Mill Pond Park on Maple Avenue is a 30+ acre area which includes a portion of the Lenape Trail, a large pond and a scenic overlook. The park was closed at the end of March for improvements.

A generous grant for $150,000 was awarded to the township from the Middlesex County Open Space and Trust Fund. The grant provided the township with the funds needed to secure the design services of Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI), a landscape architectural firm. The project design includes plans to realign the park entrance and connection to Lenape Trail, replace a broken culvert that allows water flow between the water bodies, create seating areas (benches), add a handicap boat launch, update existing and provide new signage and landscaping throughout the area.

The township was fortunate to receive matching funds from Princeton University, and quickly moved forward with the project. GPI prepared the necessary permit applications, construction documents, specifications and construction services. Work began immediately to secure the necessary permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Freehold Soil Conservation District and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. Construction documents and specifications were prepared, and once the permits were secured, the township put the project out to bid in 2022. A construction services contract was awarded to CMS Construction, Inc., and construction began this past March.

Veolia, which operates the sewer treatment plant located across the road from Mill Pond Park, provided funding for one of the new benches planned as part of the improvements.

“Thanks to Middlesex County, Princeton University and Veolia, the township was able to provide these park improvements to our residents without the use of Plainsboro taxpayer dollars”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu. “We are fortunate to have such wonderful partners who value the township’s natural resources and provide us with support.” Portions of the newly landscaped area will be closed until further notice.
Plainsboro’s Brian Miller named New Jersey Construction Official of the Year

The Municipal Construction Officials Association of New Jersey (MUNCO) recently presented Brian Miller, Plainsboro’s Director of Code Enforcement and Construction Official, with the William M. Connolly Construction Official of the Year Award. “According to MUNCO, Brian was chosen for his commitment to the profession of code enforcement, his service to the public and for the advancement of the goals

and objectives of the Association”, stated Deputy Mayor and Code Enforcement Department liaison Ed Yates. “Brian is a true professional and we are very fortunate to have him here in Plainsboro”.

Brian joined Plainsboro’s Code Enforcement Department in 2004 and was promoted to Director of Code Enforcement/Construction Official in 2015. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition Brian!

Save the date!
First Annual Family Campout – Friday, June 23rd
Visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/603/Parks-and-Recreation or check out the Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services Facebook page for more info!

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 “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, payable to the credit card company, of 2.95% of balance paid. 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.

Need a Passport?

The Plainsboro Free Public Library is offering passport services weekdays, weeknights, and weekends. Walk-in passport service is available, but appointments take priority. Appointments are offered 45 days out on a rolling basis. Passport photo services are also available.

For more information or to make a passport appointment please go to the library’s passport information webpage at https://plainsborolibrary.org/passport/
2023 Municipal and Capital Budgets Approved

At the May 10th open public meeting, the Township Committee adopted the 2023 municipal and capital budgets. The municipal budget totals $33,756,447. Based on the average home value of $457,900 - the municipal tax impact will be approximately $50 annually or $4.17 per month on average.

The proposed municipal budget uses $4,775,000 in surplus and anticipates that state aid will increase by $11,369 over 2022 to $1,656,113.

“In responding to record high national inflation, increases in non-discretionary expenses, and other economic challenges we continue to face, we are well served by the solid financial foundation we have established through the years”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

The capital budget provides funding for road projects including a portion of College Road West; Master Plan updates, equipment replacement, design of the multi-purpose play area at Community Park, Plainsboro Park playground resurfacing and upgraded park signage and ADA access improvements at the Plainsboro Preserve building.

Although the approach to the 2023 budget had to be adjusted due to a number of factors, we still kept true to the following budget priorities: 1. plan for the future, not just today; 2. ensure the best municipal services at the most reasonable cost to the community; 3. seek the lowest reasonable tax rate while providing the tools/resources for Township employees to address municipal needs and goals; 4. provide capital funding to address road, park and other public improvements and 5. replace obsolete equipment and vehicles.

Community Development Update

KHovnanian Homes is rapidly approaching the completion of all permits and approvals to begin constructing Serenity Walk, an age-restricted (55+) community of 52 single-family homes to be located on a 20-acre property along Dey Road, opposite Woodland Drive.

