



# Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Fall 2008

## Planning Board approves Hospital Project

At their July 7th meeting the Planning Board unanimously approved the subdivision of the former FMC property along with a site plan to develop a portion of the site for the relocated University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro, a medical office building, a fitness center, and a new 32 acre municipal park. The vote came after nearly three hours of testimony offered by the hospital's consultant team. The building's architecture, site engineering issues, environmental concerns, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, and overall traffic flow were major topics covered during the public hearing. Princeton HealthCare Systems, the hospital's parent corporation, took title to the property last March and plans to open the new hospital in the summer of 2011.

The park land will be formally deeded to the Township when the hospital opens. Many of the buildings that still occupy the hospital site and the park site need to be removed prior to construction. Once the park site is cleared, it will be planted with native plants and trees to restore the area along the Millstone River to a natural setting. The park property is bordered by Plainsboro Road to the north, the Millstone River to the south, US 1 to the west and what will become the Skilled Nursing Facility to the east. The only improvements envisioned for the park are a small area for parking and path system to allow residents and patients alike to take in the natural and scenic beauty of the area.

The property had been underutilized for some time when the Township Committee decided to commission a Redevelopment Plan for the site. The result of that effort was the plan approved by the Committee in January 2008. The plans approved by the Planning Board implement several provisions expressed in the Redevelopment Plan.

Mayor Cantu expressed the Committee's sentiment by stating, "We are extremely

pleased with the final planning product and the choice by Princeton HealthCare Systems to locate a world-class facility here in Plainsboro." He added, "The residents of not only Plainsboro, but the region as a whole will benefit tremendously by having a hospital and healthcare campus planned and constructed on the same site."

The hospital and related facilities like the medical office building, fitness center, and surface parking will consume about fifty acres of the site. The six story hospital will consist of approximately 636,000 square feet containing 243 private patient rooms, state-of-the art emergency services, operating suites, and laboratories. On site gardens and pedestrian walkways to encourage outdoor activity will also be provided.

The approvals granted by the Planning Board comprise the first phase of development on the 159 acre site. The

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*The new 636,000 square foot University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro will contain 243 beds and state of the art diagnostic and treatment facilities. The medical center is scheduled to open in the summer of 2011.*

## Volunteer Spotlight On: The Vaswani Family



Pictured left to right are Poonam, Karishma and Avinash Vaswani

In 2005, the Plainsboro Recreation Department initiated a Shadow Buddy program that brings together local children and teen/adult volunteer helpers during recreational programs for special needs children, such as *Kids' Co'Motion* and *Artful Artists*. The volunteers provide a friendly helping hand to the children, enabling them to realize their full potential.

Shortly after the program began, the township was fortunate that Mrs. Poonam Vaswani decided to join. Mrs. Vaswani and her family had recently relocated from Queens, New York, where she volunteered at a daycare center. "I have always been interested in volunteering and love working with children. I saw the Shadow Buddy program advertised on Channel 3 and decided to sign up", she said. According to Cindy Capritti, program coor-

dinator, "Mrs. Vaswani has volunteered consistently for the past 2-1/2 years, and has touched the lives of many children with special needs in the community. We are so grateful for her dedication to the program."

As a positive influence in the lives of her children, Mrs. Vaswani suggested that her son Avinash and daughter Karishma join the program once they were old enough to do so. And so they did - with the same dedication and interest as their mother. Avinash, age 15 and a student at WW-P High School South, loves sports and says volunteering as a Shadow Buddy for the *Kids' Co'Motion* program "is something I like to do and helps other kids." Avinash has been volunteering since 2007 and has become a very special buddy to Neel, one of the children participating in *Kids' Co'Motion*. Karishma, age 13 and a student at Grover Middle School, began volunteering earlier this year. She said she chose to volunteer for the *Artful Artists* program "...because I like art and helping others."

While the Vaswani family has generously contributed to the community through their volunteerism, it is clear they receive as much in return. As Karishma so aptly put it, "It's nice to help [the children], to know how much they appreciate you...and how proud of them you can be."

