

## Following Six Years of 100% Safety, Township Renews Wildlife Program for '10-'11 Season

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On Tuesday night, after six consecutive years of 100% safety in the Township's Wildlife Management program, the Hillsborough Township Committee approved the program for the



2010-2011 hunting season, the seventh year of the program.

Reporting on the effectiveness of the 2009-2010 Hillsborough Wildlife Management and Deer Hunting Program, Dr. Robert Matros, Chairman of the Hillsborough Wildlife Management Commission, attested to the program's continued high safety record, which again saw a 100% safe season for the sixth year in a row.

"Safety is paramount for the Township's Wildlife Management Program. Since its inception in 2004, there has not been a single incident. This is undoubtedly due to the effort and emphasis on safety put forth by the hunters, and other agencies involved in the program," stated Mayor Frank DeCore.

"The outstanding safety record of the program is due largely in part to background checks of hunters, added safety measures and the mandatory safety training that all of the hunters must attend in order to be permitted to hunt the upcoming season," reported Dr. Matros.

"There are strict regulations in place with regards to the Wildlife Management program. Each and every permitted hunter must conform to these regulations in order to be eligible to participate. The hunters are not only willing to comply but often take extra measures to ensure the safety of themselves and those around them, which is truly admirable," stated Committeeman Bob Wagner, liaison to the Wildlife Management Commission.

One change made to the program for the 2010-2011 hunting season, which will run tentatively from October 2010 – March 2011 in accordance with State law, will be the requirement for each hunter to harvest at least one deer on the property they are assigned. Failure to do so will prevent the hunter from being automatically re-enrolled in the following year's program and would require them to re-apply for the lottery.

Committeeman Wagner also noted, "The Township will continue with the Hunters Helping The Hungry venison food bank program, which uses permit fees collected from the hunters to offset the butchering cost. In the four years we've been participating this program, we have already



been able to donate 1,150lbs to the food bank."

According to the Wildlife Management Commission report:

-Hillsborough Township authorizes a limited number of hunting permits for specific public properties in the Township, during the hunting season which runs from October – March, in accordance with State law.

-49 permits will be issued for 2010-2011 to hunt on 533.35 acres.

- Interested licensed hunters participate in a lottery to be awarded areas to hunt. A very limited number of hunters are allowed on each site and hunters may only hunt the site they are awarded.

- Hunters must already be licensed by the State of New Jersey, pay a fee of \$75 for the Township permit, must have \$1 million in liability insurance, and must participate in a mandatory safety training class.

- Hunting is mostly conducted with bow and arrow shooting down from a deer stand in a tree. Under a regulation approved in 2007, hunters are required to wear a safety harness while in the deer stand.
- New Jersey law permits the regulated use of licensed firearms for specific limited periods during the hunting season. The extension of state regulated firearm hunting is limited to Areas 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 (buckshot only), and 16.
- Hunters must be at a minimum 450 feet from a dwelling by state law. In almost all cases the hunting areas are further than 450 feet from dwellings.

Permit applications will be available in the Hillsborough Township Clerk's Office and online at [www.hillsborough-nj.org](http://www.hillsborough-nj.org) beginning on July 1, 2010. The application deadline is 4 pm, Friday, July 16, 2010. The \$75 permit fee is not due until after the hunting area is awarded. Proof of insurance and valid hunting license must be submitted with the application.

The Lottery for assignment of permitted hunting areas will be held in the Municipal Courtroom on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, at 10 am. Hunters do not need to be present to be awarded an area assignment.

The Wildlife Commission also recommended nonlethal methods to control deer damage including:

- 1) Continue to plot all road killed deer from motor vehicle accidents on a map of the Township to locate where additional signage may be needed;
- 2) Continue the replacement of worn deer crossing road signs and/or an increase of signs at key points around the Township;
- 3) Continue the trimming of brush on public properties further back from the road to allow motorists improved vision of deer at the roadside;
- 4) Provide "Watch For Deer" while driving information to each property owner within the Township, to be included in the tax bills;
- 5) Provide "Wildlife Tips" throughout year on the Township's website on such topics relating to deer such as [deer resistant plants](#), leaving wildlife alone in the wild, [driving tips](#) during peak times when deer are most active and the negative issues of feeding deer and other wildlife issues;