



The HUB Times

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2009 End of Year Summary Edition

A Message from Mayor Husa

Dear Denville Resident:

There have been wonderful events and programs that have occurred during 2009. The major item of importance is still the current administration's impact on the budget. The savings per year for salaries alone since the beginning of 2008 are now approximately **\$640,000** per year. This has come about by combining positions and dividing up the work of people who have resigned or retired. We are doing more with less and that is good news especially in these economic times. This year we saved \$250,000 by not replacing four members of the DPW who retired or left and have not as yet been replaced. It should be noted in all these cases, the savings have occurred without any loss of service to residents. (con't on pg. 4)

Something for Everyone in 2009

2009 was a very different kind of year for Denville residents. The township provided something for many diverse interests.

The township offered the beginning of a town wide bike plan for cyclists, an art exhibit for art lovers, tax relief for overburdened taxpayers, new green initiatives, many new volunteer opportunities (CERT, Deer Committee, Bike Committee), a string instrument program sponsored by the MAC Committee, the second annual Health Fair, the first Earth Day, Evacuation Day and expanded opportunities at Denville Gardens. The Township bought open space, worked on our municipal park system and repaired many curbs overdue for needed repair.

2009 also saw the completion of the pedestrian overpass and the parking lot at the municipal building, marking the effective completion of the municipal building. The sewer project phase I is also largely completed. Boy Scouts restored an old cemetery, part of the canal tow-path and a historic farm stone wall for the history

advocates. This helps preserve Denville's history. The township initiatives combined with all the other activities of all the other civic organizations made 2009 truly a year for everyone.

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Your Mayor's Agenda - Saving Tax Dollar's

One of Mayor Husa's campaign promises in 2007 was to bring tax relief. The following table summarizes the tax relief brought by his administration only in the area of salaries during his first two years as mayor, and then those savings are projected through 2010 in column four. Savings in operating expenses will be addressed separately in an article in a future issue of the HUB Times. All the savings indicated below were achieved by combining positions, or doing with volunteers what had previously been done with employees. Amounts include health benefits saved and are rounded numbers. Table entries also indicate savings from new-shared services.

P/T (part time) F/T (full time)

Prior Positions	Current Positions	Savings first year	Projected saving through 2010
Beautification P/T	Volunteers	2008, \$18,000	\$54,000 (3 yrs.)
Business Administrator and CFO (two F/T positions)	BA/CFO (one position)	2008, \$130,000	\$390,000 (3 full years)
Building and Grounds and IT Specialist (two F/T pos.)	B&G/IT (one position)	2008, \$60,000 (partial year)	\$270,000 (2 1/2 years)
Environmental Health (position not replac'd)	Duties transferred to Health Director	2008, \$25,000 (partial year)	\$115,000 (2 1/2 years)
Two retiring Police-men	Delayed replacement for 6 months	2008, \$50,000 (one time savings)	\$50,000
Mayor's secretary	Replaced by P/T internal transfer	2008, \$80,000	\$240,000 (3 full years)
Retiring DPW Director	Position replaced by internal transfer	2009, \$60,000 (1/2 year)	\$200,000 (1 1/2 years)
Shared Court Mt. Lakes	Shared Court (See article pg. 19)	2010, \$48,000	\$48,000
Leaving DPW workers not immediately replaced (3)	Not replaced as of 12/31/09	2010, \$200,000 Est.	\$440,000 est.
Totals	Decrease; 8 F/T and 1 P/T employees		<u>\$1,807,000.</u> <u>Est.</u>

Committee News

MAC Committee String Program

Seizing upon a very useful and unique opportunity, the Denville MAC conducted a string program this autumn for grade school children in Denville. The program was open to any grade school age child. The public school string program was cut when the second question was defeated last April in the School Board election. The MAC committee operates its drug-free programs for youth by applying for and getting an annual grant from Morris County. There is a provision in that grant application for a string program, and since Denville's program was discontinued, MAC chairperson Patricia Johnsen added a string program into the 2010 grant request.

In October, Mayor Husa had contacted five musical volunteers and set up a 10-week program and advertised it to the three Denville public schools and St. Mary's school. A total of 20 children and adults participated in addition to the five instructors and several MAC committee members who supported the effort. The primary string instructors were Denville residents Roland and Alana Weininger. Bernie Mathews is an orchestra conductor and violin instructor in Old Bridge school system. He and Mayor Husa conducted the group. Each child got several private lessons from Roland, Alana and Bernie.

A concert was held after 10 weeks of rehearsal and was very well attended by parents and others. Five pieces were played including the Brandenburg Concerto and Finlandia. The concert was excellent. The children made great progress during the 10-week program. Eleven students completed the course and got a certificate of completion. Dean Reinhardt, Laura Mathews and Emily Portela each received a certificate for perfect attendance.



