



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Winter 2006-2007

Hospital Plans Submitted

The University Medical Center at Princeton formally submitted a concept plan to the Township Planning Board on October 12th. This submission marks the start of the township's review of plans to construct a medical center on Route One on the current site occupied by FMC.

The 158-acre site straddles both sides of Plainsboro Road and fronts on Route One north. It also has frontage onto the Connector Road. The specific elements of the plans submitted include: a new 636,000 square foot hospital with the potential for a 324,000 square foot expansion; new medical office buildings totaling 120,000 square feet with a possible expansion of an additional 120,000 square feet; a long-term care facility totaling 120,000 square feet. The plan also suggests that a portion of the site located on the south side of Plainsboro Road would be partitioned off for future private development. Adjacent to the hospital site and accompanying medical office buildings, the medical center's plans include a continuing care retirement community that would include 400 units of age-restricted housing.

Township professional staff will now begin their review of the proposal with a close focus on traffic and fiscal impacts. The Township has secured the services of Richard Preiss of the planning firm of Phillips Preiss Shapiro Associates, Inc. to oversee plan review. Also, the fiscal impact and economic analysis will be conducted by the firm of Basile Baumann Prost & Associates. Township Engineer, CME Associates, will conduct the traffic analysis. Hearing dates before the Planning Board have not yet been scheduled but will be made public through notice in the newspaper and the township's website. "We are pleased that the plans have been submitted and we look forward to a thorough and open review process of this important proposal," stated Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu.

Leave a Legacy... Build a Library

Public officials and business leaders gathered on November 2nd at the Harrison Conference Center to kick off the fundraising campaign for the new Plainsboro Library.

The campaign "Leave a Legacy... Build a Library" has raised more than \$800,000 in pursuit of a goal of \$1.5 million to support the construction of the new library. The event, which was sponsored by the Harrison Conference Center and Verizon, NJ, was attended by many who have made leadership gifts that have boosted the campaign. Lead donors include Princeton University, the F.I.S.H. Foundation, Firmenich, Novo Nordisk and Sharbell Development Corporation. If you would like to join the campaign, please contact Robert Sheehan at 609-799-0909, extension 305.



Mayor Peter Cantu (left), Library Director Jinny Baeckler (center) and Thomas Troy of Sharbell Development Corporation (right) review plans for the new library. Sharbell Development Corporation donated the land on which the library will be built.

Plainsboro's Tax Rate Lowest for 12th Year in a Row

Plainsboro Township recently completed a review and comparison of municipal tax rates in Middlesex County. Plainsboro's 2006 tax rate of 23.1¢ per \$100 of assessed value is the lowest municipal tax rate of all 25 Middlesex County municipalities. Plainsboro enjoys this distinction for the twelfth year in a row.

The services provided by the municipal tax rate include general government administration, public safety, streets and roads, health and welfare, recreation code, enforcement and municipal court.

The municipal tax rate constitutes approximately 11% of the total property tax bill. Plainsboro residents have additional levies imposed by the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District, Middlesex County, County Open Space, Plainsboro Fire District, and Municipal Open Space.

"We continue to strive for tax stability" stated Mayor Peter Cantu, "maintaining the lowest municipal tax rate in Middlesex County is the result of careful financial planning."



At the Township's 9-11 memorial ceremony, Patrolman Kevin Lowery tolls a bell in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Four citizens of Plainsboro perished in the attacks.

Dog and Cat Licensing

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.** 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, 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. Fees increase from \$8.20 (for a spayed/neutered animal registered during the normal licensing period) to as much as \$26.20 (for a non-sprayed/non-neutered pet that is registered late).

To assist pet owners, a free rabies clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2007 at the Plainsboro Public Works Garage. Dogs are scheduled from 9:00 am to 10:00 am and cats are scheduled for 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Owners must have large dogs securely leashed. Very small dogs and cats should be in a pet carrier.

2006 Annual Holiday Drive is Underway

Efforts are well underway in the Township's 2006 Annual Holiday Drive for the needy. "Each year the Municipal Welfare Division endeavors to see to it that the needs of the Township's less fortunate are addressed, and assure that the holidays are happy for those in circumstances beyond their control," reports Township Committee Liaison Ginger Gold Schnitzer. This project encompasses the efforts of both the public and private sectors, residential and business communities alike. It is a compilation of food drives, Adopt-a-Family Programs, P.B.A. Local #319's Annual Toy Drive and individual efforts of corporations and residents. For further information about how you may participate, please contact Municipal Welfare Director Jan Bayern at 799-0909, extension 218 weekdays.

