



# Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Spring 2008

## Historical Society and Recreation Office Strengthen Ties

The close working relationship between the Plainsboro Historical Society and the Recreation Department has recently gotten even closer. In December, Pat Millen, the program coordinator and camp administrator for the Recreation Department, assumed additional responsibilities as director of the Historical Society and Wicoff House Museum. It is a partnership with exciting possibilities for all parties.

*The story of the museum is a history still unfolding...* Starting with the building and its best known occupant, the Wicoff House was originally constructed in 1880. It was John V.B. Wicoff who approached the Cranbury Board of Education about the need to have a new school building in Plainsboro. (At the time the two towns were joined.) When the request was denied, Wicoff and several other "founding fathers" organized to petition the State of New Jersey to become independent. They succeeded, and on May 6, 1919 Plainsboro became a township in its own right (an event commemorated by the annual *Founders Day Celebration* each May).

Following many years of residency by the Wicoff family, the building served a variety of purposes, including housing of the municipal offices during the 1970s and 1980s, until construction of the new municipal center was completed. Recognizing the importance in preservation of its history, township officials saw both the Wicoff House and the Historical Society as valuable community assets. So, following the departure of the municipal offices, the Historical Society was offered the opportunity to take up residency, creating the museum as their base of operations. Since that time, they have developed exhibits on various aspects of local history, sponsored lectures, participated in community events, conducted research and house tours, and secured State and National registry for the building (one of the few remaining historic farm houses in Plainsboro). All of this has been accomplished relying mostly on a group of

dedicated volunteers. "The members of the Historical Society have worked hard to keep history alive in Plainsboro," stated Ed Yates, Township Committee liaison, "and we see this as a great opportunity for all concerned."

For its part, the Recreation Department has long been known as a sponsor and catalyst for arts and cultural activities in the community.

Ms. Millen's background and qualifications will provide the Historical Society with a professionally trained director/curator. Combining her experience in operating historic museums and knowledge of program planning and

*continued on page 5*



*On December 10, 2007 the Plainsboro Township Committee was joined by 150 citizens, donors and dignitaries to break ground for the new Plainsboro Library at the Village Center. Shown above are Mayor Peter Cantu, Committeemen Ed Yates, Nuran Nabi, and Michael Weaver; Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis and Library Director Jinny Baeckler. The new library is scheduled for completion in April 2009.*

# Plainsboro Celebrates Youth Arts Month

In celebration of Youth Arts Month in March, the talents of young artists will once again be the focus of an exhibition. Youth Arts Month is a national celebration emphasizing the value of arts education in the development of self-esteem and the essential skills of self-expression. Throughout the United States, exhibits, awards, and special events annually showcase the artistic abilities of young people.

The annual public exhibition of student artwork was initiated thirteen years ago as the first school-based project of the Plainsboro Arts Partnership. An outgrowth of that initiative is a permanent gallery where student art work is featured on a rotating basis. A long time supporter of the Arts Partnership, Committeeman Nuran Nabi adds, "Through ventures such as this, we have been able to help showcase the wide range of artistic and cultural talent in our community."

Youth Arts Month is coordinated in partnership with the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District. In 2008, the township will once again host a month-long exhibit featuring hundreds of works by district students at the municipal complex. An artist's reception, coordinated by teachers in the art department and school PTAs, is scheduled for Friday, March 7th. The evening includes proclamations by elected officials, and the Plainsboro Public Library will present its annual Youth Art Award. The reception will also provide an opportunity for the talents of student musicians to be highlighted, with several performances during the evening.

The art exhibition is open to the public free of charge during regular building hours at the Plainsboro Municipal Complex. Questions may be directed to the Plainsboro Recreation Department at 799-0909 ext. 332.

## Volunteer Spotlight on: Arthur Lehrhaupt



Arthur Lehrhaupt began serving on the Township's Planning Board shortly after moving to Plainsboro in 1974. He has been the Board's chairman since 1987. The Planning Board typically meets twice a month to consider development projects that fall

under its jurisdiction and is also charged with recommending changes to the Township Master Plan. In his capacity as a Planning Board member, Arthur has also served as its representative to the Township Zoning Board of Adjustment, serving as its Chairman before assuming that role with the Planning Board.

