

# PLAINSBORO REPORTER



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## Plainsboro To Review Hospital Plans

The University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP) recently announced the selection of the FMC site in Plainsboro on Route One North and Plainsboro Road as the preferred location for its new medical facility.

Indicating it has outgrown its current Princeton location; UMCP would like to build a state-of-the-art medical facility to include a new 269-bed hospital totaling 650,000 square feet as well as 120,000 square feet of medical offices and a replacement for the Merwick rehabilitation/nursing care facility. According to UMCP, the facilities will be designed to meet the highest performance standards through environmentally conscious design and energy efficiency. The Plainsboro site was chosen as the result of an extensive search process which also included sites in West Windsor and Lawrenceville. UMCP noted that the site is located in the heart of its traditional service area.

Mayor Peter Cantu has indicated “The process for moving this project forward has really just begun and there are a number of issues that need to be addressed. These issues include traffic; affordable housing obligations triggered by the project and the fiscal impact of the facility on the Township since the hospital is non-profit and would not be required to pay property taxes.”

Ed Yates, Township Committee Liaison to the Community Development Department noted, “The decision to select the FMC site for the new hospital may be an unexpected opportunity but we must make sure that this facility will fit into the overall vision for this community.”

The Township expects to begin review of UMCP’s plans in early 2006. FMC expects to remain a tenant on the property. The company employs 280 people in Plainsboro.

## Green Light for Library Fundraising

In December, the Township Committee received a final library fundraising feasibility report from Graham-Pelton Consulting of Summit, New Jersey. The feasibility study was intended to determine the “fundraising capacity” present in Plainsboro to support a meaningful fundraising campaign for the new library, which is planned to be constructed in the Village Center. The consultant interviewed 84 members of the Plainsboro community – residents, civic leaders and business leaders. The study concluded that Plainsboro could target a fundraising goal of \$1.5 - \$2 million in support of the library. Further, the study showed that the library enjoyed strong support among members of the community and was identified as a significant community asset. Ginger Gold Schnitzer, Township Committee Liaison to the Library Board, was pleased with the report noting, “It is not surprising that the library would receive this support. This is reflective of the active role the library takes in the community.”

Based on the results of the feasibility study, the Township Committee extended Graham-Pelton’s contract to assist in the organization of the fundraising effort. The fundraising campaign will be launched in 2006. Currently, the library is in the early stages of architectural design. In September of 2005, the Township hired BKSK Architects of New York, to assume the design responsibilities for the new library building.

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