



MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Fall 2017



Millstone's Most Recent Open Space Acquisition

The State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection with funding partners, Millstone Township and the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, purchased from the Hayam Limited Liability Company, 19.3 acres on Olde Noah Hunt Road, known as block 55, lots 4.24, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, and 4.28. The Ivanhoe Brook runs along the northern boundary and reportedly in the 1990's, boy scouts found American Indian arrowheads on this site.

On March 15, 2017, these additional 19.3 acres were added to the Prospertown Wildlife Management Area to bring Millstone's total acreage to 970.6 acres (out of the total 1,012.88 acres) in this wildlife area. Prospertown Wildlife Management Area lies in the southwestern portion of Millstone, encompassing lands in Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Prospertown Lake, approximately 80 acres, borders the wildlife management area and provides recreational activities as well as interesting inlets and coves to explore. The lake is an ideal location for kayakers and other manually operated boats and canoes. Motorized watercraft is prohibited.

In 2011, Hurricane Irene, caused the dam to fail and the lake dried up to a trickle. However, in the spring of 2013, the dam was rebuilt and the State began stocking the lake with fish once again from the State Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown. Trout is the primary fish stocked in the lake but large mouth bass, black crappies, bluegills and channel catfish are also stocked. Hunting is also abundant in this area during hunting season. Visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/licenses.htm, for information regarding fishing & hunting regulations and licenses.



Congratulations to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, established in 1892, on their 125th anniversary! Today it manages over 350,000 acres of public lands that benefit hunting and a wide array of wildlife-associated recreation. One of their most recent success stories is the come back of the bald eagle with 120 active nests and almost 200 fledged young in a single year!

Take your family for the afternoon and explore nature in a wildlife area in your backyard! The entrance to the lake is on Route 537, just south of Great Adventure.

Message from the Agricultural Advisory Council Chair

As we are in the mist of another growing season here in the Garden State, hay and straw are continuously being cut and bailed, soy beans and corn are at the verge of being harvested and of course everyone loves the flavor of Jersey peaches, fresh sweet corn and our Jersey tomato. Being a vegetable grower here in Millstone Township, operating on the western most part of the town, I know firsthand the amount of time and effort that goes into growing and harvesting these many different crops. Each field, be it grain or vegetables, requires different types of equipment that need to be used both in the field for the growing operation and for transporting product over the road. This equipment usually has speed restrictions for road use, necessitating them to move very slowly. This in turn tends to cause traffic back-ups from time to time.

Residents of Millstone who have moved here from an area which may not have had such an agricultural presence, may find this frustrating. With the size of the equipment being transported down the road, many times farmers are unable to pull over due to the risk of damage to their expensive equipment. Please know as farmers we are just trying to do our jobs. Our goal is to safely get our product to you. The phrase "No Farmers, No Food" is actually more meaningful than you may think. ANYTHING you eat comes from a farm.

Farming for you.

Your Agricultural Advisory Council Chair,

George Asprocolas



Don't Waste Our Open Space: Illegal Dumping Crackdowns



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) "Don't Waste Our Open Space" illegal dumping crackdown program continues as it marks the completion of its third year. State Park Police and the Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers have logged more than 130 arrests in cases involving illegal dumping in state parks, forests and wildlife management acres since the program was instituted. The Assunpink and Prosperstown Wildlife Refuges as well as hundreds of other preserved acres in Millstone serving as a wildlife corridor along Route 526 and 537 benefit from such enforcement. The campaign stresses strict enforcement of illegal dumping laws while raising awareness of the problem through outreach and education.

State Park Police and Conservation Officers are aided by strategically placed motion-sensor cameras that are in select parks and wildlife management areas to capture incidents of illegal dumping. Penalties for illegal dumping in these areas include criminal fines of up to \$5,000 per violation and civil penalties of up to \$1500 per violation. In addition, the state is authorized to seek stiffer penalties for major violations through the Solid Waste Management Act. Household items and trash, remodeling construction debris, car parts, chemicals, solid waste, old televisions, computers etc. were among the items dumped resulting in fines from \$500 to \$25,000 plus community service requirements of 90 to 300 days.

Maintaining and protecting our open space and preserving the environmentally sensitive land of our township are of great importance to our township and residents. Thousands of acres of open space and farmland have been preserved in our township through the hard work and commitment of our residents. The Millstone Township Committee recently expanded the state's effort to prevent illegal dumping by increasing municipal fines for any dumping located within our borders. It is extremely important that our residents serve as additional eyes, ears and voices by reporting illegal dumping and any misuse of our public land to the appropriate authority. If you observe any dumping within the township, **please call the municipal building (732-446-4249).**

We need you to help us protect home.



