Together we are facing a truly uneasy time as a result of the global Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. It has touched us all, either directly or indirectly. For those of you struck by this virus, our thoughts are with you, your families and your friends.

The township’s first priority is always to ensure public safety and is pleased that all police, first responder and health emergency and medical services have continued to function effectively during this period. In keeping with our first priority, even before the virus reached our township, Plainsboro officials and staff began working on a plan to coordinate resources in an effort to mitigate the impact of the virus on our community and the township workforce and services you rely on. The first step taken was the development of a working task force consisting of department directors, key representatives of the Plainsboro Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and representatives of the school district.

As the impact of the virus reached the surrounding areas, township staff continued working collaboratively with the state OEM and the Middlesex County Health Department and began following operational and safety guidance from various governmental agencies including the New Jersey Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). By the time the virus reached our hometown, officials and staff were participating in weekly conference calls with the Governor and his office and representatives of the County of Middlesex, Penn Medicine Princeton Health hospital and others to receive timely updated information. Each day we have monitored public safety and health services to ensure these services continue to address the community’s needs.

The township established the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Bulletin Board on our website as the principal means to communicate the actions and status of the emergency. The Bulletin Board, located at www.plainsboronj.com, continues to be updated daily and provides valuable information such as the total number of cases in the township (as reported by the Middlesex County Health department), building and facility closure status and additional resource information.

We urge you to visit the www.plainsboronj.com website and its many helpful links to other health, safety and community services information. The township has established a temporary special email – admin@plainsboronj.com for Coronavirus/COVID-19 and general municipal operations questions.

“On behalf of the Township Committee and the Plainsboro community” Mayor Cantu expressed, “thanks to all of the service providers; especially the police, fire and rescue squad(s), medical professionals and municipal staff that are doing an outstanding job. They all deserve our acknowledgement and support.”

As we continue to face these challenges, the Township Committee remains committed to keeping the health and safety of our community and workforce a top priority.

Stay safe and healthy.

Possible Schedule Changes

Please note that all scheduled items featured in this edition of The Plainsboro Reporter are subject to change due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak. The township will continue to follow federal and state mandates and community guidelines as it relates to public gatherings and as a result, programs and events included in this edition may be modified or canceled after the date of publication. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate these uncertain times.
Plainsboro Township Committeeman Dr. Nuran Nabi has received the second highest national award of the Bangladesh government, the Ekushey Padak 2020, for his outstanding contribution to language and literature. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh presented the prestigious award to Dr. Nabi in Dhaka in February.

Dr. Nabi has been a Township Committeeman since 2007. He was re-elected for a 3 year term last November. Dr. Nabi serves as the Township Committee Liaison for the Plainsboro Township Department of Recreation and the Community Services. Dr. Nabi is also a Director of the Board of the Plainsboro Free Public Library Foundation and NRB Commercial Bank.

Dr. Nabi was a valiant freedom fighter of the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971 and was awarded a special citation by the Commander in Chief of Bangladesh Liberation Army for his valor and outstanding contribution to the Bangladesh liberation war. Additionally, the Far Eastern Economic Review of May 6th 1972, referred to Dr. Nabi as the “Brain” of the Tangail Freedom Fighters Forces. In 2017, he was awarded Bangla Academy Honorary Fellowship for his contribution to liberation war-related literature. Dr. Nabi has published 14 books in English and Bengali on the Bangladesh liberation movement, liberation war and the genocide of 1971, including *Bullets of ’71- A Freedom Fighter’s Story*.

Dr. Nabi is a renowned scientist and worked for Colgate-Palmolive Company for twenty-two years and is the co-inventor of Colgate Total toothpaste technology. Dr. Nabi lives in Plainsboro with his wife Dr. Zeenat Nabi. They have two sons who grew up in Plainsboro.
Even though many construction projects have been put on hold due to the pandemic, several associated with the hospital’s redevelopment plan and one outside the redevelopment area continue as scheduled.

The childcare facility, Discovery Years Child Learning Center, located at the corner of Campus Road and Hospital Drive is open for business while the Medical Adult Day Care at Princeton Health Campus at the same location is nearly complete. Each building is about 11,500 square feet. The 105 bed Maplewood at Princeton assisted living and memory care facility at the corner of Hospital Drive and Punia Boulevard is under construction with an advertised opening planned for spring 2021.

