



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Summer 2024

Opening Soon - Serenity Walk at Plainsboro

Serenity Walk at Plainsboro, a new 55+ active lifestyle community built by K. Hovnanian Homes, is on track to open for sales this summer.

With the first phase of homes already beginning construction, homeowners can look forward to move-in dates later this year.

The community will feature three single-family home designs planned for the area's 55+ buyers. 52 homes are offered in one and two-story designs with up to 2,731 square feet of living space. Features include first-floor primary suites, private home offices, covered patios for year-round outdoor living, and open-concept living spaces for entertaining.

"This project will help bridge the housing gap for empty-nesters who want to remain in Plainsboro but no longer need the larger home where they raised their family", said Township Committee member Ed Yates, who is

the liaison to the Planning Board. "The project was approved by the Planning Board in July of 2022".

Buyers will also benefit from a simplified process of selecting designer interior finishes with K. Hovnanian's Looks. Four curated designs will be available to fit with each buyer's personal style; Classic, Farmhouse, Loft or Elements.

The community will offer residents the opportunity to relax and connect with each other with on-site amenities including an outdoor pool, walking trail, dog park, and tennis and pickleball courts. This low-maintenance community will also provide exterior home maintenance, lawn care, and snow removal.

Visit khov.com/serenitywalk or call 888-259-4940 for more information.



Photo provided courtesy of K. Hovnanian.

One of the proposed designs to be offered at Serenity Walk

Do I Need a Tree Removal Permit or Right of Way Permit?

Outdoor projects become a priority during the warm weather months. Projects involving the removal of trees or planned work that is located next to a street or sidewalk often require a township permit.

Information and application forms for a Tree Removal Permit and a Right of Way Permit can be found on the

township's website at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/178/Forms-Applications>.

Each permit requires the use of your property survey, so please have one handy when completing the form. Please call the Department of Planning and Zoning with any questions at (609) 799-0909 ext. 1502, or reach out via email at planningandzoning@plainsboronj.com

Online and Electronic Tax Payments

More and more people are making tax payments online by visiting www.plainsboronj.com and clicking on the Online Payments icon. Choose 'Taxes' and follow the prompts. You can access your tax bill using your name, your address or your block and lot.

Payments can be made three different ways. For credit card payments, a service charge of 2.95% of the balance paid is charged by the credit card company. To pay by e-check, a vendor service charge of \$1.95 per transaction

applies. Finally, you may register with the Tax Collector's office to have your preauthorized bank account debited each quarter for the amount due on your property. This service is provided free of charge and 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 or email taxcollection@plainsboronj.com

Plainsboro Seeks Volunteer Firefighters

Fire protection in Plainsboro is provided by a combination fire department that features career firefighters as well as volunteers.

The Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company is looking to expand the number of volunteer members to help it protect and serve the community more effectively.

The volunteer firefighters work side-by-side with their career counterparts – who staff the firehouse 24/7 – and ensure that sufficient personnel and equipment reach the scene of fires, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies.

"We know that many people who move to Plainsboro have an interest in becoming volunteer firefighters," said Plainsboro Fire Company President Sara Caetano. "We can offer them an opportunity to achieve that dream and to enjoy the satisfaction of serving the community and helping their

neighbors. In addition, the fire company has a strong camaraderie among members who are unified in serving Plainsboro."

In addition to firefighters, the company has an active and trained fire police unit to direct traffic and ensure scene safety at emergency scenes. The Plainsboro Fire District provides personal protective gear, training and uniforms for all members.

More information about the fire company and firefighting in Plainsboro can be obtained by visiting the fire company's website, www.plainsborofire.com.

Anyone interested in joining the fire company should complete an initial contact

form on the fire company website or call the firehouse at 609-799-0492.

Hats off to our firefighters!



Pictured above are Plainsboro Fire Company volunteers (left to right) Perry Straley - Fire Police and Firefighters Sara Caetano, Ashish Thakur, Charu Jegan, and Ted Wagner

2024 Municipal and Capital Budgets Approved

At the May 8th open public meeting, the Township Committee approved the 2024 municipal and capital budgets. The municipal budget totals \$40,254,459. Based on the average home value of \$456,720 - the municipal tax impact will be approximately 1 cent, which is \$50 annually or \$4.17 per month on average.

The proposed municipal budget retains \$2.9 million in surplus and anticipates that state aid will increase to \$1,835,913 from \$1,741,909.

“We are pleased to provide a budget that maintains a high level of service and funds capital improvements, while continuing to keep property taxes in line,” stated Mayor Peter Cantu. “The township’s conservative budget approach is necessary and beneficial in an environment where inflation continues to be high.”

