Plainsboro to Receive $1.27M Multi-Use Pathway Grant

The township was recently awarded a $1.272 million Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). The grant will be used to design, permit, and construct two multi-use pathways, totaling approximately 1,800 linear feet in length, that will lead up to, and then off of, the proposed new Schalks Crossing Road bridge.

The current bridge, constructed in 1948, is very narrow with no shoulder, sidewalk, or pathway for pedestrians or bicyclists. The NJDOT plans to replace the bridge in 2025-2026 and those plans include the construction of a shared bicycle/pedestrian pathway over the new bridge structure. This grant funding will allow the construction of two pathways: one north of the project’s limits, connecting with Serina Drive as well as one south of the project limits, connecting with Wyndhurst Drive. Each pathway section will be hard surfaced with asphalt and will be eight feet wide.

“We are very appreciative of this NJDOT multi-use pathway grant for such an important project that will connect Plainsboro’s Village Center and the Princeton Collection neighborhood, and thank the representatives of the 14th Legislative District, Senator Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Daniel Benson and Wayne DeAngelo, for supporting our grant request”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

Township Receives Grant for Community Park

Senator Greenstein and Assemblymen Benson and DeAngelo, recently announced that a legislative grant in the amount of $750,000 has been earmarked for Community Park.

The grant will provide for the design and construction of a multi-purpose recreational area to be located adjacent to the new playground in Plainsboro’s Community Park. Plans include the addition of basketball hoops, hockey/soccer goals, pickle ball and more. The exact design has not yet been determined.

“We are very grateful to the 14th Legislative District and are fortunate to have the ability to make these changes without the need for additional municipal taxpayer dollars,” stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

Mayor Cantu, joined by other township and county dignitaries, members of the corporate community and residents, cuts the ribbon to re-open Mill Pond Park this past summer.
Did you know that January has been designated as Muslim Heritage Month in New Jersey? In April of this year, Governor Murphy signed a joint resolution naming January as Muslim Heritage month in New Jersey. According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, 3.5% of New Jerseyans are Muslim, representing the highest percentage of Muslim residents in any state throughout the nation. Governor Murphy signed the legislation at an Eid celebration at the governor's mansion, marking the end of Ramadan, one of Islam’s most important holidays.

Did you know that the township is continuing to update the Master Plan? As you may remember, the township updated the Land Use Element of its Master Plan in the fall of 2022. The Land Use Element is a policy guide for development and land management decisions. The document provides recommendations regarding zoning and design changes to help create the community’s vision for growth over the next decade. For more information visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/179/Master-Plan

We will be updating the Circulation Element and Community Facilities Element in the coming months, so keep an eye out for surveys and community meetings. The main goal of this work, done with the help of an outside planning consultant, will be to update our infrastructure inventory and mapping of roadways, sidewalks and bike paths and to see where we should prioritize funding of added infrastructure when funding becomes available. We anticipate including more green infrastructure including non-auto-dependent mobility as well as EV charging equipment.

Did you know that New Jersey law requires that you call 811 at least three days prior to digging in the ground (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to beginning work? Property owners and contractors are required to contact New Jersey Call One at 811 or 800-272-1000 at least three days prior to planned excavating or digging. Digging can be a dangerous activity and this law was enacted to protect underground utilities, avoid interruption of vital services and prevent property damage or possible injury.

Did you know that Middlesex County has placed an official ballot drop box at the municipal complex? Voters who prefer to ‘vote by mail’ now have another method of submitting their ballot. Middlesex County placed an official ballot drop box at the plaza of the municipal center. The box will remain in this location indefinitely and certainly through this year’s General Election. See page 7 for election information.

Haunted Tonight

Super Mario and friends will be at this year’s Haunted Tonight, the Township’s Halloween event scheduled for Saturday, October 28th from 5-8pm on the municipal grounds. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and participate in the costume parade that kicks off the evening’s activities. We will once again have community groups handing out candy at the Trick or Treat Village, along with Halloween games and crafts and a pumpkin patch where you can pick and take home your very own pumpkin. There will be hayrides, Halloween shows and refreshments and, once again, the Historic Wicoff Museum’s Youth Advisory Council will transform the Wicoff House Museum into a ‘Haunted House’ for the evening. For more information visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/603/Parks-and-Recreation

Recreation and Community Services staff photo from Haunted Tonight2022.
Free Rabies Clinic and Bulk Waste Day Scheduled  
For Saturday, November 4th

There is a free rabies clinic scheduled for Saturday, November 4th, at the public works garage located at 20 Woodland Drive. Dogs are scheduled for 9:00am to 10:00am and cats are scheduled for 10:00am to 11:00am. Owners must have large dogs securely leashed. Very small dogs and cats should be in a pet carrier. For more information email townshipclerk@plainsboronj.com