Take a Walk or Ride a Bike



Bicycling is recognized as not only an effective means of transportation, but one that is healthy and enjoyable for people of all ages. The township is doing its part to make such activities as convenient and pleasurable as possible. The Surgeon General has found that a regular, preferably daily, regimen of at least 30-45 minutes of brisk walking or bicycling can lead to measurably improved health. In addition to health benefits, the pathways used for bicycling and walking help to connect and link neighborhoods to each other and to popular destinations, as well as provide opportunities for increased social interaction by residents and others. In recognition of the importance of biking and walking to the health of a community and the need for high quality bikeway and pedestrian facilities to encourage and promote such activities, the township, nearly ten years ago, adopted a comprehensive Bikeway and Pedestrian Circulation Plan.

According to Township Committee member Ed Yates, “one of the primary goals of the plan is to provide residents and those who work in Plainsboro with alternatives to the private automobile. Most communities today have transportation systems that are geared towards the automobile, which eliminates biking or walking as a viable means to get around. We’re trying to change that in Plainsboro through establishing a more balanced transportation system, one that better serves the needs of all the people and not just those with cars or trucks.”

The current pedestrian and bikeway plans are designed to link neighborhoods, parks, schools, shopping areas and employment centers to each other. Additionally, an effort has been made to coordinate our bikeway system with those planned in adjoining communities, as well as the county and state.

The pedestrian pathways system in town is made up of a combination of 4'-5' wide concrete sidewalks, typically located along public streets, and 6'-8' wide multi-use

asphalt paths that are located both along streets and within parks and open space areas. While most of the planned pedestrian pathways in town have been completed, some missing segments are being added in association with various road improvement projects.

Similar to the pedestrian pathways system, the bikeway system, too, is made up of different types of pathways, including on-road (e.g., bike lanes on Nostrand Road) and off-road (bike paths). The most significant portion of the planned bikeway system includes off-road 8' wide multi-use pathways.

To date there are approximately 10 miles of bike paths in town, with another 15-20 miles planned and yet to be built. Like the pedestrian pathways system, the bikeway system has been largely paid for and constructed by private developers. Where that has not been possible, the township has been successful in securing funding from various state transportation funding programs. In this regard and as a result of the township receiving special recognition by the State Planning Commission and the Office of Smart Growth for its planning efforts over the years and the quality of its Master Plan (only one of a few cities in state to do so), the township is hopeful of being able to continue to obtain funding from the state and federal governments to complete the planned bikeway system.

Copies of the current Pedestrian Circulation and Bikeway Plans can be viewed by going to the township’s website at www.plainsboronj.com. In the “Government” box, select Departments, then “Planning and Zoning”. There are several maps available for your use.

Safety Tips

There is a growing traffic safety problem with the increase in the number of bicyclists riding against traffic on municipal roads. Bicyclists should always ride with the traffic, not against it. When you ride with the traffic, motorists are more likely to see you far enough ahead to steer out of your way. Anyone under the age of 17 is required by law to wear an approved helmet when cycling. Over 130,000 children go to the hospital each year with brain injuries sustained on bicycles. A properly worn helmet is the most effective safety device available to cyclists.

Snow and Ice Removal Requirements

As winter approaches, Plainsboro residents should be reminded of their responsibilities to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and streets. The requirements outlined in Plainsboro's ordinances include the following

- All property owners or agents of apartment complexes must clear all sidewalks, private streets and parking lots of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall.
- No one should throw or place snow or ice on any public street within the Township.
- If in the interest of public safety the Township must intervene to remove snow or ice from sidewalks, private streets or parking lots, then the property owner or complex owner will be charged for the cost of such removal.

These requirements are enforceable by municipal ordinances and if found guilty in Municipal Court; violators will be fined \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense. Residents should note that they have an obli-

gation to clear snow each time there is a snowfall and that upon completion of each snowfall, they have a 24-hour period in which to clear the snow. Each of these 24-hours periods is considered to be another violation of the ordinance.

Automobiles parked on the street present a hindrance and a safety hazard to plowing operations, especially in cul-de-sac areas. Residents are reminded to observe Township ordinances and refrain from parking on roadways during winter storms.

Also, high speed passing, passing on the right and tailgating snow equipment is both illegal and dangerous. Adhering to these regulations will provide for everyone's safety in the event of a snowstorm.

"It is essential that residents clear their property during a storm so that the Public Works Department can clear the roadways," stated Michael Weaver, Township Committee Liaison the Public Works Department, "our focus is on the safety of our citizens".

Candle Fire Prevention Tips

The holidays will be here shortly. Decorative and fragranced candles may be an attractive addition to your home during the holidays, but if used improperly, they can be a serious fire hazard.

