



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Recreation Department Offers Expanded Services to Community

Combining programmatic and service components define the newly restructured Department of Recreation and Community Services. Residents who have participated in the diverse array of programs or attended township-wide events are familiar with the offerings featured by the department. Not as well known, has been the department's role as a service provider. To date, services have included scholarship assistance for low to moderate income families; programs and services for special populations such as seniors, foreign-born residents, and individuals with disabilities; informational resource assistance, and health awareness events. Now the department has assumed responsibility for the township food pantry and holiday giving drives.

What's New...

As of August 2009, the township food pantry was relocated and operational procedures were implemented. Thanks to a crew of volunteers, residents in need of assistance can pick up pre-bagged grocery items that have been assembled using information provided by the recipients. By using a "shopping list" to provide information in advance, families will be able to let pantry staff know about special dietary needs. While the pantry is stocked by donations and community food drives, "this new system will enable us to better understand local needs and solicit donations accordingly" stated Township Committee liaison, Nuran Nabi. "Our goal", he continued, "is to provide the best assistance we are able to give."

By implementing a registration process, the department will also be able to advise these families of other types of assistance or special programs for which they may be eligible such as eye screenings, home energy assistance, camp scholarships, and holiday donations. "All informa-

tion is strictly confidential and will not be shared with any other entity without authorization", asserted Special Services Coordinator, Cindy Capritti.

The department is also expanding the ways in which local residents can help assist those in need. "We are delighted to see that the "Ten Month - Ten Schools" program is still active", said Committeeman Nabi, adding "Plainsboro is rich in 'people resources' and our staff is now developing new avenues for community giving and volunteering".

Watch local bulletin for updates. For additional information on the food pantry or other services, contact the Department of Recreation & Community Services at 609-799-0909 ext. 332 or visit the township website at www.plainsboronj.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Vacancies currently exist on:

Planning Board
Zoning Board
Shade Tree Committee
Human Relations Council

For more information and a volunteer application, visit our website at www.plainsboronj.com or call the Township Clerk's Office at 609-799-0909, extension 547.

Volunteer Spotlight on: Sarah Alesio



Sarah Alesio has participated as a volunteer with the Plainsboro Police Department and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North throughout most of her four years there. Having recently graduated, she has just completed her term as Co-President of the high school's Interact Club, a community service club that helps to

develop leadership skills and an understanding of the value of individual responsibility to the community and in business. She has also served with the Rebel Club, which promotes anti-smoking, the March of Dimes and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program.

This year, while leading the Interact Club, Sarah helped organize volunteers to assist the town with the police sponsored Toys for Tots program and the restructuring of the town's food pantry. During our Toys for Tots drive, Sarah organized several volunteers to collect and dispense toys to those that required assistance. This

allowed Plainsboro Township to help provide some holiday cheer to those who may have otherwise gone without gifts.

After the group's wonderful performance with the Toys for Tots program, Sarah and the Interact Club played a key role in restructuring the food pantry. They not only collected food for those in need, but also helped to create the new food pantry located in the municipal building next to the Recreation Department's office.

In addition to her work through the Interact Club, Sarah has worked on several local food drives, an Enable Walk for wheel chair bound and handicapped persons and also as a peer mentor for the Project Pride program which builds bonds between the high school students and select middle school students.

When not serving the communities of Plainsboro and West Windsor, Sarah enjoys playing soccer. She hopes to continue her soccer career and volunteer work as she begins her studies this fall at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

New Passport Requirements in Effect

As of June 1, 2009, U.S. travelers are required to present a passport book or a passport card when entering the U.S. by land or by sea (these requirements were previously implemented for those travelling by air) from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. **Details can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website, www.GetYouHome.gov.**

Children under age 16 arriving by land or by sea may present an original or copy of his/her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card. In addition, children under age 19 traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team, should be prepared to present a letter on organizational letterhead with the following information:

- The name of the group and supervising adult;
- A list of the children on the trip, and the primary

address, phone number, date of birth, place of birth, and name of at least one parent or legal guardian for each child;

- A written and signed statement of the supervising adult certifying that he or she has obtained parental or legal guardian consent for each participating child.

Travelers who board a cruise ship at a port **within** the U.S, travel **only within** the Western Hemisphere, and return to the **same** U.S. port on the **same** ship may present government-issued photo identification, along with proof of citizenship (an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular report of Birth Abroad, or a Certificate of Naturalization). You may still be required to present a passport card or a passport book to enter the foreign country to which you are traveling. Please contact your cruise line to verify which documents are required for your trip.

Keeping you posted...

Township's Housing Plan Receives State Certification

The Plainsboro Township Housing and Fair Share Plan received “substantive certification” from the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) on June 10, 2009. The certification recognizes Plainsboro’s full compliance with COAH’s requirements to plan for and provide affordable housing. Plainsboro is one of the first eighteen communities state-wide to receive this distinction. Mayor Peter Cantu noted that “Plainsboro has a long-standing commitment to providing affordable housing for its residents, which is demonstrated through the approval of our housing plan.”