There are also two residential projects within the redevelopment area currently under construction. One is the 260 rental apartment Ovation at Riverwalk project and the other is the townhome project known as Riverwalk. The Ovation project anticipates having apartments for rent sometime this summer while the first phase of the townhome project is complete with units up for sale.

The one project not in the redevelopment area is the second Beacon medical office building near the Lifetime facility, on Forrestal Road South. This 40,300 square foot building is about the same size as its companion building located directly across Forrestal Road South. Construction is underway and should take about a year to complete.

Committeeman Ed Yates said of this construction activity, “Plainsboro is fortunate to have projects like these continue in the face of the adversity that hit the construction industry. Each project will benefit the township and be an asset to our community.”

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**Plainsboro Adds First Electric Vehicle to Municipal Fleet**

In February of this year, Plainsboro Township added the first electric vehicle (EV) to its municipal vehicle fleet. The 2020 Nissan LEAF was purchased through state contract, assuring the lowest reasonable price. The EV will be used as a fleet vehicle for inspections and other municipal business. The LEAF has a 40-kWh battery which provides an approximate 150 mile driving range. The EV will be charged at the municipal EV charging stations (six EV Level 2 charging ports) located behind the Recreation and Cultural Center. These stations, which were also funded by a grant the township obtained, are open for both public and municipal use.

Two grants were received to offset the cost of the vehicle; $10,000 was awarded through Sustainable Jersey’s Gardinier Environmental Fund and $4,000 through the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program.

The addition of an electric vehicle to the township’s fleet yields not only environmental and energy benefits but economical savings as well. We estimate the gasoline savings to be approximately $4,000 per year by using an electric vehicle. Also, electric vehicles are less expensive to maintain, which translates to continued savings over the life of the vehicle. These vehicles are fully electric and do not rely on oil to lubricate the engine. There is no longer a need for interval oil changes and other possible engine repairs that often afflict a gas-powered vehicle. Brakes also do not wear as quickly, so there is no need to replace pads as often on an electric vehicle as on a standard vehicle. Of course, from an environmental standpoint, electric vehicles produce fewer emissions (both direct and life cycle emissions) that contribute to climate change and smog than conventional vehicles.

“Plainsboro firmly believes that government has a significant role to implement policies and practices that other governmental, quasi-governmental agencies and the general public can emulate to make a positive environmental difference and change”, stated Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis. “The use of a municipal electrical vehicle is certainly a step in the right direction.”

This is yet another step in the township’s long-term commitment to environmental and sustainability actions. In recent years, the township has taken significant steps to reduce its environmental footprint. We are in the 4th round of energy conservation retrofits through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program; and we are in the second round of our town-wide Community Energy Aggregation Program, securing reduced electricity costs for our residents.

The township anticipates purchasing another EV in late 2020.
2020 Municipal and Capital Budgets Approved

The Township Committee adopted the 2020 municipal and capital budgets at the April 22nd open public meeting. The municipal budget totals $30,685,659. Based on the average home value of $450,150 - the municipal tax impact will be $63 annually or $5.25 per month on average.

Some of the larger cost increases are attributed to county recycling collection fee increases, payments to homeowners associations required under the New Jersey Municipal Services Act and increased appropriations to defend for tax appeals and add to reserve for tax appeals.

The budget anticipates that state aid will not change and will remain at $1,644,744. The most significant sources of revenue funding the budget are property tax revenues which total $17,906,594 and the use of surplus funds totaling $3,734,000.

The capital budget provides funding for road maintenance and improvements, police equipment, and an update to the township’s master plan and municipal building improvements.

The township followed the same core budget values and principles: seeking the lowest possible tax rate while providing resources for township employees to perform their duties; providing the best services at the lowest cost; ensuring capital funding to address road, park, and public improvements and actively managing surplus to ensure the highest bond rating.

“We are pleased to continue to provide a budget that maintains a high level of service and funds capital improvements all while continuing to control property taxes, stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

Summer Fun with Plainsboro Recreation!

