



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

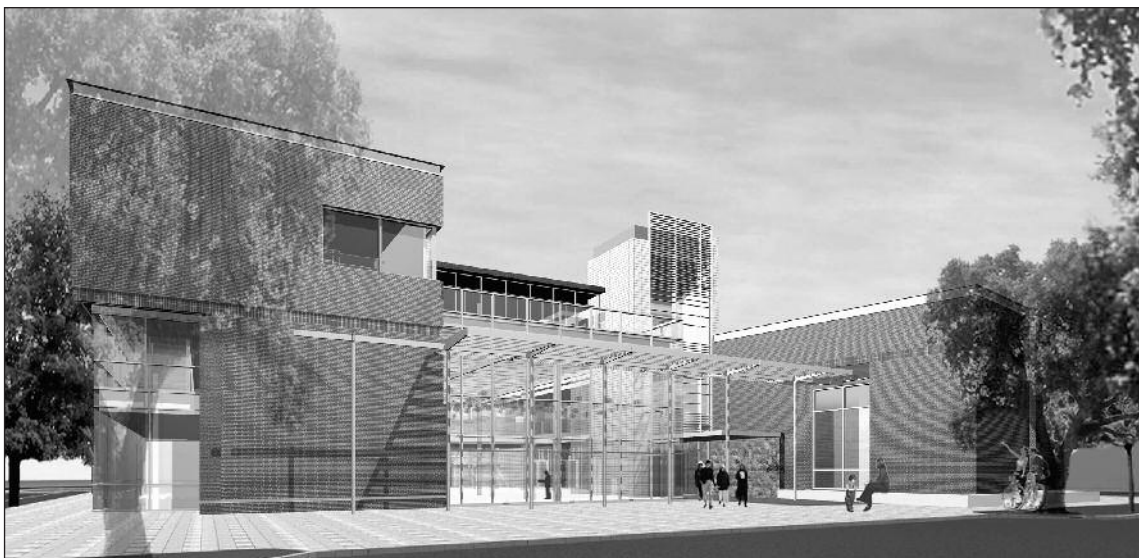
Fall 2007

Redevelopment Plan for Hospital Site Takes Shape

In September, the Township Committee designated the FMC site, the proposed site for the Medical Center at Princeton, as an “area in need of redevelopment” and asked the Planning Board to prepare a redevelopment plan for the site. Over the last two months, the Planning Board’s Redevelopment Subcommittee has been working with the Township’s planning consultant to prepare a redevelopment plan. A draft plan will describe the vision and set the standards for the redevelopment of the site.

The specific elements of the plan include: a new 960,000 square foot hospital (in two phases); new medical office buildings totaling 120,000 square feet with a

possible expansion of an additional 120,000 square feet; a 180-bed 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 440 units of age-restricted housing. The hospital would also create a 32-acre park on the south side of Plainsboro Road along the Millstone River. The park, which would provide passive recreation, would be turned over to the Township upon completion.



Library Construction Approved

At their November 1st meeting, the Township Committee granted a construction contract for the new library to H&S Mechanical and Construction of Elizabeth, New Jersey. The contract totaled \$12,010,225 which was below the architect’s estimate of \$12,457,070.

The Township expects to break ground on the project in December. The new library will be a 34,000 square foot, three story building located on the village green at the heart of the Village Center. The Township and the library have joined together in a fundraising campaign, *Leave a Legacy... Build a Library*, which to date has raised over \$1.3 million. If you would like to donate, visit www.plainsboronj.com.

Volunteers Needed in Plainsboro

The Plainsboro Township Committee is seeking volunteers for a variety of committees and boards. Some vacancies currently exist and additional openings will become available at the end of the year when terms of appointment end. Appointments are made when the Township Committee reorganizes in January and throughout the year as vacancies occur. The committees or boards in need of volunteers include:

- Cable TV Advisory Committee
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Human Relations Council
- Library Board of Trustees
- Planning Board
- Public Assistance Board
- Shade Tree Advisory Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

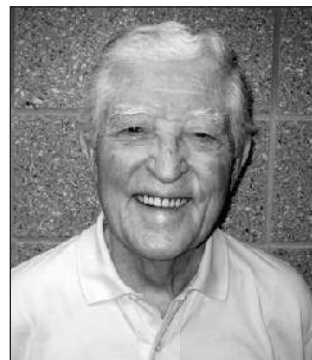
“The sense of community that Plainsboro benefits from can be directly attributed to the generosity of our citizens. The many people who give their valuable time and talents in so many different ways make this town a community and enhance the quality of life for all of us,” stated Township Committeeman Michael Weaver.

