On November 1st, Plainsboro Township took over managing the property and the programming at the Plainsboro Preserve. Plainsboro Preserve staff, who are part of the township’s Recreation and Community Services Department, are very excited to offer a wide range of year-round programming and events for the community. The plan is to make the Plainsboro Preserve a place where visitors will come to learn, relax and unwind. There will be a wide variety of programs for all ages; including natural history, yoga, walking club, summer camps, nature pre-school and school-aged programs. There are over five miles of trails that can be used for hiking, snowshoeing or skiing, if the winter weather cooperates. The 50-acre lake is a great place to visit to see winter water fowl; however, there is no ice skating or fishing.

Make sure you check out our list of winter programs. Please visit the environmental education center and share with us any thoughts you may have about programming via email at recdept@plainsboronj.com
Walking and bicycling have become popular pursuits as residents are home more frequently during the day and are looking for ways to spend time outdoors with family and friends. Walking and bike riding around the neighborhood have also become year-round activities for people who wish to take a break or to get some exercise while heading to the library or coffee shop rather than driving.

There is, however, more to bike travel than hopping on a bike and going for a ride -- there are rules of the road. Some of the rules are simple measures to make sure the bicycle is in good working order. This would include things like checking for proper tire inflation and chain tension and making sure handlebars and other movable parts are secure.

The following are a few rules that apply to all cyclists:

• Cyclists are required to ride with the direction of traffic, not against it
• Cyclists are prohibited from riding on sidewalks (unless young children are learning)
• While use of a properly fitting helmet is recommended for all, it is required for those 17 years old and younger
• Use a bell or horn on the handlebars (not a whistle) when overtaking cyclists on the road, or pedestrians if riding on a multi-use path

When walking, pedestrians should never walk on the road if there is a sidewalk on one or both sides of the road. In addition, property owners are required to keep sidewalks free of overgrown shrubs, overhanging branches and snow. Committeeman Ed Yates reminds that, "with sunset coming earlier, it is important for residents who are out for an evening walk to use the sidewalks and wear reflective or bright-colored clothing for their own safety."

The following link provides a quick guide to the laws and regulations aimed at enhancing the safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and the motoring public:


Stay safe!

A Fitting Send-Off for “Charlie the Mail Carrier”

This past summer, residents in the Gentry community gathered to wish Charlie Durland, the neighborhood’s long-standing mail carrier, a happy retirement. More than 100 people gathered for the community send-off.

Charlie has worked for the United States Postal Service for 42 years, the last 32 of which he has delivered mail to the many homes in the Gentry community of Plainsboro. Charlie is known for his strong work ethic, positive attitude and steady smile. Having delivered mail to the same homes for so long, Charlie forged many friendships and was always looking out for everyone’s best interest. In fact, it was common for Charlie to deliver poorly or incorrectly addressed mail to the correct location — simply because he knew the neighborhood and residents so well!

Mayor Cantu, who attended the celebration, commented, “On behalf of the Township Committee, we wish Charlie a happy and restful retirement and thank him for more than 30 years of excellent service to the residents of Plainsboro.”
Earth Hour was established in 2007 by World Wildlife Fund as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney, Australia. It is now one of the world’s largest grassroots movements, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories to switch off their lights to show support for our planet. Earth Hour, held each year on the last Saturday of March, welcomes everyone to participate and help amplify their mission to unite people to protect our planet.

There are many different ways to celebrate this year’s Earth Hour event. The first is the way in which it all began, by turning out all non-essential lights at your home for the hour. Ideas include hosting a candlelight dinner, camping out in your backyard or in your living room, playing board games with flashlights or candles, or by joining us for our Earth Hour event at the Plainsboro Preserve! For more ideas and events, check out the Earth Hour website at https://www.earthhour.org/

Earth Hour aims to increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature, not only to combat the climate crisis, but also to ensure our own health, happiness, prosperity and even survival. Let’s show our support by turning off our lights on Saturday, March 22 at 8:30 pm!

