



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Spring 2009

Hospital Boosts Library Fundraising

The University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro has announced that they will contribute \$250,000 to the *Leave a Legacy... Build a Library* capital campaign for the new Plainsboro Library at the Village Center.

Barry Rabner, President and CEO of Princeton HealthCare System announced the gift in a letter to Mayor Peter Cantu. "Although we intend to make a very significant contribution to the health and well being of all Plainsboro residents when we get settled in our new location, this gift represents a way that the hospital can be part of the fabric of the community in Plainsboro", stated Rabner.

Mayor Peter Cantu applauded the donation. "This very generous gift is a boost to our campaign and reflects the hospital's intention to be an outstanding citizen of Plainsboro", stated Cantu.

The hospital's donation will support the planned art gallery which will now bear the hospital's name. The gallery, which will be located on the first floor, is a specially designed space with lighting and layout for the display of the library's acclaimed art exhibits. The library's capital campaign has now yielded donations of \$1.64 million to support library construction.

Princeton HealthCare System is in the early stages of construction of a 960,000 square foot state-of-the-art medical center with the initial phase totaling 636,000 square feet. The hospital will be located on the former FMC site at the corner of Plainsboro Road and Route One North. At the time the hospital opens its doors, they will dedicate a 32 acre park to the Township.

The park, which runs along the Millstone River on the south side of Plainsboro Road, is planned for passive use. Completion of the hospital is scheduled for 2011.

"This very generous gift is a boost to our campaign and reflects the hospital's intention to be an outstanding citizen of Plainsboro", stated Mayor Cantu.

The overall redevelopment plan for the 159 acre site that spans Plainsboro Road also includes medical offices adjacent to the hospital; a skilled nursing facility which will soon be under construction on the south side of Plainsboro Road; and a continuing care retirement community on the site east of the hospital. The plan also includes a 38 acre site on the south side of Plainsboro Road next to the Firmenich campus that will accommodate up to

270,000 square feet of office/research development.



The new Plainsboro Library takes shape at the Village Center. The project is on schedule for construction to be completed this summer.

Volunteers Make A Difference

National Volunteer Week gives towns and cities all over the country an opportunity to say “thank you” to the countless individuals who share their time and energy to make a difference in the community. Volunteers come in all ages and walks of life; they reflect a broad range of interests and skills; they work in a variety of settings. Whatever their backgrounds, volunteers are the backbone of our society. In Plainsboro alone, volunteers help run programs, lead or assist special interest groups, provide assistance to the needy, teach, sit on boards and committees, staff emergency services, share artistic talent, provide administrative services, and more. In the process, they gain the satisfaction of helping others... they gain experience... they meet people with similar interests. Without volunteers, our daily living would be quite different.

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2009. Mayor Peter Cantu and the Township Committee will mark the

occasion with a proclamation acknowledging the contributions of our citizen volunteers. Nuran Nabi, Township Committee Recreation Liaison remarks, “I have been very impressed with the enormous effort made by volunteers in this community and the degree to which they raise our quality of life.”

To find out about local volunteer opportunities, check the Volunteer Opportunities Directory on the township website at www.plainsboronj.com. Residents may also view the *Volunteer Opportunities Directory* at the public library (see the reference librarian).

***Note:** New listings are welcome. To arrange for an organizational or business listing, simply request an entry form. Contact Joanne Lupica, Plainsboro Recreation Department, at 799-0909, ext. 332.

Volunteer Spotlight on: Henry Schaefer



Henry Schaefer moved to Plainsboro from Highland Park in 1977 and began his community involvement immediately. At one time or another, Henry was Deputy Mayor, Township Committeeman, thirty year member of the Planning Board, Master Plan sub-committee member for twenty plus years and continues as its

current chairman. He was an original member of the Development Review Committee, charter member and former chairman of the Shade-Tree Committee. Henry was also a driving force behind the creation of the Plainsboro Preserve and remains the township’s liaison to NJ Audubon. He is a former member of the Environmental Advisory Committee, Transportation Task Force, Library Board, and the Housing Committee. No less than five vacancies would need to be filled by the Mayor or Township Committee if Henry were to step away from his current volunteer affiliations.

