



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Summer 2010

NJ Monthly: Plainsboro a Top Ten Town

In their March edition, *New Jersey Monthly* magazine recognized Plainsboro Township as one of the top ten “Best Places to Live” in New Jersey. New Jersey Monthly rankings, which are compiled annually, ranked Plainsboro seventh statewide.

The magazine noted the township’s strong economic base, mix of preservation and new development and excellent school system as its strongest assets. “But perhaps one of the township’s biggest draws is that over the past two years, the median property tax bill has increased only 1.9 percent while the rest of the state has seen an average jump of 7.8 percent.”

“We work hard to provide our citizens a high quality of life and our businesses a supportive environment in which to succeed,” stated Mayor Peter Cantu. “We are pleased New Jersey Monthly recognized our efforts.”

In establishing the rankings for *New Jersey Monthly*, Monmouth University’s Polling Institute considered eight indices that they felt best reflect a community’s quality of life.

Plainsboro’s recognition by *NJ Monthly* comes not long after Plainsboro was named one of the “100 Best Places to Live and Launch a Small Business” by FORTUNE Small Business (FSB) magazine.

Of the 100 communities recognized, Plainsboro was ranked 52nd nationwide. FSB identified Plainsboro’s great schools and its proximity to transportation services to New York City as important assets. They also note that the fine dining and cultural amenities of nearby Princeton will soon be augmented by the development of Plainsboro’s new “downtown,” the Village Center.

The “100 Best Places to Live and Launch a Small Business” appeared in the April 2008 issue of FORTUNE Small Business. FSB evaluated a range of criteria and assigned reporters to interview business owners, local officials and economic experts in all 100 communities.

In 2008 NJ Future, a nonpartisan, statewide research and education organization that advocates for better planning, awarded Plainsboro their Smart Growth Award for the Village Center.



Open for Business!

A ceremonial parade marked the April 9th opening of the new Plainsboro Library at the Village Center. The library welcomed 800 visitors on opening night and over 10,000 visitors in the first week.

The Plainsboro Food Pantry – One Year Later

Improvements to the Plainsboro community food pantry have resulted in an expanded food pantry that serves nearly 30 households on a regular basis. A network of community organizations also provide an array of complementary services to residents experiencing financial difficulties. A resource/referral guide that links individuals with service providers outside the community, including county and state government, as well as charitable organizations is also available.

With the retirement of the Plainsboro welfare director in early 2009, the operation of the food pantry was transferred to the Recreation and Community Services Department. As Township Committee liaison, Nuran Nabi explained, “It provided a good fit, because the department was already serving the needs of lower-income families in several ways.”

The new food pantry operation is based on research of other food pantries and the use of best practices. New food recipients are screened through an application process; income and residency (Plainsboro or Cranbury residents only) are the basis for eligibility. Once an applicant is approved for a period of one year, the pantry provides food on a bi-weekly basis. Paid staff and dedicated volunteers select and bag food utilizing a grocery checklist completed by the food recipient. The amount of food provided is based on the number of people in the household, as well as current supply.

Many West Windsor-Plainsboro schools and local businesses generously conduct food drives to benefit the Plainsboro food pantry. In addition, the township has recently established a trust account in order to accept cash donations to the food pantry. Such donations are used to replenish the inventory of food when needed or to supplement the holiday gift-giving program. Donations are also accepted to benefit children from low-income Plainsboro families to provide opportunities to attend summer camp or to take swimming lessons through the YWCA Princeton outreach aquatics program at Plainsboro.

If you would like to make a cash donation, please send your check, made payable to Plainsboro Township, to Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services Department, Attn: Donations. Please specify the purpose of the donation at the bottom of your check or in an attached letter.

If you would like to conduct a food drive or volunteer to help us, please contact the food pantry coordinator at 609-799-0909. A variety of flyers for themed food drives have been created to ensure that food drive collections are aligned with current inventory needs. Small food donations made by individuals can be dropped off at the Recreation and Community Services Department in the municipal building, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Proclamation Urges Organ and Tissue Donation

Mayor Peter Cantu recently issued a proclamation raising awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. Over 106,000 Americans are currently on waiting lists for organ transplants and thousands more need life enhancing tissue transplants.