Denville Community TV

Don't forget to watch Denville Community TV on Public Access Channel 21 - Morris System on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Denville TV is chaired by Ruth Gimbel.

Some of the recent programs that have aired are Denville Veteran's Day Homecoming, Sri Lanka Day, Ayres Knuth Farm Festival, Denville Historical Society Charlotte's Garden and Backyard Gardens. Please request Denville TV by calling 973-625-8300 X 223.



DENVILLE OFFERED SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN 2009

Mayor's message (con't from pg. 1)

In other good news, we got all the open space grant money for which we applied. We were also awarded a \$25,000 grant to develop picnic areas and trails at Muriel Hepner Park and \$225,000 for paving (twice what we previously got). We applied for \$50,000 for additional curb repair and \$25,000 for bike upgrades for our roads. Another article within this newsletter is dedicated to grants. The mayor's office is attending to other areas overlooked during the previous administration. A deer cull was years overdue and has been a resounding success this year. We are also seeing to it that the required licenses to run the DPW, water and sewer departments are held by several people. That is good management. Several members of DPW are being trained to hold those licenses. This newsletter is a review of 2009, a year for everyone.

Sincerely,

P. Ted Hussa, Mayor

First Annual Soldier's Day

In a show of sincere patriotism, families and friends of six soldiers who recently returned from Iraq joined together for a wonderful picnic on June 27th in their honor. The chairperson was Sheri Washington. Her husband SSG Kevin Washington, SGT Joseph Scorno, SrA Daniel Zaleski, SPC Jason Schreiber, SFC Ronald Joseph and SGT Mark Hatfield all recently returned safely from Iraq. The Denville American Legion, Morris Plains VFW post 3401 and Tri County Motorcycle Club were present in support.

Visions of Denville – Art Exhibit

Denville Township sponsored an art exhibit in the foyer and lobby of the municipal building during July. Entitled Visions of Denville, it was organized by local artists Valerie Golden and Donna Compton. Artwork by Denville artists portraying various scenes in Denville were displayed in the town hall lobby. The opening reception was well attended.

Movies for Seniors and Children

The Mayor's office, in cooperation with the Local Assistance Board, has been collecting movies on DVD and video for redistribution to the many senior organizations and needy children in town. Over 200 have been donated to date.

Employment Horizons Award

On behalf of Denville Twp., Mayor Hussa and John Ciardi recently received an award from Employment Horizons, an employment organization for people with special needs, for providing outstanding opportunities for commercial services. This includes grounds keeping services and janitorial services.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE and GARDENING

Once again the small army of gardeners we call the Denville Beautification Committee has come through for the Township. We were awarded our first Morris County MCFlowertown award since 2003 for the work done by Franz Fuertges on the garden at the foot of Kitchell Road. Franz spent many hours and greatly expanded that garden. Franz is the director of the committee and he along with chairperson Sandy Wills have planned and organized the work of over 38 volunteers and some 25 areas that are maintained by the committee. Maybe you have noticed the corner of Station Road by Foodtown or the bus stop or the area around the clock tower. These and dozens of other areas around town are all maintained by Denville volunteers at no cost to taxpayers except for the cost of the plants. Members of the committee and local nurseries donate flowers and shrubs. This year the committee also maintained the gardens around the municipal building and the area around the old pedestrian overpass. Fourteen of the 43 planters downtown have been painted a beautiful hammered bronze. The rest will be done in the spring. Businesses watered those planters throughout the year.



These volunteers keep Denville looking beautiful and we are always looking for areas to expand our love of gardening. One new project for 2010 will be to expand more into our new emerging parks. Anyone with or without a green thumb can join the Beautification Committee by calling Irene at 973-625-8300 ex. 223.



Denville Gardens

With rising food prices you can grow your own vegetables and berries right here in Denville for \$6 a season. Located on Diamond Spring Road just past the library, you can lease a small piece of Denville for a flower or vegetable garden. It has been organized for over two decades by Dennis Mahoney. Water and mulch are provided. The gardeners grow vegetables, berries, flowers and fruit. There is more demand in recent years for the 12' by 12' garden plots. In 2009 to satisfy this demand the Mayor directed the creation of an additional 20 plots by cutting back the trees and heavy underbrush on the riverside of the gardens. Each August there is a picnic for all gardeners where they are urged to bring a dish of some of their grown produce. Please contact Dennis Mahoney at 973-627-2497 if you are interested in having a great summer garden experience.



Environmental and Infrastructure Issues

Green Sustainability Committee Update

The Green Sustainability Mayor's Advisory Board is currently transitioning into a standing committee. Sustainable New Jersey requires towns that apply for Green grant money to have Green Committees regulated by ordinance. Such an ordinance has been prepared and will be voted on early in 2010, by the Council. This will complete Denville's application to Sustainable New Jersey for municipal certification and admission to the program.