According to the National Fire Protection Association December has almost twice the number of home candle fires of an average month with Christmas Day being the peak day of the year for home candle fires. Please consider the following safety tips:

- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily. They should be made from a material that can not burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a heat resistant surface
- Keep candles out of reach of pets and children
- Do not leave candles burning in an empty room or when going to sleep.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to 5 to 7 mm and trim every few hours to avoid large flames.
- Use candles in the center of an area one foot in diameter free of anything that could burn (curtains, clothing, books, and holiday decorations).
- Do not place candles on a window sill by an open window

- Always use a candle snuffer as opposed to blowing the candle out since sparks can fly and ignite household furnishings

Following these guidelines should help you enjoy a fire safe holiday season!

Have you recently made home repairs?

Plainsboro Township's Building Division is responsible for ensuring that all construction work in the township complies with the requirements for the NJ Uniform Construction Code. We all share the goal of assisting in scheduling and conducting your inspections in the most responsible, professional and efficient manner possible.

The owner is ultimately responsible to insure that all inspections are scheduled in a timely manner. We are requesting that all homeowners who have had work scheduled with this office call us at 609-799-0909, ext. 545 to see if your property has open permits.

Cookbook Celebrates Plainsboro's Diversity

The answer to the age old question "what's cookin'?" may very well be found in a new cookbook, *The Kitchens of Plainsboro Township*. "We are inviting all Plainsboro residents to submit their favorite recipe for inclusion in the book," said the Library's director, Jinny Baeckler. "We are looking for anything from appetizers to desserts and especially hope to reflect the diversity of cultures that make Plainsboro so very special."

Deborah Stern, the driving force behind the project emphasizes that this is not a contest; the book will include as many recipes as possible. However, the entries must come from Plainsboro residents and each recipe must follow a standard cookbook format, including a specific list of ingredients, amounts and utensils needed, cooking time and serving suggestions.

"We'd love to have a sentence or two about the history of the recipe," noted Ms. Baeckler. "Is it an old family favorite, handed down from Athens, West Virginia? These histories will be the heart of the cookbook, and give Plainsboro a chance to celebrate the rich history and many cultures of its citizens." Special sections will feature favorite dishes from local restaurants and tasty treats concocted by local political dignitaries! Residents are also encouraged to submit photographs and artwork for possible inclusion.

The book is one of several projects planned for next year, when the Library's fundraising campaign kicks into high gear. Volunteers are always welcomed with open arms. The deadline for submission of entries is January 1, 2007. Forms and details are available at the library or, one may simply submit recipes and/or forward questions to: recipes@lmxac.org.

Internet Safety is a Parental Concern

Do you know who your children are talking to on the internet? When your child signs on to the internet they have the power to communicate with millions of people. Some of these people are criminals that prey on innocent children. The following suggestions will help you safeguard your children.

- Put the computer in an area of the home where you can watch what your child is doing on the computer.
- Look at your child's profile on social-networking sites such as myspace.com (this information is accessible world wide).
- Look at your child's on-line "friends" and ask your children if they really know who these people are.
- Remind your children that once they post a photo or information online it **can't** be taken back, copies may exist..
- Remember, even if your child is not active on the internet their friends may have put their profile online for them.
- Don't put information on the computer that a criminal could piece together to determine where your child can be found.

You don't need to be a computer wiz to keep your children safe on the computer. Stick to the basics: Don't allow them to talk to strangers!

To learn more please attend the free **Internet Safety Presentation for Parents** co-sponsored by the

Plainsboro on Watch Association and the Plainsboro Township Police Department on Sunday, December 10th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Municipal Courtroom. To assist families with child care needs, we will be showing a children's movie appropriate for children 5-10 years of age in an adjacent room, with adult and youth volunteer supervision. To assure the proper quantity of training materials please R.S.V.P. at (609) 799-2333 extension 900.



***Don't Miss
Traditions 2006
December 2nd
12:30pm – 5:30pm in the Municipal Center***

Safeguard Against Identity Theft

Last year over 10 million Americans were victims of identity theft. Further, experts say the number of cases have been doubling every year since 2000.

Someone may be able to “steal your life”. Safeguard your identity by following these important steps:

1. **Review Your Credit Report** from each of the three credit agencies (listed below) twice a year. Are accounts or addresses you don't recognize? Is your social security number correct? Have there been more credit inquiries than normal? Any of these may be early signs of identity theft.
2. **Limit The Use Of Your Social Security Number.** Never give it to someone who calls you on the phone, don't carry the card in your wallet and never print it on your checks.
3. **Shred Important Papers**-especially credit card

solicitations, with a crosscut shredder. Some identity thieves' piece these papers back together.

4. **Don't Use Your Mother's Maiden Name** as a password on personal accounts; it's too easy to learn.
5. **Safeguard Check Use**-when writing checks to pay credit card accounts, don't put the complete account number on the “for” line. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home number.