The Plainsboro Planning Board granted conditional approval last summer and the developer has since been pursuing the balance of necessary permits. Site work will be underway shortly, followed by home construction, with sales expected to begin in 2024. Four single-family home styles, ranging from 1,986 to 2,680 square feet that include two or three bedrooms and a two-car garage, will be available.

The development features interior streets with sidewalks on both sides connecting to a paved walking/jogging pathway that extends around the perimeter of the community. Amenities planned include a recreation center, outdoor pool, pickleball court, and a dog park. A homeowners’ association will be formed to manage the common areas, recreation amenities, walking path, stormwater facilities and landscaping.

Penn Medicine is proposing a 200,000 square foot addition to the hospital for a state-of-the-art cancer center. Part of the project will include a new parking deck. The Planning Board also previewed a concept plan for the 56-acre mixed-use project called Fusion that includes housing units, office space, an extended stay hotel, various commercial and retail uses and open space with a recreation field and walking trails. The proposed project is between the hospital and Novo Nordisk.

Wicoff School 3rd Grade Classes Visit Wicoff House Museum

In March, all 3rd grade classes from the Wicoff Elementary School visited the Wicoff House for a field trip! The museum staff created an immersive and engaging program for the students to learn about the history of the Wicoff House and the establishment of the Township of Plainsboro. About 80 students toured the museum while completing a customized scavenger hunt and program workbook. A librarian from the Plainsboro Public Library was also at the museum to read a book about a historical event that happened right here in Plainsboro!

Schools, homeschool groups and others are welcome to book a field trip at the museum. Contact the Museum Manager at museum@plainsboronj.com. You can also learn more about our field trip program by watching the most recent episode of Eye on Plainsboro, accessible on the Township of Plainsboro’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@townshipofplainsboro7610

3rd grade students from Wicoff Elementary School view a wall display during their recent visit to the Wicoff House Museum.
Environmentally Friendly Lawn Maintenance and Proper Watering Techniques

Maintaining a healthy lawn in an environmentally friendly manner is not difficult, but requires a change of thinking for most people. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recommends keeping the height of a lawn between 2 1/2” – 3 1/2” high in order to shade the soil, cool the roots and prohibit weed growth. A healthy lawn does not require the overuse of chemicals or water. Research shows that grass clippings can provide up to 25% of your lawn’s total fertilizer needs. When grass clippings decompose, they deliver nitrogen and other organic material to the soil. A common myth about grass mulching is that it creates thatch; this is false. According to the NJDEP, thatch forms when dead roots and stems accumulate. Instead of bagging your lawn clippings, mulch them!

Proper watering techniques are essential for a healthy lawn. Following are a few simple methods to water your lawn efficiently and effectively:

- Water your lawn in the early morning; many experts believe 4:00am – 10:00am is optimal.
- Water your lawn twice per week; too much water can lead to fungus growth and shallow roots.
- Use a timer when watering your lawn so that you do not forget to turn off the water.
- Do not water your lawn when it is raining or immediately after it rains.
- A typical lawn needs 1-1 1/2” of rain each week. Learn how long it takes for your lawn to obtain and percolate this amount of water.

“Grass mulching and proper watering techniques are an easy way for residents to help protect Plainsboro’s environment while maintaining their lawn”, states Township Committeean David Bander.

A copy of the NJDEP Cut it and Leave it brochure is posted on the municipal website at https://www.plainsboronj.com/DocumentCenter/View/3288

Mosquito Prevention

According to the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission (MCMC), there are more than 65 species of mosquitoes in the state and over 40 in Middlesex County alone. About half of these species are nuisances to the public and a small percentage pose a potential health risk to the very young, very old and those with compromised immune systems. Simple housekeeping measures can effectively prevent mosquitoes from multiplying.

Mosquitoes have a life span of 3 to 4 weeks and spend approximately the first quarter of their lives in water. The American Mosquito Control Association recommends routinely walking around your property and draining any standing water. This includes regularly cleaning your pet’s water dish, roof gutters and changing the water in birdbaths. Also, inspect and empty water that has gathered on tarps, pool covers and children’s toys. If you have a small pond consider getting fish or a small fountain to prevent water from becoming stagnant. If containers are intentionally left outside, consider drilling drainage holes in them and/or storing them upside down whenever possible.