When you stop to think of all the evening meetings that Arthur has attended, not to mention the preparation work involved with becoming familiar with specific neighborhood issues affected by development projects and the countless issues involved with planning for the future of the township, it becomes apparent that Arthur Lehrhaupt has a deep, deep affection for Plainsboro.

Committeeman Ed Yates, says of Arthur, "you couldn't ask for a better person to serve as Chairman of our Planning Board. His chief strength is his knowledge of the subject matter, but more important is his fairness, his regard within the community, and that he respects the professional staff." He added, "Arthur is a true gentleman and makes running meetings look easy."

Currently, Arthur is employed by the New Jersey Education Association as an Associate Director in the Executive Office, a post he has held since 1974. Prior to joining the NJEA, he was a classroom science teacher at Hunterdon Central High School.

A native of Staten Island, N.Y., Arthur received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., majoring in Physics.

When not attending or preparing for a night meeting, Arthur enjoys classical music, concert going, and the theater.

And best of all for the residents of Plainsboro, Arthur has no plans to leave the Planning Board anytime soon.

## Keeping you posted...

### Nabi Appointed to Township Committee



*Nuran Nabi*

**A**t their November 28, 2007 meeting, the Plainsboro Township Committee voted unanimously to appoint Nuran Nabi, Ph.D. to the committee seat vacated by Ginger Gold Schnitzer. A retired research scientist, Dr. Nabi worked 22 years for Colgate Palmolive Co. and retired as an associate director of technology. He was the inventor of the Colgate Total toothpaste technology and has more than 100

patents and publications to his credit.

Dr. Nabi served on the Planning Board from 2006 to 2007. He also served three years on the Human Relations Council. He is the founder of various Bangladeshi-American organizations and has written two books on the Bangladesh liberation movement and liberation war.

Dr. Nabi is a resident of Princeton Manor neighborhood and has lived in Plainsboro for the past fourteen years. Dr. Nabi and his wife, Zeenat, have two sons, Mushfik and Adnan, both of whom graduated from the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

### Herbert Appointed New Township Attorney

**T**he Plainsboro Township Committee appointed Michael J. Herbert, Esq. Township Attorney at the re-organization meeting on January 2nd. Mr. Herbert replaced Joseph L. Stonaker, Esq. who is retired. Mr. Stonaker served Plainsboro in several legal positions since 1969.

The Township distributed a Request for Proposals and received proposals from interested firms in October. Upon review of the firms, the Township Committee decided to appoint Mr. Herbert. "We are fortunate to have secured the services of Mike Herbert", stated Mayor Peter

Cantu. "His depth of experience will be an asset to the township."

Mr. Herbert is a partner in the Princeton law firm of Herbert, Van Ness, Cayci & Goodell. He has significant practice in the areas of municipal law and land use. He received his B.A. from Jersey City College, his Masters Degree from Rutgers University and his law degree from Seton Hall University. He also serves as municipal attorney in Princeton Borough and West Windsor Township. Born in Jersey City, he now resides in Hopewell.

### Hospital Redevelopment Plan Approved

**O**n January 23rd, the Township Committee approved the Redevelopment Plan for the FMC Site allowing The University Medical Center at Princeton to submit detailed site plans for their proposed development. The plan includes a 960,000 square foot medical center to be built in two phases, a 440 unit Continuing Care Retirement Community, 240,000 square feet of medical office buildings to be built in two phases, a 120,000 square foot skilled nursing facility and 270,000 square feet of general office/research space. The plan also proposes the creation of a 35 acre public park along the Millstone River. It is anticipated that the hospital will be submitting site plans in February. The redevelopment plan was the product of 11 public meet-

ings including five workshop sessions conducted by the Planning Board's Master Plan Subcommittee.