Dr. Nuran Nabi, Plainsboro Township Committeeperson and liaison to the Recreation Department, is pleased with the success of the Shadow Buddy program, stating "It is wonderful to see the extent of volunteerism in Plainsboro Township and the positive impact it has had on the community."

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second phase includes the 200 bed skilled nursing facility which will mirror the services currently offered by Merwick Rehabilitation Facility also in Princeton. Later phases will include a housing element to include independent living in townhouses and apartments; assisted living units; and nursing care units. Also contained in the development plans is a general office research complex slated for one of the new parcels. Future plans to add two floors to the hospital and increase medical office space will round out the site's full development as expressed in the Redevelopment Plan.

Hospital officials have indicated that construction will begin immediately to take advantage of the seasonal construction period. Extensive underground utility work is necessary to relocate electrical, water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer lines. Demolition of several buildings will also proceed through the permitting process.

Upcoming newsletter articles will focus on future phase of development. Contact the Department of Planning and Zoning with any questions at (609) 799-0909 ext. 217.

## Plainsboro Village Center receives Smart Growth Award

Residents of Plainsboro can now add the title “award winning” to describe their Village Center. Township Committee members, led by Mayor Cantu along with Thomas Troy, Senior Vice President, Sharbell Development Corporation, accepted the New Jersey Future, 2008 Smart Growth Award in the category of “New Village Center Project”. The award was presented at the June 5th ceremony held at the Newark Club in Newark.

“We are very proud of what our Village Center has become in maturing from a seed of an idea to become a place where residents can live, shop and enjoy themselves without having to drive,” stated Ed Yates, the Planning and Zoning Department Liaison to the Township Committee. “We knew what our Village could be and we thank New Jersey Future for recognizing this fact,” he went on to say.

New Jersey Future is a non-profit, nonpartisan statewide research, policy and education organization that advocates for better land-use planning practices. This is the seventh consecutive year New Jersey Future has honored projects that help make New Jersey a better, more vibrant and exciting place to live. The Smart Growth Awards honor town officials, developers, contractors, architects and corporations with the courage to initiate projects and growth patterns that help strengthen New Jersey’s economic, social and environmental future.

It was the vision of Plainsboro that turned a series of ideas and plans into the pedestrian-friendly mixed use center. Sharbell then embraced the plan and is in the process of bringing it to life. The Village Center is not yet fully developed, but when it is, it will contain eleven single family and twelve town house dwellings along with eight rental apartments located on second and third floors of one of the buildings facing Market Street. Approvals include 110,000 square feet of commercial, retail, and office space in addition to the new 34,000 square foot library currently under construction.



*Mayor Peter Cantu and Tom Troy, Senior Vice President of Sharbell Development Corporation, receive the 2008 Smart Growth award from NJ Future Executive Director Peter Kasabach.*

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## Plainsboro Shares Health Officer Services with Middlesex County

Plainsboro Township has been, and continues to be, a leader in shared services. A prime example of this is in the shared service agreement between Plainsboro and the Middlesex County Public Health Department. Through this agreement, the residents have all of the benefits of a local health department, including direct access to a health inspector with broad knowledge of local, county, and state ordinances, at a reduced cost.

Every new business serving food is not only reviewed by the Township of Plainsboro for compliance with applicable codes, but is also reviewed by the Health Department to insure compliance with sanitary and health requirements. The health inspector is responsible for the periodic inspection of all retail food establishments throughout the township, including vending machines. The inspector checks the cleanliness of businesses, the temperature of stored food and the hygiene of employees, among other things.

Annually, the health inspector works hand in hand with the Plainsboro Department of Code Enforcement to inspect all public recreational bathing facilities. When you utilize these facilities, you can be assured that prior to the opening of the pool for the year it has been inspected for both health and electrical hazards and has met the minimum requirements as set forth in the regulations for pool safety.