Kick off the summer with our Friday evening Summer Blast Series. Enjoy live music, face painting, games and refreshments. Movies start at 7:00pm. The shows this year include:

- June 19th: Frozen II (Municipal Complex)
- July 17th: Playing with Fire (Morris Davison Park)
- August 15th: Jumanji – The Next Level (Morris Davison Park)

Evenings in the Park is a weekly series that brings the community together each Thursday night at 6:30pm at one of the local parks. This summer’s programs include:

- June 25th: Let’s Bloom Together (Plainsboro Preserve)
- July 2nd: Building Fairy Houses (Plainsboro Preserve)
- July 9th: Magic Show with the Amazing V (Morris Davison Park)
- July 16th: Kickball (Plainsboro Preserve)
- July 23rd: Live Animal Show (Morris Davison Park)
- July 30th: Dodgeball (Community Park)
- August 6th: Evening Walk Through the Plainsboro Preserve (Plainsboro Preserve)

Junior Ranger Days

Junior Ranger Days is a summer program that invites young nature enthusiasts between the ages of 6-11 years old to explore the local woods. Learn about the wildlife, insects and plants, orienteering, survival skills, building shelters and enjoy a cookout. We will end the week with a field trip to one of the natural areas in New Jersey. This year’s program will be held the week of August 17-21.

Wicoff House Property

The Wicoff House Museum property is the home of our Plainsboro Children’s Garden, the Free Little Library and the new Pollinator Garden. It is a great place to sit and enjoy the natural world.

Feel free to explore the gardens, watch butterflies, smell the flowers or turn over a rock or log and look to see what is living below ground. The gardens are open to everyone, but please remember when visiting to watch where you step.

A photo from last year of the Children’s Garden located on the grounds of the historic Wicoff House Museum.
Energy Aggregation Second Round Contract Continues Despite Transmission Cost Increase

In 2019, the township launched the second round of the Plainsboro Community Energy Aggregation Program (PCEA). This program was initiated under a State law called the ‘Government Energy Aggregation’ law that gives municipalities the opportunity to access the competitive energy marketplace to try to procure electricity supply for their residents that has a higher renewable energy content and with a lower cost than the electricity supply provided by the local utility. In early 2019 the township conducted a competitive procurement process that resulted in the award of a contract to Direct Energy. Under that contract, which began in June 2019, residents participating in the PCEA program receive power supply with 42% renewable energy content at a contract price of $0.10977 per kilowatt-hour (’kwh’), which was more than 10% below the average posted PSE&G tariff price for power supply. Thus, since June 2019 participating residents have been receiving power supply from Direct Energy with higher renewable energy content and at a lower average price than they would have otherwise received from PSE&G.

There has been a significant cost increase recently imposed on all suppliers serving customers in the PSE&G territory. This cost increase impacts PSE&G as well as Direct Energy. As a result, PSE&G tariff prices for power supply are rising, and Direct Energy is forced to raise their prices for the PCEA program as well. However, contract terms that the township negotiated with Direct Energy ensure that the savings that residents are enjoying under the PCEA program will not be impacted, and that the power supply being provided under the PCEA will still contain 42% renewable energy.

Under the terms of the PCEA program contract between the Township and Direct Energy, the price offered to residents is a ‘non-variable’ price, meaning that it cannot be changed for any reason other than an unanticipated change in cost imposed due to a change in law or other governmental action. At the beginning of 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a large increase in the cost power suppliers pay for use of the high voltage transmission grid which moves electricity from power plants throughout the eastern U.S. to the local PSE&G distribution system. This transmission cost increase has impacted all suppliers in the PSE&G service territory, including Direct Energy as well as PSE&G. While the contract the township signed with Direct Energy allows Direct Energy to adjust the PCEA contract price to recover this type of cost increase, the contract language we negotiated puts a cap on any such price adjustment, such that the PCEA contract price adjustment can go up by no more than the increase in PSE&G’s tariff price caused by that same government action. The township insisted on this contract condition to ensure that any contract price change caused by an unanticipated government action such as this would not adversely impact the level of savings under the PCEA program.

The transmission cost increase approved by the federal government is impacting PSE&G’s tariff prices for power supply by about 1.2 cents per kilowatt-hour ($0.012/kwh), in two steps. About 1/3 of that increase took effect on February 1, 2020, and the remaining 2/3 of the PSE&G tariff price increase will take effect beginning June 2020. Under the Township’s contract with Direct Energy, the adjustment in the PCEA contract price is capped at those amounts. Therefore, the PCEA contract price will be adjusted in two steps, matching the changes in the PSE&G tariff.