Bulk waste will be accepted on Saturday, November 4th, at the Plainsboro Recycling/Conservation Center, located off of Grovers Mill Road from 8:00am until 5:00pm. Items accepted include white goods, bicycles, electronics, furniture, lawn mowers, wood scrap and bulky items. Items regularly recycled curbside are not accepted (e.g. cardboard, plastic bottles/cans, & metal bottles/cans). Construction debris is not accepted, but residents may dispose of small quantities of masonry and paving items. Proof of residency is required. For more information email publicworksdept@plainsboronj.com

Cooking Safety Starts With YOU

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 - 14

Fire Prevention Week 2023’s campaign is “Cooking Safety Starts with YOU”. The purpose of the theme is to teach everyone simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safer when cooking. Simple safety tips include things such as turning pot handles towards the back of the stove to prevent accidental spills. It is also important to ‘watch what you heat’. If you are using the stove and cannot stay right with the items on the stove or in the oven, set a timer to remind you to check on what you are cooking. Another excellent tip is to establish a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around the stove or oven.

“Carelessness cooking is one of the biggest causes of home fires”, stated Deputy Mayor Ed Yates. “Proactive fire safety planning in the kitchen can save you, your family and your home.”

Fire Prevention Week originated in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 where roughly 300 people lost their lives, 100,000 were left homeless, 17,400 structures were destroyed, and over 2,000 acres were burned. President Calvin Coolidge was the first President in the nation to sign a proclamation recognizing the occasion.

For more information about this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, and to find more fire safety and fire prevention resources, visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org

Plainsboro Introduces Adopt-a-Drain Program

This fall, Plainsboro Township is joining other communities in New Jersey to implement an Adopt-a-Drain Program. The program allows residents to choose a storm drain, also commonly known as a catch basin, from Plainsboro’s inventory, keep it free from debris, and submit a log of their activities to the Public Works Department. It’s easy to join and available to all residents.

Keeping storm drains free of debris is essential to Plainsboro’s overall compliance with the state’s Stormwater Maintenance Plan. Debris prevents rain and melting snow (stormwater) from flowing through the grate and down the drain. These drains also play a pivotal role in safeguarding our water quality by preventing pollutants, such as litter and chemicals from entering our water system.

Participating in Plainsboro’s Adopt-a-Drain program is simple. Interested residents can visit the Public Works Department webpage at https://www.plainsboronj.com/1054/Adopt-a-Drain to view a map of “adoptable” storm drains and complete an application. Once a resident selects a drain, they commit to keeping it clean during the entire year. If a drain requires maintenance beyond a volunteer’s capacity, they would then report it to the Department of Public Works.

Upon approval of the application by municipal staff, residents will receive a notification of “adoption” and a Welcome Package from the Township. “This program allows residents to participate in an almost effortless activity that is not only environmentally beneficial to a single location, but to the entire community,” states Township Committeeman David Bander.
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 right). 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 pre-authorized 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 or email taxcollection@plainsboro.com.

Autumn - the Season of Transformation...
Get Out and Explore

Northeastern forests in the autumn season are full of change and hurried preparation for the cooler weather ahead. Triggered by the shortening days, deciduous trees begin to restrict water and nutrient flow to their leaves causing them to lose their green pigment, revealing the reds and yellows that have been hiding behind them all season long. With fewer leaves on the trees, large masses of sticks and leaves tucked between branches become more noticeable. These large masses have been created by squirrels and will be their shelter for the long winter ahead. Squirrels and other small mammals are not the only creatures preparing for a long period of rest.

A peek behind loose tree bark or under a fallen log can reveal a multitude of insects preparing for their version of hibernation, called diapause. Many species of snakes, frogs, turtles and salamanders are on the move to put on as much weight as possible before beginning their wintry slumber, called brumation. With so much activity to see and a refreshing crispness to the air, there is no better time than autumn to explore the forest.

Visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/245/Parks-Facilities for a listing of the parks and facilities located in Plainsboro.

Wicoff House Museum Junior Historians Club is Back!

On September 23rd, the Wicoff House will launch the second year of the Junior Historians Club (JHC) at the museum. This innovative program gives kids ages 6-8 a hands-on, backstage view of museums and historic preservation. Through immersive activities and experiential learning, JHC members acquire special skills and knowledge unique to this kind of program. Topics include architecture, genealogy, archaeology, exhibit curation and more.

The JHC program meets weekly at the Wicoff House Museum on Saturdays from 2-4pm and is offered during the fall, winter and spring sessions of the Recreation Department. Each JHC member receives a club t-shirt and binder, along with a new workbook each week. In addition to the workbooks, crafts and activities, each weekly session features a new book related to that week’s theme.

