



Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Township Receives Grants for Morris Davison Park Improvements

Morris Davison Park, on Plainsboro Road, has increasingly become one of the most popular, centrally located parks in town. Constructed more than 35 years ago, upgrades and important ADA accessibility improvements are needed.

A generous grant for \$1,261,000 was awarded to the township from Middlesex County through the Open Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, as well as \$340,000 in grants from the State of New Jersey. These grants provide funding for engineering design services, to be provided by Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc., as well as overall project construction. Planned upgrades include enhancements to the entrance of the park and parking lot improvements that will include missing ADA accessibility elements, as well as the installation of guiderails, striping and improved signage. A new and improved kiosk will also replace the current, outdated one. Upgrades are also proposed for the basketball court, volleyball court and playground

areas. Broken or deteriorated playground equipment will be replaced and adjusted to enhance accessibility. Poured-in-place rubber surfacing will replace the existing mulch. Other enhancements will include reconstructing and improving asphalt walking paths and improving drainage, where necessary, to remove standing water and tree root growth that is damaging the walking path. New park benches will be installed and improvements to existing site lighting and landscaping will be made, as needed.

“Thanks to Director Ronald Rios and the Middlesex County Commissioners for supporting this project at the county level. Thanks also to our state delegates— Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo and Assemblywoman Tennille McCoy - for supporting our grant application to the state. This collective support provided us with the opportunity to enhance our parks with minimal impact to our taxpayers”, stated Mayor Ed Yates.

Maggie's Point at Plainsboro Preserve to be Restored

If you have ever hiked along McCormack Lake in the Plainsboro Preserve, it is likely that you are familiar with Maggie's Point. Maggie's Point is a peninsula named in honor and memory of Margaret 'Maggie' Schaffer, a dedicated local resident and Preserve enthusiast.

Over the years, erosion has threatened the stability and safety of this popular trail, negatively impacting the experience of countless visitors. In response, the township has partnered with Colliers Engineering and Design to implement a comprehensive restoration plan aimed at revitalizing this cherished area. Key features of the project include soil stabilization, native plant installation and safety enhancements at the 'point' of

the peninsula, along with the addition of benches for visitors to relax and enjoy the stunning view and sounds of nature. Restoration work is set to begin later this year.



Easterly view from Maggie's Point at McCormack Lake

Improvements Coming to Community Park's Picnic Area!

Get ready to enjoy even more of Community Park! Did you know there's a picnic area nestled right next to the dog park? Well, soon it's going to be better than ever, with a renovation planned to enhance your outdoor experience. Planned improvements include a convenient parking area, new grills, tables and chairs, benches, signage, paths, and garbage and recycling containers. Plus, for our active residents, new bike racks will be installed.

To bring these exciting changes to life, the township has retained Berkowsky and Associates, Inc., a local firm, to recommend thoughtful improvements. "This is the latest in a series of improvements to Community Park", stated Committeeman and Recreation and Community Services Liaison Nuran Nabi. "Over the past few years, we have added a new children's playground; a multi-use

recreational area with pickleball courts, basketball, running and walking tracks and exercise equipment soon to be installed. The new picnic area will be a place for families to barbeque outside and enjoy these new play areas."

We're also thrilled to announce that the picnic area renovation has been partially funded through a grant from Genmab, a pharmaceutical company with headquarters right here in Plainsboro. We extend our sincere gratitude to Genmab for their incredible community support!

Construction is anticipated to begin later this year. We can't wait for you to see and enjoy the transformed picnic area, perfect for family gatherings, outdoor meals, and making lasting memories in our beautiful Community Park.

'Parent and Me' Cooking Classes

Looking for a fun, engaging way to bond with your child while learning valuable life skills? Our 'Parent & Me' Cooking Classes are the perfect recipe for family connection and culinary creativity!

Plainsboro Recreation is thrilled to partner with Chef It Up 2 Go to offer cooking classes to the chefs and mini chefs of the community! Based on public interest, we plan to offer two sessions of 6-week classes for parent chefs and little chefs ages 5-8 and 9-11. Parents and children

can create delicious, allergy-friendly dishes together in a real kitchen. Kids will learn essential cooking skills while having fun, bonding with their parents, and exploring their creativity.

Interested? Please email seekinginterest@plainsboronj.com, tell us the name of the program, and name and age of the interested participant(s). Once we have enough interest, we will send you an email to let you know that registration is open. Note: spots will be limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sankalpa Donates Funds from Annual 5k

In May, the Recreation and Community Services Department, in collaboration with the Plainsboro Police Department and Sankalpa USA, a local nonprofit, hosted its 3rd Annual 5K Run and 2K Walk. Sankalpa USA graciously donated \$2,000 to the Plainsboro DARE program and PBA. Thank you Sankalpa USA!

