



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Spring 2007

Volunteers Make A Difference

National Volunteer Week is April 15th - 21st. This provides towns and cities all over the country an opportunity to say "thank you" to the countless individuals who share their time and energy to make a difference in the community. The Township Committee will mark the occasion with a proclamation acknowledging the contributions of our citizen volunteers. "We are fortunate to have so many residents in town that are willing to share their time, expertise and special talents. Volunteer week is not only a great opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions volunteers make to our community but a chance to reach out to others to grow our network of excellent volunteers", stated Township Committeeperson Ginger Gold Schnitzer. Volunteers come in all ages and walks of life; they reflect a broad range of interests and skills and they work in a variety of settings. In Plainsboro alone, volunteers help run programs, provide assistance to the needy, teach, sit on boards and committees, staff emergency services, share artistic talent and more. Without volunteers, our daily lives would be quite different.

To find out about local volunteer opportunities, check the Volunteer Opportunities Directory on the township website at www.plainsboronj.com. A copy is also available at the library.



Photo courtesy of Maryann Sullivan

Founders Day is marching into town on May 6th.

Bondurant to Lead Plainsboro Police

The Plainsboro Township Committee has announced that Captain Elizabeth Bondurant will be appointed Chief of Police succeeding Public Safety Director Clifford Maurer who is retiring. In January 2004, the Township altered the leadership of the Police Department by establishing a civilian Director of Public Safety to oversee police operations. At that time, the position of Chief was eliminated. "With a strong internal candidate now available and future leaders being mentored, we believe that the leadership of the Plainsboro Police Department will be ably cared for from within the department," stated Plainsboro Township Administrator Bob Sheehan.

Bondurant, a resident of Plainsboro, joined the Plainsboro Police Department in 1983. She has worked her way through the ranks, serving in both the Patrol Division and Detective Bureau. In 1987 she was appointed Sergeant and in 1994 she was appointed Lieutenant, serving in that position for 10 years. In 2004, Bondurant was named Captain and has served in that position as the senior uniformed officer of the department. Bondurant has also been Plainsboro's Emergency Management Coordinator since 2005. In her new capacity she will continue to hold that title. "I am pleased that we have such a qualified candidate coming from the ranks of our department," stated Plainsboro Township Mayor Peter Cantu. Bondurant holds a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg State College and a master's degree from Jersey City State College. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Bondurant has received numerous professional awards and also serves as an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Mercer County Community College. Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis stated "Captain Bondurant's talents and unquestioned dedication to the Plainsboro Police Department and the community make this

continued on page 2

State Grant Advances Improvements to Plainsboro Road

Plainsboro has received a \$260,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Municipal Aid Program for improvements to Plainsboro Road. These improvements are anticipated to consist of the resurfacing and partial reconstruction of the existing pavement including curbing and sidewalk where necessary, traffic striping, restoration and other related work. The scope of the improvements will occur in the segment of Plainsboro Road from Dey Road to Enterprise Drive. "The New Jersey Department of Transportation grants are extremely helpful in allowing us to maintain the quality and safety of our roads. The Township has been focused on Plainsboro Road for a few years and this grant will allow us to continue to move that effort forward" stated Ed Yates, Township Committee Liaison to the Community Development Department.



Mayor Peter Cantu and Library Director Jinny Baeckler launch coins into the vortex at the Plainsboro Library as part of the library's "Change for Change" fundraising effort. The library has planned several programs to raise money for the construction of the new library at the village center. For further information go to www.plainsboronj.com or call (609) 275-2897. Be part of the new Plainsboro Library...*Leave a Legacy, Build a Library.*

Plainsboro Fills Key Tax Positions

"The tax office faces an important transition in 2007 with the retirement of Tax Assessor Jean Jacobsohn and Tax Collector Judy Scheidler. "There are some big shoes to fill but I am confident that our new Tax Assessor Marianne Busher and new Tax Collector Mary Testori will do a great job," stated Township Administrator Bob Sheehan. Busher comes to Plainsboro after serving for 12 years as Tax Assessor in Clinton Township. She also serves in the same capacity in East Amwell Township on a part-time basis. Ms. Busher who holds a bachelors degree from Rutgers University, has also served as Tax Assessor in High Bridge Borough. Testori is coming from the Borough of Bound Brook where she has served as Tax Collector since 2005. She continues to serve in that capacity in the Borough of Roselle on a part-time basis.

Jacobsohn retired effective February 1, 2007, having served Plainsboro since 1988. Scheidler joined Plainsboro in 1998 and retired on January 1, 2007.