The wave of development Plainsboro experienced during the 1970s and 1980s, and the need to preserve open space and manage growth, are the issues that drew Henry into the public realm. During this time he began working with Mayor Cantu and other residents to develop a vision for Plainsboro as well as celebrate

its past. In fact, Henry was part of the small group that came up with the idea for the first Founders Day in 1980 — an event still celebrated today.

After first lending time and enthusiasm to several civic projects, Henry began his tenure as an appointed Planning Board member in the late 70’s — a position he currently maintains. He then entered the political arena by being elected to the Township Committee serving from 1985 - 1991. For five of those years, Henry was elected by the Committee to be Deputy Mayor.

His list of contributions to Plainsboro is long and varied including, for example, proposing the state’s first reforestation ordinance and the township’s housing ordinance. Henry is now working to expand the trail system at the Plainsboro Preserve. Henry is an avid birder, traveling the world in quest of birds while also volunteering as a naturalist at the Plainsboro Preserve.

Ed Yates, Township Committeeman and fellow Planning Board member, said of Henry that he is “someone you can count on to be prepared while maintaining an even-keeled approach, no matter the topic.” “His knowledge of the natural environment makes him a valuable asset when any project is considered”, added Mr. Yates.

Keeping you posted...

Changes Planned for Social Services

With the impending retirement of Social Services Director, Jan Bayern, township officials are taking a look at how they can best provide such services to residents in need. During the interim period, residents are advised of the following:

General inquiries regarding organizations and agencies that provide services related to housing, food, subsidized medical care, financial assistance, etc. may be directed to the Plainsboro Recreation Department at 799-0909 ext. 332. In coming months, information of this type will also be posted on the township website to make it easier for residents to access resource information.

Plainsboro Receives Pathway Grant

The township will receive a grant in the amount of \$185,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to construct a pedestrian path linking Plainsboro Road to Scudders Mill Road around the Municipal Complex to Dey Road. The announcement was made in a December 18, 2008 letter to Mayor Peter Cantu from State Transportation Commissioner Stephen Dilts.

The specific program under which the award was made is called Safe Streets to Transit. The idea behind the program is to link areas in municipalities to transit opportunities. In this case, the project will provide a safe walking path from the residential areas around the Municipal Complex property to Scudders Mill Road and the transit

The food pantry continues to be stocked and open. Effective April 15th, hours of operation will be posted. Although the food collection program is temporarily suspended, residents and community groups interested in donating food and/or running food drives, may contact the Recreation Department and leave contact information. Once the program begins again, interested individuals will be contacted.

Individuals interested in volunteer opportunities related to the food pantry, holiday drives, and similar services should complete a volunteer application form (available on the township website www.plainsboronj.com or from the Recreation office during regular business hours).

stops located at the intersection with Schalks Crossing Road. The announcement from Commissioner Dilts pointed out that NJDOT received 46 applications totaling almost \$9.5 million in requests for the \$2 million in available funding. The NJDOT pared down the list to 15 select applications to award the grant funding, with the Plainsboro project making the final cut.

“We are extremely pleased to have been selected to receive \$185,000 from the NJDOT,” said Mayor Peter Cantu. “Municipalities are facing difficult economic conditions, so every dollar we can get from grant sources keeps projects moving forward without using precious local resources”, Mayor Cantu went on to say.

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, May 3, 2009

30th ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

*We are turning 90 this year!
Come help our community celebrate!*

Rain date: Saturday, May 9th

Kick-off parade starts at 12:30 p.m. from Waters Edge Park to the Municipal Complex. Festival activities start at 1:00 pm. More news to come!

Plainsboro Road, in front of the Municipal Complex, will be closed throughout the afternoon. Watch for bulletins and flyers with additional road closing and detour information. Event parking will be available across the street at the Enterprise Office Center.

For event information, contact the Recreation Department at 799-0909 ext. 332. For traffic and parking information, contact the Police Department Traffic Bureau at 799-2333.

Event information is available on the township website www.plainsboronj.com

Township Services Aid Spring Cleanup

Spring is the time nature awakens from its winter slumber, bringing spring cleaning along with it.

