Bulk Farm Nature Center Opens to the Public

State, County and Local officials joined residents, township staff, project consultants and contractors in September to officially open the 80+ acre site located at 179 Cranbury Neck Road.

With financial support from Middlesex County, Plainsboro Township purchased the farm in 2008 from the Bulk family to preserve the property as passive open space and protect it from future development.

As the planning and design process began it was discovered that a small portion of the property required environmental remediation. The township hired the engineering firm Najarian Associates to provide not only site engineering services but also to assist with the environmental cleanup. A grant provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was used to remediate the area. A landscape architecture firm, SED Design, was selected to provide a design for the overall site, including trail layout, parking and signage. Finally, Clarke Moynihan Landscaping and Construction, LLC was hired to construct the project.

“We are very proud that the Bulk Farm Nature Center has opened to the public”, stated Mayor Peter Cantu. “I believe our residents will enjoy its beautiful, serene setting.”
Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Concerns

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can ignite or explode.

“These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space and if not used the correct way or for the purpose for which they are designed, they can become dangerous,” stated Deputy Mayor Ed Yates. “Like any product, a small number of these batteries may also be defective. They can overheat, ignite, or explode.”

It is recommended to stop using the battery if you notice an odor, a change in color, too much heat, a change in shape, leaking or any odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire.

The National Fire Protection Association offers the following safety tips related to lithium-ion batteries:
• Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory
• Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions
• Use only the battery that is designed for the device
• Put batteries in the device the correct way
• Use only the charging cord that came with the device
• Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch
• Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged
• Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C)
• Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire

Do not dispose of a lithium-ion battery in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Plainsboro Township Department of Public Works, located at 20 Woodland Drive, is a Call2Recycle collection site. In addition to accepting lithium-ion batteries, Plainsboro Public Works will also accept nickel cadmium, small sealed lead acid, nickel metal hydride and nickel zinc batteries as well as cell phones. For more information visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/752/Battery-Recycling

Plainsboro’s Conservation/Recycling Center

The Plainsboro Conservation/Recycling Center provides township residents the opportunity to recycle a host of different items. The center accepts brush, grass clippings, leaves, tires (with no rims), engine oil filters, engine oil, automotive batteries and small amounts of concrete and asphalt. The center does not accept trash, any items collected through the residential curbside recycling program, items considered household hazardous waste or anything from commercial institutions.

“Our conservation/recycling center is a wonderful resource for our residents. We encourage everybody to utilize its resources to the fullest extent possible,” stated Township Committeeman David Bander.

The center is located off of Grovers Mill Road, between Derry Meeting Drive and Orchard Lane. Surrounded by an eight (8) foot fence with locked gates, access to the center is only permissible when staffed by municipal employees. The center is currently open Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm and Saturdays, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. From December 5, 2023 – March 31, 2024 it’s only open Saturdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
Bulk Waste Events at the Conservation/Recycling Center

Each year, the township hosts four Bulk Waste Days at the Conservation/Recycling Center. These events provide residents the opportunity to dispose of items not typically collected by their private contractor and recycle items not collected through Plainsboro’s curbside recycling program.

Items accepted include white goods; bicycles; lawn mowers; furniture; wood scrap; and other bulky items. Regularly recycled items are NOT accepted (e.g. cardboard, plastic bottles/cans, & metal bottles/cans). Construction and demolition debris are not accepted, but residents are allowed to dispose of small quantities of masonry and paving materials.

E-waste is also accepted. This includes desktop computers, laptops, tablets, smart phones, monitors, keyboards, scanners, modems, printers, cables, televisions, VCR and DVD players.

“Historically our Bulk Waste Days are well attended and helpful for our environment. It is best to arrive as early as possible to avoid the long lines,” stated Township Committeeman David Bander.

In 2024, the dates are April 6th, June 8th, August 10th and November 2nd. The hours of operation are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Additional information is available by contacting the Department of Public Works at 609-799-0099 or by visiting https://www.plainsboronj.com/226/Bulk-Waste-Drop-Off.

We do not accept anything from businesses nor do we allow commercial vehicles onto the property. Exceptions are made for residents that require the use of a commercial vehicle to bring items to the center. However, they must notify the Department of Public Works at least 48 hours in advance of the event.

Winter Birding Opportunities and More

Winter is a great time to observe our resident birds! Two birdwatching opportunities are coming to the Preserve. Join us on Tuesdays for our second year of Coffee and Birding any time between 10:00am and 11:30am. “Enjoy the company of others, have some coffee and learn about the winter birds that come to the Preserve bird feeders”, said Township Committeeman Nuran Nabi.

You can participate in Project FeederWatch, where volunteers observe and record the types and numbers of birds that visit the feeders throughout the winter and early spring. If you’d like to volunteer, contact us at 609-799-4013.