The MCMC also assists in reducing the mosquito population and from May 1st through November 30th, the MCMC applies products recommended by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University, to high breeding areas via aircraft, trucks or handheld equipment. Visit the MCMC website at https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/department-of-public-safety-and-health/middlesex-county-mosquito-commission for more information.

Plainsboro Community Garden

On the south side of Plainsboro Road at the base of the railroad bridge sits Plainsboro’s Community Garden. Surrounded by an eight-foot fence, the garden contains 55, 20’ by 20’ garden plots, water and an area designated for organic waste. During the past 18 years, the garden has provided residents the opportunity to plant and harvest their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, plants and flowers.

Each year gardeners may access their plot from the middle of April through the end of November. Gardeners are required to follow a set of rules enacted to provide an equitable and cordial environment. To learn more about the garden, contact Plainsboro Public Works at 609-799-0099.
When is a ‘Registered Contractor’ Required?

Any person hired to perform electrical, plumbing and HVAC work is required to be licensed by the State of New Jersey in their respective fields, but what about other contractors hired to work on your house? In 2005, the state adopted the Contractors Registration Act. The act requires any home improvement contractor or individual other than the owner or owner’s family member to register with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs as a ‘Home Improvement Contractor’. The state defines home improvement as remodeling, altering, renovating, repairing, restoring, modernizing, moving, demolishing or otherwise improving or modifying any part of a residential property.

Registration is necessary prior to performing any work, whether or not a permit is required. This includes roofing, siding, flooring, painting, tiling, cabinet installation, drywall repairs and any other repairs, maintenance or improvements performed on a residence, as well as work performed outside of the residence on garages, sheds, decks, pools, pergolas, patios, and fences.

A registered Home Improvement Contractor is required to carry a minimum of $500,000 in liability insurance and pay a fee each year to maintain the registration. An unregistered person/contractor who performs work on a residence may be subject to fines and criminal prosecution. A homeowner who knowingly hires an unregistered person/contractor to perform work on their residence is also violating the code.

A list of registered home improvement contractors is available through the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs website at https://newjersey.mylicense.com/verification/. If you have any questions on what work requires a registered contractor, please contact the Plainsboro Township Code Enforcement Department at (609) 799-0909 Ext. 2545 or via email at buildingdivision@plainsboronj.com

Plainsboro Preserve Summer Happenings

The gardens are popping with color and the trails are busy with visitors. Thank you to Polestar, Step for a Better World Leo Club, Firmenich, Sankalpa and Preserve staff and volunteers for cleaning up the gardens and outdoor spaces at the Preserve. They planted various trees and shrubs and protected several of the existing trees from our resident beavers by installing fencing around them.

Evenings in the Parks will be back again this year with a new, fun lineup of activities over six weeks during the summer. The Preserve will also be open until dusk on Wednesdays for Sunsets and Lemonade throughout the summer season. Summer Adventures are back at the Plainsboro Preserve! Choose from weekly topics such as All About Animals, Survival 101, Archery and more. Each week will include hikes and environmental educational activities. Find frogs in the stream, see an eagle flying high, or learn how to identify trees and flowers. Take a trip to the Meadowlands and explore a river ecosystem with our Junior Rangers week. Visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/603/Parks-and-Recreation for more information and to register.

Thanks to Sushant Chadha of Boy Scout Troop #759 of Plainsboro, we now have a Chimney Swift Tower at the Preserve. This structure will mimic an actual chimney and serve as a roosting and nesting habitat for the birds. A recent study has shown that Chimney Swifts are on the list of birds most at risk of extinction without significant conservation actions. Traditional brick chimneys are now deteriorating, and modern chimneys tend to be unsuitable for nest sites. In addition, some homeowners cap their unused chimneys, eliminating nesting areas for these birds. After speaking with Sushant about Eagle Scout project ideas, we decided on a conservation project and settled on a Chimney Swift Tower. We hope to see our local chimney swifts at the Preserve soon! For more info on the Plainsboro Preserve, visit it https://www.plainsboronj.com/250/Plainsboro-Preserve.
Plainsboro Welcomes Brendan McIntyre as Police Director

In January, Brendan McIntyre joined the township as Police Director. Mr. McIntyre, a retired New Jersey State Police Captain with over 25 years of service, recently served as Police Director in Ship Bottom for two years.

