

PLAINSBORO REPORTER



A Quarterly Newsletter for Township Residents

Spring 2005

The Year in Review 25 Years for Mayor Cantu

At the Township Committee's Annual Reorganization Meeting, where recently re-elected Committee members Michael Weaver and Ed Yates were sworn in, Mayor Peter Cantu spoke to the community about the accomplishments during 2004, and outlined the challenges and goals for the upcoming year.

Mayor Cantu, who was re-elected by the other Committee members to his 25th year as the Mayor of Plainsboro, highlighted the low municipal tax rate (the lowest in Middlesex County for the 11th year in a row), success in acquiring over \$1 million in 2004 in grants, and the completion of the Village area sewer project as major accomplishments for the year.

"Our number one goal is always to maintain tax stability and a high bond rating for Plainsboro," says Cantu. "Our tax collection rate for the year was over 99%, and our revaluation process proceeded smoothly and on schedule. We also took steps to protect our residents by filing a Tax Appeal with the State challenging the process used to determine the method for calculating Plainsboro's share of the school budget."

Cantu also highlighted the expanded programs for seniors and the disabled; the re-zoning of the residential areas in the Village, which will protect the character of the neighborhoods; and improvements to the Plainsboro Preserve and other parks.

During 2004, construction of the new Village Center proceeded through the permit phase and into the beginning of construction. Various infrastructure projects that support the Center, such as traffic calming, sidewalks, intersection improvements and sewer construction, also moved forward, and the first residents began moving into the new houses on Plainsboro Road next to the Firehouse. "We're happy

to see the completion of the sewer project for the Village area," says Ed Yates, the Township Committee liaison for community development. "It moved along very smoothly with the cooperation of our homeowners, and our negotiations with the developer, Sharbell, is allowing our residents to connect to the sewer system at a very reasonable cost."

Cantu then outlined the two main goals for 2005: making sure to continue to address important infrastructure issues such as road repair and intersection improvements while remaining fiscally responsible; and continuing to take steps to protect our taxpayers from unfair methods of calculating the Plainsboro share of the school budget.

Projects for the upcoming year include: continuing to integrate the new Village Center into the community during the construction phase; moving forward with the final plan for the new Library in the Village Center; continuing our land preservation goals, which has thus far secured over 50% of our land as open space; and further enhancing communications with our residents through an improved website and the bulletin board for the new municipal cable channel.

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