Information of the various boards and committees as well applications are available in the Townships Clerk’s Office; call 609-799-0909 x547. Applications are also available on the township’s website www.plainsboronj.com. All applications are kept on file for two years.

Holiday Drive is Underway

Preparations are already well underway for the Municipal Welfare Department’s Annual Holiday Drive Program which is designed to provide relief to households experiencing financial hardship due to illness, domestic violence, loss of support, or loss of employment. Especially targeted are households with children. The drive is comprised of an Adopt-a-Family Program, food drive, and toy drive efforts. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please contact Municipal Welfare Department Director, Jan Bayern, at 609-799-0909, extension 218.

Volunteer Spotlight on: John R. Boag



When asked why he enjoys serving as a volunteer, John Boag is quick to say that, through volunteering, he meets very interesting people and has the opportunity to learn about the rest of the world. He will also admit that it keeps him young.

John Boag began his volunteer service to Plainsboro in 1991 as a member of the Library/Municipal Center Study Committee. Since that time, John has generously given of his time to serve on numerous boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Cable Television Franchise Renewal Committee, and the Human Relations Council. He also volunteers each week at the Plainsboro Library. John works with Literacy Volunteers of America to teach English to those individuals whose native language is Spanish and has served as a Board Member, Parcel Chairperson and Financial Chairperson in the Princeton Landing Homeowners’ Association.

John’s volunteer efforts have not been limited to Plainsboro. Among his many other activities, he served as Chairman of the Board of Covenant House, in New York City, where he also mentored children.

A World War II veteran, John was a pilot in the Army Air Corps and remains active in an association of former squadron pilots. John and his wife, Eleanor, have been married for 63 years and have two adult sons. In his spare time, he is a voracious reader of European history.

“If there is an example of outstanding volunteerism it is John Boag who has worked selflessly for our community over the last seventeen years”, stated Township Committeeman Ed Yates.

Keeping you posted...

Township Attorney Joe Stonaker To Retire

Township Attorney Joseph Stonaker, who has served Plainsboro for 38 years, announced his retirement effective at the end of the year. In 1969, Joe became the first counsel to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He was appointed Planning Board Attorney in 1970, a position he held until his appointment as Township Attorney in 1974.

“As Township Attorney, Joe has been involved in every major project and initiative in the municipality. He assisted in the negotiation of the Mt. Laurel settlement and the creative zoning that was instrumental in the creation of the Plainsboro Preserve”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu. Joe also negotiated the

acquisition of many parcels of permanently preserved farmland and open space.

Following his retirement, Joe plans to keep busy by doing volunteer work, auditing some courses at Princeton University and traveling with his wife, Julia.

The Township Committee has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking qualified law firms that are interested in serving as Township Attorney. The Committee will evaluate candidates in time to make the appointment of the new Township Attorney in January.

Township Committee Appoints New Planning Director



Les Varga

In October, the Township Committee appointed Les Varga as the Township's first Director of Planning and Zoning. The Township recently re-organized what was once the Department of Community Development. The planning and zoning functions now form a separate department and the Building, Housing and Fire Offices have been consolidated into a new Department of Code Enforcement.

Mr. Varga assumed the position on November 13th. “Les has a depth of experience that was needed for the responsibilities of the position”, stated Committeeman Ed Yates, who serves as liaison to the Planning and Zoning Department. “In addition, he brings valuable transportation planning experience.”

Mr. Varga most recently served as Planning Manager at the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization. His experience also includes planning positions with Hunterdon County and the Township of Mount Olive. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration and Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University.

Schnitzer Resigns from Plainsboro Township Committee

The Plainsboro Township Committee announced the resignation of Township Committee member Ginger Gold Schnitzer effective October 30th. In her letter of resignation to the Mayor and Township Committee, Schnitzer noted the recent birth of her daughter and increased responsibilities in her professional life as reasons for stepping down. “I feel very fortunate to have grown up in Plainsboro and to have been part of Plainsboro's successes as a volunteer and elected member of the governing body,” stated Schnitzer.

