

Dear friends and neighbors,

It is with great honor and excitement that I'm writing to inform you, on behalf of the Montgomery Township Committee, that yesterday, January 23, 2007, Montgomery Township completed the purchase of 256 acres of land and the sewage treatment plant at Skillman Village, formerly known as the North Princeton Developmental Center.

It took ten years, five governors, bipartisan support both at the state and local levels, active community involvement and highly skilled and dedicated staff and professionals to get to the finish line. Our efforts to reach this point have truly been a story of sustained community effort. A great many Montgomery people deserve special thanks for their dedication, hard work and perseverance in seeing the negotiation and acquisition process through to this point of accomplishment.

As we celebrate this wonderful milestone, township staff have already begun to secure the site. In the next couple of weeks, residents will see the following activities:

- ✓ Removal of the old NPDC signage
- ✓ Installation of the new Skillman Village Sign
- ✓ Montgomery Township Police patrol
- ✓ Buildings being secured by Public Works Department
- ✓ "No Trespassing" signs posted
- ✓ Gates installed
- ✓ Surveyors and/or environmental assessment company on site

Intense effort has also been put in the preparation of the remediation and demolition work, with the highest priority placed in the public health and safety. A tremendous amount of information gathering and environmental "due diligence" has been performed and will continue in the coming weeks

Before any demolition or remediation activities begin, a series of community information forums will be held to discuss the environmental clean-up plans and how this will be accomplished safely and carefully. (For meeting dates and times, starting next week, please go to our website at www.montgomery.nj.us.)

The transfer of NPDC from State control to the Township marks the long-awaited ending of a sad chapter of deterioration and decline in the history of the site and the beginning of a highly anticipated new chapter as we look forward to the transformation of NPDC into Skillman Village, a spectacular future community hub. Change, even change for the better, is sometimes difficult at first, but we, as a community, must work together to usher in a new era for this property. Thank you all for your support.

Sincerely,

Cecilia X. Birge
Mayor