Pictured at right are members of Sankalpa USA, Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services Department and the Police Department.



2025 Municipal and Capital Budgets Approved

At the June 11th open public meeting, the Township Committee approved the 2025 municipal and capital budgets. The municipal budget totals \$39,581,000. Based on the average home value of \$456,782 - the municipal tax impact will be approximately \$46 annually or \$3.83 per month on average.

“A key change for 2025 and subsequent years, is the elimination of the separate tax for fire services resulting from the state’s dissolution of Fire District #1”, stated Committeeman and Finance Department Liaison Peter Cantu. “It is important to note that even with the addition of fire services, the 2025 municipal tax increase is actually lower than 2024 when fire services were billed separately to the taxpayers.”

The proposed municipal budget, which was also reviewed this year by the state, anticipates that state aid will remain at \$1,656,113 and will retain \$5.39 million in surplus. The capital budget provides funding for various road projects; improvements to Morris Davison

Park; upgrades to the dog park and picnic area in Community Park; Phase II of the Town Center beautification project; the restoration of Maggie’s Point at the Plainsboro Preserve; state-mandated watershed mapping and the purchase of updated vehicles and equipment.

The 2025 budget still kept true to the following five 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.

In addition, the West Windsor/Plainsboro Regional School District budget was adopted on April 29th, 2025 with a 7.1% increase in the tax rate. As a result of this increase, an average home assessed at \$456,782 will see an increase of \$538 in school taxes.

Planning Board Approves Nurseries Project

The Plainsboro Planning Board recently approved an exciting and significant mixed-use project. Located in the northwest section of the township, the Nurseries project stems from the General Development Plan (GDP) that was adopted in 2020 in partnership with Princeton University. The 109-acre site was previously slated for office development but as the market for such use declined, the township and university worked together to create a framework for successful development. This highly “amenitized” pedestrian-friendly neighborhood will be anchored by a commercial main-street destination retail-commercial environment that will support a diverse range of shopping opportunities, modern innovative-collaborative office spaces, dining and entertainment options, integrated and activated open space, new and varied housing choices, including affordable housing, and vibrant gathering places for events. Princeton University sold the property to WRV (Woodmont Properties, Russo Development and Vision Real Estate Partners) who have been working with staff to come up with a plan consistent with the GDP.

The approved site plan includes a mix of 853 single-family, townhouse units and multi-family apartments, including age-

restricted and affordable units. The GDP allows another 97 age-restricted units which would be the subject of a future site plan application. The approved site plan also includes a 125-room hotel, office space, grocer and various other restaurant and retail opportunities along a main street at the center of the project. A two-acre central civic space will anchor the project and include a large water feature and amphitheater. Approximately 40% of the total site will be for open space.

More information is available on the Meeting Documents page under the Planning & Zoning Department of the township website – www.plainsboronj.com See the Planning Board’s 6/16/25 meeting documents.



Before Plainsboro: Native History of the Region

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor and learn about the original stewards of the land we live on today. Long before Plainsboro existed, this area was home to the Lenape people (pronounced Leh-NAH-pay), who lived here for thousands of years.

The Lenape were part of a larger group of Native American tribes that spoke the Algonquian language. Their homeland stretched across what is now New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and southern New York. In our part of New Jersey, including the area that would later become Plainsboro, the Lenape lived near rivers and streams, where they hunted, fished, and grew crops.

They planted corn, beans, and squash, often called the “Three Sisters,” which they grew together because they helped each other thrive in the soil. The Lenape were skilled at living in harmony with nature and had deep knowledge of the land’s seasons, animals, and plants.

They also passed down stories, lessons, and traditions through spoken word from one generation to the next.

When European settlers arrived in the 1600s, the Lenape were gradually pushed off their land. Some moved away, some were forced out, and others stayed but had to change the way they lived. Even though their lives were forever changed, the Lenape people and their descendants are still here today, and their culture continues.

As we explore Plainsboro’s history, it’s important to remember that our story didn’t start with farming, railroads, or neighborhoods. It started with the Lenape, whose connection to this land runs deep. The Wicoff House Museum honors this history and encourages everyone in the community to take a moment this month to learn more about the Lenape people and their lasting legacy. For more information on this and other areas of local historic interest, visit www.wicoffhouseplainsboro.com

Plainsboro Preserve—Where Sustainability Meets Community Engagement

Thanks to Nirati Iyer, a dedicated student from West Windsor Plainsboro High School South, the township received a NexTrex bench through the NexTrex Recycling Challenge. This initiative encourages teams to collect over 1,000 pounds of soft film plastics within a year to earn a Trex bench made from recycled materials. Nirati took on this challenge with determination, rallying support from her family and neighbors to reach her goal. In July, we celebrated this achievement with an event showcasing our new bench alongside various recycling activities for families. Inspired by this success, we are now continuing the project to earn another bench for our deck at the Preserve. Thank you NexTrex!