The vacancy will, by law, be referred to the Democratic Municipal Committee. They will have fifteen (15) days from the effective date of the resignation to recommend three (3) candidates to the Township Committee for consideration. The Township Committee will then evaluate the candidates and must select a successor within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the resignation. The individual chosen will serve through 2008 and the unexpired term will be on the ballot in November 2008.

Schnitzer has served on the Township Committee since March 22, 2000 and has been liaison to Human Services which covers the recreation and welfare departments, as well as the municipal court. She also serves on the Plainsboro Library Board of Trustees. Schnitzer's strong leadership in the area of social services resulted in the expansion of the Township's holiday drive and food pantry. She is an enthusiastic supporter of “Walk Your Child to School Day” and “Read Across America”, famously donning a Cat in the Hat costume when reading to Plainsboro elementary school students. She is also a strong advocate for the multi-cultural programs and services for special populations provided by the Recreation Department.

Mayor Peter Cantu praised Schnitzer's service to Plainsboro, “Ginger's long term commitment and contributions to the community have been truly outstanding. Her knowledge and experience both at a community and state level will be greatly missed. I'm pleased that she intends to remain involved in community activities.”

Holiday Safety

Each year during the winter holidays, fires injure 2000 people in the United States and cause over \$500 million in damages. By following these holiday safety tips, you can help keep your family and home safe this year:

Christmas Trees - Live trees should be fresh; needles should not easily fall off. Keep fresh water in the stand at all times. Locate the tree away from heat sources. When finished with the tree, never put it in your fireplace. Dispose of this tree by either taking it to the conservation center, or leaving it curbside for proper pickup during the month of January. Apartment and condo residents must contact their management company for instructions on disposal.

Lights - Make sure your lights are approved by a recognized testing agency such as UL or FM. Discard any sets that are cracked or frayed. Do not overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpeting.

Candles - Take care when using candles. Do not set candles on flammable surfaces and never leave them unattended.

Fireplaces - Before using your fireplace, have it inspected by a professional for cracks, blockages (animals, nests etc.), leaks or creosote build up. Make sure your flue damper is open to allow discharge of harmful gases. Always use a screen and burn only appropriate material.

Finally, be prepared! Have working smoke detectors on each floor of your home. CO detectors should be installed outside of sleeping areas of your home. Make sure they both have fresh batteries. Each member of the family should know what to do in the event of an emergency. Have a fire escape plan and practice it.

Plainsboro Township wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. Should you have any questions regarding home fire safety, please call the Department of Code Enforcement at 609-799-0909 ext. 545.

Plainsboro and County Partner on Shared Services

Plainsboro Township is currently working with Middlesex County to become the recipient of a grant from the State of New Jersey, which will enable all municipalities and schools in the county to view the needs of others and perhaps “borrow” equipment or services from others to save money. Freeholder James Polos has spearheaded this initiative.

This grant will be used to enhance the County’s webpage by adding a portal for all municipalities and school districts within the County. These public entities will be able to log on and ask if anyone else in the County is looking to share a piece of equipment, a program or a service. “Plainsboro Township has been a longtime proponent of shared service and that is why we have been asked to help get this program underway. There are definite cost savings in programs like these and once started, many new possibilities will arise”, stated Township Committeeman Michael Weaver.

Plainsboro Township has participated in several shared services, and has entered into interlocal service agreements with Cranbury Township to provide municipal court and public assistance services to

Cranbury. Plainsboro also has agreements in place with West Windsor for animal control services and with Middlesex County for public health services.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Located on the south side of Plainsboro Road, the Township provides 53 garden plots measuring 20 feet by 20 feet. Water is available, as well as an on-site compost facility.

Application Deadline - March 7, 2008

Public Lottery Drawing - March 19, 2008
at 7:30pm in Municipal Building

**Garden Plots available for access
and use** - March 28, 2008

Permits expire – cleanup deadline –
December 12, 2008

Applications available online at
www.plainsboronj.com

Plainsboro's Most Famous Resident

Without a doubt, Plainsboro's most famous resident was named Elsie. She had lovely auburn hair, big brown eyes and weighed approximately 800 pounds. She made her home in Plainsboro but marked her debut at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. She captured the hearts of the American public and will be forever tied to Plainsboro's rich agricultural history.