Wind generator generating AC current in the Nov 30 Holiday parade. Produced by resident Robert Myer.

The Green Sustainability Board joined in the Holiday parade with the Environmental Committee. That joint effort and Bob Myer's wind generator float was awarded second place for parade floats. The Chamber of Commerce gave us a \$100 prize for the second place. (See picture) The second Earth Day was May 23. Twenty-five green companies and vendors participated and there was an accompanying lectures series. Chairperson Nick Stecky is working with John Ciardi, facilities manager, to complete a Municipal Energy Audit, which will include the municipal building, police department, library and firehouses. They are also seeing how the audit can help with our public schools, through School Board Liaison Barb DeLuna.

2009 Curb and Sidewalk Repair Program

A review of Township curbs and sidewalks revealed that many areas of town has crumbling curbs many in dire need of repair. After a successful replacement of the bad curbs on Riverside Drive in 2008 we hope to have a similar impact in other areas of town. Again in 2009 the full curb budgeted amount was used and curbs on Diamond Spring, Church St. and Third Ave. were replaced.

We also checked the curbs in Beacon Hill, but unfortunately the \$10K allocated for curbs does not stretch that far this year. A prioritized list will be made and curb repair will proceed going forward. Because curb repair and maintenance has never been a priority in the past, we are doing catch up. Our curb budget is severely under funded. Spending the entire curb budget two years running has not put a dent in what needs to be done. In 2009 we applied for a \$50,000 grant for curbs. In addition to looking for grant money for curbs, we are looking for candidate streets to put in new curbs. Residents who want curbs on their street should contact the Mayor's office at 973-625-8300 X 224.



New Curb at Third Avenue

OPEN SPACE and other Grant Applications

Denville is pleased to announce that we have applied for and been awarded funding for all four of the Morris County Open Space applications that were submitted! We will receive aggregate funding of \$558,500; a breakdown of which follows:
Gorlach, (our first priority) \$58,500 (located in Muriel Hepner Park)
Tulip Lane A, \$200,000 (located off Cambridge Ave. adjacent
Tulip Lane B, \$200,000 township property off North Ridge Rd.)
Diocese, \$100,000 (Corner of Hill Road and Cooper Road)
Please note that these are in addition to the 2008 funding which we have already been granted. We are looking to close as quickly as possible on these parcels since all are connecting links to our existing open space. We look forward to adding them to the over 1000 acres we have acquired since 1996.

In 2009 we continued our efforts to obtain State Aid Grants. We achieved our goal and received \$170,000 for the completion of Denville's 2009 Morris Ave. Paving Project. The project was completed in July and preceded very smoothly.

Denville is the recipient of \$25,000 from the 2009 Recreational Trails Grant! Funding will be used for the extension and renewal of Muriel Hepner Park. This administration has been responsive to the needs of its citizens who requested a walking/hiking park of this type in Denville. Trails have been marked out connoting the beginning of this project. The park will be ADA accessible with picnic tables, benches, signage, markers, bike racks, garbage receptacles and renovations of the existing bridge. Previously unopened areas will now be available to the public as a result of our work. The walk and bike trail has as its destination the towpath of the old historic Morris Canal. This 1600-foot section is located on the southern edge of the 70-acre park. The meandering trail passes a small lake, scenic footbridges across the clear stream, antediluvian swampland, scenic vistas, towering trees, ancient rock formation, an 1800 stone hedgerow and miles of undisturbed flora and fauna. The middle of the park is a veritable paradise of trees and nature. Completion is expected in 2010.

In 2009 we applied for and received \$225,000 for the 2010 road paving project. We also applied for a grant for \$25,000 to create a more bike friendly town and one for \$50,000 for curbing. Towards the end of 2010 we applied for the

county community block grant for \$25,000 for a new roof for Main St. fire house and an additional \$25,000 for additional restoration for the south part of Muriel Hepner Park.



Left to right is Tulip Lane open space, Muriel Hepner Pond.

STATE AND COUNTY PROJECTS

Rt. 46 and Savage Road Pedestrian Overpass update

Just before Denville's Fourth of July celebration we were informed by the State Department of Transportation that the pedestrian overpass would be completed by the Fourth. They were true to their word and the overpass was opened in time for hundreds of people to use to attend the concert and fireworks. Different people had different reactions to the new overpass.