The capital budget provides funding for various road projects; the construction of a multi-use recreation area at Community Park; additional updates of the Master Plan and tax maps; Phase I of the Town Center beautification project; tree replacement for the traffic islands on Plainsboro Road, road improvements as well as the purchase of updated vehicles and equipment.

Although the approach to the 2024 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 achieve municipal needs and goals; 4. provide capital funding to address road, park and other public improvements and 5. Replace obsolete equipment and vehicles.

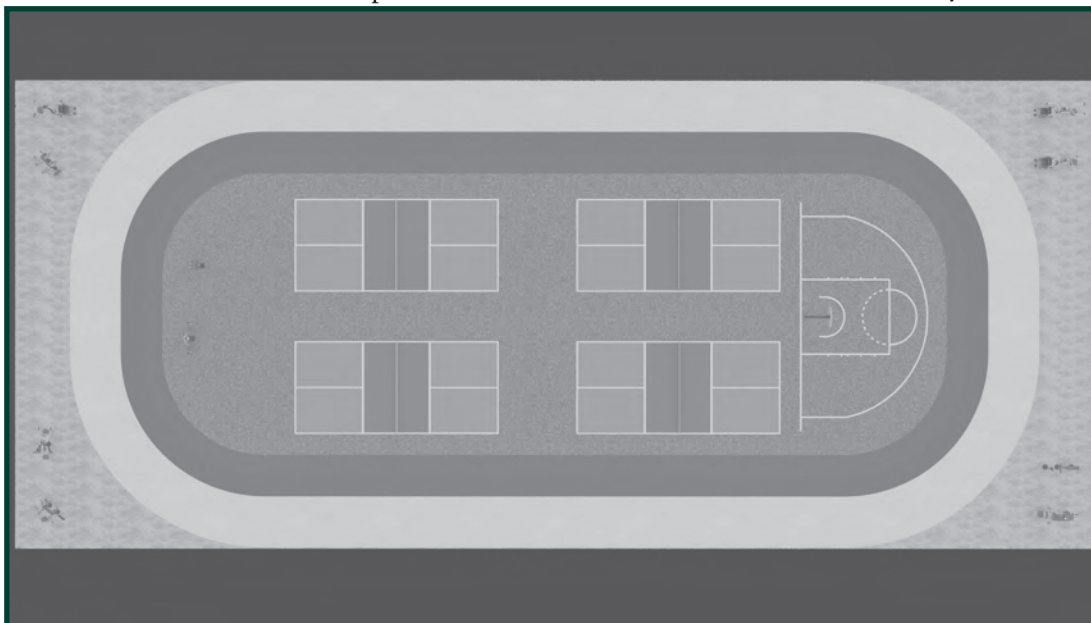
Township to Design and Build New Recreation Area in Community Park

After receiving a \$750,000 state grant, the township has been working with a consultant to design a new multi-use recreational area in Community Park, adjacent to the new children’s playground. “We are very thankful to Senator Linda Greenstein for her assistance and support in obtaining this grant”, said Mayor Peter Cantu.

After soliciting input from residents, consultants and a township working group, the project will be designed to include four dedicated pickleball courts, a half

basketball court, running and walking tracks, and an in-line skating area. The proposed project, which measures approximately 200’ x 100’, will occupy the same footprint as the former skating rink and will also include accessible exercise equipment to be placed throughout the area.

“We are excited about this new recreational opportunity for our residents”, stated Township Committeeman David Bander. The township is hopeful that the design specifications will be out to bid later this spring and that construction may start sometime in 2024.



Proposed multi-use recreation area planned for the site of the former skating rink at Community Park. Graphic provided courtesy of Greenfields Outdoor Fitness.

Understanding the Housing Inspection Process

If you are planning to sell or rent your residence in Plainsboro, you will need to coordinate with the Housing Division in Plainsboro's Code Enforcement Department.

The Housing Division is responsible for the inspections of all properties that are sold or rented in Plainsboro, including apartments. This program was established by the Township Committee to ensure that all residential properties in Plainsboro are safe and properly maintained throughout the life of the residence. "The current condition of these properties is a testament to the effectiveness of our inspection process, as well as the many benefits Plainsboro Township offers to its residents", stated Deputy Mayor Ed Yates.