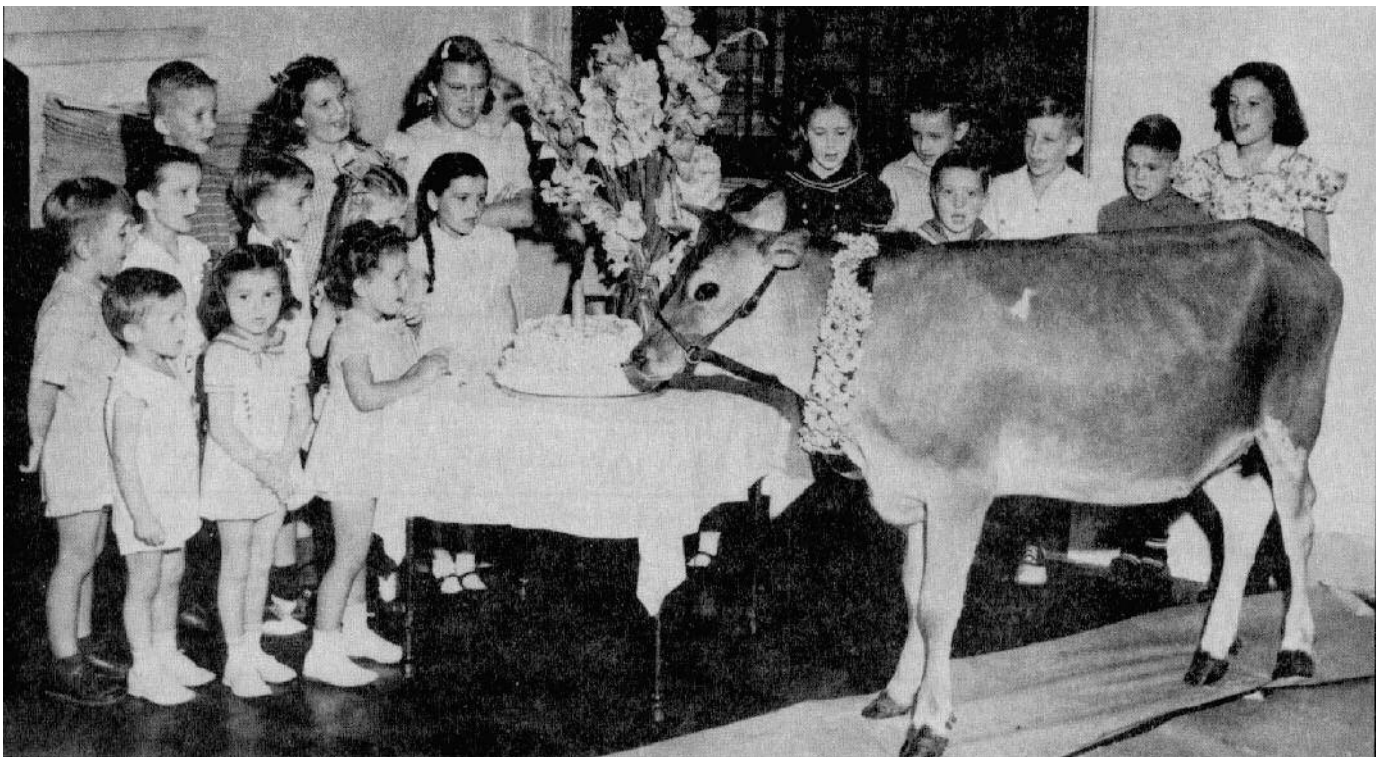
Elsie was in reality, a Jersey cow made into caricature in 1938 as the trademark for Borden Dairy products. Elsie's immense popularity became apparent at the World's Fair as she rode the Rotolactor, a high-tech milking machine developed by the Walker Gordon Company of Plainsboro, a business partner with Borden. Although impressed with the latest technology, most visitors to the fair wanted to know which cow was Elsie. She was an overnight success, toured the country and even made movie appearances!

Marketing surveys in the 1940s found that 98 percent of the American public recognized Elsie - in fact she was better known than other imaginary figures - even

Mickey Mouse! Her fame went to good use. During World War II, Elsie's promotional tours raised over \$10 million dollars in war bond sales. Eventually, Elsie's image appeared in 107 countries around the world. When not on tour, Elsie, whose real name was "You'll do Lobelia", made her home in the barns at the Walker Gordon farms in Plainsboro.

