

Plainsboro Complies with Stormwater Regulations

In February 2004, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) adopted new and stringent municipal stormwater regulations. The purpose of these regulations is to curb “nonpoint” sources of pollution or the indirect ways that our rivers, lakes and streams become polluted. Municipalities statewide have been working feverishly to comply with these extensive and complex regulations. The NJDEP has made it clear that significant monetary penalties await municipalities that fail to conform to the regulation’s requirements.

Plainsboro recently adopted a series of local ordinances mandated by the NJDEP. Perhaps most noteworthy are new restrictions on the collection and dumping of yard waste. *“Sweeping, raking, blowing or otherwise placing yard waste that is not containerized [trash can, bucket, bag, etc.] at the curb or along the street is only allowed during the seven (7) days prior to a scheduled or announced collection and shall not be placed closer than ten feet from any storm drain inlet.”* Also, soil, mulch, sand and landscape construction materials cannot be placed at the curb for pick up.

In addition, other new Township ordinances:

- Require that pet owners pick up after all pets. These requirements are no longer limited to dogs;
- Place restrictions on dumping or disposing of materi-

als in the municipal stormwater system. There are a few exceptions identified such as lawn/landscape watering runoff and runoff from residential car washing or swimming pool discharges;

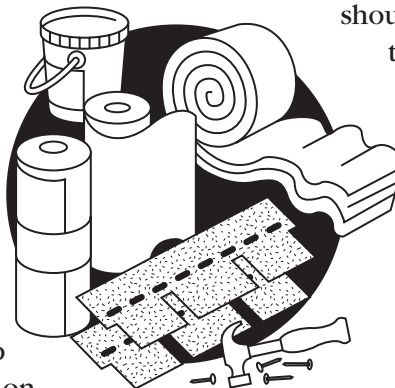
- Prohibits illicit connections to the stormwater system;
- Prohibits the feeding of wild animals.
- Plainsboro residents should take note of the new requirements. Plainsboro will be using its various communications tools to educate the public about water pollution and compliance with the new ordinances. If you have any question please call the Plainsboro Public Works Department at 609-799-0099.



Jeffrey LaPooh, Plainsboro's new Superintendent of Public Works joined the Township in May. Township Committeeman Michael Weaver, liaison to Public Works noted that "Jeff's experience in public works management will guide the department in maintaining a high level of service to the community."

Planning An Improvement Project?

The warm weather is upon us and many homeowners may be looking to move ahead with home improvement projects. These improvements can range from small projects such as the installation of a fence, shed or patio to more ambitious projects such as a new swimming pool or a home addition. Small projects can be easily handled by working with the Plainsboro Township Building Division and zoning staff. The larger projects can be more involved and require permits, plan review and a more detailed process. Homeowners are strongly recommended to allocate additional time to project schedules and to consult, early on,



with the Plainsboro Township Building Division.

In many areas of the Township, approval of a homeowners' association is required in addition to Township approval. Where this is the case, homeowners should contact their association representatives to find out what may be required.

“The Building Division staff will work with you to make this process as easy as possible.” stated Tom Boyd, Plainsboro’s Construction Official. If you are planning a project, please contact the Building Division at 799-0909, ext. 545.