In order to assist residents with the disposal of items not collected by their private trash hauler, Plainsboro Township offers four (4) Bulk Waste Collection Days (April 4, June 13, August 8 & November 7). Residents are allowed to bring large items for disposal and recyclables not normally collected curbside, to the Conservation Center off of Grovers Mill Road. Items accepted include electronics, white goods, wood scrap, masonry/paving materials, motor oil, auto tires, auto antifreeze, loose grass clippings and brush.

Spring cleaning for many also includes cleaning their yards of brush and branches. However, the only brush collected by township staff are branches and woody plants not exceeding five (5) inches in diameter. Leaves and grass clippings are not collected with brush and should never be placed in the same pile. Brush is collected on an alternate month basis from March - October. It is to be placed curbside in front of your residence, no earlier than seven (7) days prior to your scheduled collection and no later than the first Monday of your scheduled month.

Items not accepted by Plainsboro may be disposed of during Middlesex County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection events. Items allowed for disposal include, but are not limited to: herbicides, drain cleaners, driveway sealers, propane tanks, pesticides and pool chemicals. Annually, Middlesex County provides approximately seven (7) separate occasions for the disposal of these items. Residents seeking the current schedule may visit the website, www.mciauth.com

Though spring cleaning may come once a year for many people, Plainsboro Township offers its residents the opportunity to dispose of yard waste, motor oil, automotive oil filters, car batteries, tires and anti-freeze at the Conservation Center year-round. During the spring and summer the center's operating hours are Monday and Thursday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - Noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Remember this service is for residents only, commercial businesses are prohibited from utilizing the center.

"We hope that these important services help residents with their yard and household cleanup projects," stated Committeeman and Public Safety Liaison Michael Weaver.

Is Your Contractor Registered?

Each year many homeowners are dissatisfied with contractors who perform work on their homes. The New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act is designed to protect you from misrepresentations, fraud, and deception in consumer transactions.

Before hiring a home improvement contractor, make sure the company is registered with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. Any transaction in excess of \$500 is required to have a written contract signed by the contractor and yourself. If building permits are required, make sure it is spelled out in the contract who will pay for them. Be wary of any contractor who requires more than one-third of the money up front. Never make the last payment until all final inspections have been approved through the Township Building Division. Not only is this the law, it will give you leverage in having the contractor correct any deficiencies.

"The Home Improvement Contractor Registration Act has been enacted for the protection of homeowners" states Ed Yates, Liaison to the Department of Code Enforcement. "Familiarity with this regulation will help your project go smoother."

For further information on home improvement contractors go to www.njconsumeraffairs.gov.

Leave a Legacy, Build a Library

It's not too late to join your neighbors,
local merchants and corporate citizens
in support of the new
Plainsboro Library at
the Village Center!

Make your donation to the:

Plainsboro Free Public Library Foundation, Inc.
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

Plainsboro Police in Transition

The year 2008 will be remembered as a year of transition for the Plainsboro Township Police Department. After several years under the leadership of Chief Elizabeth Bondurant, the department has seen a large scale reshuffling and the promotion of a new Chief of Police. After conducting interviews with the Township Committee, Richard Furda emerged as the department's new chief. He brings a wealth of experience and diverse educational background.

Due to the retirements of several officers, the police department conducted a hiring process that included a written test, a physical fitness test, and several oral interviews with the command staff of the police department and interviews that included the Deputy Mayor and Township Administrator. As a result, Officers Joseph Breyta, Mathieu Baumann, Kenneth Beatty and Martin McElrath have joined the department. The Plainsboro Police Department will certainly benefit from the skills and enthusiasm that each of these officers brings with

them. The department is going through the changing of the guard. We are excited by the potential each of these new officers has exhibited," noted Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis. All of the officers are recent police academy graduates who bring new police tactics and skills that they learned at the academy.

Within the last three years, Director Cliff Maurer, Chief Elizabeth Bondurant, Lt. William Kugel, Ptl. John Molnar, Ptl. Michael Kelly and Ptl. Joseph Shedelbower all retired from the department, with additional officers eligible to retire in 2009. The police department has begun 9 mentoring programs to prepare for the transition in leadership. Chief Furda directed that all Corporals attend levels one through three of the New Jersey State Certified Public Manager Program. All of the Sergeants have been directed to attend levels four through six of the Certified Public Manager program. The department is also initiating a mentoring program to develop the talent and leadership potential of junior officers.



