

Delivering on Our Promises to You

Thank you for your trust in us as we serve on the Borough Council! Our experience as global communications professionals and project managers prepared us to lead during one of the most challenging times in recent history.

We are proud to share some of the initiatives we have championed that are making life in Morris Plains even better. These accomplishments resulted from our positive, collaborative working relationships with fellow Councilmembers, Mayor Karr, Borough employees and Borough volunteers.

Revitalizing Our Business Districts

- Founded a new **Business Development Committee** along with Councilman Wagner and developed a strategy based on best practices to create vibrant business districts.
- Conducted ongoing meetings with small business owners to discuss how we can support them.
- Held first Small Business Saturday event to promote downtown holiday shopping.
- Established an ordinance to permanently allow outdoor dining and a separate ordinance to streamline zoning approvals and reduce small business start-up costs.
- Initiated an historic reevaluation of our non-residential zones to allow modern permitted uses (like breweries and paint and sip shops).



Enhancing Communication with Residents

- Conducted the Borough's first online **Resident Communication Survey** to identify areas in need of improvement.
- Directed and launched the first **Borough website redesign and content overhaul** since the site was established in 2001.
- Established an official Borough Facebook page to provide updates on Borough business and activities.
- Invited residents and business owners to participate on a "Cannabis Advisory Committee" to make recommendations to the Council about cannabis business regulation.

Improving Convenience and Reducing Costs

- Added **robust content to the new website** to make it easier to find information, contact staff, learn about clubs and amenities, download forms, volunteer for boards and committees, sign up for emergency alerts and eliminate unnecessary trips to Borough Hall.
- Switched to a new Internet hosting provider, yielding reduced cost and improved performance.
- Passed an ordinance to allow first responders to recover costs associated with hazardous clean-ups.

Prioritizing the Health of Residents

- Worked with Morris County officials to communicate the latest **COVID protocols and vaccine information** and coordinate vaccinations for residents, especially critical care residents.
- Rallied Borough volunteers to make protective face masks and delivered them to seniors and other residents.
- Created and hand delivered Covid information resources for MP senior citizens who do not have online access.
- Helped initiate Zoom meeting protocols so Council, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Board of Health meetings could safely continue through the pandemic.
- Organized first-ever online registration for the rabies clinic to make the process easier.

Protecting the Environment

- Researched and submitted **winning grant applications** in 2020 and 2021 that yielded **\$204,000** from Morris County to fund an Open Space purchase on Mountain Way and **\$34,000** for permitting and design work for a walking trail at Community Park.
- Continue to advocate for a Borough sustainability committee.

Help Us Continue to Serve You

We need your support to continue to work for a better Morris Plains for all residents!

- Follow us on www.Facebook.com/Goddard-VergaMP
- Email us: GoddardVergaMP@gmail.com
- Support our 2022 Re-election: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/goddard-verga>
- Save the date: "Firepit Friday" **Happy Hour** event - Feb. 25 – details TBA

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year!

Joan Goddard and Nancy Verga
Councilmembers, Borough of Morris Plains

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