New Schalks Meadow Park Tennis Courts Open for Public Use

Schalks Meadow Park is approximately 19 acres of municipally-owned land located in Princeton Collection. Easily accessible from Parker Road, the park primarily serves the residents of Princeton Collection, but is open to the general public. Amenities of the park include a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, a ballfield and lots of open space. Throughout the years Babe Ruth League, West Windsor Plainsboro Soccer Association, adult softball and cricket leagues have utilized this park for games.

During the past eight years Plainsboro invested $167,000 in park capital improvements. In 2013, the park received a new playground; in 2015 a new swing set and in 2021, a major upgrade was made to the tennis courts.

In early 2020, the tennis courts were damaged by a storm. The playing surface ripped apart from the asphalt base and rendered the courts unplayable. After researching the problem, it was determined that repairing the existing surface course would not provide any guarantee that this would not happen again. The best solution was to remove the existing surface and reconstruct the asphalt base, providing the greatest investment for municipal funds, without actually rebuilding the courts.

Later in 2020, the Township Committee approved a Capital Improvement Plan for rehabilitation of the Schalks Meadow Park tennis courts. In 2021, the contractor removed the existing surface course, milled the asphalt base approximately two inches, installed geotextile fabric, applied tack to the fabric and installed approximately two inches of asphalt. Once the asphalt cured the contractor returned and painted the courts. Due to numerous requests, one of the courts was painted for tennis and pickle ball.

In September, the courts reopened to the public. “Plainsboro continually invests in our parks and open space. The Mayor and Township Committee hope these recent improvements bring joy and happiness to our residents for many years,” states Township Committeeman David Bander.
Recreation Summer Camp Jobs Available

Summer employment applications and job descriptions for the 2022 season will be available on the Township website (www.plainsboronj.com) or for pick-up at the Recreation and Cultural Center starting December 15, 2021. A variety of positions are available including: summer camp assistant, teachers, counselors, and volunteers for full and half day commitments. The minimum age for paid employment is sixteen and the minimum age for a volunteer position is fourteen. Interviews will be scheduled with qualified applicants until all positions are filled. The eight week summer camp season operates from June 27th through August 19th. Applicants should be available for the full duration of the camp. For additional information, contact the Program Coordinator, Cheryl Buonavolonta at cbuonavolonta@plainsboronj.com or 609-799-0909 ext. 1703.

Ten Cold Weather Safety Tips from Your Park Rangers

With cold weather right around the corner and your safety in mind, below are several tips to make your outdoor experience safe and warm even in frigid conditions.

• Move - The easiest way to warm up is to move. If you stop, make sure the stop is short so the body does not cool off.
• Seek the sun - Just like we find shade on a hot summer day, if the sun is shining, put yourself under it.
• Wear layers - Layering your clothing works well. Grab a backpack to store items when not needed.
• Pre-warm gloves and boots - Fingers and toes are the first extremities to become cold so take steps to be sure these items are warm before you go.
• Two hats are better than one - It’s always a good idea when outdoors to have two hats; one that’s heavy for colder weather as well as a lighter one.
• Bring spare gloves - If the pair you are wearing becomes wet or just cold, it is always nice to have that second pair available. Avoid putting them in your pack. Keep them close to your body so that they are warm when needed.
• Cold weather usually means dry weather. Even if you’re not perspiring, make sure to stay hydrated.
• Eat - In the cold weather the body uses lots of calories. Leave the light snacks at home and load up on snacks that are high in protein, fat and calories. You’ll burn those calories off in no time.
• Pace yourself - We talked earlier about moving, but we do need to pace ourselves. By pacing ourselves, we avoid perspiring and causing moisture. Moisture pulls heat away from the body.
• Avoid the ice - If ice is present on any body of water, it’s best to avoid it!

“These tips come directly from Plainsboro Township’s park rangers”, stated Township Committeeman Nuran Nabi. “Given the amount of time they spend outdoors each day throughout the year, their insight in this area is most helpful.”

Make Life Easier Through Online or Electronic Tax Payments

To make an online tax payment, visit www.plainsboronj.com and click on the Online Payments icon (pictured left). Choose the option “Taxes” and follow the prompts. You can access your tax bill using your name, your address or your block and lot. Payments by credit card or e-check are accepted. A vendor service charge of $1.95 per transaction is included when paying by e-check. Payment by credit card includes a service charge of 2.95% of balance paid. This service charge is 100% payable to the credit card provider. You may also register with the Tax Collector’s office to have your preauthorized bank account debited each quarter for the amount due on your property. Email reminders are sent prior to payments being debited from the preauthorized bank account.

