



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Summer 2007

Voters Change School Funding Approach

In April voters approved a special question on the school election ballot that will change the way the regional school district is funded. Currently, the determination of what share of the school budget is to be paid by each town is based on the total value of all properties in each municipality. These values are updated annually by the state Division of Taxation using a complex formula that relies on tax ratios (the assessed value compared to the current market value). The way in which these ratios are applied is unpredictable leaving each town uncertain year to year as to what their tax burden will be.

“I think the new approach to school funding is an improvement,” stated Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu. It is more easily understood, fair and certainly more predictable.”

In recent years this process has had a negative impact on Plainsboro taxpayers leading the township to file suit in 2005 against the state. The lawsuit was ultimately settled with modest adjustments made. However the need to reconsider the basic approach remained. Last year, the school district convened a series of meetings with the participation of both Plainsboro and West Windsor officials to review the possibility of making this change. The alternative discussed was changing to a funding approach that allocates each town's tax on a per pupil basis. Earlier this year, the board of education voted to place the special question on the April 17th ballot. For the change to be approved it needed to pass in both communities, which it did in resounding fashion.

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The “per pupil” approach will become effective starting with the 2009-2010 school budget. In recent years Plainsboro students have accounted for approximately 42% of the total school enrollment.



The Plainsboro Township Committee recently honored 10-year old Taylor Spadaccini. On March 25, 2007, Taylor was playing outside her home when she saw a lost 2-year old boy wandering in the middle of the street. Taylor quickly picked up the toddler and carried him to her house where she notified her father, who then notified police. After a brief search the toddler's worried parents were located. Taylor's quick action averted a potential tragedy. Pictured with Taylor (l to r) are Police Chief Elizabeth Bondurant, Mayor Peter Cantu, Committeemen Ed Yates and Michael Weaver and Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis.

April Nor'easter Hits Plainsboro

The storm that hit the area in April resulted in Mayor Peter Cantu declaring a local state of emergency on the morning of April 16th. This declaration came on the heels of a similar statewide declaration put into effect by Acting Governor Codey. The heavy rains over several days caused flooding in areas of the township and resulted in the closure of numerous roads. Residents were advised to stay at home and businesses closed and sent employees home early. The Township Emergency Management Team was called in and the Emergency Operations Plan was implemented.

During the morning hours that day rising waters threatened to overtake treatment tanks at the United Water Princeton Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant located off Maple Avenue adjacent to the Cranbury Brook. Members of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) were called in to assist in the preparation and delivery of sand bags to treatment plant. Fortunately, the rains relented just in time to spare the plant from problems.

"Events of April 16th have allowed us to evaluate our Emergency Operations Plan under true emergency conditions," stated Police Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Elizabeth Bondurant. "We critically assessed our performance that day and while we were pleased overall several adjustments will be made in the future."



The intersection of Mapleton Road and Lakeview Terrace on April 16th.

"Events that day also serve as a reminder of the importance of residents being prepared, stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis. Under flooding conditions you can become isolated very quickly." It is important to have food, medications and other supplies available. Information on emergency and disaster preparedness can be found by visiting the township's website at www.plainsboronj.com/plainsboropolice select "Emergency Management."

Volunteer Spotlight on: Anthony Lieber

Tony is the Staff Supervisor of Plainsboro's all volunteer Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).



C.E.R.T. volunteers receive training that prepares them to assist in the event of an emergency. Plainsboro's success with this important program - we have the largest C.E.R.T. team in the county - can be directly attributed to the enthusiastic efforts of Tony and the other volunteers. Giving back to Plainsboro is something that Tony is passionate about. He proudly proclaims, "If it wasn't for all the great people I get to work with, trust me, I'd spend my free time doing something else."

Tony and his wife Ellen have been residents of Plainsboro for more than 20 years. They have two children, Sara and Jacob. A graduate of Rutgers University, Tony owns a real estate investment company. When he is not volunteering or spending time with his family and friends, Tony likes to play golf and fish.

Tony's community's spirit, like that of so many others, is a great benefit to Plainsboro.

Keeping you posted...

Hospital Update

The township professional team is now in the midst of carefully assessing plans put forth by Princeton Healthcare Systems to construct a 636,000 square foot hospital and related facilities on the site currently occupied by the FMC corporation on Route One south at Plainsboro Road. The 158-acre site straddles both sides of Plainsboro Road and fronts on Route One north. It also has frontage onto the Connector Road. Staff efforts are currently focused on evaluations of traffic, fiscal and affordable housing impacts. In addition, the Planning Board's Master Plan Subcommittee has been meeting with representatives of the hospital to review the general layout of the proposed development. Ultimately the subcommittee will make recommendations to the Planning Board on the appropriateness of changing the Master Plan to accommodate the hospital. Similarly their recommendation will flow to the Township Committee regarding the appropriateness of changing the zoning. The hospital proposal is not consistent with the current Master Plan and zoning

for that site. It is expected that the Planning Board will begin to review the project at public meetings in late spring. In December of last year, Princeton Healthcare Systems presented their concept plan for a new state-of-the-art hospital to the Planning Board.