“By joining forces with the Middlesex County Public Health Department, Plainsboro Township is providing a high level of service at a fraction of the cost of maintaining our own health officer,” stated Township Committeeman Michael Weaver. Should you have any questions, our health inspector, Jim Longo, may be reached at 799-0909, extension 219, during Township business hours.

## A Leaf Season Reminder

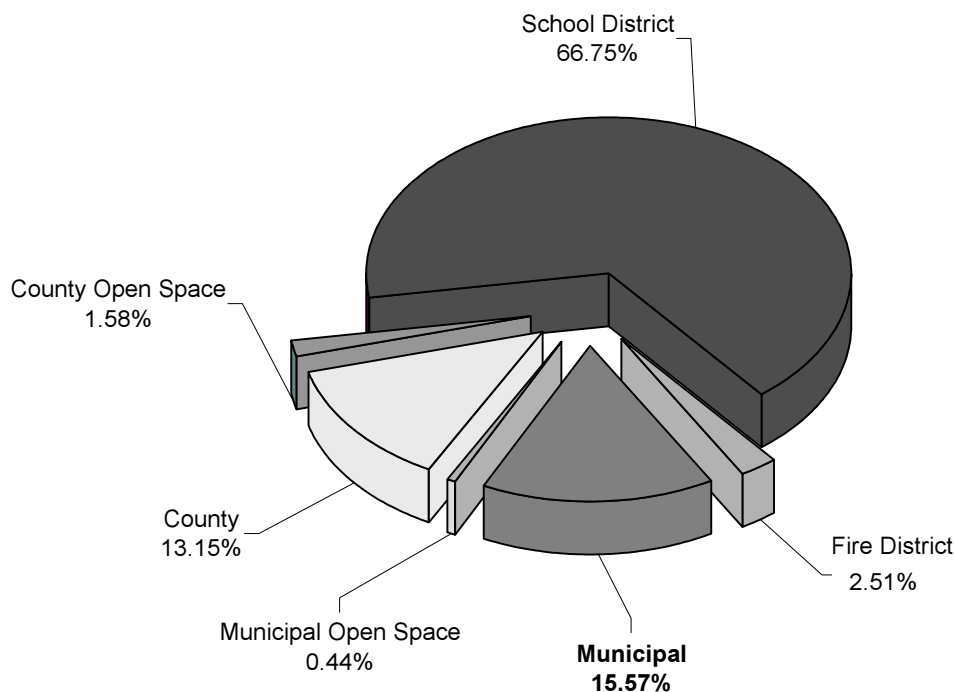
As the fall season approaches, it is important to be reminded of the township's leaf collection policy. Plainsboro Township is divided into two (2) zones for the purpose of scheduling pickups. Starting in mid-October through mid-December, township crews collect leaves twice from each zone. Residents are permitted to rake their leaves to the curb or along the street adjacent to their residence for collection by the township. However, it is extremely important that leaves are only placed for collection no more than seven (7) days prior to your zone's scheduled collection. Also, leaves cannot be placed closer than ten (10) feet from and storm drain inlet. Additionally, leaves cannot be mixed with other debris; leaf piles mixed with debris will not be collected by township. Residents not complying with these rules and regulations are required to remove leaf piles at their own expense and may be subject to penalties. These rules are in place to allow Plainsboro Township to comply with the New Jersey Clean Water Act and to provide a cost efficient collection program. Please remember that if a resident employs a private landscaper, it is the resident's responsibility to inform their landscaper of all leaf collection regulations.

Though the program allows leaves to be raked to the curb, we encourage residents to keep their leaves at the curb but not in the street. Leaves raked in the street can potentially provide unattended consequences. During a rain storm, stormwater may wash leaves to an inlet (catch basin), cover the inlet, prohibit the flow of stormwater and create ponding of water or even flooding. Residents may also unintentionally allow their leaf pile to create a traffic hazard, by allowing the leaf pile to extend into the roadway and hinder the flow of vehicular traffic.