"Jean has diligently monitored and protected our tax base and has been particularly effective in insuring that commercial assessments were maintained. She ably guided us through our recent revaluation and her talent and experience will be missed," stated Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu. "Judy has capably served Plainsboro and maintained an enviable tax collection rate which was 99.6% in 2006. This is one of the best in the state of New Jersey and has been critically important to Plainsboro's financial stability."

Bondurant to Lead Plainsboro Police

continued from page 1

appointment a rather easy decision." Bondurant's appointment will be effective March 1, 2007.

During his tenure as director, Maurer placed an emphasis on building stronger relationships with the business community and citizens. In addition, he has instituted enhanced management training for senior officers. Maurer returned to Plainsboro Township as Public Safety Director after having served as the first Chief of Police from 1978-1993. "Cliff's strong leadership of the department and contributions to this community over the years has been significant. He will be missed," said Mayor Cantu.

Keeping you posted

Hospital Relocation

In December, Princeton Healthcare Systems presented their concept plan for a new state-of-the-art hospital to the Plainsboro Township Planning Board. The hospital and related facilities would be located on the site currently 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 office buildings, the medical center's plans also propose a continuing care retirement community that would include up to 400 units of age-restricted housing.

The Township professional team is now in the midst of carefully assessing the project with evaluations of traffic, fiscal and affordable housing impacts primary in their efforts. The Master Plan Subcommittee will be meeting to review in detail the proposal and advise the Planning Board on the appropriateness of the Master Plan and zoning changes needed to accommodate the proposal.

The New Plainsboro Library at Village Center

The Plainsboro Township Committee has given final approval to the design plans for the new Plainsboro Library at the Village Center. In doing so, they authorized the Township professionals to proceed with preparations for bidding the project. Once a contractor is secured, library construction is expected to begin in the summer.

The Township Committee received a briefing from the library architects, BKSK Architects of New York City, in

December. In January, Township Administrator Bob Sheehan provided a complete financial assessment of the project. The \$12.5 million library will be financed by twenty year general obligation bonds that will minimize the annual impact on Plainsboro taxpayers. "The project will benefit from an infusion of \$3 million of outside funding" stated Mayor Peter Cantu. "We are confident that we will meet our new \$2 million fundraising goal and we will also apply \$1 million of reserve funding from the library."

Princeton Forrestal Village

The transformation of Princeton Forrestal Village is well underway. The substantial investment in renovations over the last year has resulted in the following new retail tenants opening: Salt Creek Grille, Luxe Homes, Direct Travel and a new Food Court which contain five eateries: Café East, Valentino's, Teriyaki Boi, Subway and the Village Grille. The Forrestal Village will be home to other retailers - Can Do Fitness and Koi Spa and Princeton Longevity Center. Tre Piani restaurant will soon be expanding to accommodate an upscale wine bar and bistro.

"In a relatively short period I have seen the Princeton Forrestal Village move forward with an ambitious plan. The overall effort is very positive and now showing results," stated Ed Yates, Township Committee Liaison to the Community Development Department.



Seventh Season for Community Gardens

The Plainsboro Community Garden, located on the south side of Plainsboro Road at the base of the railroad bridge, will be available to residents again for the seventh year. The Township grants permission to 55 people to “farm” a garden plot, measuring 20 feet by 20 feet. Water is available, as well as an on-site compost facility. “Plots are assigned through a random-drawing lottery system,” explains Michael Weaver, the Township Committee liaison to the Public Works Department. “Each year the program has increased in popularity. Therefore, residents are asked to get their applications in as quickly as possible.” The Community Garden also has several plots for the disabled. Through a grant received by the Township, the site has been equipped with raised beds for gardening and wheelchair accessible paths.

The deadline for submitting applications this year is March 9th. The application can be obtained through the Clerk’s office at the Municipal Complex, at the Township’s website at www.plainsboronj.com or from the Public Works department at 799-0099, extension 10 between 8:30am and 4:30pm.



Plainsboro Township is in a battle to save the stately elms that line Plainsboro Road in front of the municipal complex. Once considered the ideal street tree due to their shade and tolerance of the urban environment, elm trees are now being lost to the deadly fungus that is spread by the Elm bark beetle. In recent years the Township lost two trees and has treated the remaining trees in an effort to save them.

Radon... A “Good” test to take

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. It is formed by the natural radioactive decay of uranium in rock, soil, and water. Naturally existing, low levels of uranium occur widely in the Earth’s crust and can be found in all 50 states.