The hospital is expected to file a formal site plan application in February. Once staff has completed its detailed review, the application will be the subject of review and discussion at the Planning Board. All Planning Board meetings are open to the public and will provide the opportunity for public comment. In addition, the township is in discussion with hospital representatives on the terms of a developer's agreement. This agreement, which requires the approval of the Township Committee, outlines various responsibilities of the hospital including payments in lieu of taxes.

# Police Celebrate 30th Anniversary

The Plainsboro Township Police Department celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. During that time the department has gone from a modest four person operation to a professional, sophisticated and technologically advanced organization. Mayor Peter Cantu took note of the department's evolution, "Having served since the beginning of the department it has been rewarding to see it evolve in such a professional way. In celebrating the department's 30th anniversary, we have the opportunity to say thank you to those who have served over the years and those who now serve."

The Plainsboro Township Police Department was created as a full time police force in March of 1978. Sgt. Clifford Maurer of the West Windsor Police Department was appointed as Plainsboro's first Chief of Police on February 1, 1978. Prior to having a full time force, Plainsboro was protected by a combination of constables (part-time officers with limited authority) and State Police patrols. Maurer, known for his discipline and professionalism, was forward-thinking and had a long-term plan for the development of the department.



*The original members of the Plainsboro Police Department from left to right: Officers Larry Runge, Donald Crosby, Police Chief Clifford Maurer and Officer Gary Coderoni.*

The Plainsboro Police started with four police officers who provided coverage for the town from 8 am to midnight each day with the New Jersey State Police patrolling after midnight. In the summer of 1979, Plainsboro Police hired five more officers and began providing 24-hour a day service to the township. The department was originally housed at 506 Plainsboro Road, sharing quarters with Municipal Court and the Township Library. The building still stands today and is now used as an annex for the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

During the subsequent years, the department grew along with the township. Under Maurer's leadership it evolved into a highly professional organization. Detailed policies and procedures were put into place and high standards established. Many of the practices of the department were emulated by other departments throughout the state. The department also adopted a community policing approach. "PRO COPS"- Police Relying on Citizens of Plainsboro, were established. The key to the success of this approach was to establish relationships and partnerships within the community to resolve problems at their source.

In 1994 Chief Maurer retired and David Lyon became the second Chief of Police serving until his retirement in 2004. Under Lyon, the PRO COPS evolved into an established separate unit of the department expanding their scope to include an important community education program.

The department went through a transitional period from 2004 to 2007 when Clifford Maurer returned to serve as Public Safety Director. Upon his departure, the township re-established the position of chief of police and promoted Captain Elizabeth Bondurant to the position.

The Community Policing philosophy is now prevalent throughout the Plainsboro police department with officers on the street looking beyond the call for service to solve the underlying root cause of problems thereby improving the quality of life for everyone involved. In addition, department initiatives after 9/11 have left the business community and our residents better prepared to handle emergencies.

In recent years, the CORE (Community Outreach Resource Education) unit, the successor to Pro Cops, has expanded its involvement in the community offering a variety of programs, while also building a strong relationship with the schools. Perhaps the CORE unit's greatest success is the development of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). These citizen volunteers receive 20 hours of training in a myriad of emergency response tactics to assist the emergency services during a widespread emergency. Plainsboro has over 185 trained citizens and the department's efforts have put it at the forefront among Middlesex County communities and led to inquires from departments around the state.

The evolution of technology over the past thirty years has transformed the department. Mobile computers allow officers to access important data and information from their cars; in-car video systems help to monitor

activity such as car stops. Emergency services dispatch is now fully computerized and links with a sophisticated records management system, e-mail allows the department to “blast” e-mails to residents and businesses to provide them with important safety and traffic information. The internet provides vital police information to our residents and serves as a platform for “Plainsboro On Watch,” our online neighborhood watch program. Currently, the department is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) based mapping program to track calls for service and crime locations.

Today the Police Department employs 32 full-time sworn officers who staff the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Traffic Division, and CORE Unit. There are six full-time civilian dispatchers and four civilian support staff. Three emergency medical technicians also work under the authority of the police department.

Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis, who has served as the Township Committee’s liaison to the department for the past 14 years, hailed the department’s achievements. “It is clear that the department has evolved into a highly professional organization and enjoys a stellar reputation throughout the state. More important, they have earned the trust of our community.” “Our anniversary not only allows us to see where we have come from but provides the department the occasion to recommit itself to serving the community,” stated Chief Elizabeth Bondurant.

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community outreach, her mission is to help the Historical Society move forward toward serving a larger role in the community... a goal society members are eager to achieve. Bill Hart, president of the Historical Society, voiced his enthusiasm on behalf of the board, saying "When Pat and I started working together last year, I was impressed with the depth of her knowledge in the field, as well as her creativity. Together we have been exploring new resources and connections not only through our partnership with the township, but at all levels in the region. We have already benefited in many ways in the few months since the project was initiated and are looking forward to what will come."

Township residents can indeed look forward to new things in the coming year. High on the priority list are opportunities for new community outreach, attracting new collaborations with schools and community groups, expanded roles for volunteer involvement, increased visibility in the community, enhanced exhibits, plus a bringing together of the Plainsboro that was and the Plainsboro that is. *Like the story of the Wicoff House, Plainsboro history is still unfolding...*

## **Eighth Season for Community Garden**

The Plainsboro Community Garden, located on the south side of Plainsboro Road at the base of the railroad bridge, will be available to residents again for the eighth year. The Township grants permission to 55 people to “farm” a garden plot, measuring 20 feet by 20 feet. Water is available, as well as an on-site compost facility. “Plots are assigned through a random-drawing lottery system,” explains Michael Weaver, the Township Committee liaison to the Public Works Department. “Each year the program has increased in popularity. Therefore, residents are asked to get their applications in as quickly as possible.” The Community Garden also has several plots for the disabled. Through a grant received by the township, the site has been equipped with raised beds for gardening and wheelchair accessible paths. Residents are required to keep their plots free of all debris (organic and inorganic). Areas designated for the disposal of debris and recyclables are conveniently located adjacent to the garden.

The deadline for submitting applications this year is March 7th. The application can be obtained through the Clerk’s office at the Municipal Complex, at the township’s website at [www.plainsboronj.com](http://www.plainsboronj.com) or from the Public Works department at 799-0099, extension 10 between 8:30am and 4:30pm.



*Founders Day Celebration*

*May 4th*

*See Parks & Recreation insert for details*

## Recycle at the Conservation Center

The Conservation Center, located off Grovers Mill Road, provides the opportunity for township residents to properly recycle their yard waste, automotive batteries, alkaline and rechargeable batteries, tires (with no rims), motor oil, anti-freeze and engine oil filters on a weekly basis. From April 1st through December 13th, the Conservation Center is open on Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm. The remainder of the year, the center is open only on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Disposal of any item at the facility during off hours is strictly prohibited. The center does not accept household trash or standard recyclables that are normally collected by a residents' private vendor.

The township hosts four Bulk Waste Days at the Conservation Center. In 2008, the dates are April 5, June 14, August 9 and November 1. During these events, residents are allowed to dispose of items not normally collected by their private trash collector (e.g. furniture, appliances, bicycles, etc). This does not include masonry/paving materials and wood scrap from new construction or renovation projects. Residents must coordinate the recycling or dis-

posal of these items through their trash collector. Residents are allowed to recycle their electronics at these events, but must provide their address and list of electronic recyclables to the attendant. Items accepted include CPUs, monitors, keyboards, scanners, modems, printers, cables, television, VCRs and DVD players. "I would urge residents to take advantage of this facility", stated Committeeman Michael Weaver, liaison to Public Works. "It not only provides a convenience for our residents, but also serves an important environmental purpose."

