nation's most densely populated state, negating efforts to keep sewers "out of environmentally sensitive areas established around water supplies," said Jeff Tittel (Sierra Club, NJ). "Everybody's talking about a scandal. The scandal is going to be 10 or 12 years from now when we run out of clean water." The rules, approved in 2008 by the Department of Environmental Protection were meant to curb development and protect drinking water by limiting sewer lines and septic systems on more than 300,000 undeveloped acres across the state, Their implementation has already been delayed several times and the new law does so for another two years. The measure received support from the construction industry....



A Win: Pinelands Safe For Now: Jobs Temporary, Damage Permanent

(An Excerpt From the Huffington Post:
PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey agency tasked with protecting the ecologically fragile Pinelands region narrowly defeated a proposal Friday to run a 22-mile natural gas pipeline through it. The decision delighted environmentalists, who had turned out by the hundreds to oppose the plan over the past six months. But it disheartened business groups and union members who hoped to get work from the project. The application touched off a classic jobs-versus-the environment clash in one of the most ecologically sensitive areas of the nation's most densely populated state. "This is a great victory for the Pinelands and the environment of the region," said Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. "Today the commissioners said the Pinelands are not for sale." "The Pinelands is host to one of the last wildernesses in New Jersey," added Dan DeRosa of Environment New Jersey. "We're a tiny state packed with 8 million people, yet we still have wild spaces like the Pinelands." The New Jersey Pinelands Commission rejected the proposal by South Jersey Gas, which had partnered with the state Board of Public Utilities, to connect a pipeline to the BL England power plant in Cape May County. The pipeline would have run through the Pinelands, which are protected by state and federal law. The commission is tasked with protecting the ecologically fragile region while supervising responsible economic development within it. As Pinelands supporters noted, a pipeline would have provided temporary jobs but permanently degraded an invaluable resource.



Early Street Community Garden renovations to include new park, rain garden and public gathering space

Now that the Community Garden on Early Street is saved and will remain as open space, Grow it Green Morristown is beginning to plan a renovation for the site that will include an increased number of planting beds as well as a public parklet, a demonstration rain garden, a community gathering place and other amenities. Meetings on Jan. 21 and 28, 2014 sought public input. Please visit www.growitgreenmorristown.org or call Carolle at 201-972-1555 for additional information.

Classified

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DOG WALKING

Responsible Boy Scout will feed and/or walk your dog while you are away. Available most weekends and most of summer.
Call Doug at 973-538-8652. Reasonable Rates.

Public spirited, neighborhood association welcomes new members!

The Burnham Park Association, comprised entirely of neighborhood volunteers, fosters community through activities such as its annual tree planting and cleanup of Burnham Park, rain barrel workshops, the Moms and Tots group as well as efforts to promote neighborhood safety, health, education and neighbor-to-neighbor connections. As part of our ongoing stewardship of Burnham Park, we have planted thousands of native plants to restore and maintain the buffer along Burnham Park ponds, promoting pond health, discouraging the proliferation of geese and adding beauty to the area.

Focusing on traffic safety and speeding issues on East/West Lake Blvds., Hillcrest and Fairmount, BPA members worked with town officials to reconfigure the traffic flow into the "bowl" at the base of Fairmount Ave./ East and West Lake Blvds., adding road markings and stop signs to curb speeding.

To address the burgeoning goose population (and resulting goose waste,

pollution), BPA members joined our highly effective "addling team" which works to humanely reduce the number of geese in the park while other members undertake projects such as the children's garden, the chili cook-off, family pizza parties in the park and the like. Many work individually or in small groups to address neighborhood and regional issues which affect us all. We welcome all who have an interest and wish to participate.

BPA extends a hearty welcome to our new trustees: Mike (and Rachel) Luteran (East Lake Blvd.) and our new Membership Chair, Ally Meyers (Hillcrest Ave).

If you are interested in learning more or lending your talents, please visit our website: www.burnhampark.org to read more about us, or call/email Lynn Siebert or Joe Attamante. Even better, come to one of our events or to a meeting and get to know your neighbors!

Fill in your name, address and telephone number on this stub. Make checks payable to the Burnham Park Association. Send to our Treasurer, Don Siebert, 178 Hillcrest Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. Thanks to those neighbors who have supported BPA so generously. DUES PAID IN THE THE LAST 3 MONTHS OF 2013 WERE CREDITED TO CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Membership/Dues Payment I/We enclose our 2014 Burnham Park Association dues of:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

Amount: _____ Purpose: _____