You can contribute by bringing your soft-film plastics to our collection box located inside the Rush Holt Environmental Education Center, available Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Join us at the Preserve for an array of exciting fall activities suitable for all ages! From Halloween events to guided kayaking experiences on McCormack Lake—where you can enjoy breathtaking fall colors and observe local wildlife—there’s something for everyone. Visit our website at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/1115/Parks-Recreation> for more information about upcoming classes and events. Together, let’s make a difference while enjoying nature!

Family Camp Out at Municipal Complex

Escape to the outdoors for Plainsboro’s Family Camp Out Event, where you’ll experience the joys of s’mores, campfires, camping in a tent, and other family-friendly activities. It’s a night designed to bring families closer together while enjoying the great outdoors. Located on the grounds

of the municipal complex at 641 Plainsboro Road, campsites are restricted to a 20ft x 20ft section. For more information, please contact Senior Park Ranger, Sam Meleski, at 609-799-0909 ex 1707 or smeleski@plainsboronj.com

Charge into Fire Safety!

Fire Prevention Week is October 5 - 11

Fire Prevention Week 2025's campaign is Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home. The purpose of the campaign is to teach everyone about the importance of buying, charging and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL or CSA. When charging the device, always use the cables that came with the product and follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Charge the device on a hard surface and unplug it or remove the battery when it is fully charged. Stop using the device right away if the battery smells odd, gets too hot, makes popping noises or changes in color or shape. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire and call 9-1-1. Finally, recycle these batteries responsibly. Do not throw

lithium-ion batteries in the trash because they can start a fire.

"Recycle your lithium-ion batteries at a safe battery recycling location", stated Mayor Ed Yates. "Plainsboro is an official Call2Recycle collection site for rechargeable batteries and cell phones. You may take these batteries to the Department of Public Works building located at 20 Woodland Drive during regular business hours." Visit <https://www.plainsboronj.com/752/Battery-Recycling> for more information.

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

Leaf Collection Reminders

Starting in mid-October and typically lasting through mid-December, township crews collect leaves. Residents are permitted to rake their leaves to the curb or along the street adjacent to their residence for collection by municipal staff. Plainsboro Township is divided into two sections for leaf collection and crews collect leaves at least twice from each section. To find out which section corresponds with your street visit the website at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/465/Leaf-Collection>

Residents are **prohibited** from placing their leaves curbside more than seven days prior to their section's scheduled collection. Leaves must be at least ten feet from a storm drain and cannot be mixed with any other debris. Though the program allows placement of leaves at the curb, we strongly encourage residents to keep their leaves off the street. Leaves on the street cause two problems. 1. When it rains, the water washes leaves onto a basin's grate, prohibiting the flow of water and creating ponding

or flooding. 2. Leaves in the street may create a traffic hazard by extending into the roadway and hindering the flow of traffic.

"In order to provide instant information regarding the program, residents can now follow the daily progress of Plainsboro's Leaf Collection Program through the Municipal website", states Deputy Mayor David Bander. Check it out at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/465/Leaf-Collection>

Residents may bring their leaves to the conservation center located off Grovers Mill Road. See page 7 of this publication for hours of operation. Residents utilizing a contractor to transport their leaves are required to notify the public works department at least one business day prior to delivery. This notification allows public works staff to determine the difference between a legitimate residential delivery and an attempted commercial drop-off.

Forrestal Village Residential Project

The Plainsboro Planning Board has approved a residential project within the Princeton Forrestal Village complex at Route One and College Road West. The project includes the addition of 394 studio-to-three-bedroom units within three buildings on the west side of the development. An existing building at the corner of Main Street and Lionsgate Drive will be

demolished to make way for one of the three buildings. The project offers increased amenities and streetscape



improvements as well as a new design for the public plaza area adjacent to Rockingham Row. More information is available on the *Meeting Documents* page under the *Planning & Zoning Department* of the Township website. See the Planning Board's 4/21/25 meeting documents.

School and Bus Zone Safety

It is increasingly important to be mindful of safety in and around school zones and school buses. The Plainsboro Police Department reminds motorists as the beginning of a new school year approaches that the start of the 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. Also, motorists should be mindful of laws pertaining to school buses that are stopped with their emergency lights illuminated to allow students to enter and exit the bus at designated stops.