The Plainsboro Police Honor Guard, formed in 2006, is a specially trained volunteer unit that represents the department at various ceremonies and events.

Pictured above (left to right) are Officers Eric Potts, Joseph Dell Beni, Kevin Lowery, and Corporals John Bresnan and Scott Seitz of the Plainsboro Police Department Honor Guard. Sergeant Troy Bell and Officer Jason Mandato (not shown) are also members of the Honor Guard.

Police Benefit from G.I.S. Mapping

For more than a decade, the police community has realized the valuable analytic benefits of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This powerful technology enhances the ability of the police to identify problem areas, address community concerns and allocate scarce resources more efficiently.

The use of GIS in the criminal justice field has its roots in the earlier generation of police crime maps. Historically, law enforcement agencies used hard-copy pin maps to chart criminal activity; but these maps were static and, as crime rates fluctuated, difficult to maintain. In recent years, with advances in quick and user-friendly software, manual pin mapping has given way to computerized crime mapping. Plainsboro Township Police Department has recently begun implementation of such a system and is currently working to integrate the new mapping software with existing data records.

GIS software represents data on a map using points, lines, and polygons. These data sets are created and stored on a computer in the form of layers which can be added to or removed from a base map similar to the transparencies used in reports and presentations before the advent of

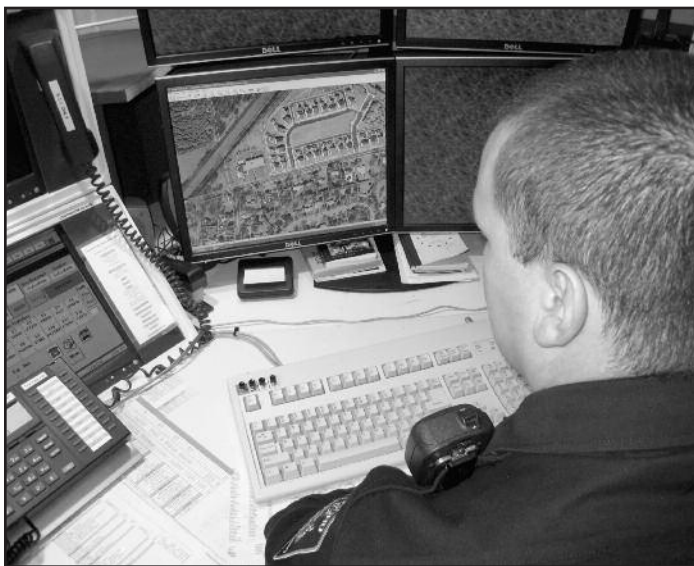
PowerPoint. Features that can be represented as points include traffic accidents, crime events, and bus stops. Bus routes, streets, and rivers are usually represented using lines. Blocks, lots, and buildings are depicted using polygons. GIS software is designed to capture, store, manage, integrate, and manipulate these various layers of data, allowing the user to visualize and analyze the data in a spatial environment.

“The implementation of GIS technology will enhance our ability to protect citizens, ensure officer safety, and provide outstanding service to the community”

The real power of GIS is that it gives users the ability to analyze multiple layers of information and their relationships to one another on a single map. Presenting data in the form of a map helps agencies understand the significance of where, when, and by whom crimes are committed, or where traffic concerns may exist. Additionally, it allows agencies to present these data images to the local government and community in a cohesive, recognizable format. “A picture is worth a thousand words”, as the saying goes.

Today's law enforcement agencies face a multitude of tasks and challenges. Over the past decade, our responsibilities have expanded into many areas including school resource duties, drug prevention programs, and new policing methodologies such as problem or community-oriented policing. To address these ever-expanding responsibilities, GIS provides a technology that enables us to put the right people in the right place at the right time based on current and historical data from our own community.

At least 13 percent of the police departments in the U.S. are now using GIS to solve crimes, and more importantly, to prevent them, according to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The law enforcement community is realizing the power of maps by using GIS applications to meet strategic, tactical, and administrative goals. “The implementation of GIS technology will enhance our ability to protect citizens, ensure officer safety, and provide outstanding service to the community,” says Deputy Mayor and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis. “This proactive policing - identifying and addressing criminal activity and traffic issues instead of merely reacting to them - is of paramount importance to maintaining a safe and sustainable community.”