The bottom line is this; **Denville did not pay for it.** The people in the Indian Lake community clamored for it since 1996. Most importantly, the children who cross at that busy intersection can now be assured of safe passage. Many children especially in the summer use that busy intersection and now not only is the overpass completed, but the intersection at Savage Road now is a four-way stop, thereby making the traffic flow better. We all had a slight learning curve to adjust to the new traffic pattern, but now a few months later it is working out fine. An unexpected outcome is there are less delays at the traffic light. Love it or hate you have to admit the intersection is safer by far.



The overpass was completed, ready for use on July 4th weekend and the area was cleaned up and all trucks and equipment removed the week after Thanksgiving.

Preserve Greystone

In September 2008 Assemblymen Webber and DeCroce sponsored a bus trip to Trenton for Morris County residents to protest the possibility of the old administration building at Greystone being sold to developers and consequently possibly being demolished. That building was built in 1876 and was the largest building on one continuous foundation in the country until the Pentagon was built much later. Hard to believe, but true.

The thought of losing that historic building was a wake up call to Morris County residents. Greystone is a half mile from the Denville border and we as well as neighboring towns would forever regret our inaction if that legendary building were lost.

As a result of the 2008 bus trip, about a dozen participants have banded together and started holding organization meetings as to what could be done. Right here in Denville, at the invitation of Mayor Hussa, the organization called Preserve Greystone was created. The organization now meets around the county, but it began in Denville with the support of the town administration. Preserve Greystone has already put on many educational lectures in Denville and surrounding towns. Full color brochures explaining the preservation efforts are available to the public in the mayor's office. If Denville has anything to do with it, Greystone will live on. See www.preservegreystone.org for more information.



Denville Opts-in to Highlands Master Plan by Mayor Ted Husa

An article recently appeared in the Daily Record entitled, Highlands is right for Denville. Excerpts of that article appear below. The full article can be seen by going to www.dailyrecord.com, then to the opinion subtitle and then by searching for highlands. It is found at <http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200991226014>

Denville can preserve its natural resources and community character in the face of mounting development pressure from Morris County's accelerating growth. Considering our township is facing build out which limits future growth, the benefits offered by conforming to the Highlands Council's Regional Master Plan are more attractive for Denville than simply walking away from the process. Growth in the township is already facing severe constraints on natural resources. The Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority has reported it only has capacity for an additional 1.3 million gallons of wastewater, which it has to divide between the ten municipalities it serves. Denville township has a deficit of 700,000 to 1 million gallons of water a day as well. The Regional Master Plan allows us to address these resource deficits presently and sustainably rather than accrue costs for the township. The protections afforded to our natural resources under the Regional Master Plan will prevent such drastic scenarios. By allowing capacity and availability of water and wastewater resources to be the cornerstones for future development, we can move toward a sustainable future. Denville will also see a dramatic reduction in its COAH affordable housing obligation. COAH's recent vacant land analysis predicts another 1,008 units can be constructed here, resulting in an adjusted third round obligation of 164 affordable units (we believe). If Denville conforms to the RMP, that number will be reduced to 44 affordable units. Denville's COAH obligation will not go away under the new administration. It should be noted that municipalities are required to provide this type of housing by the New Jersey State Constitution. Denville can also not become a receiving area for affordable obligations from preservation municipalities if it conforms. Votes against Highlands conformance may be guided by misconceptions about how the town and its residents will be restricted through these regulations. The Highlands ordinances only apply to future development; all existing structures are subject to the underlying municipal zoning. There are 17 exemptions in the Highlands Act that ensure our residents will still be able to install pools, add decks and additions, and develop a vacant lot owned prior to 2004. These exemptions also cover infrastructure upgrades, schools, hospitals, and religious centers, therefore Denville will not be completely restricted in its own management and able to provide for increased demand in municipal services if the township continues to grow. (continued on next page)

Denville Opts-in to Highlands Master Plan (continued)

In the Denville, the only real impact of conforming will be to protect those areas of the township still in their natural state (even here, exemptions apply).

Conforming to the Regional Master Plan will allow us to break away from the ratable chase that only results in increased taxes for our residents. The conformance process allows us to stabilize the tax rate by curtailing the growth that increases the need for municipal services such as schools and the police department. Open space preservation is a key mechanism for increasing property values and stabilizing the tax rate. Conformance will give Denville priority for open space acquisition funding from Green Acres. The Garden State Preservation Trust currently has \$400 million available for such projects.

