

PLAINSBORO REPORTER



A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Winter 2005/2006

New Programming on Channel 3

Plainsboro's Channel 3 is on the air and in the last several months has introduced many new programs. Channel 3 is a government and education channel shared with the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District. Township Committeeman Michael Weaver, who is liaison to the Cable Advisory Committee, was instrumental in starting the cable channel: "We are pleased to be able to offer programming that will provide useful information to our citizens. We believe that we can provide information specific to Plainsboro and Middlesex County and also use outside sources for educational and entertaining programming."

Channel 3 has launched two locally produced programs. *Spotlight Specials* is hosted by Mayor Peter Cantu and uses a talk format with guests who cover a wide range of topics of interest to Plainsboro residents. *Eye on Plainsboro*, which is hosted by Township Administrator Bob Sheehan, mixes a talk format with special segments on public safety and updates on the Village Center. In addition, there is coverage of Township events such as the 9/11 Memorial Services, the Festival of the Arts, Founders Day and others.

The Township has also secured programming from outside sources such as the National Fire Prevention Association's *Senior Fire Safety* and the Better Business Bureau's *How to Hire a Home Contractor*. The Township will also be airing programming produced by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Middlesex County.

County Grant Advances Park Plan

Plainsboro has received a \$500,000 grant from the Middlesex County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The grant will be used for improvements to Community Park that will advance the park's master plan for development.

The park, totaling 77 acres, was developed on land donated from a developer, and currently includes five baseball fields (two are combined with a football and soccer field), an athletic field building, a multipurpose court/rink, play equipment, a shelter and sitting area, an enclosed dog run and walking trails. The park's Master Plan calls for multi-phased development. These plans include lighting for athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a picnic area (with shelter), a comfort station and associated landscaping and pathways.

The original grant application, for \$950,000, was to be used to install lighting at the northwest athletic fields which include two existing baseball fields, a football field and a soccer field, and for the construction of the family picnic area. The Township is currently evaluating priorities to determine how to spend these funds. "The very substantial grant we have received from Middlesex County will allow us to move forward with the development of the park at no cost to Plainsboro taxpayers," stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

Inside This Issue

Village Center Update	3
Requirements for Snow and Ice Removal	4
Leaf Pickup and Holiday Tree Pickup	7
Directory	8
Recreation	Insert



Mayor Cantu accepts a check from Middlesex County Freeholder Camille Fernicola, as Township Committeeman Michael Weaver (left), Middlesex County Freeholder Pete Dalina (center) and Freeholder Director David Crabiell (right) look on.

CARBON MONOXIDE WARNING

At the start of every heating season it is wise to be reminded of the dangers of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from incomplete combustion. When CO is absorbed by the body it combines with the hemoglobin in our blood to rob the blood of the oxygen our body needs. Low level exposure over an extended period of time can be as dangerous as high concentrations for a short period of time.

An estimated 15,000 people are treated and 500 people die annually from non-fire related carbon monoxide poisoning.

Any fuel-fired appliance that uses gas (natural or liquefied petroleum), oil, coal, kerosene, or wood as its fuel source produces some amount of carbon monoxide. Such could include furnaces, hot water heaters, dryers, fireplaces, ovens or wood burning stoves. Heat pumps, electric heaters, or electric hot water heaters are not considered fuel-fired appliances and do not produce carbon monoxide.

The risk of carbon monoxide Poisoning can be reduced by following these steps:

- Install a carbon monoxide detector. They are required by the NJ Uniform Fire Code and the Uniform Construction Code in all residences.
- Have your heating system inspected before you turn it on in the fall. The inspector will check for cracks in the heat exchanger.
- Have your chimneys inspected for cracks or blockage.
- If you are going to be enclosing the area around your heater or dryer, check with the Township's Building Division to be sure that you are enclosing it properly and safely.
- Do not leave your car running in the garage, even if you leave the garage door open.
- Do not grill in an enclosed area such as a garage.
- If operating a generator, make sure the generator is outside and properly ventilated.
- Do not close the fireplace damper until the fire has been completely extinguished.
- Do not try to heat your home with your stove.

These simple precautions will allow you to safely enjoy the comfort of your home during the winter months.

TRADITIONS—A DIVERSE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES!

Local holiday season festivities put an accent on the international with Plainsboro Township's innovative and award-winning event — *Traditions*.

A sneak peek ahead into event highlights reveals an exciting array of activities to delight young and old — regional folk dance, theatre, musical performances, exhibits, crafts, demonstrations, native dress, holiday games, traditional cuisine, stories, costumes, and much more! Sample different New Year traditions of Asia and the Far East; join in the festive holiday music and dance of Europe and the United States; learn about ancient festival beginnings such as Winter Solstice and Twelfth Night, as well as new holidays such as Kwanzaa.

Cooking demonstrations feature ethnic specialties. Whether you hang a stocking, twirl a dreidel, ring bells,

light diye lamps, wish with daruma dolls, dance with colorful lions, or light candles — it's a wonderful world of celebration!

Traditions 2005 is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. Activities are scheduled throughout the afternoon at the Plainsboro Municipal Building, the Public Library, and at the Wicoff House. Local arts groups, schools, and community organizations will be sharing their seasonal or cultural traditions.

Watch upcoming bulletins for event details and scheduled activities, or contact the Plainsboro Recreation Department at 799-0909, ext 332.

Admission is free!