

2012 Special Recognition: **Kevin Coughlin, Editor/ MorristownGreen.com**

The Arts Council of the Morris Area is truly delighted to honor Kevin Coughlin, Editor of MorristownGreen.com, for his outstanding efforts to document, promote and enhance the arts in our area through his online publication, MorristownGreen.com.

From humble beginnings writing sports for a weekly paper in Connecticut followed by journalism studies at Rutgers, positions at the *Daily Targum*, the *Bergen Record*, the *Paterson News* and his extended run with *The Star-Ledger*, Kevin honed his excellent reportorial and technology skills. He spent a year as a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT and wrote stories on everything from killers in the Middle East to global warming. In late 2007, The Star-Ledger asked for help leading a “hyperlocal” experiment to reinvent the paper and MorristownGreen.com was born. Initially doubtful about returning to local news, Kevin shortly became hooked and, when tough economic times forced the paper to scale back, he re-launched MorristownGreen.com as his own venture in May 2010.

Since then, Kevin virtually defies the laws of physics seemingly in two places at once, and manages to attend nearly every cultural happening in the area. Armed with notepad and videocamera, he documents the cultural life of our community with warmth, wit and generosity. He’s covered everyone from a 7 year old computer wizard, the comeback of an 86 year old crooner, and the debut of a 96 year old poet, to zombies, exploding manhole covers, First Night and even the Lake Pocahontas Monster. He humbly

explains, “I am awed by creative people and find them inspiring to hang with. Absorbing and promoting their exploits gives me joy.”

Kevin not only reports on cultural news, he creates it by organizing and promoting such events as the MorristownGreen.com Film Festival (now in its 5th year), the rooftop concerts in Morristown parking garage (the second one takes place on April 22), and 6 events at a vacant car dealership at one time proposed to be Morristown’s Eco-Center. This month, he is even co-hosting a 2 week children’s art show at St. Peter’s that includes a jazz night, poetry night and a day of workshops.

Kevin Coughlin’s work is invaluable but brings with it the pressures of 24/7 reporting. Kevin wryly observes, “Someday I look forward to 8 hrs. of sleep. And home-cooked meals that don’t start in a can.” Despite it, however, Kevin is always “there,” self-effacing and dedicated, as he eloquently captures (and preserves) the essence of the experiences we all value and enjoy sharing.

Therefore, with much gratitude and pleasure, the Arts Council of the Morris Area honors Kevin Coughlin, Editor of MorristownGreen.com, with this Special Recognition Award - acknowledging his extraordinary dedication, the substantial role he plays in building a sense of community, and the invaluable contributions he makes to the cultural life of this area.

Would Kevin Coughlin please come up to receive the award?

April 10, 2012