Specifically, residents participating in the PCEA program will notice in their April PSE&G bill that the program contract price increased from $.10977/kwh to $.11420/kwh. This price adjustment exactly matches the first step increase in PSE&G’s tariff price that took effect on February 1st. Effective June 1, the PCEA contract price will increase to $.12187/kwh, again, matching the second step of the PSE&G tariff increase that will be occurring at that time. Because these contract price adjustments match the increases in the PSE&G tariff price for power supply, as required under the terms of the contract required by the township, the cost savings enjoyed by PCEA program participants will not be impacted, and they will still receive over 40% renewable energy supply.

Residents who are participating in the PCEA program have the ability to ‘opt-out’ of the PCEA program at any time, for any reason, without penalty and may do so by contacting Direct Energy via phone at 1-866-968-8065 or by email at aggregationsupport@directenergy.com. Those who choose to opt-out will be returned to PSE&G for power supply under its ‘Basic Generation Service’ tariff. However, as described above, PSE&G’s tariff price is being increased by the same amount as the PCEA price; as a result, the PCEA contract price will remain below the PSE&G tariff price for power supply. Therefore, by opting out of the PCEA program and returning to PSE&G for power supply, residents will be subject to greater rate increases than if they stayed in the PCEA, and they will no longer receive the enhanced renewable energy content provided under the PCEA program.
Ways to Protect Your Home and Vehicles from Burglary

Burglary is one of the most frequently committed crimes in New Jersey and occurs when a person enters another person’s home or vehicle to commit a crime within that vehicle or structure (usually theft).

Vehicle burglaries are more common than residential burglaries mainly because it is easier to burglarize a car than it is a home. The following tips will help safeguard your vehicle from burglary:

- Lock your doors and roll up your windows
- Don’t leave valuables in your car
- Hide or lock valuables away
- Don’t make criminals curious
- Set your car alarm if you have one and consider installing one if you don’t

One way to safeguard your home against this crime is to install motion sensor lights around your property. Installing an alarm and camera system is another great deterrent.

Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis said, “Remember, it takes a thief only 30 seconds to break into your vehicle and steal your valuables, but it also takes you only 30 seconds to grab your valuables or lock them in your trunk.”

The items most commonly stolen from vehicles are laptops, iPads, stereo systems, satellite radios, GPS devices, cell phones/chargers, wallets, money, and jewelry.

Help our police department protect you and your property by reporting any suspicious activity in neighborhoods and parking lots. Call the Plainsboro Police at 609-799-2333, or leave an anonymous tip on the Plainsboro Police Tip Line at 609-454-4900.

Plainsboro Police Department Welcomes Two New Officers

The Plainsboro Township Police Department recently completed the hiring process for two new officers needed to take the place of officers who have retired. Police Chief Fred Tavener is proud to welcome Brandon Audet and Joseph Gethard. Both completed a rigorous process including interviews, background checks and physical and psychological tests. Audet and Gethard graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy as Alternate Route Candidates on March 4, 2020. Chief Tavener stated, “Both Brandon and Joseph were found to exemplify the standards of a Plainsboro officer, and through past endeavors, show a commitment to excellence. I look forward to them joining our team.”

Brandon Audet grew up in Perth Amboy, New Jersey with his parents and his sister. All three describe Brandon as hardworking and a dedicated family man. He attended Toms River North High School and Ocean County Community College. Gethard joined the U.S. Marine Corp after high school and served for nearly ten years, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. He completed two combat missions in Afghanistan and also completed two noncombat tours in Japan and Thailand.

Deputy Mayor and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis stated, “Along with the Township Committee, I would like to welcome Brandon and Joseph to our police department. Both come from diverse backgrounds, and we look forward to them making meaningful contributions to the department and the community.”

Joseph Gethard grew up in Toms River, New Jersey. He is married and has two children, a daughter and a son. Gethard is one of six children with two biological sisters, two step sisters, and one step brother. His mother and father describe their son as hard-working and a dedicated family man. He attended Toms River North High School and Ocean County Community College. Gethard joined the U.S. Marine Corp after high school and served for nearly ten years, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. He completed two combat missions in Afghanistan and also completed two noncombat tours in Japan and Thailand.

Deputy Mayor and Public Safety Liaison Neil Lewis stated, “Along with the Township Committee, I would like to welcome Brandon and Joseph to our police department. Both come from diverse backgrounds, and we look forward to them making meaningful contributions to the department and the community.”

Officer Joseph Gethard, Police Chief Fred Tavener and Officer Brandon Audet (left to right) pause for a photo at the recent swearing in ceremony.
At your service . . .