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.

Village Center

Final plans are being prepared for the new Plainsboro Library. The 34,000 square foot library will be located at the head of the new town square within the center. "The facility will include a community meeting room as well as small group meeting rooms, computers, a quiet reading/café area and adequate space for the library's various collections of books and reference material" stated Township Committeeperson Ginger Gold Schnitzer. "The third floor will be dedicated to children and include a science center." The township hopes to put the project out to bid for construction this summer.

Also coming soon to the Village is the East Restaurant, c Sea Spa and the Positano Grill.

Cranbury Brook, the age restricted housing project located off Enterprise Drive is moving forward - 63 of the 102 single family homes have been sold and construction of the condominium building is moving forward with 48 of the 93 condo apartments have been sold and occupancy of the condos has begun.

Community Events at Forrestal Village

As the revitalization of the Princeton Forrestal Center proceeds, the village is planning to host several community and regional events. The main event will take place July 28th and 29th when the village hosts the First Annual BBQ and Rib Festival. The festival is a sanctioned event by the nationally recognized Memphis Barbecue Association. Barbecue cooks will participate in a two day BBQ cooking competition. Winners move on to compete in the national competition held in Memphis this summer. Come and enjoy the tasty results of the competition.

Other events are now in the planning stages, they include a craft and children's fair and live music and entertainment.

"These are the kind of community events we have hoped to see at Forrestal Village stated Ed Yates, Township Committee Liaison to the Community Development Department. The opportunity for residents and visitors to participate in these family oriented activities adds another dimension to the variety of events taking place in our community".

Hot Weather Health Tips

A few common sense measures can help reduce heat-related problems particularly for the elderly, people with respiratory ailments and the very young who are more susceptible to the negative effects of high temperatures. Here are some tips to follow during hot, humid weather:

- Avoid too much sunshine. If you are outside, use sun-screen lotion with high SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades or louvers.
- Go to places where you can get relief from the heat, such as air conditioned libraries, theaters and other community facilities.
- Slow down, avoid strenuous activity. Do not try to do too much on a hot day.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light colored clothing. Check on family, friends and neighbors.

Heat exhaustion occurs when people over-exert themselves in a warm, humid place where body's fluids are lost through heavy sweating. To prevent this condition from intensifying, get the person to a cooler place, remove/loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths to the skin. Allow the person to drink a half glass of cool water, slowly, every 15-minutes if the person is conscious.

Rabies Prevention Guidelines

The threat of rabies is generally higher during the summer months, as animals become more active and are more likely to cross paths with people and their pets. Residents are urged to follow these guidelines in order to keep themselves and their pets safe:

- Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to the health department. (Middlesex County Health Department - 732-745-3100).
- Immediately report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior.
- Be sure that all family pets are up to date on their rabies vaccination.
- Animal proof your home and yard.
- Do not feed or handle wild animals and avoid contact with stray animals or pets other than your own.
- Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals.

A Few Words from the Plainsboro Rescue Squad

The Plainsboro Rescue Squad is an entirely volunteer organization that provides emergency medical services to the people of Plainsboro. We operate three ambulances and one other emergency vehicle. For over 30 years, we have never charged for our services.

It is impractical to provide paid EMT's to staff an ambulance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The call volume is sufficient for a single crew, but on occasion we need to get all three ambulances. This occurs when there are multiple calls at the same time, or when there are demanding situations like car accidents and fires. In addition, our 50 volunteers spend their time in the area with emergency supplies at the ready. If there were a large incident, we can immediately get all of our equipment into service. Our volunteers are very well trained to handle your emergency medical needs.

It costs about \$575 per day to keep the squad operating. The township provides a donation which covers operations for about 100 days. The other 265 days of coverage must come from donations from individuals, businesses and granting agencies. This spring we will be sending our flyer requesting donations. Please keep in mind that Plainsboro Rescue Squad is independent of the township and the fire district - even though we work well with our excellent police and fire departments. The majority of our funding comes from our annual fund drive. Your financial support is needed and appreciated.



This is a circa 1915 view of the 2-room Plainsboro School (left) and the First Presbyterian Parsonage (right). Both buildings still stand today on Plainsboro Road. The former Plainsboro School, which once housed the township municipal offices, is now used as a special services office for the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education.