“I urge all residents of Plainsboro Township to register with the state’s donor registry, say ‘yes’ to organ and tissue donation on their driver’s licenses, or visit www.donatelifenj.org to become a donor,” said Mayor Peter Cantu.

In addition, Mayor Cantu called upon health care professionals, volunteers, educators, faith-based and community groups and private organizations to help raise awareness of the urgent need for organ and tissue donors throughout the state.

Photo courtesy of Novo Nordisk



Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu, left, and Novo Nordisk Vice President of National Diabetes Sales Andrew Ajello, at the new Plainsboro Public Library. Novo Nordisk provided \$150,000 in grants to Plainsboro Township to support construction of the new library and the conversion of the old library into a community recreation center.

Keeping you posted...

Commercial Vehicles Limited in Neighborhoods

The Township Committee recently adopted an ordinance to limit the long-term parking of commercially licensed vehicles on public streets throughout the township. Prior to the changes, a commercially licensed vehicle could remain parked on a public street indefinitely. Now, a three-day limit will be enforced.

Commercial vehicles that are used in conjunction with a business are not affected. However, trailers and materials in connection with the business must be stored in a shed or garage. The ordinance revisions also prohibit the use of a public street

to keep a portable storage container, such as the popular PODS, and construction materials associated with a business or home improvement.

“Such quality of life issues reflect the care and maintenance shown by the residents of our neighborhoods,” stated Township Committeeman Ed Yates. “The revisions are not meant to impede a resident from bringing home a truck used in the course of their business, but it is reasonable to protect the residential character of our neighborhoods.”

Plainsboro Pushes Schalks Crossing Improvements

The rehabilitation of the Schalks Crossing Road railroad bridge remains a high priority for township officials. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is responsible for this improvement which is currently being designed.

The cost to complete the project, which will be borne by the NJDOT, stands at \$8.5 million with work scheduled to commence in the summer of 2011. Currently, the project is stalled while NJDOT and Amtrak negotiate a project agreement. Amtrak is requiring that the agreement include components that will seriously complicate the construction process and inflate the costs. Amtrak is involved because they own the rail line spanned by the bridge.

Given the project's high priority with the township, Plainsboro has stepped in and is working with Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Rush Holt to prevail upon Amtrak to be more flexible with the terms of the agreement.

Plainsboro Committeeman Michael Weaver has worked with NJDOT to accelerate the project. “This is a critical improvement for the safety of motorists and pedestrians” Weaver stated. “We are doing all we can to move this project along.”

The rehabilitation project will make repairs to the bridge structure and provide a completely new road surface. There will also be a pathway cantilevered over the bridge to permit pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the bridge safely.

Rescue Squad Needs Volunteers

During evenings and weekends, Plainsboro relies on the Plainsboro Rescue Squad to respond to medical emergencies.

The Rescue Squad is staffed entirely by highly motivated and trained volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who live in the community. These dedicated people are essentially “neighbors helping neighbors.”

The rescue squad is looking for volunteers to assist in medical emergencies and in a variety of other areas such as administration, fundraising, public education and special events. No prior experience is necessary and free training is provided.

If you are interested in volunteering visit <http://plainsbororescuesquad.org/doku.php/join> or call 609-799-2180.

Meeting Date Change – Fire Commissioners
The Fire Commissioners will now be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday
of the month at 7:00pm at the firehouse.

Hourly Bus Shuttle Started in May

Middlesex County has unveiled a new bus service that will provide connections between Jamesburg, Plainsboro and the Princeton Junction Rail Station in West Windsor. The wheelchair accessible bus route, known as the M6 Jamesburg-Cranbury-Plainsboro Shuttle, will begin service on Saturday, May 15. It is the newest route developed under the Middlesex County Area Transit (MCAT) Community Shuttle program.

Operated by Middlesex County, the route will provide connections to shopping, employment and medical facilities, including the University Medical Center and skilled nursing facility which are currently under construction.