Radon is measured in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The average U.S. indoor level is 1.3 pCi/L. At 4 pCi/L, the risk of lung cancer from radon is greater than the risk from fire or other home accidents. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the NJDEP recommend that action be taken to reduce radon levels if the level in the home is greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L. Unsafe levels of radon can often be easily mitigated with improved ventilation.

Unless you test for it, there is no way of telling if unsafe levels are present. Even if your neighbors have tested and did not have a radon problem, your home may still have dangerous levels. Fortunately, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive.

If you have not already tested for radon, protect your family by testing now. Test kits can be purchased in many hardware stores or call the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Radon Program at (800) 648-0394 or www.njradon.org for a list of certified companies who provide testing services and kits.

Other very informative sites include the U.S. EPA www.epa.gov/radon and the National Safety Council www.nsc.org/issues/radon.

A reminder to Change Smoke Detector Batteries

Daylight savings time begins on March 11th and ends on November 4th. Fire Prevention Officials recommend that when you change your clocks you also replace the batteries in your smoke detector.

Let's Talk Plainsboro History

The Plainsboro Historical Society will be getting ready for the upcoming baseball season with a discussion of Plainsboro's unique baseball history. Historical Society Executive Director Bob Yuell and baseball aficionado Joe Karpinski will host the discussion on March 31st at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.

This is the latest in a series of lectures and discussions sponsored by the Historical Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Plainsboro's rich history. The Historical Society has hosted past discussions on a wide variety of topics of interest to Plainsboro residents included presentation on railroads (and the local trolley), the D&R Canal, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and many others.

In the fall, the Historical Society will reflect upon the early days of Plainsboro's medical research history through a discussion of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Founded by philanthropist and oil baron John D. Rockefeller, this facility provided cutting edge research on plant and animal diseases from 1916-1951.

Please note that videotapes of past discussions are available through the Historical Society's lending library. For more information about these discussions, please contact Robert Yuell at (609) 799-9040.



The MacNamee Hotel (above) still stands today at the intersection of Plainsboro Road and Dey Road/Edgemere Avenue. Formerly the Plane Tavern, it is thought by many to be Plainsboro's namesake.

*Be sure to visit the
Plainsboro Historical Society Museum
on the municipal grounds
during Founders Day.*

600 Bus Line and New Bus Shelters

New Jersey Transit's bus line runs from Route One through town and back to Route One, taking passengers either northbound through the Princeton Forrestal Center and ending at the Forrestal Village or southbound to the Princeton Junction rail station.

Increased trips and improved travel times to and from the Princeton Junction station during the weekday morning and late afternoon peak periods, has resulted in a growth in ridership along the 600 bus line. Recognizing this increase in ridership, the Township Committee recently invested in new bus shelters, as well as sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, along Scotts Corner Road which are intended to accommo-

date and promote safe transit usage in an area of the Township where there has been a demonstrated interest and demand for such services. Similar to the investments made by the Township in our planned bikeway system, investments in bus shelters and related improvements will encourage residents to consider options to transportation other than the private automobile; thereby helping in some measure to reduce traffic on our local roads.

For further information about travel times and related transit information, either contact New Jersey Transit Customer Service at 1-800-772-2222 or go to their website at www.njtransit.com.

Underage Drinking Parties: A Serious Issue

It is a parent's nightmare... the phone rings at 2 a.m. - your 18-year old child and four friends have been involved in a motor vehicle accident while on their way home from a party. Their car swerved off the roadway and collided with a utility pole. Some of the passengers were seriously injured; your child has been arrested for driving under the influence (DWI).

The scenario described above is real and it has happened in Plainsboro Township. These incidents have severe consequences that will cost you thousands of dollars, and can change your life and your child's life forever.

What's the charge?

The police investigation will have two main focuses. The first will be the driver of the vehicle. This will likely be 'non-criminal' in nature and result in the issuance of traffic tickets unless serious injury or death occurred.

The second, however, will be a criminal investigation. The focus of this investigation is to determine who provided the alcohol and who provided the location for the party. Under NJ law, specifically N.J.S. 2C:33-17(a), "anyone who purposely or knowingly offers or serves or makes available an alcoholic beverage to a person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages is guilty of a disorderly persons offense". Likewise, N.J.S. 2C:33-17b states that "anyone who makes real property owned, leased or managed by them, available to persons underage for the purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages is also guilty of a disorderly persons offense". These charges have been levied against not only the partygoers who brought alcoholic beverages to the parties, but also against the parents who allowed these parties to occur in their home unmonitored. It is a weak defense for par-



Don't miss this year's bike rodeo (for children grades K-5) scheduled for Saturday, May 19th. Advance registration is required. For information, call (609) 799-0909, extension 332.

ents to claim they were "unaware" or they "didn't know" that alcohol was being consumed by minors in their own home. Homeowners may also face civil litigation should the incident result in serious injury or death.