“The Township Committee believes that the appointment of a Police Director will provide an opportunity to examine the organizational structure and operations of the police department, and to ensure that the best police practices continue to be provided for our residents”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

Director McIntyre has extensive administrative law enforcement experience, with a concentration in operational management, risk escalation management, intelligence-led policing, strategic planning, collective bargaining, internal affairs investigations, school safety and security compliance and much more.

“This is not the first time the township has hired an interim Police Director when we believe it to be in the best interest of the community. We are pleased that the Director was available to assist the township at this time”, said Neil Lewis, Township Committee member and Public Safety liaison.

Citizen’s Police Academy a Success

In March, the Plainsboro Township Police Department welcomed seventeen adult participants to its first ever Citizen’s Police Academy. This goal of this ten-week program is to introduce the police officer experience through interactive and realistic scenarios provided to Academy “cadets” by veteran officers of the police/public safety department.

Applicants to the Citizen’s Police Academy ranged in age from 25 to 65 years old and throughout the ten modules, experienced what police officers here and around the country encounter on a daily basis. Another objective of the program is to develop a deeper bond between members of the police department and members of the public that they serve.

The Academy provided instruction to participants for two hours per module in Patrol Response Scenarios, CPR and First Aid, Active Shooter and Critical Incident Response, Motor Vehicle Stops and Criminal Investigation techniques. At the end of this ten-week program, and upon successful completion, participants attended a graduation ceremony and were recognized for their efforts during their training.

In successive years, the police department hopes to expand the number of Citizen’s Police Academy participants, while continuing to interact successfully with those who live and work in our community.

“This is a fine example of Plainsboro community policing”, stated Committeeman and Police/Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis. “There is true value in working directly with members of the public and allowing them to experience firsthand what our public safety personnel see and do on a daily basis”.

Plainsboro Reporter
At Your Service...
Township Clerk’s Office: 799.0909 x 2547

2023 Election Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Polling Hours</th>
<th>Close of Registration (21 days prior)</th>
<th>Last Day to Apply for Mail-In Ballot</th>
<th>Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot in person to County Clerk (by 3:00pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>PRIMARY</em> 06/06/23</td>
<td>By District</td>
<td>6:00 am - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>05/16/23</td>
<td>05/30/23</td>
<td>06/06/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL</strong> 11/07/23</td>
<td>By District</td>
<td>6:00 am - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>10/17/23</td>
<td>10/31/23</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Early Voting at specific county sites**

Primary Election Voting Period – June 3, 2022 – June 5, 2022
General Election Voting Period – October 29, 2022 – November 6, 2022

Pet Licenses
New Jersey State law mandates that all dogs six months of age or older be licensed. 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, form VPH-28 must be completed by the veterinarian and submitted with the form. Submit a copy of the spay/neuter certificate, if applicable. The license fees are $13.20 for spayed/neutered animals and $16.20 for non-neutered animals. Late fees of $5.00 per month are assessed as of February 1st.

If you missed the Township 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.

Vital Records
Vital record hours are Monday – Friday 8am -2:30 pm. Marriage application submissions are done by appointment only. For information regarding requirements and fees please call the office, visit the township website or email townshipclerk@plainsboronj.com.

The Registrar is responsible for maintaining vital records of births, marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships and deaths that occurred in Plainsboro Township. The vital records that occurred in other municipalities or other states are not located in our office. 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.

Public Works Department 609-799-0099
Conservation & Recycling Center
The center is currently open Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm and Saturdays from 10:00am-5:00pm.