National Night Out

The Plainsboro Township Police Department will be sponsoring the 24th annual National Night Out on August 7th in Morris Davison Park from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The focus of National Night Out is to empower residents to protect themselves from crime and terrorism through vigilance and the proper use of public safety services. National Night Out is intended to:

- Increase crime prevention and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for crime prevention;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations;

A number of public safety groups and programs will be represented. Members of Plainsboro on Watch will be hosting an information center at Morris Davison Park with crime prevention information, terrorism awareness

information and information about their program. The Plainsboro Township Community Emergency Response Team will be on location with their C.E.R.T. emergency response trailer and equipment on display. Plainsboro C.E.R.T. will be distributing Disaster Preparedness information. C.E.R.T. information and applications will be on hand. The Plainsboro Rescue Squad, Plainsboro Fire Department and Police Department will also have equipment and personnel on location. "National Night Out is just one of the ways the Plainsboro Police reaches out to the Community" stated Township Commitman Michael Weaver.

Our year long Bicycle Safety Program will culminate with prize drawings at Morris Davison Park for bicycles and safety equipment. There will be a bicycle helmet fitting station and a bicycle safety center for inspections.

Police Participate in Summer Traffic Enforcement Campaigns

In the coming months the Plainsboro Police Department will be participating in three state funded traffic enforcement operations.

Aggressive Driver Campaign

Between April and October 2007 Plainsboro Police will be targeting motorists who are deemed aggressive drivers. "This is a "zero-tolerance" enforcement initiative, which means drivers who are stopped will receive a ticket for the violation," stated Plainsboro Police Chief Elizabeth Bondurant. Aggressive drivers include those who are speeding, tailgating, making unsafe lane changes, not stopping at stop signs, and traveling through red traffic lights. Any motorist who observes aggressive drivers are encouraged to dial the Aggressive Driver Hotline by dialing #77 to report them. Be prepared to give your location to allow for proper and quick response by local police.

"Click It or Ticket Campaign"

Between May 21 and June 3, 2007 Plainsboro Police are participating in a nationwide "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign. The goal of this mobilization is to increase safety belt use through education, paid advertising, and enforcement. Over the past several years this campaign has increased safety belt usage. In

New Jersey 441 police agencies participated in the 2006 Click It or Ticket campaign which contributed to New Jersey's safety belt usage rate to reach an all-time high of 90%. This year's goal is to increase safety belt use to 92% statewide.

"Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest Campaign"

This summer Plainsboro Police are joining the national crackdown on drivers impaired by the use of alcohol and drugs. The summer season unfortunately results in an increase in serious and deadly car accidents caused by impaired drivers. That's why every summer season thousands of police throughout the nation join together to protect citizens. Highly visible enforcement is the key to deterring impaired drivers. Enforcement involves dedicating specific officers on grant-sponsored overtime to target impaired drivers.

Additionally, people should plan ahead when heading out to social events. If you plan to drink, then don't drive. Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis reminds us; "Choose a designated driver who will not drink. If you do drink, then use mass transit, a taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home." Report impaired drivers to police, they are a danger to themselves and innocent people.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 779-0909 ext. 547

Elections

The 2007 Primary Election will be held on June 5th. The Primary Election hours for voting are 6:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.

Passports

The passport office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–noon. For further information, see the township website or call 799-0909 ext. 200.

Pet Licenses

NJ State Law mandates all dogs six months and older to be licensed annually by the township. Licenses are due for renewal by January

31st with penalty charges beginning on February 1st. Applications for dogs and cats are available from the Township Clerk's Office and the township website. Proof of rabies vaccination is required and vaccination immunity MUST extend through at least 10 months of the 12 month licensing period. Licenses cannot be issued if the vaccination expires before November 1st of each year. If there is a medical reason as to why the animal cannot be vaccinated at the required time, a letter from the veterinarian must be 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 survey located on page 7 and return it to the Township Clerk's office by July 31, 2007.

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

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 f t. 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

Summer Schedule— June 2, 11, 25; July 9, 23 and August 6, 20

Next Bulk Waste Day - June 9

**Township
Clerk's Office
779-0909 ext. 547**

**Public Works
799-0099**

Middlesex County Programs

The following services 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

2007 ANIMAL CENSUS

Plainsboro Township is mandated by the State of New Jersey to conduct an animal census as part of the licensing process. Having this information is valuable to the Township in the event of a rabies threat. It will also assist the Township in accounting for your animal in the event of an emergency or evacuation.

All cat and dog owners are asked to complete this form and return it to the address below.

PLEASE NOTE: It is extremely important that you return this survey so that your animal will be accounted for in the 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 June 15, 2007 at:

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

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: 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

Web Site: www.plainsboropolice.com

Plainsboro Public Library

Location: 641 Plainsboro Road

Phone: 609-275-2897

24-Hour Recorded Message Lines

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

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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

Development Review

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

Local Assistance Board

Qtrly. Call x218 for date

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 Potholes to

Public Works 799-0099



PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

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

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