Plainsboro Township Mayor Peter Cantu, who has worked closely with New Jersey Transit Corporation to expand local bus services in Plainsboro, noted the County service will complement NJ Transit services focusing on points south and west of Plainsboro's Village Center. "The new route will provide an incentive for Plainsboro residents to use public transit for

reaching local destinations while offering connections to NJ Transit regional rail and bus services," Cantu said.

The M6 will operate on a 60-minute frequency of service, Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The route will begin at Veterans Park in Jamesburg and will serve the village centers of Cranbury and Plainsboro, as well as adult communities in Monroe Township.

Funding for the route will come from a U.S. Department of Transportation New Freedom Grant, with a 50 percent matching grant from Middlesex County. There is a suggested one-way fare of \$1 for the general public and 50¢ for older persons, people with disabilities and children under 12.

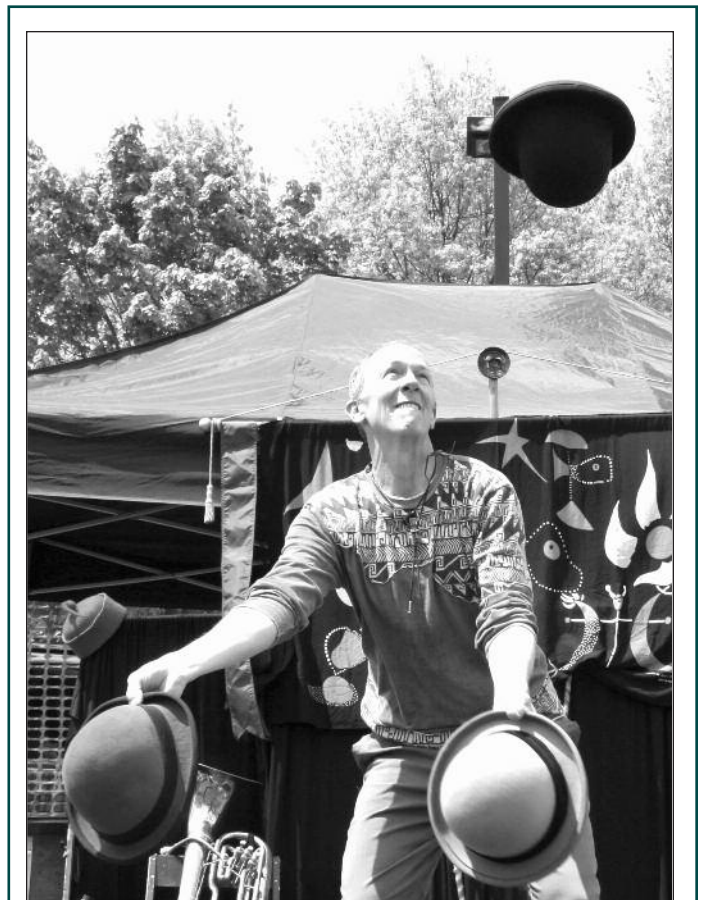
For more information, including route maps and schedules, contact MCAT at (732) 745-7456 or visit the Transportation Department page on the County Web site at <http://co.middlesex.nj.us>.

Road Repairs Going Green

As the township prepares to repair the access road to the Recycling Center (off Grovers Mill Road), an innovative and environmentally-friendly method is being planned. Full-Depth Reclamation (FDR) uses the old asphalt and base material for the new road. The process rebuilds worn out asphalt by recycling the existing roadway. The old asphalt and base materials are pulverized, mixed with a soil stabilizer (cement) and compacted to produce a strong durable base for either an asphalt or concrete surface. "It has always been our intention to improve Plainsboro's infrastructure through environmentally-friendly and cost effective means," states Department of Public Works Liaison Michael Weaver.

FDR provides more environmental benefits when compared to standard paving practices. First, less new roadway material is utilized. Second, little to no waste is produced. Third, truck traffic is reduced, because there's no need to haul in new aggregate or haul out old material. Fourth, less diesel fuel is consumed. Finally, FDR is able to increase the load-bearing strength of the base while utilizing 100% of the existing materials.