For questions or if you need additional information, please call the Tax Collector’s office at (609)799-0909 extension 1408 or 1409.
New PSE&G Substation and Suez Sewer Treatment Plant

Two major upgrades to the Township’s electricity and sewer treatment infrastructure are underway; one is almost completed and the other is just starting. Mayor Cantu explained, “both of these projects are crucial to meeting the demands for electricity and sewer service and will provide the needed capacity as we move into the future.”

The new PSE&G switching substation on Dey Road is nearly finished. The first phase of this project is already operational and consists of a new substation to service the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL). The second, much larger phase, consists of constructing a new Hunters Glen Switching Station as part of a network of five other stations servicing roughly 14 towns and approximately 85,000 customers.

The purpose of the major upgrades are to provide greater capacity and more reliability and resiliency. The old substation serving the PPPL dates back to 1970, while the existing Hunters Glen Switching Station became operational in 1963.

To minimize the amount of land required for the project and to reduce visual impacts, the crucial components of the new switching substation will be housed in three new buildings, with the largest being about 5,610 square feet, and the tallest being about 44 feet in height.

The new Suez Water Princeton Meadows treatment facility on Maple Avenue is under construction and will take about a year and a half to two years to complete. The existing facility is antiquated and is not capable of meeting the new, more stringent requirements established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The finished project will consist of a state-of-the-art sewer treatment facility housed in two new brick buildings, converting treatment lagoons to storm water management wet ponds, a new odor control system, and landscaping along the property line adjacent to the Ponds End residential development. The existing treatment plant will be demolished upon commissioning of the new facility.

Understanding Plainsboro’s Snow Removal Practices

The township’s main objective during a winter storm is to effectively and efficiently clear the roads of snow and ice. Standard practice for most storms is to pretreat the roads and then begin plowing at approximately three inches. However, since each storm is unique, Plainsboro alters its operations to meet the immediate needs of the current storm. The town’s roads are divided into two types: primary roads and residential secondary roads. Primary roads provide access through Plainsboro, are heavily travelled and connect the town’s neighborhoods and commercial areas. Secondary residential roads provide access within subdivisions. The exceptions are Dey Road, Scudders Mill Road, Schalks Crossing Road and US Route One, which are maintained and plowed by Middlesex County; except for US Route One, which is the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. During a winter storm, the town’s Department of Public Works (DPW) starts with clearing the primary roads which is essential for emergency vehicles to travel through town. Once clear, DPW staff begin working on residential secondary roads.

Snow and ice removal is not solely the town’s responsibility. Residents are required to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of the storm’s completion. The snow cannot be placed in the paved portion of any street where it hinders the passage of pedestrians, bicyclists or vehicles and requires DPW plows to return and remove the snow.
Living in a diverse and safe community can lead to a false sense of security. “One of the great things about living in Plainsboro is that the community prides itself in keeping everyone safe. Although we are routinely ranked among the safest places to live in New Jersey, we cannot take it for granted,” stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis.

Everyone must do their part to maintain the safety of our town. Over the past several months, like many other towns across New Jersey, we have seen a rise in property crimes, most notably to motor vehicles. Most of the time these are crimes of opportunity. Suspects will not try to get into a locked vehicle due to alarm systems and how sophisticated they have become. A simple task such as locking your vehicle makes it very unlikely that you will become a victim. Do not leave expensive items such as iPads, tablets, laptops and other devices in plain view. All items should be taken into the house or into wherever your destination is at the time.

Another troublesome trend has been residents leaving their key fobs in the vehicle. Although this may seem convenient, it can result in an easy theft.

Locking your vehicle, removing the key fob, not leaving expensive devices in plain sight will lead to a much lower risk of becoming a victim to property crimes.

Please practice safety at all times.

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New Police Advisories Added to Website Homepage

In an effort to provide better access to emergency alerts from the Plainsboro Police Department, the township has added Police Advisories to the website homepage.

