

Wantage Township Fall 2017 Newsletter

Mayor: Jon Morris

Deputy Mayor: Bill Gaechter

Committeeman: Ron Bassani

Administrator: Debra Millikin

Dear Fellow Wantage Township Resident:

My fellow citizens of Wantage Township, I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for Fall. I want to take this opportunity to reach out to each of you and thank you for the continued confidence you have placed in myself, Deputy Mayor Bill Gaechter, and Committeeman Ron Bassani. We are honored to represent you in our continued efforts to manage the well-being of Wantage Township. Please feel confident that we continuously strive to do our best as we migrate today's economic challenges and plan for the future of Wantage.

2017 Budget — Once again, the Budget for this year was a zero percent increase. My thanks to the Committee and all the staff involved in keeping the increase at zero percent.

Open Space Update – The Township is actively pursuing open space parcels in order to preserve our rural quality of life and balance future development with healthy living and green space. The parcel currently under contract is 41 Berry Road. The NJ Green Acres program is providing the Township with a matching grant of 50% towards the purchase of open space and must be spent prior to the end of December 2017. It is the Township Committee's goal to obtain involvement from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission, and the public on the best utilization for this Open Space parcel. The Open Space Committee is working on updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan establishing goals for the next 10 years. The result will be a plan that meets the needs of all Wantage residents and their children. The Township will have a referendum question on the ballot in November to allow the voters to determine if they would like to continue with a tax for Open Space Funding.

Wantage Township First Aid Squad Update – As some of you are aware, Wantage First Aid Squad has gone through many changes in the past year. The First Aid Squad has seen a major turnover in members for various reasons. Our members have been working very hard to supply us with the care and service that we have grown to expect. Our neighboring communities have assisted when needed in helping the First Aid Squad respond to calls. The Township of Wantage wants you to know that we are still 100% committed to our volunteers, all our volunteers, and providing the resources required to respond to calls for help. That being said there may be times when our volunteers are tapped out and unable to respond to a call. As of right now if a situation were to arise and our volunteers are unable to respond, Atlantic Ambulance Corporation has been contacted and they will be dispatched immediately.

Wantage Township Fire Department Update – The Wantage Township Fire Department received a \$102,000 grant from AFG grant program through FEMA for the purchase of new SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) packs for the Colesville Department.

In closing, 2017 has been a busy year for Wantage Township. The goals of the Township Committee are still the same; to continue to have Economic Development in Wantage. It is extremely important to continue to pursue of commercial development along the Route 23 corridor. This will help to provide key ratables to the Township. Wantage is very unique! Residents love the open space and rural character, but the need for commercial ratables is required to be able to continue to keep taxes stable for Wantage. I look forward to working with our Committee to achieve this endeavor for Wantage.

Truly Yours,

Jonathan Morris, Mayor

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP RECREATION

December 1, 2017 the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Wantage School

In conjunction with the Sussex Wantage PTO Book Fair



DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE?

If your dog has been spayed or neutered, the dog license fee is \$10.00, plus late fees. If your dog has not been spayed or neutered, the fee is \$14.00, plus late fees. Late Fees of \$2 per month, per dog, apply if you did not renew your dog license before 02/01/17. Please make checks payable to Wantage Township. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, include this proof with your application. You Must Also Include Proof of Rabies Vaccination. If your dog's rabies shot expires before November 1, 2017, you must get your dog a new rabies shot before you can apply for your 2018 dog license. You may obtain your dog license either by mail or in person at the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 State Highway Route 23, Wantage, NJ. If you have any questions, call us at 973-875-7192.



RABIES CLINIC: November 3, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wantage Township Garage, 888 Route 23. Bring proof of previous rabies vaccination if this is not your animal's first rabies inoculation. Dogs must be on leash; cats must be in carriers.

PARKING ON TOWNSHIP ROADS DURING WINTER MONTHS

Parking on Township Roads is not permitted from November 15th to April 15th due to snow and ice potential. This is extremely important to adhere to. This will ensure the DPW drivers have the ability to clear all roadways in a timely manner and to help maintain the roadways to keep them safe for residents.



WANTAGE TOWNSHIP CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

New Jersey's Clean Communities Program is a statewide litter abatement program developed to reduce litter in New Jersey. If anyone is interested in additional information or participating in any of our programs, please contact Ken Karnas at 973-875-7192.

Our 3-Pronged Approach:

- Litter and illegal dumping removal & control
- Education
- Enforcement

The program asks that you:

- Always put trash in proper receptacles
- Recycle all recyclable materials
- Keep cigarette butts off our roadways
- Don't litter
- Report illegal dumping 973-875-7192
- Organize and participate in community clean ups

There are Incentives for Groups, Organizations etc. to participate in organized roadside clean ups:

- Develop civic pride in performing community service
- Hands on experience that will help understand negative impact of litter on the environment
- Your group will be compensated \$10.00 per hour per person for your group!

The clean communities program recently added a new "Little Free Library" that is located in our Woodbourne park on the left of the children's playground area. Please pay a visit to this area!!

Township of Wantage
888 Route 23
Wantage, NJ 07461

**STD MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
FRANKLIN, NJ**

PERMIT NO. 321

Resident – Wantage Township
Wantage, NJ 07461

ONLY TO BE DELIVERED TO WANTAGE RESIDENTS

TRIMMING TREES/BUSHES ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

From time to time, the Township must trim hedges, bushes, tree branches, shrubbery and other forms of landscaping planted along the public right of way. If you have trees or bushes planted along the public right of way, and you do not want the Township to trim them, for fear that we may damage the plant or tree, please contact the Administrator's office at 973-875-7192. We will have a member of the Public Works Department come out and explain our needs, and if it is necessary to improve sight distance, we will allow you the opportunity to trim and prune the plants yourself, in a way that you find acceptable and will at the same time meet the needs of the public for safety along the roads. If we do not hear from you, and the public's safety is being compromised by sight distance problems, we will take appropriate action to prune and trim the branches and shrubs. Take a pro-active stance now to protect your curb-side landscaping, if you think this will be a problem or issue for you.