Assunpink Wildlife Management Area

Millstone Park Update

The development of Millstone Park is well underway. Phase I development of Millstone Park will encompass 58 acres of the 165 acre parkland and will include nine multipurpose playing fields (three with lighting), a walking/riding trail, a boat launch, fishing pier, a tot lot and a concession building with restroom facilities. Work on phase I of the new park began in January of this year and contractors are actively working at the site. The boat ramp and fishing pier have been installed and are ready for the asphalt driveway to be added. The concession building is up with plumbing and utilities currently being installed. The multipurpose fields have been graded and field lighting has been installed. The



multipurpose fields will be seeded this fall, re-seeded in spring of 2018 and it is anticipated that the fields will be ready for play by the fall of 2018. Opening of the new Millstone Park will be announced

on the Township website and PEG channel. **You can register for Township e-bulletins at www.millstonenj.gov.**

Future Farmers of America



Our members are proud to represent Millstone Township. Many of our members take agriscience courses at Allentown High School in plant science, animal science, biotechnology, food science and many more. Some of these courses can result in college credits. The National FFA Organization is a leadership organization where skills such

as team building, public speaking and confidence are developed. FFA accepts people from all walks of life, making life long friends. Members, alumni and friends can participate in FFA events and activities throughout the year. The FFA has helped Millstone this year at the clambake that was held on June 11th at Wagner Farm Park. There were several members and officers in attendance throughout the day to help serve the food and clean up. **Our annual citrus sale begins October 15th. Orders can be placed by calling 609-259-7292 X1440, visit us at ffa.ufrsd.net.**

Monmouth County Open Space Tax Supports Millstone

Millstone Township has been a very fortunate recipient of the Monmouth County open space tax. Our township has taken advantage of the programs offered and supported by Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund through grants, partnerships and county agency initiatives.

In the last ten years, Millstone has received close to \$2 million in grant money alone used to acquire land, restore historic structures, and develop recreational facilities. Numerous grants are available annually to support historic, recreational and acquisition initiatives.

The Monmouth County Park System used the Open Space Trust Fund money to purchase more than 2,000 acres of parkland in Millstone. The land, comprised of the Perrineville Lake Park, which is one of the largest parks in Monmouth County and the Charleston Springs Park and Golf Course, provides numerous trails utilized by many Millstone and Monmouth County residents. The Agress Road Trail that is under five miles is ranked as the 7th best trail in New Jersey. All county trails are maintained by the county at their cost. The preservation of these park areas and golf course was at no cost to Millstone residents other than our cost through the Monmouth County open space trust tax. Perrineville Lake and Charleston Springs Park areas continue to expand as land becomes available.

The Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board has also designated money from open space trust fund to preserve hundreds of acres of farmland throughout the township in partnerships with the municipality and state. Currently, there are numerous projects underway.

Preservation of land for the purposes listed above helps Millstone Township maintain its rural character and unique quality of life. It is also crucial in protecting our five watersheds that New Jersey residents rely on for clean water. Land preservation is also a major factor in keeping Millstone municipal taxes stable and the lowest in Monmouth County.

Consider this information in November when deciding whether to support the Monmouth County Open Space Trust referendum.

Grown in Monmouth Takes Root

Monmouth County Freeholders were on hand in May when Louis Davino, of Louis Davino Greenhouses in Millstone Township, introduced the expansive line of seasonal and specialty flowers and vegetable plants to kick off the “Grown in Monmouth” brand. These are the first locally grown flowers and plants under the Grown in Monmouth brand and are available at ShopRite stores owned by the Saker family in Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex and Mercer counties.

“All of these plants were started from seed in our Millstone facility.” said Mr. Davino. “The next step is for shoppers to plant the flowers and vegetables in their home gardens. They can be confident they will have truly locally-grown blossoms and produce when they purchase plants in “Grown in Monmouth” containers. If a plant is grown in the Monmouth County soil, or New Jersey soil, from seed to harvest it will be spectacular.”



Louis Davino of Louis Davino Greenhouses in Millstone



Check out Monmouth County’s new, interactive web-based portal at www.GrownInMonmouth.com to search the Grown in Monmouth brand by product, activity or category. The searchable online directory contains a listing of farm markets, farm stands, garden centers and pick-your-own locations. Growers can also register and catalog their available products and activities on the Grown in Monmouth website.

Grown in Monmouth is a program of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders that is designed to help retain and grow our County’s vibrant agricultural industry. Goals of the program include the development of a marketing program to promote consumer awareness and a preference for Monmouth County grown products, identification of new markets, connecting County growers with consumers, and providing business skills/ assistance to our County’s agricultural community.



**Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council**

George Asprocolas, Chairperson
Randy Peck, Vice Chairperson
Pat Butch
Tom Dancer
Shirley Pinhas
Kate Posten

Nancy A. Grbelja,
Township Committee Liaison

**Millstone Twp Open Space &
Farmland Preservation Council**

Diane Morelli, Chairperson
Pat Butch, Vice Chairperson
George Asprocolas
Mark Blackwell
Nancy A. Grbelja
Anthony Marra
Rose Oxley
Kelly Scott
Merrill Siedman

**Millstone Township
Committee**

Michael Kuczinski, Mayor
Fiore Masci, Deputy Mayor
Gary Dorfman
Nancy A. Grbelja
Bob Kinsey

HARVEST FEST
October 14, 2017 12:30 – 3:30 PM

The Baird Homestead
24 Baird Road
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

**Hay Rides
Historic House Tour
Petting Zoo
Face Art**

**Arts & Crafts
Food
Games &
Displays**

Hosted by Friends of Millstone Historic Registered Properties
Millstone Township Historic Commission &
Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council
More information at:

www.mtfriendsofhistory.org

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Agricultural Advisory Council
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council
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