“This club provides a fun and interesting opportunity for young residents to learn about the history of Plainsboro,” stated Township Committeeman Nuran Nabi. “With a unique blend of hands-on and experimental learning, these children are gathering skills that will serve them throughout their life.”

During the first year of the JHC, the members conducted an archaeological dig, searched for artifacts on the museum grounds using a metal detector, designed their own buildings and identified architectural elements, researched family histories, built their own mini museums and curated a new exhibit inside the Recreation Center using objects in the museum collection. Museum staff is excited to share what we have in store for the second year of the program! You can register your child for the Junior Historians Club on the Recreation Department website, and also keep an eye out for updates on the museum website at www.wicoff-houseplainsboro.com

Junior Historian Club (JHC) members view a display at the Wicoff House Museum.
Join our Instagram and Facebook communities to keep up on the latest happenings with Plainsboro Recreation & Community Services, the Plainsboro Preserve and the Wicoff House Museum.

For Facebook, ‘Like’ or ‘Follow’ us at Plainsboro Recreation & Community Services, Plainsboro Preserve, and Wicoff House Museum.

You can also follow us on Instagram by searching @plainsbororecreation, @plainsboropreserve80, and @wicoffhouse.

We can’t wait to see you online!

Plainsboro Preserve Autumn Happenings

As the leaves turn color and we leave summer behind there is still much to look forward to at the Preserve. Join us for a weekend of Halloween fun at the Preserve starting on Friday, October 20th with the outdoor movie Halloweentown and continuing on Saturday with the Halloween Enchanted Trail. The trail will include not-so-scary stations along the way, where you will learn some fun and some scary facts about Halloween creatures. Then end the weekend with us, carving your own jack-o’-lantern, using our pumpkin carving supplies. Be sure to bring your own pumpkin.

We would like to give a shout out to several local scouts who were busy over the summer working on projects around the Preserve. Nick Yagnik, from Troop#52, installed a boardwalk connection between the bridge and existing boardwalk along the purple trail. Saideep Kasipathy, from Troop #90, constructed and installed an outdoor classroom along the yellow trail that will be used for a variety of different programs. Darren DeJong, from Troop #759, constructed a much-needed archery range for us that now allows us to teach archery classes here at the Preserve. Esha Desai built a “Free Little Library” at the Meditation Garden as her Silver Award project and to all of our Preserve volunteers, who helped to keep the gardens and trails looking great, in addition to helping with special projects throughout the summer, Plainsboro really appreciates your assistance.

We will continue to offer a wide array of programs and classes for children, teens and adults, as well as offering birthday parties, scout and school programs throughout the fall months. Please be sure to check out the website for more program and event information.

Nick Yagnik, of Boy Scout Troop#52, poses on the boardwalk he built on the Plainsboro Preserve Purple Trail

Esha Desai built a Free Little Library at the Meditation Garden for her Girl Scout Silver Award project.
Plainsboro Police Update Emergency Response Practices

In 2023, the Plainsboro Police Department began the process of updating and improving upon their critical incident and emergency response protocols. The goal is to ensure that the police department and its emergency response partners will continue to be readily available to respond quickly and uniformly to an incident.

The process began by examining previous local emergency response plans and protocols for their ongoing relevance. This included ensuring that responders and team members were properly trained and capable of accomplishing their roles and responsibilities. Training was then created that included classroom and physical response scenarios and was developed to evaluate the proficiency of the plans and directly involved all team members.

Additionally, the planning process included identifying emergency response events and their potential impacts on the community. By identifying the potential for specific incidents, personnel and resources were more readily incorporated into the plan. Identification of potential incidents also allowed for personnel and team members to be more sufficiently trained and prepared to effectively respond, and resources to be directed most efficiently.

Because of these, and many other efforts by the Plainsboro Township Police Department, township staff, law enforcement partners, emergency service responders, local stakeholders and state and federal resources, a unified emergency operations plan has been developed. “This plan provides a clear strategy for how those involved in responding to an incident will work together to deliver the most meaningful services to those who live, work and visit Plainsboro”, stated Committeeman Neil Lewis.

School and Bus Zone Safety

As the new school year approaches, it is increasingly important to be mindful of safety in and around school zones and school buses. The new school year brings with it an increase in pedestrian, school and vehicular traffic throughout town.

It is critical that motorists be aware of the reduction in speed limits when approaching school zones. In addition, motorists should be mindful of laws pertaining to stopped school buses displaying flashing red lights to indicate that children are entering and exiting the bus.