If you suspect identity fraud, contact the Plainsboro Township Police at (609) 799-2333 or the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. To report fraud or obtain a copy of your credit report, you can contact the following credit agencies: Equifax, (888) 766-0008 www.equifax.com; Transunion, (800) 888-4123 www.transunion.com or Experian (888) 397-3742 www.experian.com.

Plainsboro on Watch

The Plainsboro Police Department's C.O.R.E. Unit in cooperation with the Federal Citizen Corps Initiative “USA on Watch”, and the New Jersey State Police have developed a new program called “Plainsboro on Watch”, a web supported neighborhood watch program. The Plainsboro on Watch Communication Network will allow residents to stay informed about security and quality of life issues affecting our community. Membership is open to all Plainsboro residents over the age of 21. To become a member you simply register on line at plainsboroonwatch.com. In the event of a disaster affecting Plainsboro Township all registered “Watch” members will receive a personal e-mail with recommended emergency response measures.

Benefits of Plainsboro on Watch membership include participation in a communication network that contains regularly updated information specific to the township. Topics include; Crime Prevention Tips, Gang Awareness, Disaster Preparedness, Terrorism Awareness, Homeland Security, and Crimes against Children. Members will be able to access the “Detectives Report” which will have updated information on the latest types of criminal activity in Plainsboro Township and recommended safeguards.

Members will also have access to forum topic areas to discuss quality of life issues with other registered members. In the “Parenting Outreach” area of the site members can quickly learn the local trends affecting our youths so they can make informed parenting decisions.

An updated list of youth slang will be posted so members can better understand their children's increasingly complex language.

“Plainsboro on Watch will provide an unprecedented level of information sharing within each respective neighborhood and the Township as a whole”, stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis. “This network of informed citizens will play a vital role in crime prevention, disaster preparedness, and the dissemination of emergency alert information.”



Ptl. Michael Kelly and residents of the Ravens Crest East condominiums post a “Plainsboro on Watch” sign. For more information, visit www.plainsboroonwatch.com.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

December 11, 30* • January 8, 22
February 5, 19 • March 5, 19

**Due to the holiday, this pickup has been rescheduled to Saturday*

BULK WASTE SCHEDULE FOR 2007

April 7 • June 9
August 11 • November 3

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PROGRAMS



Residential Paint Drop-Off Program
Contact Middlesex County Solid Waste
(732) 745-4170



**Household Hazardous Waste
Drop-Off Days**
Contact Middlesex County Solid Waste
(732) 745-4170



**Consumer Electronics Drop-Off
Program**
Contact Middlesex County Solid Waste
(732) 745-4170

Conservation Center Winter Hours

Beginning on December 16th, the Conservation Center will be open **only** on Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP

- Holiday trees will be picked up at curbside throughout the Township each Monday in January.

Apartment and condo residents must contact their management for instructions.
- Trees may also be brought to the Conservation Center for drop-off during regular hours.
- Tree containing ornaments, wire, metal or nails will not be accepted because they could injure chipper operators.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Application Deadline - March 9, 2007

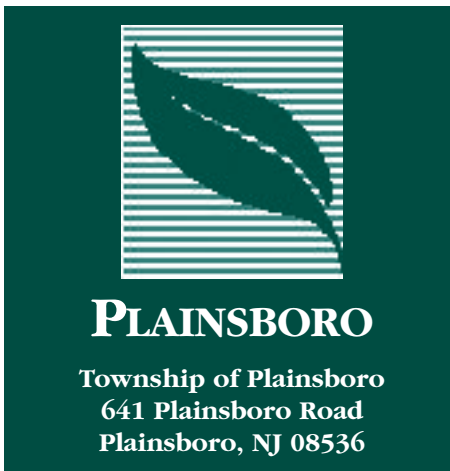
Public Lottery Drawing -
March 15, 2007

Garden Plots available for access and use
- March 30, 2007

Permits expire - cleanup deadline -
December 14, 2007

Directory and Information

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| <p>PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES</p> <p><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</p> <p><i>Location:</i> Scotts Corner Road at 20 Woodland Drive <i>Phone:</i> 609-799-0099</p> <p>Plainsboro Police Department</p> <p><i>Location:</i> 641 Plainsboro Road <i>Phone:</i> Non-Emergency 609-799-2333 Emergencies 9 1 1</p> <p><i>Police</i> <i>Web Site:</i> www.plainsboropolice.com</p> <p>Plainsboro Public Library</p> <p><i>Location:</i> 641 Plainsboro Road <i>Phone:</i> 609-275-2897</p> <p>24-Hour Recorded Message Lines</p> <p>Meeting Agenda 799-0909 x 5 (Township Committee, Planning Board) 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</p> <p>All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the Municipal Building, 641 Plainsboro Road, unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>Development Review 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
- Ginger Gold Schnitzer
- Michael T. Weaver
- Edmund C. Yates

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Robert O. Sheehan

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Teresa Carson

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**