Residents not wanting to wait for their scheduled collection may bring their leaves to the Conservation Center, located off Grovers Mill Road. The Conservation Center is open Mondays, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Thursdays, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and Saturdays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Residents wanting to utilize a contractor for the transport of their leaves must notify the Department of Public Works at least one business day prior to delivery. The conservation center is not for commercial use. This notification allows us to be sure that the use of the center is for one of our residents.

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## Breakdown of 2008 Taxes



*In April, the Township Committee approved the \$20,796,826 municipal budget for 2008. State aid reductions hit hard. Half of the 2.9 cent increase in the budget can be attributed to the loss of \$368,000 in state aid.*

## Help Is Available For High Energy Costs

**H**igher energy costs have hit some families hard. This is especially true for low income households and senior citizens. Several programs are available to help with high utility bills as winter approaches.

No matter what kind of energy source you use for heating—electricity, natural gas, oil, kerosene, propane, wood or coal, there is an energy assistance program available to help. Some programs are specifically for low-income households, some are for people experiencing temporary difficulties such as unemployment or illness; and some programs are reserved for senior citizens and the disabled.

**Winter Termination Program** – This program is in effect from November 15th through March 15th. The program prevents residential and electric customers who participate in the Lifeline. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) WorkFirst New Jersey/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF) Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) from having their gas or electric service disconnected during the winter months. The Program is administered by the Board of Public Utilities. **For more information on the Winter Termination Program, you should call 1 (800) 624-0241.**

**Lifeline** – provides up to \$225 for electricity and natural gas to residents who meet the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) income eligibility requirements; it is also available to Social Security Disability benefit recipients. Lifeline benefits are provided only for electric and natural gas. **For more information about Lifeline, you should call 1 (800) 792-9745.**

**LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)** federally funded subsidies to low income families to assist with home heating costs. The average grant is about \$305, although grant amounts are determined by income and household size. **For additional information and application forms, call 1 (800) 510-3102.**

**NJ SHARES** – one-time grants to needy individuals and families who are facing a temporary financial crisis, are not eligible for welfare, and who must have a history of good faith utility bill payments. One time grant is \$250.00. **For additional information, you should contact 1 (866) 657-4273.**

**GIFT OF WARMTH** – provides natural gas cost assistance to low-income customers and those in temporary financial distress; it is available only in New Jersey Natural Gas service territory. **Applications are being taken by the Middlesex County Puerto Rican Action Board at 1 (732) 828-4541.**

## Guidelines for Proper Disposal of Household Medication

**T**he proper way to discard of medications is important and often misunderstood. Over the counter and prescription medications should not be discarded down the drain because wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical compounds and they may end up in local waterways, and may eventually be found in drinking water.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection suggests the following four steps in order to properly dispose of medications:

- Keep medicine in original container. Blacken out personal information on the prescription bottle.
- Mix liquid medicine with other trash like coffee grinds. Dilute pills with water then add to the other trash.
- Place the bottle in an opaque container and secure the lid or wrap it in a dark colored plastic bag.
- Do NOT recycle.

If you have a medical condition that requires the use of syringes, visit [www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss/syringe.pdf) or call 609-984-6620 to learn how to properly dispose of them.



*Mayor Cantu accepts a \$24,000 donation from Mark Bocchieri, Verizon's Director of External Affairs, for the new Plainsboro Library. This is the first of two payments which will total \$50,000. Through its fundraising efforts, Plainsboro has raised almost \$1.4 million for the new library which is currently under construction at the Village Center.*

## Be Aware of Cyber Bullying

Everyone has heard of a school yard bully, someone who is aggressive and intentionally hurts others, repeatedly over time. We also know the best way to deal with a bully is to avoid him, but technology has given the bully the ability to hurt others even when they are not together. It's called cyber-bullying and it occurs when children use the internet, text messaging, or cell phones to harass and intimidate other children.