Participation in Bulk Waste Days and normal hours at the Conservation Center is limited only to the recycling and disposal of residential items from township residents. Businesses operated by residents and non-residents are prohibited. Commercial vehicles are barred from the Conservation Center. However, special accommodations can be made to assist residents who need to use a rented or borrowed truck or other commercial vehicle because they do not own a vehicle or want to drop off large items that cannot be transported in their family vehicle. Just call our Public Works Department at 609-799-0099.

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## Vacation and Travel Safety Tips

Spring and summer are peak months for family vacation and travel. Before embarking on your trip, a little planning goes a long way to reduce the likelihood that you and your home may be the victim of criminal activity.

While away, maintain your house with a "lived-in" appearance by using timers to control different lights during the evening. Schedule lawn service if you anticipate being gone more than one week. Either stop mail and newspaper delivery or ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pickup these deliveries.

If you have valuables, money, or important papers, then, at a minimum, purchase a fireproof box or safe to protect them or for a nominal fee, use a safety deposit box at a local bank. The Plainsboro Police Department will check on your house while you are out of town. Simply stop by the Police Department and complete a "Vacant House Check" form and officers will check your house daily.

Packing for a trip can be quite a chore, but arriving at your location without prescription medicines can be dangerous. When traveling by air, keep all prescription medicines in their original containers in your carry-on luggage. Keep your important documents with you and

make a photocopy of your driver's license and passport and keep them with you should you lose your original. Your luggage will be inspected and if you use a lock other than TSA approved locks, it will be cut off your suitcase. Pack only what you need based upon your destination and expected activities. Leave valuables and expensive jewelry at home. Projecting affluence may attract trouble in new or foreign locations.

Once you arrive at your destination, familiarize your family with the hotel facility, including the location of the nearest exit. If you are traveling with children, pick a pre-determined meeting place should you become separated or in the event of emergency. Keep your hotel door locked at all times and use the auxiliary locking devices on the door and windows. Thieves frequently use the victim's own suitcase to remove valuables from a hotel room, so after unpacking lock your empty suitcase. Never leave money, checks, credit cards, jewelry or car keys in the hotel room unattended. Most hotels have a safe in the room or at the front desk. Use them to protect your valuables.

"Traveling is fun and exciting, but can also be dangerous and costly if you do not follow some simple safety rules," says Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis.

# At your service . . .

## Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

### Elections

**The 2008 Primary Election will be held on June 3rd.**

Hours for voting are from 6:00am to 8:00pm. **Close of voter registration for this election is May 13, 2008.** The Township Clerk's office will be open for voter registration until 9:00 pm on that date.

### Passports

The passport office is 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

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 ani-

mal 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 will be 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.

## Public Works Department 799-0099

### Conservation Center Hours Winter Hours

(December 16th to March 31st)  
Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

### Brush 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 subject to fines and removal costs.

Trimmings from trees, shrubs and vines accepted (max. 6 ft length and 5" 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, George Davison Road, Mapleton Road, Perrine Road, Princeton Collection, Princeton Crossing, Princeton Manor, Serina Drive, Shallow Brook Estates, Woodland Drive

#### 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

For safety reasons, trees containing ornaments, wire, metal or nails will not be accepted.

#### Curbside Recycling

Schedule—March 3, 17, 31;  
April 14, 28; May 12, 31; June 9, 23

#### 2008 Bulk Waste Days

April 5, June 14, August 9,  
November 1

## Middlesex County Programs

The following services are provided by the county.

For information, contact *Middlesex County Solid Waste* 732-745-4170 for information.

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

# 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:* Scotts Corner Road at  
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 332  
Traffic Updates 799-0909 x 900

## TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the  
Municipal Building, 641 Plainsboro Road,  
unless otherwise noted.

### **Development Review**

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

### **Local Assistance Board**

Qtrly. Call x218 for date

### **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



# PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro  
641 Plainsboro Road  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

### TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Peter A. Cantu, Mayor

Neil J. Lewis, Deputy Mayor

Nuran Nabi

Michael T. Weaver

Edmund C. Yates

### TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Robert O. Sheehan

### NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Teresa Carson

ECRWSS

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