Birthday parties have been very popular this summer and fall at the Plainsboro Preserve. We will continue to offer a variety of programs throughout the winter including classes for both children and adults. Please be sure to check out the Preserve’s website at https://www.plainsboronj.com/250/Plainsboro-Preserve for more program and event information.

With the opening of the Bulk Farm Nature Center located at 179 Cranbury Neck Road, we are expanding our programing, public parks and trails. Keep an eye on our winter program offerings for the opportunity to see one of our resident birds, the American Woodcock. Witness the male’s spiral flight display and distinctive, buzzy ‘peent’ call in effort to gain the attention of nearby female birds at the Bulk Farm.

We look forward to seeing you this winter on the trails!

Mayor Peter Cantu cuts the ribbon to open the playground at Plainsboro Community Park.

State, county and local officials joined residents, township staff and project contractors in October to officially open the new, fully accessible playground for children ages 2 to 12. The playground also includes a shaded sitting area for parents.
85th Anniversary of “Martian Landing”

On the evening of October 30th, 1938, while many American families were at home listening to the radio, a special broadcast took over the CBS coast-to-coast radio network. An impassioned young man named Orson Welles interrupted a regularly scheduled program to deliver a live fictional “newscast” about a group of Martians who had crash landed on a farm in rural New Jersey. Approximately six million Americans from across the country were listening to this broadcast when they heard that these aliens were in a section of West Windsor Township known as Grovers Mill. Residents of Plainsboro and the surrounding area were especially shocked to hear that Martians had practically landed in their backyard.

Modern analysts of this event estimate that nearly half of the Americans who heard the broadcast believed it was a real news report, rather than a play performed by an actor, despite Orson Welles repeatedly declaring that it was in fact fictional. The play was based on the novel The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells. But for those who believed they were hearing of a true Martian invasion, much of the reaction was mass hysteria.

People from Plainsboro, West Windsor and the surrounding area descended onto the Wilson Farm in West Windsor, which sounded the most similar to Welles’ reporting of the incident at a “Wilmuth Farm.” Many men took guns with them to confront the aliens when they found them, with some actually shooting at a water tower which was mistaken for a spaceship in the night sky. Some people packed up their cars and started heading west away from the area, and did not realize until days later that it was safe to return home.

With this being the 85th anniversary of our own “Martian landing,” the Wicoff House Museum encourages you to celebrate this interesting piece of our community’s history by learning more about it. You can visit the monument commemorating the event at West Windsor’s Van Nest Park, watch the comedy movie Brave New Jersey which depicts the night the aliens “invaded,” or read the children’s book Aliens Are Coming!: The True Account Of The 1938 War Of The Worlds Radio Broadcast with your kids.

Textile Recycling - Recycle Your Unwanted Clothing

Do you have any unwanted clothing? Are there shoes sitting in your closet collecting dust? Is there a lonely stuffed animal in your house, just wishing to be hugged? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Plainsboro Township has the solution. Recycle them, at Plainsboro Rescue Squad’s textile bin.

The bin is located in the parking lot of the Plainsboro Rescue Squad, 621 Plainsboro Road, opposite the Municipal Center. Items accepted include clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys. Items must be clean, in good condition and placed in plastic bags. Please do not leave items that are dirty, ripped or not designated as recyclable in or around the bin. These items create an economic hardship and are burdensome to properly dispose of.

Proceeds earned from recycling these items goes to the Plainsboro Rescue Squad and will be used to keep emergency medical services operating in Plainsboro. More information is available by contacting the Department of Public Works at 609-700-0099 or by visiting https://www.plainsboronj.com/228/Recycling-Conservation-Center

Join Us for Muslim Culture Day

The Plainsboro Department of Recreation and Community Services is hosting festivities to celebrate Muslim Culture Day on Saturday, January 20th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Recreation and Cultural Center.

Gifts will be given at the door for the first 25 guests. Festivities include a raffle, food, games, fashion shows, and much more! The event is open to all members of the community.

For more information, please contact Erum Ladak at eladak@plainsboronj.com or 609-799-0909, extension 1711.
Plainsboro Recognized by New Jersey Planning Officials

New Jersey Planning Officials held their annual Achievement in Planning awards breakfast on September 29th and recognized Plainsboro for the adoption of a Climate Change-Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (CCRHVA). Plainsboro’s CCRHVA, one of the first in the state, identified potential climate-related natural or human-influenced hazards that could impact the town. Examples of climate-related hazards include items such as flooding due to increased rainfall, the presence of more frequent severe weather events, drought, extreme heat or even air pollution.

“Information such as this is a valuable starting point to better understand where a community’s risks and vulnerabilities lie”, stated Deputy Mayor Ed Yates, who also serves as liaison to the Planning and Zoning Department. “This will enable the town to undertake new approaches to mitigate risks to properties and infrastructure and protect our community and our residents.”

The CCRHVA was done in connection with the Township’s Land Use Element of the Master Plan that was adopted in 2022. Pennoni, a multidisciplined engineering firm, was hired by the Plainsboro Township Planning Board to prepare the Master Plan and was integral in receiving the award.