This new section is located on the right-hand side of the homepage and will provide updated information on emergency road closings, weather events, etc. You are encouraged to sign up to have this info texted or emailed directly to you through the police department’s Office of Emergency Management at https://www.plainsboronj.com/185/Emergency-Management

Periodic meetings by the Plainsboro Police Department with homeowners associations have been planned both virtually and in-person to enhance community safety.

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New School Officer Hired

The Plainsboro Township Police Department has completed the hiring process for a new Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer, Jason Kmiec. Officer Kmiec is a former Trenton police officer who retired in April 2021, and began working in Plainsboro schools in mid-October. Officer Kmiec completed an interview, a thorough background investigation, a physical exam, and a psychological evaluation prior to his appointment. He subsequently completed a comprehensive 4 week training program, including all state-mandated training prior to beginning his duties within the schools. Officer Kmiec will be stationed at all of the Plainsboro schools depending on scheduling and school needs.

Welcome Officer Kmiec!
Elections

Voter Registration forms are now also available in the following languages: Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Korean and Gujarati. Please visit our website www.plainsboronj.com for the latest election updates.

Pet Licenses

NJ State Law mandates that all dogs six months and older must 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. Failure to license pets is in violation of Plainsboro Township’s Ordinance 59-1 and can result in a summons. **According to state regulation N.J.A.C. 8:23A, when licensing, the rabies vaccination immunity must extend through at least ten (10) months of the 12-month licensing period. Licenses cannot be issued if the rabies vaccination expires before November 1st of each year. If for any medical reason the animal cannot be vaccinated in the required time, form VPH-28 must be completed by the veterinarian and submitted with the renewal form.

If you missed the Township’s Rabies Clinic in November please contact the Middlesex County Public Health Department at (732) 745-3100 for the listing of the county scheduled clinics held in the surrounding municipalities.

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<td>December</td>
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Vital Records: The Township clerk, as the local registrar is responsible for maintaining vital records of births, marriages/civil unions, domestic partnerships and deaths that occurred in Plainsboro Township. The municipality that holds the original record is the only registrar, besides the State Registrar, that can issue a certified copy.

A Certified Copy of a vital record is issued to those individuals who have a direct link to the individual(s) named on the vital record, as identified in the Governor’s Executive Order 18, and provided that the requestor is able to identify the vital record and can provide proof of his identity and relationship.

For more information regarding requirements and fees, call the Township clerk’s office or visit the township website.
# Township Directory and Information

## Plainsboro Township Municipal Offices
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road  
Phone: General 609-799-0909  
Phone: Court 609-799-0863  
Website: [www.plainsboronj.com](http://www.plainsboronj.com)  
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

## Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road  
Phone: General 609-799-0909, press 6  
Email: recdept@plainsboronj.com

## Plainsboro Public Works Department
Location: Scotts Corner Road at 20 Woodland Drive  
Phone: 609-799-0099  
Recycling Center, Bulk Waste  
See Page 7 for details or visit website

## Plainsboro Police Department
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road  
Phone: Non-Emergency 609-799-2333  
**Emergencies - 9 1 1**  
Website: [www.plainsboropolice.com](http://www.plainsboropolice.com)

## Plainsboro Public Library
Location: 9 Van Doren Street  
Phone: 609-275-2897  
**CALL FOR HOURS**  
Website: [www.plainsborolibrary.org](http://www.plainsborolibrary.org)

### Useful Numbers
- **School District Information**  
  609-716-5000
- **Report street light out to**  
  PSE&G 1-800-436-7734
- **Report potholes to**  
  Public Works 609-799-0099
- **New Jersey American Water**  
  1-800-272-1325

### Township Meetings
All meetings are held in the municipal building at 641 Plainsboro Road unless otherwise noted:

- **Development Review Committee**  
  3rd Tuesday, 6:00pm  
  (virtual)
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**  
  4th Monday, 7:00pm (virtual)  
  Call 609-799-0909, x1502 for more information
- **Fire Commissioners**  
  2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm at firehouse
- **Township Committee**  
  Regular Mtg. 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm  
  Agenda Mtg. 4th Wednesday, 7:00pm
- **Planning Board**  
  3rd Monday, 6:00pm (virtual)
- **Zoning Board**  
  1st Wednesday, at 7:00pm