Conformance would provide Denville with strong legal defense against zoning challenges from developers. If Denville is sued, the Highlands Act guarantees that the appellant will have to surmount the burden of proof, a strong presumption of validity for the municipality, and extraordinary deference. This would result in a conspicuous decrease in lawsuits and extraordinary savings on legal fees, in turn helping us achieve tax rate stabilization. Denville would receive technical grants and tax stabilization through the Highlands Protection Fund, which is derived from realtor transfer fees and will continue to operate over the next several years. Conformance with the Regional Master Plan is the equivalent of State Plan Endorsement and would give Denville access to those associated planning grants as well. Considering the resource capacity limitations and the imminence of build out Denville now faces, conformance to the Regional Master Plan is an important tool in shaping our township's future. Since growth will be restricted whether we conform or not, why not take this opportunity to participate in the Highlands Council's planning process to establish which path will be most sustainable for Denville in the future. The conformance process, paid for by the Highlands Council, will allow us to determine where anymore growth can occur and what needs must be met, what resources must be protected before Denville is built out.



Denville Recreation Department is building new fields at Ford Rd. and Veteran's Memorial Park. We also have several agreements to share fields. Pictured from L to R is the new field at Ford Road, the shared all purpose field on Morris Ave owned by WT Realty and the shared softball field owned by Rock Ridge Country Club. Five new fields are planned at Veteran's Park and we also share 5 soccer fields at Pocono Rd with St. Clare's (not shown).

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Denville

Senior Housing

Cooks Pond Senior Housing is located at 455 Diamond Spring Road next to the scenic Cooks Pond. Completed in 2000, it is a secure building providing one and two bedroom apartment rentals for seniors, 62 years of age or older, who qualify with a maximum gross income of either \$35,460 (for one person household) or \$40,500 (for two person household). There are laundry facilities within the building, rent includes heat and hot water and transportation to local areas is available.

This facility is administered for Denville by Madison Affordable Housing. There is a waiting list to get into this beautiful, well-maintained facility. If you are interested, or know someone who is, you can contact either Kathy Bowditch, Denville Township, at (973)-625-8300, ext. 225 or Carolee Wineburgh, Madison Affordable Housing, at (973)-664-1080, for an application.

Family Housing - Rental Units

Peer Place, located on top of the mountain off Route 10 East, has three-bedroom townhouse designed rental units. Completed in 2003, these 57 units are available for qualifying families looking for affordable housing. A Child Care Center and Community Center, with a basketball court are on site.

These units are maintained by the Morris County Housing Authority (MCHA) for Denville and you must meet certain criteria to be placed on the waiting list. If you qualify, the amount of rent would be based on 30 % of your gross family income. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact the MCHA at (973)-540-0389 for an application.



Single-Family Homes

Denville Township recently worked with Morris Habitat for Humanity to build two new single-family homes. These homes were completed in May 2008 and are located at the end of Hussa Place.

The two families who purchased these homes met all the requirements established by Morris Habitat for affordable housing. In addition to the mortgage, the families had to also provide “sweat-equity” into helping to build their houses.

If you have any questions about Morris Habitat for Humanity or about other locations they may be building homes, please call (973)-891-1934 or check out their website at www.morrishabitat.org.

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Denville

Helpful Source for Affordable Housing in Morris County and New Jersey
Housing Partnership of Morris County - www.housingpartnershipmorris.org
(973)-659-9222

This very helpful organization provides workshops on homeownership and other types of counseling, so that you are prepared and able to purchase a home. They also sponsor a free expo for home buyers in April every year.

To see if your income would qualify you for affordable housing, you can check out the State of New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (income limits) at <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/affiliates/coah/reports/incomelimits.pdf>

Does your house need work?

That is the question the Morris County Housing Rehabilitation Program (MCHRP) is asking. The MCHRP provides funds to income eligible homeowners to repair major system failures or conditions related to the health or safety of the homeowner and their family. Examples of covered repairs would be the need to replace a roof or furnace, upgrade your electricity, provide handicapped access, or sewer or water hook-ups.

The type of assistance would be a no interest, no payment forgivable loan, that depending on the amount of money provided, would place a lien on the house for a period of either 6 or 10 years. As long as you live in and own the home for the amount of time of the lien, you will not have to pay any money back.

If you can answer yes to all of the following questions, contact Morris County Community Development at (973)-285-6030 **before** any work is done or contracts are signed to see if you qualify for assistance.

1. Are you a permanent Morris County resident?
(except Dover and Parsippany)
2. Do you own and have you lived in the house for at least one year?
3. Is this the only house you own?
4. Is the total assessed value of your house under \$400,000?
5. Do you fall within the income limits in the chart?

** Information from the Morris County Housing Rehabilitation Program Pamphlet



Pictured is Cook's Pond Senior Housing, located on Diamond Spring Road.