Plainsboro Police Officer Joseph Dell Beni (pictured above) works with the township's new GIS system.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

Elections

The 2009 School Board Election will be held on April 21st. Hours for voting are from 7:00am to 9:00pm. **Close of voter registration for this election will be March 31, 2009.**

The 2009 Primary Election will be held on June 2nd. Hours for voting are from 6:00am to 8:00pm. **Close of voter registration for this election is May 12, 2009.**

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 animal can-

not 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 & Recycling Center

Summer hours for the conservation center will start on April 1st. The center will then be open Monday and Thursday from 5:30pm-7:30pm and on Saturday from 10:00am-5:00pm.

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 is subject to

finer and removal costs.

- Trimmings from trees, shrubs and vines accepted (max. 6 feet length and 5 inches 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

Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates for this quarter are:

March 2, 16, 30

April 13, 27

May 11, 30*

*Please note the change in daily pickup from Monday to Saturday due to the Memorial Day holiday

2009 Bulk Waste Days – April 4, June 13, August 8, November 7

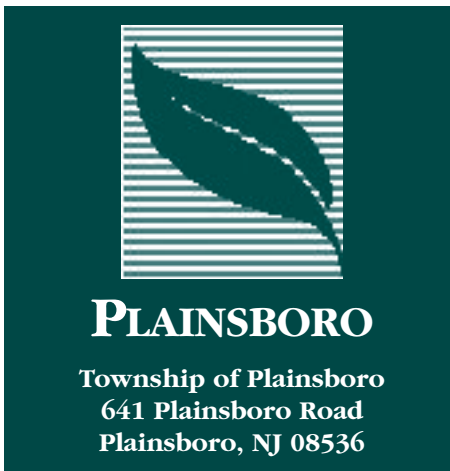
Middlesex County Programs

The following services are provided by the county. For more 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

<p>PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES <i>Location:</i> 641 Plainsboro Road <i>Hours of Operation:</i> Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm <i>Phone:</i> General 609-799-0909 Court 609-799-0863 <i>Web Site:</i> www.plainsboronj.com</p> <p>Plainsboro Public Works Department <i>Location:</i> Scotts Corner Road at 20 Woodland Drive <i>Phone:</i> 609-799-0099</p> <p>Plainsboro Police Department <i>Location:</i> 641 Plainsboro Road <i>Phone:</i> Non-Emergency 609-799-2333 Emergencies 9 1 1 <i>Police</i> <i>Web Site:</i> www.plainsboropolice.com</p> <p>Plainsboro Public Library <i>Location:</i> 641 Plainsboro Road <i>Phone:</i> 609-275-2897</p> <p>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</p>	<p>TOWNSHIP MEETINGS All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the Municipal Building, 641 Plainsboro Road, unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>Development Review Comm. 3rd Tuesday, 6pm</p> <p>Environmental Advisory Comm. 4th Monday</p> <p>Fire Commissioners 3rd Monday, 7pm, Firehouse</p> <p>Historical Society 3rd Tuesday, Wicoff House</p> <p>Human Relations Council 2nd Monday</p> <p>Library Board of Trustees 1st Tuesday, Library</p> <p>Local Assistance Board Qtrly. Call x218 for date</p> <p>Shade Tree Advisory 2nd Tuesday, Public Works</p> <p>Township Committee Regular Mtg. 2nd Wednesday Agenda Mtg. 4th Wednesday</p> <p>Planning Board 1st & 3rd Monday</p> <p>Zoning Board 1st Wednesday</p>	<p>SCHEDULES TO NOTE</p> <p>Library Hours Monday & Friday 9:00am – 5:30pm Tuesday, Wed., Thursday 9:00am – 8:30pm Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm</p> <p>Passport Office Information: 799-0909 x 200 <i>Also check the website</i></p> <p>Recycling/Bulk Waste <i>See Public Works Page</i></p> <p>More Numbers:</p> <p>School District Information 716-5000 Report Street Light Out to PSE&G 1-800-436-7734 Report Pot Hole to Public Works 799-0099</p>
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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
POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**