2024 Summer Camp Jobs Available

Summer employment applications and job descriptions for the 2024 season will be available on the Township website (www.plainsboronj.com) or for pick-up at the Recreation and Cultural Center starting December 15, 2023. A variety of positions are available including: summer camp assistant, directors, 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 will operate from June 24th through August 16th, 2024. Applicants should be available for the full duration of the camp. For additional information, contact the Program Coordinator, Tori Maciorski at tmaciorski@plainsboronj.com or 609-799-0909 x1712.

Request Assistance Through the Township Website

Citizen Request Tracker is a software management system that allows users to obtain information and request assistance from the township. This web-based software tool allows township officials to increase efficiency and shorten response time. Each entry is automatically assigned a tracking number and instantly routed via e-mail to the department responsible for handling the service request. Residents expect a certain level of services and this method is an easy, electronic way to let the township know of your service needs. Over 30 service categories are available to select.

To submit a request, look for the logo on the home page of the website or go to the Citizen Request Tracker page at www.plainsboronj.com/RequestTracker.aspx
Blanchard Appointed Chief of Police
and Director of Public Safety

At their meeting in July, the Plainsboro Township Committee selected Lieutenant Eamon Blanchard as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety.

Blanchard’s professional career with the Plainsboro Police Department began in 2000, as a Rutgers University college intern. Blanchard went on to earn his degree and joined the ranks of the department in the same year after graduation. He served as patrol officer, corporal and sergeant in the Patrol Division. Blanchard also served as detective in the Detective Bureau and as an investigator with the Middlesex County Narcotics Task Force. As sergeant, he was responsible for overseeing both the Traffic and Detective Bureau; and as lieutenant, he was responsible for supervising all police operations.

In a statement released shortly after his appointment, Blanchard expressed, “As Chief of Police, I can assure that the police department takes pride in our community’s ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. It is pluralistic heritage that we celebrate and that provides the strength and vitality that has made Plainsboro a vibrant and welcoming community”. Blanchard also remarked that his vision for the department is to “foster a culture of continuous improvement, where we’ll embrace challenges, learn from each other and celebrate our collective and individual successes.”

“Chief Blanchard has provided exemplary service to the Plainsboro Police Department over the past 23 years”, stated Committeeman Neil Lewis, who serves as Township Committee liaison to the police department. “His broad experience, team-oriented style, forward thinking and commitment to the community will continue to benefit Plainsboro.”

Driving Safely in Winter Weather

Winter weather creates unique challenges for motorists. Knowing how to handle these challenging conditions can assure that you arrive at your destination safely. If you must drive, try not to go out on the roads until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work. Allow extra time to reach your destination. Be sure your car is prepared with all season or snow tires, working windshield wipers with windshield cleaning fluid, and enough gas to complete your trip.

Public Safety liaison and Township Committee member Neil Lewis notes, “The key to safe winter driving is to leave a few minutes early for your destination, to follow safe winter driving practices and learn what to do when things don’t go as planned.”

When driving on an icy road, slow down and leave plenty of room to stop. When braking, do so gently to avoid skidding. If your rear wheels skid, take your foot off of the accelerator and steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they’re sliding right, steer right.

Turn your lights on to increase your visibility to other motorists. Never use cruise control on icy roads and be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads which will be the first to freeze. Do not pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you’re likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

If you get stuck, do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper. Instead, try turning your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way. Then, using a light touch on the gas, try to ease your car out. You can also use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car, or pour sand, kitty litter, or gravel in the path of the wheels to help get traction. For more driving and vehicle safety tips visit https://www.nhtsa.gov/
At Your Service...

**Township Clerk’s Office:**
799-0909, extension 2547

**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.**

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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.

**Elections**
Visit the Middlesex County Board of Elections at https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/depart-ment-of-community-services/board-of-elections for information and resources on elections, voting, forms, poll worker opportunities and frequently asked questions.

**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**
**Recycling & Conservation Center**
**Hours of Operation**
Through December 4th, the center will be open Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm. From December 5, 2023 through March 31, 2024, the center will be open only on Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

**Curbside Recycling**
Scheduled pickup dates are December 4 and 18, January 6, January 15 and 29, February 12 and 26.

**Christmas Tree Pickup**
Christmas trees will be collected curbside throughout the township each Monday in January. Apartment and condo residents must contact their management office for disposal 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.

**Next Bulk Waste Day** – April 2, 2024 from 8:00am-5:00pm at the Conservation Center

**Middlesex County Programs**
Paint and household hazardous waste disposal services, and paper shredding events are provided by the county. For more information, please visit https://www.plainsboronj.com/225/Public-Works or contact Middlesex County Solid Waste at 732-745-4170.
### 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.plainsboropd.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  
Call before you dig 811

**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

- **Zoning Board**  
  1st Wednesday, at 6:00pm (virtual)