



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Winter 2009/2010

Grants Help Fund Improvements Planned for 2010

Plainsboro Township's commitment to improving its overall infrastructure continues in 2010, with a focus on roadway and walkway improvements.

Upcoming projects include Plainsboro Road Traffic Calming Phase II, Mapleton Road Improvements, Plainsboro Road Bike Path Phase II and Plainsboro Road Pathway Improvements. "Our 2010 capital program represents a major commitment by Plainsboro Township to improve roadways and pathways," stated Michael Weaver, Township Committee Liaison for the Department of Public Works.

Already designed and awaiting DOT approval is the Plainsboro Road Traffic Calming Phase II project. The project's primary purpose is reconstructing Plainsboro Road from the "p-loop" to Center Drive and slowing the speed of traffic by installing traffic medians and narrowing lane widths. Also included in this project are drainage improvements, curbing, landscaping, and the installation of pedestrian crosswalks at Centers Drive. Existing crosswalks at Thoreau Drive and Deer Creek Drive will be repaired. Funding in the amount of \$1,114,000 is secured from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program and with the help of Congressman Rush Holt, the Federal Highway Administration Department.

Also designed and awaiting DEP approval, is the Mapleton Road Improvement project. This project's primary purpose is correcting flooding problems and reconstructing the surface of the road. Water run-off quality will be improved by installing roadside water quality drainage swales, cross culverts and other drainage improvements. Also included is additional landscaping. One hundred percent (100%) of the engineer-

ing & construction costs of this project are funded by Middlesex County.

Plainsboro Road Bike Path Phase II is the continuation of the existing bike path from Maple Avenue to Prospect Avenue. Included with the bike path is the installation of retaining walls, guide rails and other improvements. The township has received funding from two Middlesex County grants (\$160,000) and one NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant (\$269,000) for this project.

In 2009, Plainsboro Township received a \$185,000 Safe Streets to Transit Grant. This grant will fund the construction of a new pathway connecting Plainsboro Road to Dey Road, through the municipal complex. The project will also include the construction of a mid-block crosswalk from the municipal complex across Dey Road, handicap access ramps and curbing. Construction will start in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

State Grant Supports Project

In October, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) awarded Plainsboro a \$475,000 grant for improvements to Edgemere Avenue. The improvements will include road reconstruction, new curbing and drainage improvements. The project is expected to be constructed in phases, with the initial phase anticipated to begin in 2011.

Volunteer Spotlight on: Werner Schmid



Werner H. Schmid was first appointed to the township's Zoning Board of Adjustment in 2000, where he now serves as Vice-Chairperson. His first municipal volunteer position was on the Shade Tree Committee. Werner says that being involved with zoning projects keeps him current on township land use issues.

The manner in which Plainsboro is planned and its central location to cultural activities and services were critical factors in his decision to relocate from Bergen County in 1995. Maintaining a current perspective on township issues keeps him coming out to public meetings and attending township sponsored events.

In addition to his Zoning Board duties, Mr. Schmid serves as a volunteer mediator for the Mercer County Municipal Courts for Princeton Boro and the Townships of Hamilton, Lawrence, and Princeton. He also serves on the Princeton Landing Covenants Committee. When not involved in municipal volunteer efforts, he devotes a sig-

nificant amount of time to *Contact of Mercer County*, a suicide hot line where he also serves on the Executive Board and is its immediate past president.

Born in Newark and raised in Irvington, NJ, Mr. Schmid earned a bachelors degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University. Upon graduation he entered the U.S. Air Force, reaching the rank of Lieutenant while serving in Korea and Japan. He entered a career in public administration after a three year stint in the military holding the posts of Assistant Township Manager then Township Manager for Teaneck, NJ; posts he held for more than thirty-four years.

When considering a zoning application Mr. Schmid translates experiences gained during his time in public service into rational opinions that are often helpful to applicants and staff alike. His motivation to stay active in municipal activities comes from his observations on the management of Plainsboro Township. He likes to say, "Things get done in Plainsboro and they get done in a professional manner." This is so because of people like Werner Schmid who are ready and willing to share their time and talents.

Summer Camp Jobs Available

Application forms and job descriptions for summer employment in township camp programs for the 2010 season will be available from the Department of Recreation & Community Services after December 15th. Application documents may also be downloaded after that time from the township website www.plainsboronj.com. A variety of positions are available in summer programs - counselors, instructors, coordinators, directors. The minimum age for paid employment is 16. The minimum age for a volunteer counselor is 15. Interviews will be scheduled with qualified applicants throughout the winter and spring until all positions are filled.