“Please be aware of school zone speed limits and school buses as they travel within our neighborhoods”, stated Committeeman and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis. “The Plainsboro Township Police Department is committed to the safety of all motorists, especially children that are in route to and from school.”
2023 Election Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election</th>
<th>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>*GENERAL</td>
<td>10/17/23</td>
<td>By District</td>
<td>9 am - 5 pm</td>
<td>10/17/23</td>
<td>10/17/23</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Early Voting at specific county sites**

**General Election Voting Period – October 28, 2023 – November 5, 2023**

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.

To assist pet owners, a Free Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for **November 4, 2023** at the Plainsboro Public Works garage. Dogs are scheduled for 9:00am to 10:00am and cats are scheduled for 10:00am to 11:00am. Owners must have large dogs securely leashed. Very small dogs and cats should be in a pet carrier.

Vital Records

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 office or visit the township website.

Public Works Department 609-799-0099

Conservation Center Hours

Through December 4th, the center will be open on Mondays and Thursdays 5:30pm - 7:30pm and on Saturdays 10:00am – 5:00pm. From December 5, 2023 – March 30, 2024 the center will be open only on Saturdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Brush/Leaf Collection

For the purpose of collecting curbside brush and leaves, the Township is divided into two sections. Please, visit our website for a list of individual streets at https://www.plainsboronj.com/231/Brush-Collection

Division by neighborhood:

**Section 1** - Beechtree, Princeton Collection, Princeton Manor, Princeton Crossing, Shallowbrook, George Davison Road, Mapleton Road, Seminary Road, Schalks Crossing Road, Windmere Grove, Woodland Drive.

**Section 2** - Plainsboro Village Area, Gentry, Ponds End, Grovers Mill Road & Grovers Mill Estates, Walker Gordon Estates, Brookside Court, Cooks Lane, Cranbury Neck Road, Dey Road, Eiker Road, Heritage Way, Mayfarth Terrace, Millstone Court, Nostrand Road, Okeson Street, Petry Road, Plainsboro Road, Pollak Court, Scotts Corner Road, Stults Drive, Sullivan Street.

Brush Collection Schedule/Guidelines

In Section 1, brush will be collected in April, June, August and October. In Section 2, brush will be collected in March, May, July and September. Brush must be curbside by 7:00am on the first Monday of the month designated for your section ONLY. Brush left curbside during non-scheduled months is subject to fines and removal costs. When using this service, please follow these guidelines:

- Stack brush lengthwise at curbside between sidewalk and curb. Do not place brush in the street or within 10’ of any catch basin.
- Brush cannot exceed 6 feet in length or 5 inches in diameter.
- No roots, stumps, soil, tree logs, grass or any other debris.

Leaf Collection Schedule/Guidelines – Dates are Only Estimates-Residents will receive at least two collections

In Section 1, leaves are scheduled for collection from October 16th through October 27th and again from November 13th through December 1st (weather permitting). In Section 2, leaves are scheduled for collection from October 30th through November 9th and again from December 4th through December 15th (weather permitting). Leaves must be curbside for collection no earlier than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled pickup date. When using this service, please follow these guidelines:

- Leaves should be raked to the curb, no closer than ten (10) feet from storm drain inlet and must be free of debris.
- Leaves that are mixed with grass, branches, soil, etc. will not be picked up.

Residents not wishing to wait for their scheduled collection date can bring their brush/leaves to the conservation center during normal operating hours.

Curbside Recycling Schedule –

September 11th, 25th; October 9th, 23rd; November 6th, 20th.

Final 2023 Bulk Waste Day –

November 4th from 8:00am-5:00pm at the conservation center.
### Township Directory and Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office/Department</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plainsboro Township Municipal Offices</td>
<td>641 Plainsboro Road</td>
<td>609-799-0909</td>
<td><a href="mailto:recdept@plainsboronj.com">recdept@plainsboronj.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services</td>
<td>641 Plainsboro Road</td>
<td>609-799-0909, press 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainsboro Public Works Department</td>
<td>Scotts Corner Road at 20 Woodland Drive</td>
<td>609-799-0099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainsboro Police Department</td>
<td>641 Plainsboro Road</td>
<td>Non-Emergency 609-799-2333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainsboro Public Library</td>
<td>9 Van Doren Street</td>
<td>609-275-2897</td>
<td><a href="mailto:recdept@plainsboronj.com">recdept@plainsboronj.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
- **Call before you dig**: 811

**Township Meetings**

- **Development Review Committee**: 3rd Tuesday, 6:00pm (virtual)
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**: 4th Monday, 6:00pm (virtual)
- **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
- **Zoning Board**: 1st Wednesday, at 6:00pm (virtual)