Now let's review the penalties facing the driver in the above scenario. Your child will certainly be issued summonses for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (39:4-50) and Reckless Driving (39:4-96). However, if the accident results in serious injury and/or death your child will face additional criminal charges such as aggravated assault or aggravated manslaughter, a first degree crime, punishable by a term of imprisonment of between 10 and 30 years.

What does it cost?

Young drivers need to understand the real cost of drinking and driving. Below is a breakdown of fees and penalties associated with a 'typical' DWI in New Jersey.

INSURANCE COSTS

Average auto insurance premium for an 18 year old NJ male \$2,400.00, female \$2,100.00. *With clean driving record.*

MUNICIPAL COURT FINES

Underage drinking fine	\$ 500
Preliminary fine (\$250 - \$400)	\$ 400
Motor Vehicle Insurance Surcharge \$1000 x 3	\$3,000
<i>(\$1000 for 3 years collected by DMV)</i>	
Fee for drunk driving enforcement fund	\$ 200
12-48 hrs. at the Intoxicated Resource Center	\$ 230
Court fees	\$ 158
Subtotal	\$6,888.00

Average auto insurance premium after being convicted of DWI \$5,415.00 x 3 = **\$16,245.00**

Your premium will not decrease for three years

LEGAL FEES

Attorney fee \$2,500.00
(If you decide to fight the charges expect to spend at least \$2,500 in additional fees)

TOTAL COST OF DWI = \$ 28,133.00

In addition to the above fees there will also be a mandatory seven-month suspension of your drivers' license for a first offense.

The potential ramifications of underage drinking cannot be stressed enough. Parents and young adults should discuss these issues and each need to assume a responsible role in preventing future tragedies related to underage drinking.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office

Voter Registration/Elections

The deadline for registration for School elections is March 27th. The School election will be held on April 17th. The deadline to register for the primary elections is May 15th. The election will be held on June 5th.

Passports

The passport office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.—noon. For details, see the township website or contact the Clerk's Office at 799-0909 ext. 200.

Pet Licenses

NJ State Law mandates all dogs six months and older to be licensed. Applications for dogs and cats are available from the Township Clerk's Office; renewals are mailed to existing pet owners around December. Proof of rabies vaccination is required with applications. (Note: vaccination immunity MUST extend through at least 10 months of the 12 month licensing period.

Rabies Clinic

A free rabies clinic is offered by the township each year. The date is posted on the township website during the month of January, as well as in the winter township newsletter.

Marriage Licenses

Marriage licenses are issued through the Township Clerk's Office. For information regarding requirements call the Clerk's office or visit the township website.

*Contact the Clerk's office for other vital statistics such as birth or death certificates.

**Township
Clerk's Office**

**779-0909
ext. 547**

Public Works Department

Conservation Center

Hours (March 1-December 15)
Mondays & Thursdays
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.;
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
See township website for regulations
www.plainsboronj.com.

Curbside Brush Pickup

Service offered alternate months
March 1 - October 13.

March, May, July, September

Gentry, Village area, Dey Road, Plainsboro Road, Grovers Mill Road, Cranbury Neck Road, Eiker Road, Petty Road, Scotts Corner Road, Grovers Mill Estates, Brookside Court, Walker Gordon Estates

Brush Pickup

- Must be curbside by 7:00 a.m. first Monday of the month designated for your street ONLY. No brush in the street or sidewalks
- Brush left curbside during non-scheduled months subject to fines and clean-up costs
- Trimmings from trees, shrubs, and vines accepted (max. 6 ft. length)
- NO roots, stumps, soil, grass
- Brush must be stacked neatly with limb ends facing same direction
- Call Public Works Dept. for additional information.

April, June, August, October

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

Curbside Recycling

Spring Schedule - March 5, 19
April 2, 16, 30 and May 14

Next Bulk Waste Day - April 7

**Public Works
799-0099**

Middlesex County Programs

The services listed below are provided by the county. For information, contact Middlesex County Solid Waste 732 745-4170 for information.

- Residential Paint Drop-Off
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
- Consumer Electronics Drop-Off

Directory and Information

<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 <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 Potholes 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
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