This is the third time that Plainsboro has received “substantive certification” of its housing plan. The Township’s plan was certified during COAH’s first round process in 1995 and again in 2005 during the second round. The current, or third round plan, demonstrates compliance with the State’s rules until 2018. In achieving compliance, the Township will use a variety of COAH approved methods to fulfill its 393-unit obligation.

Township Offers a New Way to Pay Your Taxes

Beginning with the August 2009 tax quarter, Plainsboro Township will begin to enhance its service to residents by offering a new tax payment method. Taxpayers can make property tax payments by a direct debit from their checking or savings accounts. Services will be further enhanced in the fall of 2009, when taxpayers will have the ability to pay property taxes with a credit card online or by phone. This can be done in the convenience of your home!

The Tax Office can also send you an email to remind you that your taxes are due. For more information on these services, go to the Township website www.plainsboronj.com. Also, representatives from the Division of Taxation have given presentations to senior citizens on different rebate programs available by the State of New Jersey and filed their Homestead Rebate applications online for them. These sessions provided a great opportunity for questions and answers as well. If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 609-799-0909 x320.

Library Nearing Completion

Construction of the new Plainsboro Library continues to progress. The exterior of the building is nearing completion and work on the interior continues at a rapid pace.

The new library will have expanded collections, new technology, as well as reading and quiet study areas.

The 34,000 square foot library is schedule to open this Fall.



A New Look for Princeton Meadows Shopping Center

During the Memorial Day weekend, 2007, a devastating fire destroyed a portion of the Princeton Meadows Shopping Center. The damage caused several businesses to be displaced, and was a financial hardship for everyone involved.

The shopping center has not only been rebuilt, but also greatly improved. New exterior materials have renewed the center's outdated appearance (see photo). Energy efficient windows and exterior lighting not only reduce energy usage, but also are visually attractive. New signage for the center has also been added. "We are pleased with the improvements so far, and look forward to continued progress in the future", states Township Committeeman Ed Yates, who serves as liaison to the Code Enforcement Department.

Future plans include upgrades to existing landscaping and replacement of rear wood screening with modern, aesthetically

pleasing fencing. With just a small amount of retail space available, and the expansion of an existing restaurant, the Princeton Meadows Shopping Center should enjoy a bright future.



Transit Survey to Help Plan for Future Service

Plainsboro is conducting a survey to identify gaps and overlaps in existing transit service. The objective of the survey is to give everyone in the community an equal opportunity to provide input on ways to improve transit service in Plainsboro.

The results of the survey will be fed into the Transit Enhancement Feasibility Study. The study is being funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation through the efforts of Mayor Peter Cantu. Mayor Cantu advanced the study idea and gained the support of the NJDOT. "A comprehensive analysis of transit service in and around Plainsboro is needed to maximize the limited transit funds available to enhance service," Cantu stated.

The NJDOT responded by using local assistance discretionary funding to provide the services of a transit consultant. The consultant has been working since February 2009 gathering information and meeting with

transit providers. Now it is your turn to provide some much needed feedback.

Please take a moment to provide your thoughts on improving transit service in Plainsboro Township by completing the enclosed survey and returning it to the Planning Department by mail or in person. Surveys are also offered in Chinese, Hindi, Korean, and Spanish and are available at the Planning Department, Recreation Department, Clerk's Office, and the Library. The survey is also available on-line in English by clicking the link on the Township's website (www.plainsboronj.com). More than one member of a household can submit a completed survey.

If you have any questions regarding the survey call Les Varga, Director of Planning and Zoning at (609) 799-0909 ext. 217.

Leaf Season Reminders

As the fall season approaches, a review of the township's current leaf collection program may be helpful.

From mid-October through mid-December residents can rake leaves to the curb or place them along the street adjacent to their residence for collection by the township (see page 7 for our Collection Schedule). However, it is extremely important that leaves are placed no more than seven (7) days prior to your zone's scheduled collection. Also, leaves cannot be placed closer than ten (10) feet from any storm drain inlet. Finally, leaves cannot be mixed with any other debris. Leaf piles mixed with debris will not be collected by the township. Residents not complying with these rules are required to remove leaf piles at their own expense and may be subject to penalties. These rules are in place to comply with current New Jersey Stormwater Regulations. The township is subject to heavy fines from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection if we are not in compliance.

We encourage residents to keep their leaves at the curb, but not in the street. Leaves raked in the street can inhibit drainage during rain storms and may also create traffic hazards.

Residents not wanting to wait for their scheduled collection may bring their leaves to the Plainsboro Conservation Center, located off Grovers Mill Road. The center is open Mondays and 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 disposal of their leaves at the conservation center must notify the Department of Public Works at least one business day prior to delivery. The Conservation Center is not for commercial use and this notification allows us to be sure that the Center's utilization is solely by residents. "The conservation center is a great resource for residents who need to dispose of their leaves outside of the township's normal collection schedule", stated Township Committeeman and Department of Public Works Liaison, Mike Weaver.

Hospital Progress

Despite the spring's inclement weather, construction of the new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro continues at a fast pace.

