

NPDC / Skillman Village

A Montgomery Township Community Project

First in a series of Backpack Mailings from Montgomery Township to help keep you informed.

Q: How will the public be kept informed of progress as environmental remediation, building demolition and redevelopment proceed?

A: The Township will keep the public informed via multiple media outlets including but not limited to: a monthly column in the Township newsletter, electronic bulletins via email, the Township website, Township Committee meetings, “back-pack mailings,” local newspapers and other broadcast media. Public Forums will be conducted regarding the environmental remediation work and other aspects of that project, and will include question and answer discussions with Township officials, consultants and practitioners. When possible, public meetings and/or panel discussions will be broadcast on Channel 14 Cable Television.

First, however, a series of smaller meetings will be held with Village School leaders, teachers, staff, PTA board members and parents. These will begin on the afternoon of January 24. The public meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of January 24 has been postponed.

To sign up for the Montgomery Township E-bulletin service – a free, self-subscribing email service on the township website that provides news bulletins – contact the Township’s community information officer Tammy Garaffa, tgaraffa@twp.montgomery.nj.us or 908-359-8211 x207,

Q: What if the Township web site doesn’t have an answer to my question(s)?

A: We encourage and welcome additional questions. Submit questions directly through the web site link to Tammy Garaffa, or call Ms. Garaffa (contact information above.) She or another Township representative such as Township Administrator Donato Nieman (x212), or Health Officer Stephanie Carey (x245), will return your call promptly. New questions and answers may be added to the FAQ section of the web site, which will be updated and expanded regularly.

Q: Is the NPDC site dangerous right now?

A: Parts of the site are dangerous. For example, old buildings that may be structurally unsound are not secured. These buildings have been subjected to incidents of vandalism and arson in recent years. Exposed asbestos piping and peeling lead paint are in areas that curiosity-seekers may be able to access. The best way to abate these hazards and protect the public health is with a thorough, prompt, professional cleanup. Note that the Village Elementary School property was thoroughly cleaned before the school was built. Children, teachers and staff are not in danger at school or on school property, including the playground.

Q: Is there a plan to ensure the health and safety of children, teachers and staff at the village elementary school?

A: Yes. Health and safety are the top priorities in environmental remediation and demolition. No demolition and abatement activities will be performed within 300 feet of the school property while school is in session. The companies responsible for environmental cleanup and demolition are required to prepare formal Health and Safety plans. Those plans in this case must specifically address the health and safety of the students, faculty and staff of the Village Elementary School. The plans must be done to the satisfaction of the Township, and will be prepared with input from school officials, from the general public, and from safety experts including Montgomery Police Department, Montgomery Office of Emergency Management, Montgomery fire companies and emergency medical service (EMS) representatives.

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Q: Will air quality be monitored during remediation and demolition work?

A: Yes. Air Monitoring will be provided at the work site and perimeter locations (including between the work area and the school and at the school property boundary). These monitoring devices will be purposely set to alarm at a small fraction of the allowable limits to serve as an early warning so that if the alarm is triggered operations will be shut down before any problem can occur.

Q: How will security be handled?

A: The Township will have regular patrols of the site immediately upon taking ownership by the Montgomery Police Department. Areas of the site that are in the process of being remediated or in areas where buildings are being demolished will be blocked off (e.g. fenced) from the rest of the site. The Township Department of Public Works will work to immediately secure the 22 buildings to remain standing at this time.

Q: How will the Township ensure that the contractors take the precautions they say they will take? Who will oversee the demolition from a safety perspective?

A: The Township has engaged JM Sorge, Inc. to assist with the oversight of the demolition of buildings and environmental remediation. The Township Engineer, Construction Official, and Health Officer will also be involved with the oversight including fielding the public's questions and concerns.

Q: How will school officials be kept informed and engaged as the project moves ahead?

A: The Township has met with school officials and will continue regular meetings and other communication to answer questions and receive feedback and suggestions about remediation, demolition and redevelopment of the site. School officials will be involved in creation of the Health and Safety Plans and pre-construction meetings, and will be invited to meet with the contractors and oversight professionals on-site for frequent updates.

The Township Committee, staff and professionals are committed to keeping you informed and engaged as we undertake the clean-up, detailed planning and redevelopment of NPDC/Skillman Village. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Contact People in the Municipal Building:

Tamara Garaffa, community info officer	908-359-8211	tgaraffa@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Donato Nieman, township administrator	908-359-8211	dnieman@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Lori Savron, planning director	908-359-8211	lsavron@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Stephanie Carey, health officer	908-359-8211	scarey@twp.montgomery.nj.us

Township Committee members:

Cecilia Xie Birge, mayor	cbirge@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Louise Wilson, deputy mayor	lwilson@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Mark Caliguire, committeeman	mcaliguire@twp.montgomery.nj.us
John Warmes, committeeman	jwarmes@twp.montgomery.nj.us
Brad Fay, committeeman	bfay@twp.montgomery.nj.us

...or leave a phone message with the Township Clerk's office (908-359-8211 x211) for any Township Committee member.

For much more information, including maps, planning documents and detailed questions and answers please visit the Montgomery Township web site: www.Montgomery.nj.us.

Thank you!