

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

At the Township Committee’s reorganization meeting on January 3rd, Mayor Cantu outlined the achievements of 2005 and the Township’s goals for 2006.

In his remarks, Mayor Cantu noted that Plainsboro continued to enjoy strong financial stability, experiencing the 12th consecutive year of having the lowest municipal tax rate in Middlesex County. The Mayor also highlighted a number of other accomplishments.

Community Development has successfully completed planning for Initial Plan Endorsement with the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth and has revised its Housing Element to remain in compliance with the Council on Affordable Housing’s goals for affordable housing. In addition, he noted that the Village Center Master Plan implementation is progressing at a steady pace. The Recreation Department continued with a variety of important programs and added one new important program known as *Shadow Buddy* which provides one on one assistance using teen volunteers to partner with disabled children. Public Safety had a successful year in kicking off the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Three CERT classes were trained, 77 members total, putting Plainsboro at the lead among communities in Middlesex County.

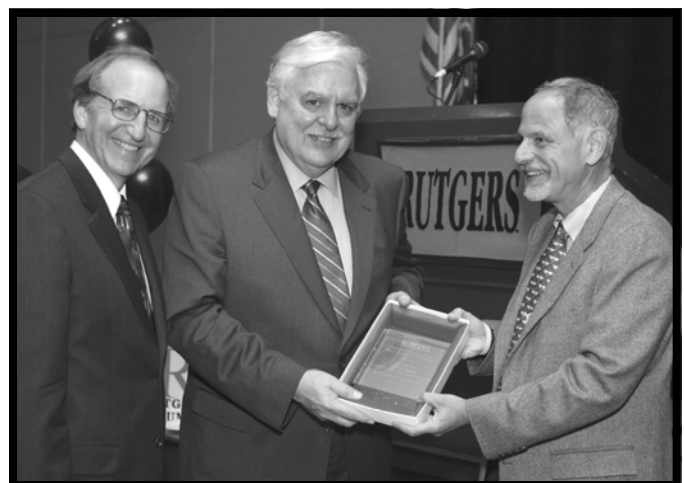
The Mayor noted a variety of grants had been secured by the Township for transportation, recreation, emergency preparedness and human services. The Township successfully launched Cable Channel 3, Plainsboro’s local cable channel, which includes new programming designed to inform citizens of services and activities in Plainsboro.

Looking ahead for 2006, the Mayor stressed the need to continue to maintain tax stability and a strong financial foundation for the community. He looked forward to continued implementation of the Village Center Master Plan and the initiation of the very important review process of the University

Medical Center at Princeton’s proposal to relocate to the FMC site in Plainsboro. Plans are in place to expand and build upon the success of the CERT program and initiate new programs including *Volunteers in Police Service* and *USA on Watch* along with an expanded Youth Police Academy.

Of course, one of the central goals of 2006 is to advance the fundraising for and construction of the new Plainsboro Library at Village Center. He noted that the fundraising campaign will begin in 2006 and that the design will be complete in 2006 as well.

“Some 28 years ago in my first year as Mayor, I spoke about the tremendous challenge we faced in dealing with the approved growth, that for a number of years would see Plainsboro become one of the fastest growing communities in the State of New Jersey. Over the years, the key to our success in dealing with that challenge has been the priorities that we established then and have maintained since then. My report this evening reflects our ongoing success in meeting these commitments,” stated Mayor Cantu.



New Jersey League of Municipalities President Bill Dressel (left) joins Rutgers-Camden Provost Roger Dennis (right) in presenting Mayor Cantu with the Rutgers Award for Public Service to New Jersey in recognition of his 31 years of public service. Mayor Cantu was the first recipient of the award.