The law in New Jersey Title 39:4-128.1 specifically, states:

On highways roadways not divided by safety islands or physical traffic separation installations, the driver of a vehicle approaching or overtaking a bus, which is being used solely for the transportation of children to or from school or a summer day camp or any school connected activity and which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any child, shall stop such vehicle not less than 25 feet from such school bus and keep such vehicle stationary until such child has entered said bus or has alighted and reached the side of such highway and until a flashing red light is no longer exhibited by the bus.

“The Plainsboro Township Police Department is committed to the year-round safety of all motorists, pedestrians and especially children that are in route to and from school”, stated Committeeman and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis.

Police Add EV Motorcycle to Fleet

The Plainsboro Township Police Department has a fresh new ride to patrol the streets of Plainsboro: a zero-emission, all electric, police motorcycle. Manufactured in California by Zero Motorcycles, the model DSRP Police Motorcycle will complement the Plainsboro Police Fleet. The township began reducing emissions years prior by using hybrid Police Utility Vehicles. Specially trained officers will drive the new motorcycle to perform various law enforcement and public safety functions. You may have already seen, but not heard, the new motorcycle in action this spring at the Founders Day parade or at the Sankalpa 5k Run/Walk at Community Park! Being an EV, the motorcycle makes nearly no noise and produces no emissions, making it ideal for large crowds and open-air events!

There are significant advantages to adding motorcycles to the police fleet. Motorcycles are far lighter, smaller, more maneuverable, and more concealable than traditional police vehicles. The new police motorcycle can handle both on-road and off-road calls for service. Police motor officers will increase public safety and reduce response times to less accessible places such as public parks, trails, school campuses, business complexes, office centers, and remote rural areas. The EV motorcycle will also be used for traffic enforcement on all Plainsboro roads.

The new police motorcycle was purchased with grant funds received in part by the 2024 Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program offered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, as well as funds obtained

through the Middlesex County Forfeiture Program. Township Committeeman and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis commented, “Our township encourages our officers to engage with the community in the spirit of Chief Eamon Blanchard’s Project Safe Roads. The new EV police motorcycle will foster safe and positive interactions with the public in an environmentally friendly way.”



Standing with the police department’s new zero-emission EV motorcycle at the municipal building EV charging station are (from left to right) Lt. Scott Beatty, Ptl. Darby O’Brien and Ptl. Nicholas Fazio

At Your Service...

Township Clerk's Office:

799-0909, extension 2547

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)
**GENERAL	11/04/25	By District	6am– 8pm	10/14/25	10/28/25	11/03/25

2025 Election Schedule

****Early General Election Voting Period – October 25, 2025 – November 2, 2025**

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.

To assist pet owners, a **Free Rabies Clinic** has been scheduled for **November 1, 2025** 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 and Recycling Center

The conservation and recycling center, located off Grovers Mill Road (between Orchard Lane and Derry Meeting Drive), is

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currently open on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30pm – 7:30pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am - 5:00pm.

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

Leaf Collection

Plainsboro's Public Works Department collects leaves from mid-October through mid-December and each street will receive a minimum of two collections throughout the season. Visit <https://www.plainsboronj.com/465/Leaf-Collection> to see an anticipated collection schedule based on your street.

Guidelines for Leaf Collection

- Leaves must be curbside for collection no earlier than 7 days prior to the scheduled pickup date.
- Leaves should be raked to the curb, no closer than 10 feet from storm drain inlet and must be free of debris.
- Leaves mixed with grass, branches, soil, mulch, soil, etc. will not be picked up.

Residents not wishing to wait for their scheduled collection date may bring their brush or leaves to the Conservation Center during normal operating hours. Residents are responsible for informing their landscapers of the schedule for their property.

Household Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates for this quarter are:

September 8, 22 October 6, 20 November 3, 17

Remaining 2025 Bulk Waste Day

Bulky items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, bicycles, etc., will be accepted at the Conservation Center from 8:00am to 5:00pm on November 1. 2025 Bulk Waste Days

Bulky items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, bicycles, etc., will be accepted at the Conservation Center from 8:00am to 5:00pm on June 14th, August 9th and November 1st.



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641 Plainsboro Road
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TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Anthony Cancro

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Teresa Carson

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
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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
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 at in the Municipal
Building at 641 Plainsboro Road, unless
otherwise noted.

Township Committee

Regular Mtg. 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Agenda Mtg. 4th Wednesday, 7:00pm

For more information on the following
meetings, call 609-799-0909 x 1502

Planning Board

3rd Monday, 7:00pm

Zoning Board

1st Wednesday at 7:00pm

Development Review Committee

3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm

Environmental Advisory Committee

4th Monday, 7:00pm