Applicants must be available for the full duration of the program. Special consideration is given **only** for short-term extenuating circumstances beyond the individual's control (such as mandatory education workshops for teachers, jury duty). Exceptions are not made for family vacations or other personal schedule issues. If special consideration is being requested or anticipated, applicants must make note of it on the application form.

For employment with the township, applicants are required to get background checks (age 18 and older), submit working papers (under 18), acquire First Aid/CPR Certification Training (mandatory for supervisory staff, encouraged for all others), and participate in pre-season orientation training.

The eight week summer season will run from Monday, June 21 through Friday, August 13 (subject to change in the school calendar). Full-day camp employment runs from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.; half-day camp program employment runs from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Specialty programs may have different hours.

A limited number of volunteer opportunities are available in summer programs. There is a separate application process, which will commence later this winter. Priority will be given to those applicants who are available for the duration of the program.

For additional information, contact Karin Poveromo, Department of Recreation & Community Services, at 799-0909 ext. 331.

Next Phase of Village Center Approved

The Plainsboro Planning Board approved two new buildings for the Village Center at their September 21, 2009 meeting. Sharbell Development Corporation will complete the loop around the village green. One building will be reserved for medical offices while the other will house typical commercial retail on the ground floor along with two floors of apartments.

Originally conceived as two separate buildings of 15,000 square feet each, connected by walkways at the second and third floors, the proposed medical office building will be a single structure of 30,000 square feet. The building will be located at the corner of Market Street North and Liberty Street with the entrance and parking accessed from Cox Street. The other building will contain 5,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor with two stories of apartments. The apartments will range in size from about 1,000 square feet to 1,300 square feet each.

The medical office building will be constructed to be flexible enough to accommodate a single tenant or several smaller firms. The commercial and residential building will be served by the same parking lot facing Cox Street.

A key component of the project will be the construction of a parking lot adjacent to the library. "This is very important to the make-up of the Village" said Ed Yates, Township Committeeman and liaison to the Planning Board. Committeeman Yates added, "Completion of the library and the supply of parking along with the construction staging for the new building will be crucial to the flow and activity around the Village green."

Sharbell Development Corporation, designer and developer of the Village Center, is prepared to start construction as soon as other approvals are in place. Completion of these projects will result in renewed activity for all businesses in town and the continued vitality of the Village.

Plainsboro Joins Sustainable Jersey

At the September 9, 2009 Township Committee Meeting, a resolution supporting Plainsboro's participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program was passed. Sustainable Jersey is a program that assists communities by exploring and adopting sustainable, economically sound government practices such as energy audits for municipal facilities, incorporating green design in retrofitting existing buildings, and adopting sustainable land-use policies. These practices will help ensure the continued viability of our natural resources in the future.

Municipalities enrolling in this program earn points for sustainable actions taken. When a municipality accumulates 100 points, they become certified. Due to policies and procedures currently in place, Plainsboro Township is poised to attain this certification quickly. The township has benefitted from a long-standing and successful recycling program and has begun to transition its fleet to hybrid vehicles. This, along with our renowned open space preservation and "smart growth" efforts, helps ensure the sustainability of our natural resources.

As a certified municipality, Plainsboro will have access to various grants and financial resources. Additionally, preferential treatment is given to Sustainable Jersey

communities when awarding municipal utility grants. These grants include Clean Energy Financing for Schools and Local Government, and New Jersey Smart Start Buildings.

"By pursuing this certification, Plainsboro Township has positioned itself as a leader in local solutions to global concerns. This program allows us to be responsible both fiscally and environmentally," states Mayor Peter Cantu. "Hopefully through our participation in Sustainable Jersey we can raise awareness and set an example for the entire community." For more information on Sustainable Jersey, go to www.sustainablejersey.com

Plainsboro Channel 3 is now available to Verizon Fios customers!

Tune in to Verizon Channel 26 for information and programs from Plainsboro Township and the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District. Visit www.plainsboronj.com for a program guide.



Protecting Your Property: Plan For Code Approvals

As winter approaches, many homeowners are planning interior renovations. Regardless of whether you decide to tackle the project yourself or hire a contractor, you should be familiar with the basic requirements of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). To ensure that your project complies with the UCC and to determine if permits are required, call or visit the Code Enforcement Department before starting. If permits are required, you will be asked to submit two copies of the project plans, along with a permit application. The plans are reviewed by Code Enforcement staff and the homeowner will be advised as to whether or not those plans are satisfactory. If they are not approved, a written explanation will be provided. Once the plans have been approved, the homeowner will be advised of the required inspections. When inspections have been completed and approval granted, the job is complete.

The plan review process ensures that the design of your project meets the requirements of the UCC and the inspection process ensures that the work itself is completed consistent with the approved plans.