Since this is the first project of its kind in Plainsboro, the Recycling Access Road provides an excellent opportunity to try this new approach. The road experiences less overall vehicular traffic than most roads in Plainsboro. Because of the success of numerous projects completed throughout the country, staff is confident that this project will succeed. If proven successful, staff will fully incorporate FDR into Plainsboro's Road Maintenance Program.



Plainsboro marked its 91st anniversary with the 2010 Founders Day celebration. The Give and Take Jugglers (above) were a crowd favorite.

Preventing Identity Theft

Identify theft occurs when someone uses your personal information - your name, social security number, or credit card number, to commit fraud or other crimes. Nine million Americans have their identity stolen each year. Some methods used to obtain your personal information include:

Dumpster Diving: rummaging through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information.

Skimming: stealing credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

Phishing: pretending to be financial institutions and sending spam messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

Changing Your Address: diverting your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

Stealing: stealing wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers, and new checks or tax information.

Pretexting: using false pretenses to obtain your personal information from financial institutions, telephone companies, and other sources.

Identity fraud can occur with government documents. An individual may have a driver's license issued in your name, but with their picture or they might use your name and social security number to get government benefits or obtain employment. They may rent a house or get medical services using your name or give your personal information to police during an arrest.

You can reduce the risk of identity theft by making it more difficult to access your personal information. Do not carry your social security card in your wallet or write your social security number on a check. Always shred your charge receipts, bank statements and any other paperwork that contains personal information. You may opt out of receiving prescreened offers of credit in the mail. To do so, call: 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688). When doing so, you will be asked to provide your social security number which the consumer reporting companies need to match you with your file.

You should deposit your outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office rather than in an unsecured mailbox. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox. If you're planning to be away, contact the U.S. Postal Service at 1-800-275-8777 or online at www.usps.gov, to request a vacation hold.

Caution is always recommended when using the Internet. Beware of scammers producing fraudulent e-mail pages with logos similar to your bank or other businesses. When in doubt, call the business directly and inquire about the suspect

e-mail. "For practical tips to help you be on guard against internet fraud, secure your computer, and protect your personal information, you can visit www.OnGuardOnline.gov" suggests Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis.

Place passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information like your birth date or your phone number. Combinations of letters, numbers and special characters make the strongest passwords.

Never give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or online unless you have initiated the contact and are sure you know who you're dealing with.

If you discover that your identity has been stolen, you should immediately file a police report, check your credit reports, notify creditors, and dispute any unauthorized transactions immediately to restore your good name. A police report that provides specific details of the identity theft is considered an Identity Theft Report, which entitles you to certain legal rights when it is provided to the three major credit reporting agencies, or to companies where the thief misused your information.

An Identity Theft Report can be used to permanently block fraudulent information that results from identity theft, such as accounts or addresses, from appearing on your credit report. It will also ensure these debts do not reappear on your credit reports. Identity Theft Reports can prevent a company from continuing to collect debts that result from identity theft. An Identity Theft Report is also needed to place an extended fraud alert on your credit report.

Identity theft is a serious crime and you should take proper steps to minimize the likelihood that you become a victim. Visit www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/index.html for more identity theft information.

SHRED IT!

Saturday, July 17th

at the municipal building

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(or until the truck is full)

Safely dispose of documents that contain your personal information

*Sponsored by Plainsboro Township
in conjunction with the
Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders*

2010 ANIMAL CENSUS

The animal census is mandated by the State of New Jersey, as part of the licensing process to protect the citizens from the threat of rabies. It will also assist the township in accounting for your animal in the event of an emergency or evacuation.

PLEASE NOTE: It is extremely important that you return this survey so that your animal will be accounted for in case of an emergency or an evacuation.