The harassment can take several forms, including threatening or vulgar messages or posting sensitive information about another child. It can also involve a child impersonating another child in order to make them look bad, or intentionally excluding someone from an online group. Cyber-bullying is happening everywhere. Studies have shown that 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online while 42% say they have been bullied while online. Girls are twice as likely as boys to be both victims and bullies and 62% of children interviewed said they were cyber-bullied by another student in their school.

What can you do to prevent and address cyberbullying? The US Department of Health and Human Services has

some suggestions. First, keep your home computer in an easily observable place, like the kitchen or family room, where young children can be easily monitored. Also, parents should talk with their children about cyber-bullying, telling them not to respond to the bully. Victims should not erase any messages received and should tell someone when it happens. If the cyber-bully is a schoolmate then notify school officials. Today, computer technology allows you to block incoming text, email, or cell calls so the messages are not delivered. "We all need to recognize the dangers associated with bullying, whether on the playground or the Internet, and take appropriate action to prevent further instances," stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis.

Cyber-bullying is a serious problem and you should contact police if the bullying involves threats of violence, extortion, harassment, or stalking. For more information about cyber-bullying visit the Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov> and click on the "What Adults Can Do" button. You can also contact the Plainsboro Police Department CORE Unit at 799-2333 for additional information and to schedule a presentation for your group or club.



*Children attending the Plainsboro Police Youth Academy visit the State Police Museum (left). The academy is a one-week program that introduces children in grades 4 to 6 to the police department and public safety operations. This summer each of the two sessions had 30 children attend. Throughout the week, they participate in team building exercises that emphasize self esteem, leadership and community service.*



*Academy attendees visit the Plainsboro Rescue Squad (right). They also toured the police and fire departments, the Municipal Court, and they observed State Police helicopter procedures. Children attending also learned about police history, evidence collection and other police operations.*

# At your service . . .

## Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

### Elections

The 2008 General Election will be held on November 4th. The polls will be open from 6:00am to 8:00pm.

Close of voter registration for the General Election is October 14th. The Clerk's Office will remain open until 7:00pm that day to register voters.

### Passports

Passports are available by appointment only. For further information, see the Township website or call 799-0909 ext. 200.

### Pet Licenses

New Jersey State law mandates that all dogs six months of age or older

be licensed. Renewal applications will be mailed by the Township in December to owners of currently licensed pets. If you receive a renewal, please follow the instructions and return it with the appropriate fees. Applications are available for all new pets in the Township Clerk's Office at 641 Plainsboro Road. Proof of rabies vaccination must be submitted with the application. **According to state regulation, when licensing, the rabies vaccination immunity must extend through at least ten (10) months of the 12-month licensing period.** Therefore licenses cannot be issued if the rabies vaccination expires before November 1st of each year. If for any medical reason the animal cannot be vaccinated in

the required time, a letter from the veterinarian with an explanation must be submitted with the renewal form. Submit a copy of the spay/neuter certificate, if applicable. The license fees are \$13.20 for spayed/neutered animals and \$16.20 for non-neutered animals. Late fees of \$5.00 per month were assessed as of February 1st.

### Vital Records

Vital records such as birth, marriage/civil union and death certificates are issued through the Township Clerk's Office. For information regarding requirements call the office or visit the Township website.

## Public Works Department 799-0099

### Conservation Center Hours

Hours of Operation –  
(April 1st – December 13th)  
Monday and Thursday from  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

### Brush/Leaf Collection

In autumn, brush collection will conclude for the season and leaf collection will begin in accordance with the following schedule:

For Beechtree Lane, Brentwood Drive, George Davison Road, Mapleton Road, Perrine Road, Princeton Collection, Princeton Crossing, Princeton Manor, Serina Drive, Shallow Brook Estates and Woodland Drive, **the township will be collecting brush through October. Leaves will be collected from November 3rd – November 14th and again from December 1st through December 12th.** For Brookside Court, Cooks Corner, Cranbury Neck Road, Dey Road,