Please note that final payment to a contractor, should not be made until all inspections are completed and approval has been granted. This way, the homeowner will have recourse to ensure that the contractor satisfactorily completes all work.

“Homeowners planning projects should know that our Code Enforcement staff is ready to work with them to make the process as simple as possible,” stated Ed Yates, Township Committee Liaison to the Code Enforcement Department. If you have any questions regarding a project you are considering, please call the Department of Code Enforcement at 799-0909, extension 545.

A Celebration of Diversity

Plainsboro celebrates its diversity in many ways throughout the year. Township officials, as well as local community groups, have long recognized the value of both social and programmatic elements that address the interests of the many ethnic backgrounds represented in this community. Some programs are designed to assist residents in their adaptation to American lifestyles such as English as a Second Language classes and multi-cultural discussion groups. Other activities showcase international culture through the arts and community festivals. For the past twelve years, township sponsored activities culminate in the community-wide event known as “Traditions”. Through arts and cultural performances and exhibits, participants share their heritage with the entire community. Participants include local and regional cultural groups, as well as individual residents of the area. While encouraging cross-cultural awareness, attendees have an opportunity to enjoy a rich array of activities throughout the afternoon.

“Plainsboro has become a remarkably diverse community representing a wide array of cultural backgrounds. We believe there is great benefit to our community when we encourage opportunities to learn from, and enjoy, the variety of cultures represented in

Plainsboro,” stated Township Committee Liaison, Nuran Nabi.

In the years since its inception, Traditions has enjoyed wide-spread popularity. Its uniqueness has drawn attention from the media and surrounding communities, and it was also the recipient of the New Jersey Parks & Recreation Association Excellence in Programming Award.



Join us in December as Plainsboro celebrates Traditions. See Parks and Recreation insert for details.

Seasonal Reminders...

Drive Safely

Winter weather creates unique challenges for motorists. Knowing how to handle these challenging conditions can assure that you arrive at your destination safely. The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. If you must drive, try not to go out on the roads until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work. Allow extra time to reach your destination. Be sure your car is prepared with all season or snow tires, working windshield wipers with windshield cleaning fluid, and enough gas to complete your trip.

When driving on icy roads, you should slow down and leave plenty of room to stop. Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you. When braking, do so gently to avoid skidding. If your rear wheels skid, take your foot off the accelerator and steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.

You can enhance safety by turning on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists. Keep your lights and windshield clean and use low gears to maintain traction, especially on hills. Never use cruise control on icy roads and be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will be the first to freeze. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might

Snow and Ice Removal

Please remember that homeowners are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property. Chapter 79 of the Township Code requires that sidewalks be free of snow and ice within 24 hours after a winter storm.

During a winter storm, Department of Public Works staff strive to provide the safest roads possible. Residents shoveling or blowing their snow onto the streets inhibit this process.

Those requiring more information are encouraged to call the Department of Public Works at 799-0099.

encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

It is not advisable to pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads. If you get stuck do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper. Instead, try turning your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way. Then, using a light touch on the gas, try to ease your car out. You can also use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car, or pour sand, kitty litter, or gravel in the path of the wheels, to help get traction. Rocking your vehicle can also help to free it but you should check your owner's manual first so you don't damage your transmission. To rock your car free, shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.

Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis notes, "The key to safe winter driving is to leave a few minutes early for your destination, to follow safe winter driving practices and learn what to do when things don't go as planned." The National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course reminds us to recognize the hazards, understand the defense, and act correctly in time to ensure a trouble free winter driving season.

Emergency Closings

Severe weather will periodically force the closing of municipal facilities and the cancellation of activities.

During severe weather, please contact the township at 799-0909 for information on closings and cancellations. Information will be provided on the main voice message.

Also, during and immediately following a winter storm, township parks may not be accessible. Park entrances and lots will be cleared by the Public Works Department once all township roads have been cleared.

Lieutenant Positions Filled

Plainsboro Township Administrator Robert Sheehan recently appointed two Police Department veterans to the position of Lieutenant. The promotions of Sergeant Troy Bell and Sergeant Jay Duffy are the latest in a series of staff changes resulting from police retirements. "The promotion of these fine officers exemplifies the pool of talent available in the department. This has resulted in a smooth transition as the department experiences personnel changes", stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis, Township Committee Liaison to the Police Department.

Lieutenant Troy Bell has served the Plainsboro community for 22 years. During that time, he has worked in patrol, traffic and the Detective Bureau. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2001 and since that time, has supervised patrol squads and the Public Safety Communications Officers. Lieutenant Bell is currently enrolled in the New Jersey Certified Public Managers Program, holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Farleigh Dickinson University and is currently pursuing a master of administrative science degree. Lieutenant

Bell served in the United States Air Force and New Jersey National Guard for seven years. As Lieutenant, he will supervise all patrol squads, be responsible for department training and the day-to-day operations of the public safety communications center.