INCOME LIMITS

Family Size	Gross Income
1	\$44,800
2	\$51,200
3	\$57,600
4	\$64,000
5	\$69,100
6	\$74,250
7	\$79,350
8	\$84,500

MAYOR'S BICYCLE PLAN INITIATIVE

During 2009 Denville made some major strides towards making Denville more bike friendly. On August 20 we held a bike rodeo for kids and this year it included two group bike rides. There was such great participation with the town. Merchants gave very generous discounts on food and refreshments and it was all compiled on a discount card that was given to



each participant. CycleCraft of Parsippany donated a bike. Denville gave out fanny packs and T-shirts. It was a grand collaboration of many organizations in town, besides the local stores. The Denville Police participated fully. Sgt Brian Donnelly, an avid biker in his own right, led the bike rodeo and escorted the group of riders. The MAC Committee and Public Health and Safety Committee helped organize and run the registration booths. KJ Feury, Denville resident and public safety officer at Morristown Memorial ran safety checks for the children. The Denville Fire Department was there as well as Denville EMTs. Free refreshments were given out as well.



The bike rodeo, which is held every year, is just one aspect of Denville's plan for bike promotion in town. The rodeo gives new bikers the safety skills needed to ride on public roads. \$1,000 was spent on new bike racks downtown and many more are in demand. We applied for a \$25,000 grant to make our roads safer for bicyclists. The groundwork was developed for a plan to develop commuter bike roads. Recreational bike loops will be developed in the future. We learned it is a long process to make Denville generally more bike friendly. A Bike Mayor's Advisory Board will be formed for 2010.

Besides the bike racks downtown, we examined several roads, erected SHARE THE ROAD signs and widened Morris Ave., Kitchell Road and other key roads in preparation for making official bike lanes. A major New Jersey bike summit will be held at the municipal building on February 27, 2010.

Denville has one of the best downtowns for bicycling of any town around the area. It has wide streets; plenty of bike racks and people generally drive slower in the downtown area. Getting 5% of the drivers to ride bikes for short trips will singularly solve much of our parking problem. We encourage you to use bikes in Denville, be careful and **share the road!**



Pictured L is a share the road sign on Morris Ave. and R one of the newly erected bike racks on Diamond Spring Rd.



MAYOR'S INITIATIVE - ROCKAWAY RIVER MAINTENANCE

In September the Mayor, along with Denville volunteers and Saint Clare's Hospital, held a multi-day massive clean-up of the Rockaway River. This clean up from Saint Clare's parking lot all the way upstream to McCarter Park took literally months to plan and coordinate. As the riverside underbrush is so thick in that area, several paths had to be cut by hand to gain shore access. Additionally, a massive 8' by 8' heavy raft built on 6 lake floatation devices was erected to transport tires and debris. Saint Clare's employees and Denville Township residents had three separate clean-ups half-day cleanups. This area had not been cleaned in at least the past 15 years. In addition to tons of debris being removed from the river 290 tires were also removed. Among those removed were several brand new tires and tires that obviously had recently been thrown in the river. About a dozen tires with obvious markings and noteworthy characteristics were separated and examined by police.

Another Mayor's initiative is in 2010 to produce an ordinance to require all tire handling retail stores and gas stations to provide verification of the proper disposal of all tires handled in their establishment. After years of pulling thousands of tires from the river it seems to be the only way to stop the dumping. There is every indication that all other towns along the Rockaway River will adopt a similar ordinance, depending on the results of the Denville proposal.

Special thanks go to Saint Clare's Hospital, CEO Leslie Hirsch, Jan Bishop, Steve Nichol and dozens of employees. Sal Lia, Architectural Planner from Saint Clare's, working with Mayor Hussa produced six large educational panels emphasizing different aspects of river life that were on display in Denville town hall. In May, Mayor Hussa and pastor Jim McLean and 70 congregants of a church in Denville, collected massive amounts of debris and 78 tires from the river.

In 2009 Denville Township hosted the meeting schedule for the Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet (RRWC). Representing twelve towns along the Rockaway River, Morris County, the RVRSA and Jersey City, the RRWC has been in existence since 1996. The RRWC focuses on water quality and flood control and has three representatives from each member entity. Denville hosted the meetings in 2009 and will do so again in 2010.

The Rockaway River flows through downtown Denville and residents take pride in seeing it is clean and free of unsightly obstructions that lead to flooding.

Scene along the Rockaway River showing erosion control practices to prevent riverbank erosion.



Some of the 290 tires removed from the Rockaway River from 9/26 and 10/14



2009 Deer Cull Update

For many years concerned citizens approached the Denville Township Council to take action and cull the ever-increasing deer population. For one reason or another the program was never put together and/or never completed until 2009. A Deer Management Advisory Board was formed early in 2009 by Mayor Husa. Several meetings were held and input was sought from all board members. The chairman investigated some of the other programs conducted in neighboring towns, specifically Morris Township, Mendham Township and Randolph. Eventually the United Bow Hunters of New Jersey were contacted, mainly because of their impeccable track record of safety, but also because of what their program offered the Township. UBNJ president Marc Weiss came to Denville on many occasions and finally all the problems were worked out and it was agreed that UBNJ would hunt on 29 specific Township properties in a very controlled environment. Each site was carefully selected because of size and access.