Eiker Road, Gentry, Grovers Mill Estates, Grovers Mill Road, Millstone Court, Nostrand Road, Petty Road, Plainsboro Road, Pollack Court, Ponds End, Scotts Corner Road, Stults Drive, Village Area and Walker Gordon Estates, **the township will be collecting brush through September. Leaves will be collected from October 20th – October 31st and from November 17th – November 28th.**

### Brush Collection Guidelines

- Must be curbside by 7:00am the first Monday of the month designated for your street ONLY. No brush should be placed in the street or on sidewalks and no closer than 10' from any catch basin.
- Brush left curbside during non-scheduled months subject to fines and removal costs.
- Trimmings from trees, shrubs and vines accepted (max. 6 ft length and 5" diameter)

- NO roots, stumps, soil, grass
- Brush shall be neatly placed parallel to the road with limb ends facing the same direction.

### Leaf Collection Guidelines

Must be placed for collection no more than seven (7) days prior to your section's scheduled collection. Leaves shall not be placed closer than ten (10) feet from storm drain inlet and no leaf pile shall be mixed with debris. Leaves that are mixed with debris are considered contaminated and will not be picked up.

### Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates are September 6\*, 15, 29; October 13, 27; November 10, 24.

Please note that this schedule change is due to the holiday.

**Remaining 2008 Bulk Waste Days – November 1**

## Middlesex County Programs

Paint, household hazardous waste and consumer electronics disposal services are provided by the county.

For information, contact *Middlesex County Solid Waste* 732-745-4170.

# Directory and Information

## PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES

*Location:* 641 Plainsboro Road

*Hours of Operation:*

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

*Phone:* General 609-799-0909  
Court 609-799-0863

*Web Site:* www.plainsboronj.com

## Plainsboro Public Works Department

*Location:* Scotts Corner Road at  
20 Woodland Drive

*Phone:* 609-799-0099

## Plainsboro Police Department

*Location:* 641 Plainsboro Road

*Phone:* Non-Emergency 609-799-2333  
**Emergencies 9 1 1**

*Police*

*Web Site:* www.plainsboropolice.com

## Plainsboro Public Library

*Location:* 641 Plainsboro Road

*Phone:* 609-275-2897

## 24-Hour Recorded Message Lines

Park Rangers 897-7844

Passports 799-0909 x 200

Recreation Programs 799-0909 x 550

## TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the  
Municipal Building, 641 Plainsboro Road,  
unless otherwise noted.

### ***Development Review Committee***

3rd Tuesday, 6pm

### ***Environmental Advisory Comm.***

4th Monday

### ***Fire Commissioners***

3rd Monday, 7pm, Firehouse

### ***Historical Society***

3rd Tuesday, Wicoff House

### ***Human Relations Council***

2nd Monday

### ***Library Board of Trustees***

1st Tuesday, Library

### ***Local Assistance Board***

Qtrly. Call x218 for date

### ***Shade Tree Advisory***

2nd Tuesday, Public Works

### ***Township Committee***

Regular Mtg. 2nd Wednesday

Agenda Mtg. 4th Wednesday

### ***Planning Board***

1st & 3rd Monday

### ***Zoning Board***

1st Wednesday

## SCHEDULES TO NOTE

### **Library Hours**

Monday & Friday

9:00am – 5:30pm

Tuesday, Wed., Thursday

9:00am – 8:30pm

Saturday & Sunday

10:00am – 5:00pm

### **Passport Office**

Information: 799-0909 x 200

*Also check the website*

### **Recycling/Bulk Waste**

*See Public Works Page*

### **More Numbers:**

School District Information

716-5000

Report Street Light Out to

PSE&G 1-800-436-7734

Report Pot Hole to

Public Works 799-0099



# PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro  
641 Plainsboro Road  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

Peter A. Cantu, Mayor

Neil J. Lewis, Deputy Mayor

Nuran Nabi

Michael T. Weaver

Edmund C. Yates

### **TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR**

Robert O. Sheehan

### **NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR**

Teresa Carson

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