As a convenience, the township website allows an applicant to apply and pay for the necessary inspection

online. Once the application is processed, an inspection will be scheduled to ensure that minimum ordinance standards are met. During the processing of an application, a comprehensive review of the property's file will be performed to ensure that there are no open permits. If open permits are found, inspections can then be scheduled and performed through the Building Division. Any violations during the housing inspection will be noted and a copy will be emailed to the owner or realtor/other representative. When all noted violations are corrected, a re-inspection will be conducted to ensure that any necessary repairs were made satisfactorily, and a Housing Certificate of Occupancy will be issued.

An overview of this process, along with other useful information is available on the Township's website, at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/156/Housing-Division>

Summer at Plainsboro Preserve

We are thrilled to announce that the Plainsboro Preserve will once again be open until dusk on Wednesdays throughout the summer season, offering a serene setting for you to unwind and enjoy breathtaking sunsets with a refreshing glass of lemonade in hand.

Additionally, we are excited to bring back Evenings in the Parks this year featuring an engaging lineup of Thursday evening activities spread over six weeks during the summer. With a wide array of family-friendly events, there will be something for everyone to enjoy under the evening sky.

Summer Adventures also return to the Plainsboro Preserve, featuring All About Animals, Survival 101, Archery and many 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 Sandy Hook – Gateway National Recreation Area where we explore the bay ecosystem with our Junior Rangers week.

Visit our website at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/603/Parks-and-Recreation> for more information and to register.

First Ever Bike Drive a Huge Success!

In April, Plainsboro held its first ever bike drive in support of the Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County's Bike Exchange program (BEX). BEX, led by volunteers, repairs donated bicycles and sells them for a modest price at their shop in Ewing, New

Jersey – which is open to the public. All proceeds from the sale of bikes benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mercer County. Plainsboro residents donated 72 bicycles, 5 scooters, 1 skateboard and a tricycle. Thank you to all who donated!

BEX Volunteer Seth Esterkin (left) is pictured with Department of Public Works Administrative Assistant Eva Meyer (right) and the many bicycles donated at Plainsboro's bulk waste event held in April. The bicycles will be repaired, if needed, and resold to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County.



Park Rangers Work to Nurture Nature

During nesting season tragedy struck for a family of bald eagles when their nest collapsed and two unfledged nestlings were discovered on the ground near the fallen nest. Acting quickly to ensure their survival, our park rangers transported two young eaglets to the Mercer County Wildlife Center for care and rehabilitation.

Determined to give the eaglets a second chance, efforts to rebuild the nest commenced, and the eaglets were placed back in their rightful perch. "This story took a heartwarming turn when both eaglets were returned to their parents care in their newly rebuilt nest", stated Township Committeeman Nuran Nabi. "In the

following weeks, the hard work paid off as both of the eaglets bravely took flight."

Interested in reading more bald eagle recovery stories, learning about nest surveys, or reading about fledging dates? Check out N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bald Eagle Project - 2023. This report can be found on the DEP's website - <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/raptors-in-new-jersey/#eagle>.

If you ever come across an injured raptor, please contact the Plainsboro Police Department, the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection Action Line at 877-927-6337, or the Plainsboro Park Rangers.

Forever 55 Summer Barbeque

We are looking forward to our annual Forever 55 Summer Barbeque which will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 5-7 pm. Come enjoy dinner with friends and dance

the night away with DJ Dave. Registration is required, please register online, or come to the Recreation and Cultural Center to register in person.

Civil War Sword Found in Plainsboro Attic

Recently, Plainsboro residents were surprised to find an object hidden in the attic of their historic home—a sword! They brought it to the Wicoff House Museum for an evaluation, where we determined it is almost certainly an authentic Civil War era sword. Unfortunately, we do not know exactly whose sword it was, but we can speculate based on the history of the house.

The house had connections to both the Wicoff and Britton families, as well as other pioneer families of Plainsboro. During the Civil War, New Jersey soldiers played a vital role in the conflict, with about 90,000 men from the state serving in the war. Middlesex County residents

volunteered in large numbers. They fought in major battles such as Gettysburg, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Although we do not know exactly how many people from Plainsboro served in the Civil War, we do know some did.

Colonel Dean Britton, Catherine Wicoff's father, was involved with the war effort as early as 1861 and helped recruit soldiers for the state militia. Dean Britton's granddaughter lived in the house where the sword was found. Perhaps she hid it in the attic for safekeeping and forgot about it, where it sat undisturbed for over a hundred years!



Civil War-era sword that was found in a historic home in Plainsboro

Plainsboro Police to Host Free Bike Rodeo

On Saturday, June 8th from 10am to 2pm, the Plainsboro Police Department will be hosting a free bike rodeo for the Plainsboro community on the grounds of the municipal building at 641 Plainsboro Road. This is a fun and informative event for residents, with a focus on bike safety and education. Bring your bike and helmet! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy live music, bike safety checks, bike safety

education, helmet fitting, inflatables, children's activities, local community groups and food available for purchase. Partnering with the police on this event are Greater Mercer TMA, The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey and the Plainsboro Department of Recreation and Community Services.