Public hearings polarized some of the residents, but the Council became convinced that what the UBNJ offered is namely a safe deer management program to cull the deer who according to observation had grown to a herd 20 times greater than what the land can or should bear. Objections were raised that bow hunting is cruel, but we who support the program firmly believe that the cull is actually more humane as the overpopulated herds have so overeaten the under story, that hundreds will undoubtedly starve if the population is not reduced. In many areas the deer have completely denuded the forests and destroyed the habitat for other whole species, including raccoon, squirrels and chipmunks. Their habitat is completely destroyed. Generations of small trees are also gone and it will take decades to re-grow those trees and restore the small game.

So far the cull has proceeded without incident. We accommodated specific requests by residents where feasible. Each area was posted with bright yellow posters warning passers-by that a hunt was being conducted. Every major entrance to the hunt areas was widely posted.

As of this writing the hunt has taken 84 deer. Only eight of them are males, which is one of the criteria of our Animal Control Officer Meredith Petrillo. She was opposed to trophy hunting and Mr. Weiss assured her the UBNJ would voluntarily take only one in nine bucks, which they did. Residents report that there are not so many deer hit by cars all over our roads and that the herds have to a great degree been dispersed. What is most pleasing is that 6,000 meals have been donated to needy families and almost 400 pounds of meat have been made available to Denville residents. These are healthy meals, low fat and high in protein.

Thanks!

We would like to acknowledge and thank outgoing councilmen Chris Dour, Jerry LaMonte and Bob Grant. Each had a unique contribution to Denville and we thank them for their service and dedication and wish them the best in future endeavors.

PARK UPGRADES

Muriel Hepner Park

Many people know Muriel Hepner Park as a park with a small lake, a playground and a bridge that leads to paths in the woods. What most people don't know is its interesting history and that it has been expanding greatly from consistent open space purchases over the past few years. For the past four years, open space has been purchased in what is called the Muriel Hepner Park extension.

During the 1920s and 1930s when Indian Lake, Lake Arrowhead and Cedar Lake were all being transformed from swamps to man-made lakes, there were plans to do the same with the small lake that later became known as Muriel Hepner pond. Nine roads were laid out behind the pond, but only a short stretch of one of them, Crystal Drive was ever built. All the others remain "paper roads" till this day. Obviously, it was not economically feasible to build that lake community as the others had been built. Consequently, only six houses have been built in that area. As we complete the purchase of those lots that are market priced, we turn our attention to developing the area as a nice municipal park. There is much potential for passive trails, bird sanctuaries, picnic areas and exercise areas. In 2009 we applied for and received a grant for those items and more. We will repair the bridges and take down dead trees. In the spring of 2010 a multi-committee workday has been planned to clean-up, dress-up, rake up and examine the park in preparation for using the grant funds. 20% of the grant has to be an in-kind municipal contribution.

Eagle Projects Benefit Denville

Some Boy Scout Eagle projects benefit an institution, a church or a charity. All are for the benefit of someone, but the following three done in 2009 directly benefit Denville Township and fit in closely with our immediate plans for the near future.

First, Orest Michel from Troop 206 did a major cleanup and tombstone cleaning of the historic Hill Cemetery on Cooper Road. The township is in the process of taking title to this abandoned cemetery. There is hope to allow a cemetery foundation to be created to operate that cemetery as it should be operated. The last person was interred in Hill Cemetery in 1946.



Orest Michel's Eagle Project at Hill Cemetery on Cooper Road

Second, Aaron Hussa, also of Troop 206, cleared and restored nearly a half mile of the historic Morris Canal towpath that is visible from Diamond Spring Road. It is now a very nice walking trail and will eventually fit into a walking trail system through that park.

Eagle Projects Benefit Denville Cont'd

Third Devin Pallitto of Troop 390 also did a historic restoration project. On recently acquired property adjacent to Veteran's Memorial Park, Devin restored the old stone farmer's wall. He will erect a plaque there in honor of all the farmers in the 1800s and early 1900s that worked this area.

Each of these projects came about when the prospective Eagle Scout visited the mayor's office and inquired what project they could do that would be for the benefit of Denville residents.



Aaron Husa's Eagle Project on the Morris Canal Towpath



Devin Pallitto restoration of historic farmer's wall at Veteran's memorial park



Additional views of work done by Beautification Committee. Clockwise from top left; downtown planters were beautiful all summer. Award winning township garden at the base of Kitchell Road. Denville sign on Rd. 46 east will be beautified for the first time in 2010.