Per New Jersey Statute 4:19-15.15, the Township Clerk's Office is conducting a dog and cat canvass and would appreciate your assistance by answering the following questions:

1. Does anyone in your household own a dog? YES NO
2. Does anyone in your household own a cat? YES NO
3. Number of dogs over 6 months of age? _____ Number of cats over 6 months of age? _____
4. Does your dog have a license? YES NO
5. Does your cat have a license? YES NO
6. If pet is not licensed under your name, list the name of the person the dog or cat is licensed under.

Please Note: Any resident having a dog or cat that is 6 months of age MUST obtain a rabies vaccination for their pet, and MUST obtain a Plainsboro Twp. animal license.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey by mail or fax or drop the survey off at the Township Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building by July 30, 2010 at

Office of the Municipal Clerk
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
Phone: (609) 799-0909
Fax: (609) 799-9204

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 799-0909

2010 Elections

The 2010 General Election will be held on November 2nd. Hours for voting are from 6:00am to 8:00pm. **Close of voter registration for this election will be October 12, 2010.**

Passports

Processing of passports is done by appointment only. For further information, see the Township website www.plainsboronj.com or call 799-0909.

Pet Licenses

NJ State Law mandates that all dogs six months and older must be licensed annually by the Township. Licenses are due for renewal by January 31st with penalty charges beginning on February 1st. Appli-

cations for dogs and cats are available from the Township Clerk's Office and the township website. Failure to license pets is in violation of Plainsboro Township's Ordinance 59-1 and can result in a summons. ****According to state regulation N.J.A.C. 8:23A, when licensing, the rabies vaccination immunity must extend through at least ten (10) months of the 12-month licensing period. Licenses cannot be issued if the rabies vaccination expires before November 1st of each year. If for any medical reason the animal cannot be vaccinated in the required time, form VPH-28 must be completed by the veterinarian and submitted with the renewal form.**

Animal Census

NJ regulations require municipalities to conduct a canvass of all pets owned, kept or harbored within their boundaries every two years. Please complete the enclosed survey and return the Township Clerk's office by mail, fax or drop off at the Municipal Building by July 30, 2010. Survey is also available on the township website.

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

Summer Hours
(April 1st – December 13th)
Monday and Thursday from
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm

Brush Collection Guidelines and Schedule

- Brush 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 or leaves.
- Brush shall be neatly placed parallel to the road with limb ends facing the same direction.

Section 1 - April, June, August, October

Beechtree Lane, Brentwood/Shallow Brook Estates, Cypress Court, George Davison Road, Mapleton Road, Perrine Road, Princeton Collection, Princeton Crossing, Princeton Manor, Serina Drive, Woodland Drive

Section 2 -March, May, July, September

Brookside Court, Cooks Corner, Cranbury Neck Road, Dey Road, Eiker Road, Gentry, Grovers Mill Estates, Grovers Mill Road, Heritage Way, Mayfarth Terrace, Millstone Court, Nostrand Road, Okeson Street, Petty Road, Plainsboro Road, Pollack Court, Ponds End, Scotts Corner Road, Stults Drive, Sullivan Street, Village Area, Walker Gordon Estates

Curbside Recycling

Schedule— June 7, 21; July 5, 19; August 2, 16, 30

Remaining 2010 Bulk Waste Days – June 12, August 14, November 6 from 8:00am-5:00pm

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



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

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**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**

Directory and Information

PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: General 609-799-0909
Court 609-799-0863
Website: www.plainsboronj.com
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

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 Website: www.plainsboropolice.com

Plainsboro Public Library

Location: 9 Van Doren Street
Phone: 609-275-2897
Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday 10:00am – 8:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm
Website: www.lmxac.org/plainsboro

Plainsboro Park Rangers

Phone: 897-7844

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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

Development Review Comm.

3rd Tuesday, 6pm

Environmental Advisory Comm.

4th Monday

Fire Commissioners

2nd Tuesday at 7pm, Firehouse

Historical Society

3rd Tuesday, Wicoff House

Human Relations Council

2nd Monday

Library Board of Trustees

1st Tuesday, Library
(9 Van Doren Street)

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, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00am – 8:30pm
Saturday & Sunday
10:00am – 5:00pm

Passport Office

Information: 799-0909
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 Potholes to
Public Works 799-0099