Lieutenant Duffy has served Plainsboro for 18 years. He has risen from Patrol Officer to Patrol Supervisor and has served in supervisory capacities in both the traffic and community outreach units. He is the department's range master and is a member of the police department's Special Response Team. Lieutenant Duffy received a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and is currently pursuing a master's degree at Farleigh Dickinson University. He is also certified through the New Jersey Public Managers Program. Lieutenant Duffy served in the Peace Corps for 2 ½ years in West Africa. As Lieutenant, he is in charge of all administrative responsibilities which include payroll, policy research, purchasing, grants and equipment and facility maintenance.

New Laws Impact Young Drivers

Governor Jon Corzine recently signed into law bills that amend driving rules for new drivers. The first is known as Kyleigh's Law, named after 16-year old Kyleigh D'Alessio, who died as a passenger in a car driven by her 17 year old friend. It requires the use of a decal on vehicles driven by teens holding permits or provisional driver licenses. The purpose of the decal is to assist police in identifying young drivers who may be in violation of the Graduated Driver License (GDL) restrictions. The restrictions include hours of operation as well as limits on the number and ages of passengers riding with a GDL licensed driver.

The second new law revises night time driving and passenger restrictions for permit and provisional drivers. It also renames the "provisional license" to "probationary license". Current law restricts teens with provisional licenses from driving between midnight and 5 a.m. The new law mandates that teen drivers with a "probationary license" will be prohibited from driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. and they may not carry more than one passenger unless a parent or guardian is in the vehicle. Currently, provisional drivers may carry multiple passengers of any age from the driver's household, plus one additional person.

In 2008, the New Jersey Attorney General banned traffic court plea arrangements for drivers holding GDL licenses. The directive prohibits prosecutors from offering plea agreements that avoid motor vehicle points. GDL holders

who accumulate three or more points must attend a Motor Vehicle Commission Probationary Driver Program, and following completion, are monitored for 12 months. Any points accumulated during that 12 month period will result in a 90 day license suspension.

Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis comments, "We are optimistic that these new laws will help limit serious injuries to our children and avoid tragic accidents involving teen drivers."



Plainsboro Police Youth Academy participants observe as Sergeant Guy Armour demonstrates the practice of dusting for fingerprints. The academy, attended this summer by 30 students, is a program that introduces children to the police department and public safety operations.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

Election Information

Voter Registration forms are now available in the following languages: Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Korean and Gujarati.

Passports

The passport office is available 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 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. The license fees are \$13.20 for spayed/neutered animals and \$16.20 for non-neutered animals. Late fees of \$5.00 per month are assessed as of February 1st.

To assist pet owners, a free rabies clinic has been scheduled for January 23, 2010 at the Plainsboro

Public Works garage. Dogs are scheduled for 9:00am to 10:00am and cats are scheduled for 10:00am to 11:00am. Owners must have large dogs securely leashed. Very small dogs and cats should be in a pet carrier. 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 were 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

Recycling & Conservation Center

Please note that winter hours for the conservation center will start on December 14th. The center will be open **only** on Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Winter Hours

(December 16th - March 31st) - Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Summer Hours

(April 1st - December 13th) - Monday and Thursday from

5:30pm - 7:30pm and Saturday from 10:00am-5:00pm.

Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates are December 7, 21; January 4, 18; February 1, 15; March 1, 15 & 29

Christmas Tree Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up at curbside throughout the township each Monday in January. Apartment and condo residents must contact their management office for disposal instructions.

Trees may also be taken to the Conservation Center for drop-off during regular hours.

For safety reasons, trees containing ornaments, wire, metal or nails **will not** be accepted.

Community Gardens

Residents requiring information about the 2010 Community Gardens schedule should contact the Public Works Department.

Middlesex County Programs

Paint, household hazardous waste and consumer electronics disposal services are provided by the county. For more information, please contact *Middlesex County Solid Waste* at 732- 745-4170.



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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POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**

Directory and Information

PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL OFFICES

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

Plainsboro Public Works Department

Location: 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
Web Site: www.plainsboropolice.com

Plainsboro Public Library

Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: 609-275-2897

24-Hour Recorded Message Lines

Park Rangers 897-7844
Passports 799-0909 x 200
Recreation Programs 799-0909 x 550

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

3rd Monday, 7pm, Firehouse

Historical Society

3rd Tuesday, Wicoff House

Human Relations Council

2nd Monday

Library Board of Trustees

1st Tuesday, Library

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

Passport Office

Information: 799-0909 x 200
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 Pot Hole to
Public Works 799-0099