Construction crews have excavated and moved a significant amount of soil. The steel framing of the utility building has been completed and the construction of the medical center's foundation has begun.

Mayor Peter Cantu is pleased with what he has seen to date. "It is exciting to see the amount of work accomplished thus far. The skill and expertise of all of those involved in bringing a world class medical facility to Plainsboro is remarkable."



New Jersey Passes “Move Over” Law

On January 29, 2009, 37 year old Chris Jones went about his usual morning routine, kissed his wife and three children goodbye, and left for work. Jones reported for duty at the Middletown, Pennsylvania Police Department, where he was a 10 year veteran and was assigned to the patrol division.

Officer Jones was on patrol at about 10:30 am when he made a “routine” traffic stop on Route 1 North near the entrance for I-295. Passing motorists began to slow down and move into the left lane in order to give the officer the space he needed to safely enforce the law. While Officer Jones was returning to his vehicle, a Toyota Corolla, traveling at a high rate of speed, came around a curve, struck another vehicle from behind, and then struck Officer Jones’ patrol car. Unfortunately Officer Jones was directly in front of his patrol vehicle at this time and became trapped under the car and was killed.

Noted Plainsboro Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis, “This is a danger that all emergency response workers face on a daily basis. More police officers are killed every year in motor vehicle collisions than by any other means.” To date this year, there have been 28 line of duty deaths around the country, 17 of them involved a motor vehicle. To help address this problem, Plainsboro Police Lt. Troy Bell and Cpl. Scott Seitz contacted 14th District Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (D) and arranged a meeting to discuss the possibility of a “Move Over” law

for the State of New Jersey. “I sat down with Assemblywoman Greenstein and explained to her the dangers involved in traffic enforcement and the benefits of New Jersey passing our own Move Over law,” said Lt. Bell. Assemblywoman Greenstein noted that the concept was currently being discussed among her colleagues and she agreed that this legislation was necessary. She subsequently became a primary sponsor of bill number A-1179, the New Jersey “Move Over” law. A-1179 was passed on January 27, 2009 with no objections.

The bill became traffic statute N.J.S. 39: 4-92.2. In summary, whenever you see an emergency/maintenance vehicle of any kind stopped on the side of the road with its lights on, you must do the following:

1. Change lanes to an outside lane, if possible; or
2. **SLOW DOWN** (safely to a speed BELOW the posted speed limit);
3. Stop (if necessary);
4. Always follow the instructions of officers and other emergency personnel on scene; and
5. Be aware of the other vehicles around you and what they are doing.

Failure to follow these rules could cost you a trip to court and as much as \$500, but more importantly it could cost an emergency service worker his or her life. Please drive responsibly.

Library Renovation Planning Underway

On July 22nd, the Plainsboro Township Committee entered into a contract with the architectural firm of Duca/Huder & Kumlin (D/H&K) of Moorestown, NJ. The firm will lead the design of the renovation of the existing library building. The library will be renovated and used as a recreation facility that will include conference rooms, small exhibit and performance venues and the offices of the Department of Recreation and Community Services. D/H&K were hired as a result of an extensive review of proposals submitted by 25 architectural firms. “D/H&K clearly distinguished themselves based on their extensive public sector work and track record of completing projects on time and on budget,” stated Township Administrator Robert Sheehan.



The existing 17,500 square foot Plainsboro Library will be renovated to serve as a recreation facility. Construction will start in 2010.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

Elections

The 2009 General Election will be held on November 3rd. The polls will be open from 6:00am to 8:00pm. The last day to register to vote for the General Election is Tuesday, October 13th.

Passports

The passport office is 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 must 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 at www.plainsboronj.com.

Public Works Department 799-0099

Conservation Center Hours

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

Brush/Leaf Collection Guidelines and Schedule

Brush Collection

- 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 is subject to fines and removal costs.

- Trimmings from trees, shrubs and vines accepted (max. 6 ft length and 5 inches diameter)
- NO roots, stumps, soil, grass
- Brush shall be neatly placed parallel to the road with limb ends facing the same direction.

April, June, August, October

Beechtree Lane, Brentwood Drive, Cypress Court, George Davison Road, Mapleton Road, Perrine Road, Princeton Collection, Princeton Crossing, Princeton Manor, Serina Drive, Shallow Brook Estates, Woodland Drive.

The township will be collecting brush through October.

Leaves will be collected from November 2-23 and from November 30-December 11.

March, May, July, September

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, Walker Gordon Estates. **The township will be collecting brush through September. Leaves will be collected from October 19-October 30 and from November 16-December 27.**

Curbside Recycling

Schedule—September 14, 28; October 12, 26; November 9, 23

Remaining 2009 Bulk Waste Days – November 7

Middlesex County Programs

The following services are provided by Middlesex county. For more information, contact *Middlesex County Solid Waste*, 732-745-4170.

- Residential Paint Drop-Off
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
- Consumer Electronics Drop-Off



PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

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TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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Neil J. Lewis, Deputy Mayor
Nuran Nabi
Michael T. Weaver
Edmund C. Yates

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Robert O. Sheehan

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Teresa Carson

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**

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: 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 Comm.**
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
- 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