Elsie was the subject of a recent lecture by historians with the Plainsboro Historical Society and her memorabilia, including her high-heeled boots, can be viewed at the Plainsboro Museum.

Plainsboro's local museum is in good company. Elsie is famous enough to have a place made for her personal artifacts and photos at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in commemoration this year of the Borden Company's 150th anniversary. Elsie, however, is buried in Plainsboro at a specially marked grave on the site of the former Walker Gordon farm now Walker Gordon estates. Her image remains one of the most recognizable advertising icons of the 20th century.



In 1938, Elsie, The Borden Cow became the official "spokescow" for the Borden Company and every day rode the Walker Gordon Rotolactor at the 1939 World's Fair. The children of Plainsboro were invited to share in celebration of Elsie's birthday at her home on Walker Gordon.

Police Department Undergoing Change

In January 2008 the police department turns thirty years old. Established in 1978, the Plainsboro Police Department has grown from four officers to thirty-three officers, as the town has grown from 5,600 residents in 1980 to approximately 21,000 today. Technology has enabled the police department to track crimes through global positioning software and use computers in the patrol cars to verify driver's licenses and check names for wanted persons.

"Over the next five years the police department will experience the loss of up to 30% of its officers through retirement, and the current management team is preparing younger officers to be the leaders of tomorrow through mentoring programs and training," stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis who serves as liaison to Public Safety.

Recently, retirements in the department resulted in a series of promotions.

Richard Furda was promoted to Lieutenant in June. Lt. Furda is a 22 year veteran officer with 18 years experi-

ence in both the Detective Bureau and Patrol Division as a Sergeant. He has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Rider University and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at the Fielding Institute. Lt. Furda is in charge of Administration, Planning, Training, Purchasing, and Budgeting for the Police Department.

Frederick Tavener was promoted to Sergeant in August. Sgt. Tavener is a ten year veteran officer who is on the department's Special Response Team and is a Firearms Instructor. Sgt. Tavener was previously a Corporal assigned to the Patrol Division and will remain in the Patrol Division as a Sergeant.

George Cier was recently promoted to Corporal in August. Corporal Cier has been with the department for five years and was previously a Captain in the Monroe Fire Department before joining the police force. Corporal Cier was a detective prior to his promotion and serves on the police department's Special Response Team and as Firearms Instructor. Corporal Cier is assigned to the Patrol Division.

The Right Fit Will Protect Your Child

Studies show that children protected by properly installed car seats are less likely to die as a result of a traffic accident. According to the latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, child safety seats reduce injuries to infants under the age of one by 71 percent, and by 54 percent for toddlers between 1 and 6 years of age. Only the correct use of child car seats will offer the protection your child needs. There are many different types of child car seats on the market today. Each one must meet federal safety standards, and all provide protection for your child when used correctly. The "right" seat for you is largely a matter of personal choice. Choose a seat that fits your child and your car, read the instructions carefully, and use the seat correctly every time. Plainsboro Township Police Department conducts child seat inspections year round to insure that you have properly installed and are properly using your safety seat. To schedule an appointment, please contact the CORE Unit at 799-2333 Ext. 681 or 619.



Plainsboro Police Officer Michael Kelly checks the installation of a car seat. To request a car seat inspection, call 609-799-2333, extension 681 or 619.

At your service . . .

Township Clerk's Office 799-0909 ext. 547

Elections

The 2008 Presidential Primary Election will be held on February 5th.

Hours for voting are from 6:00am to 8:00pm. Close of voter registration for this election is January 15, 2008. The Township Clerk's office will be open for voter registration until 9:00 pm on that date.

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

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 ani-

mals and \$16.20 for non-neutered animals. Late fees of \$5.00 per month will be assessed as of February 1st.

To assist pet owners, a free rabies clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2008 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.

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

Conservation Center Hours

Winter Hours

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

Summer Hours

(April 1st to December 15th)
Monday and Thursday
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm

Christmas Tree Pick up

Christmas 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 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.

Curbside Recycling

Winter Schedule

December 10, 24; January 7, 21;
February 4, 18

2008 Bulk Waste Days

April 5, June 14, August 9,
November 1

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

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

Michael T. Weaver

Edmund C. Yates

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Robert O. Sheehan

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Teresa Carson

ECRWSS

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