

TSUNAMI RELIEF

A benefit concert to aid tsunami relief efforts was sponsored by the Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance and drew Asian cultural dancers from as far as New York City to perform at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North.

The event was sponsored by the Institute, Asha for Education, and the Plainsboro Arts Partnership. One hundred percent of the funds raised were forwarded to organizations supporting relief efforts in Southeast Asia.

According to Ginger Schnitzer, Plainsboro Township Committee member and liaison to recreation and cultural affairs, over 800 people turned out for the evening of dances from Indonesia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Over \$30,000 was raised from the event so far, with several companies matching the donations. It's not too late to contribute — the Institute is still taking donations. Log on to their website at www.nrithyanjali.org for more information.

PLAINSBORO RECEIVES \$400K IN GRANTS

In December, Plainsboro received word that \$400,000 in grant money was awarded to the Township.

As part of the State Department of Transportation's "Local Aide Bikeway Program," \$200,000 has been allotted for the construction of bicycle paths along Plainsboro Road. In addition, the DOT awarded \$150,000 for the construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of Dey Road, Edgemere Avenue and Plainsboro Road. The Township previously received a \$250,000 grant for this

project. Construction of the traffic signal and the bicycle path are expected to begin in 2005.

Also awarded was the first grant toward the library project of \$50,000 in municipal aid. The Township Committee is finalizing the details for building a new library in the Village Center rather than expanding the current library. Plans for the library will continue to evolve throughout the year.

The Township received over \$1 million in grants in 2004.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND ELECTIONS

The deadline to register to vote in the School Election is **Monday, March 21**. The election will be held on April 19, 2005. The deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election is **Monday, May 9**. The election will be held on June 7, 2005.

A NEW ROLE FOR MAYOR CANTU

Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu was recently elected president of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The association represents the interests and needs of New Jersey's 566 municipalities to county, state and federal governments.

"I was very pleased to get the support of the other mayors and delegates," said Cantu, after voting took place at the League's annual meeting. "I want

to make sure that a primary focus of our organization this year will be property-tax relief."

Mayor Cantu also serves on the League's legislative committee, serves as chairman of the Middlesex County Agricultural Development Board, and has appointments to many state and regional planning and transportation committees and task forces.