Registration is required. Visit <https://www.plainsboronj.com/603/Parks-and-Recreation> to register and complete a waiver.

'Move Over' to Prevent Roadside Accidents

For drivers in New Jersey, changing lanes to move away from emergency vehicles and roadside workers is more than just courteous – it's the law. Drivers who fail to do so can face fines, and those who cause accidents and injuries by failing to move over can expect even greater consequences.

New Jersey's Move Over Law was enacted to ensure that emergency vehicles could safely respond to emergencies and to protect roadside workers who are too often accident victims. Although the law has been on the books for several years, many drivers still fail to abide by it. The law requires drivers to reduce speed and change lanes when approaching emergency vehicles that display flashing red, blue and/or amber lights, or to slow

down below the posted speed limit when changing lanes is not safe. Drivers must move over for police vehicles, ambulances, fire trucks, tow trucks, maintenance vehicles and motorist aid vehicles displaying flashing lights.

These vehicles may make sudden, unexpected movements, or they can be parked very close to the adjacent lane. In addition, drivers need to understand that workers on the side of the road are focused on the task at hand. "Regardless of whether roadside workers are providing aid or performing repairs, they may not be able to watch traffic" stated Committeeman Neil Lewis. "Drivers need to provide sufficient space for emergency vehicles and workers to carry out their duties on the side of the road."

Plainsboro Police Department Holds Awards Recognition Ceremony

In March, Mayor Peter Cantu (near center with hands folded) joined Chief Eamon Blanchard (far left) at a ceremony honoring Plainsboro police officers and employees of the Plainsboro Police Department. The ceremony recognized the

employees for their professionalism, determination, and valiant efforts in connection with a variety of police and emergency management-related actions relative to their duties.



Commodations, citations, and awards were given to individuals and to police units for going above and beyond to protect, serve and make a difference in the community.

Thank you, Plainsboro Police Department!

At Your Service...

Township Clerk's Office:

799.0909 x 2547

2024 Election Schedule

Election	Date	Location	Polling Hours	Close of Registration (21 days prior)	Last Day to Apply for Mail-In Ballot	Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot in person to County Clerk (by 3:00pm)
*PRIMARY	06/04/24	By District	6am– 8pm	05/14/24	05/28/24	06/03/24
**GENERAL	11/05/24	By District	6am– 8pm	10/15/24	10/29/24	11/04/24

* Early Primary Election Voting Period – May 29, 2024 – June 2, 2024

**Early General Election Voting Period – October 26, 2024 – November 3, 2024

Please check municipal or county websites for special early voting locations.

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 surrounding municipalities.

Vital Records

General Information

Vital record hours are Monday – Friday 8am -3:30 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 conservation and recycling center, located off of Grovers Mill Road (between Orchard Lane and Derry Meeting Drive), is currently open on Saturdays from 10:00am - 5:00pm. As of April 1st, the center is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30pm – 7:30pm as well.

Brush Collection

Plainsboro's Public Works Department provides curbside brush collection for trimmings from trees and shrubs from March through October starting on the first Monday of the month depending on your street location. Visit <https://www.plainsboronj.com/231/Brush-Collection> to see a collection schedule based on your street.

Guidelines for Brush Collection

- Stack brush lengthwise between the sidewalk and the

curb. Please do not place brush in the street.

- Branches should be no longer than 6 feet and no larger than 5 inches in diameter.
- Brush should be ready for pickup on the first Monday of the month, based on your location, but not sooner than 7 days prior to the scheduled start of pick up.
- Brush will not be picked up if it includes grass clippings, leaves, roots, stumps, tree logs or any other debris.

Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates for this quarter are:

June 3rd, 17th
July 1st, 15th, 29th
August 12th, 26th

2024 Bulk Waste Days

Bulky items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, sports equipment, etc., will be accepted at the Conservation Center from 8:00am to 5:00pm on June 8th, August 10th and November 2nd.



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PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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Edmund C. Yates, Deputy Mayor
David Bander
Neil J. Lewis
Nuran Nabi

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Anthony Cancro

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Teresa Carson

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
PLAINSBORO, NJ 08536**

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

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

Environmental Advisory Committee
4th Monday, 6:00pm
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, 7:00pm

Zoning Board
1st Wednesday, at 6:00pm