Brush Collection Guidelines:
- Brush must be placed curbside by 7:00am the first Monday of your scheduled month and no earlier than seven (7) days prior
- Brush left curbside during non-scheduled months renders you subject to fines and removal costs
- Trimmings from trees and shrubs are accepted (maximum 6 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter)
- NO leaves, stumps, roots, soil, grass, lumber or debris
- Brush is to be neatly placed parallel to the road with limb ends facing the same direction
- No brush should be placed in the street or on sidewalks and no closer than 10’ from any catch basin.
- Residents are allowed to bring their brush to the Conservation/Recycling Center

Brush Collection Schedule:
Section 1 – April, June, August, October - Section 2 – April, June, August, October - Beechtree Lane, Beechwood Drive, Brentwood Lane, Bunding Court, Cardinal Drive, Chandler Court, Cottonwood Court, Cypress Court, Dennison Place, Elm Court, Falcon Court, George Davison Road, Goldfinch Court, Grace Court, Groendyke Lane, Gulick Lane, Hale Drive, Hamilton Lane N., Hamilton Lane S., Hickory Court, Holohan Drive, Keppel Road, Kinglet Drive N., Kinglet Drive S., Krebs Road, Louis Court, Mackenzie Lane, Mahogany Court, Major Lane, Mapleton Road, Marion Drive, Meadowlark Drive, Mershon Lane, Mimosa Court, Mockingbird Court, Oriole Court, Osprey Lane, Parker Road, Parker Road S., Partridge Court, Perrine Road, Pine Court, Poplar Drive, Quick Lane, Red Oak Drive, Redwood Court, Rush Court, Saylor Court, Schalks Crossing Road, Seminary Drive, Serina Drive, Silvers Lane, Simonson Drive, Spruce Court, Tagner Lane, Titus Lane, Walnut Court, Willow Court, Woodland Drive, Wyndhurst Drive, Wyndhurst - North of Dey.

Section 2 – March, May, July, September – Adams Court, Alalfa Circle, Allen Court, Amberly Road, Barley Court, Barlow Court, Barn Swallow Court, Barnyard Court, Birch Drive, Blossom Hill Drive, Bradford Lane, Briardale Court, Brookside Court, Camas Drive, Clinton Court, Clydesdale Court, Colonial Court, Cooks Lane, Cranbury Neck Road, Daisy Court, Derry Meeting Road, Dey Road, Dickinson Court, Dogwood Drive, Drayton Lane, Dryer Court, Edgemere Avenue, Eiker Road, Elsie Drive, Farmhouse Drive, Franklin Drive, Gardenia Court, Grovers Mill Road, Hancock Court, Harvest Drive, Hawthorn Drive, Heather Court, Heritage Way, Herton Court, Hilltown Court, Hummingbird Court, Jeffers Road, King Haven Court, Knight Drive E., Knight Drive W., Larkspur Drive, Linden Lane, Linden Lane S., Lovell Drive, Madison Drive, Maple Avenue, Marshall Court, Mayfair Terrace, Meadow Drive, Mifflin Court, Millstone Court, Monroe Court, Narrowbrook Court, Nostrand Road, Okezon Street, Orchard Lane, Orchid Drive, Paddock Drive, Parkway Avenue, Pasture Lane, Petty Road, Plainsboro Road, Pollak Court, Pondview Road, Prospect Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Ruedemann Drive, Rutledge Court, Scotts Corner Road, Sherman Court, Silo Lane, Stanton Court, Stone Meadow Court, Sturts Drive, Sullivan Street, Sycamore Drive, Trumbull Road, Walker Gordon Drive, Webster Court, Wethersfield Road, Wheatsheaf Court, Windmill Court.

Curbside Recycling
Scheduled pickup dates for this quarter are: June 5, 19, July 3, 17, 31, August 14, 28

2023 Bulk Waste Days
Bulk items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, bicycles, etc., will be accepted at the Conservation Center from 8:00am to 5:00pm on June 10, August 12 and November 4.
Township Directory and Information

Plainsboro Township Municipal Offices
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: General 609-799-0909
       Court 609-799-0863
Website: 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

Plainsboro Public Library
Location: 9 Van Doren Street
Phone: 609-275-2897
CALL FOR HOURS
Website: 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, 6:00pm (virtual)
  Call 609-799-0909, x1502 for more information
 Fire Commissioners
  2nd Tuesday, 6:00pm 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 6:00pm (virtual)