Mayor's Recycling Initiative (2009 Update)

Recycling Really Does Matter

This article can be found in its entirety at www.denvillenj.org. The initiative focuses on the following 5 points. Denville wants to demonstrate and educate the public on how our garbage bills can be drastically lowered, by removing recyclable materials from the waste stream. The town can achieve a savings of up to \$165,000 annually from our garbage fees by moving 15% of garbage from the garbage stream into recycling stream.

Denville produces 600 tons of garbage a month. We pay approximately \$150 per ton to remove it in hauling and tipping fees. If we can remove between 15% and 17% of this volume out of the garbage stream and add it to the recycle stream we can reduce those 600 tons of garbage to 500 tons per month. This is then 100 tons of additional recycled materials at about \$150 per ton or over a 12 month period equals a whopping savings of about \$165,000. If you can remove just 15% more of recyclables from your garbage we can collectively save \$165,000. What an easy way to save money. Please recycle everything!

We can protect our environment by the removal of heavy metals and other recyclables from the waste stream and by cleaning the environment of litter. Nobody wants to take a walk in one of our nice parks or view our nice streams and rivers and see litter and recyclables all over. Try to be proactive and bring plastic bags to collect recyclables when you take a walk in the wild.

The Township would like to give prizes for the most creative use of recycled products and the most innovative process for using recycled materials. Would you like to find a way to recycle #1 plastic or a better way to recycle tires? Come up with a good idea and you will be eligible for future prizes. Please submit your entries in writing to Mayor P. Ted Husa, 1 St. Mary's Place, Denville, NJ. Ideas already submitted will not be overlooked. The entries will be judged and prizes awarded in the summer of 2010.

Since this initiative was kicked off in March of 2008, this aspect of the initiative has proven to be a lucrative return. Denville worked out an agreement with CM Metals of Dover to have an all aluminum container in the DPW yard for recycling all aluminum materials. We recently turned a full container in and were very pleased to find that instead of the \$300 proceeds our mixed container usually brought, the all-aluminum container brought \$1,700 in revenue proceeds. This difference of \$1,400 convincingly demonstrates the high value of recycling precious metals as a Township.

In 2008 Denville was the second highest recycling municipality in the county and got a county grant for \$38,000. In 2009 that number was increased to \$53,000. We got another grant from the state of \$21,500 for recycling in 2008 and that number became \$34,000 in 2009. These two grants are based on our total annual tonnage recycled and on county and state formulas. Please watch for DPW's annual newsletter on recycling. These numbers prove Denville is taking recycling very seriously.



Shared Services with Mt. Lakes—Municipal Court

More and more all towns are finding out shared services between towns or other entities are easy to discuss, but harder to actually achieve. In 2009, Denville worked for 10 months on a shared court agreement with Mountain Lakes. It was realized and will be implemented early in 2010. Mt. Lakes will hold court here in Denville and share judge and public defender. Each municipality will retain its own prosecutor, but each will work at a reduced rate. All sessions will occur during the day and Denville's court staff will be retained. This sharing saves \$48,000 annually for the Township.

There have been informal talks with neighboring towns like Rockaway Borough and Parsippany, the MHRD and the Denville school district, as well as Picatinny, Greystone, Morris County, but no additional agreements have yet been reached. We have had a lot of discussions and shared ideas and found many areas of mutual interest to pursue in 2010. Denville also participated in GEM, Government Efficiency Morris, a shared services forum sponsored by Morris County. Sharing services is tax relief in the future.

Denville has some other shared services already with neighboring towns. In 2010 we will conduct formal sessions with neighboring towns again to find good and workable shared services. One thing we learned is that shared services requires time, work and effort to be successful. The Mt. Lakes court merger is a good start.

SURVEY? SURVEY? WHO HAS A COPY OF MY SURVEY?

The tax assessor's office receives numerous inquiries from property owners needing a copy of the survey of their property. Surveys are not required to be filed with the Township or County.

Surveys are usually required during the purchase process of a property. The metes and bounds description in the deed should match the survey. The bank financing the purchase requires a copy of the survey and the deed. The survey is usually included in your closing costs. At closing, you should be given a copy of your survey. Safeguard it and keep it with your other important papers (deed, copy of mortgage papers, etc.).

If you do not have a copy of your survey, you should contact the attorney that handled your closing and request a copy.



Pictured at right is the municipal building and the council chambers

*On behalf of the Denville
Administration and Employees,
we would like to wish all residents of
Denville Township a very happy,
healthy and prosperous New Year!*

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Mayor

Thomas Andes

Council President

Chris Golinski Ward 2

Gene FitzPatrick Ward 3

Don Kuser Ward 4

Deborah Smith At Large

Nick Stecky At Large

Howard Shaw At Large

Marie Goble

Chief Financial Officer/Business
Administrator