Township Clerk’s Office 799-0909, extension 2547

2020 Election Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Polling Hours</th>
<th>Close of Registration</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*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY</td>
<td>06/02/20</td>
<td>By District</td>
<td>6:00 am–8:00 pm</td>
<td>06/16/20</td>
<td>06/30/20</td>
<td>07/06/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL</td>
<td>11/03/20</td>
<td>By District</td>
<td>6:00 am–8:00 pm</td>
<td>10/13/20</td>
<td>10/27/20</td>
<td>11/02/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Change per Executive Order 120

Pet Licenses

New Jersey State law mandates that all dogs six months of age or older be licensed. Applications are available for all new pets in the Township Clerk’s Office at 641 Plainsboro Road. Proof of rabies vaccination must be submitted with the application. According to state regulation, when licensing, the rabies vaccination immunity must extend through at least ten (10) months of the 12-month licensing period. Therefore, licenses cannot be issued if the rabies vaccination expires before November 1st of each year. If for any medical reason the animal cannot be vaccinated in the required time, form VPH-28 must be completed by the veterinarian and submitted with the form. Submit a copy of the spay/neuter certificate, if applicable. The license fees are $13.20 for spayed/neutered animals and $16.20 for non-neutered animals. Late fees of $5.00 per month are assessed as of February 1st.

If you missed the Township Rabies Clinic in November please contact the Middlesex County Public Health Department at (732) 745-3100 for the listing of the county scheduled clinics held in the surrounding municipalities.

Vital Records

General Information

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.

For information regarding requirements and fees, call the office or visit the township website.

Public Works Department 799-0099

Conservation & Recycling Center

At the time this edition is going to press, the center is currently closed. When the center opens again, the hours of operation will be Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am-5:00pm.

Brush Collection Guidelines:

• Brush must be placed curbside by 7:00am the first Monday of the month designated for your street or neighborhood ONLY. No brush should be placed in the street or on sidewalks and no closer than 10’ from any catch basin.

• Brush left curbside during non-scheduled months is subject to fines and removal costs.

• Trimmings from trees and shrubs are accepted (maximum 6 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter).

• NO roots, stumps, soil or grass.

• Brush is to be neatly placed parallel to the road with limb ends facing the same direction.

Brush Collection Schedule:

Section 1 – April, June, August, October - Beechtree Lane, Beechwood Drive, Brentwood Drive, Cranford Avenue, Chandler Court, Cottonwood Court, Cypress Court, Dennison Place, Elm Court, Falcon Court, George Davison Road, Goldfinch Court, Grace Court, Groenlyke Lane, Gulick Lane, Hale Drive, Hamilton Lane N., Hamilton Lane S., Hickory Court, Holohan Drive, Keppel Road, Kingston Drive N., Kingston Drive S., Krebs Road, Louis Court, Mackenzie Lane, Mahogany Court, Major Lane, Mapleton Road, Marion Drive, Meadowlark Drive, Mershon Lane, Mockingbird Court, Oriole Court, Osprey Lane, Parker Road, Parker Road S., Partridge Court, Perrine Road, Pine Court, Poplar Drive, Quick Lane, Red Oak Drive, Redwood Court, Rush Court, Saylor Court, Schalks Crossing Road, Seminary Drive, Serina Drive, Silvers Lane, Simonson Drive, Spruce

2020 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 13, August 8 and November 7. Please note that these items require special handling and are only accepted at the center on the dates listed above.
Township Directory and Information

Plainsboro Township Municipal Offices
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: General 609-799-0909
Court 609-799-0863
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm
Website: www.plainsboronj.com

Like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/PlainsboroTwpNJ
Register at: http://www.plainsboronj.com to receive notifications from township officials and to request services online.

Useful Numbers
School District Information 609-716-5000
Report Street Light Out to PSE&G 1-800-436-7734
Report Potholes to Public Works 799-0099
New Jersey American Water 1-800-272-1325
Poison Hotline 1-800-222-1222

Plainsboro Recreation and Community Services Department
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: General 609-799-0909, press 6
Email recdept@plainsboronj.com

Plainsboro Public Works
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 Public Library
Location: 9 Van Doren Street
Phone: 609-275-2897
Hours of Operation:
Monday – Thursday 10:00am-8:30pm
Friday – Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm
Website: www.lmxac.org/plainsboro

Plainsboro Police Department
Location: 641 Plainsboro Road
Phone: Non-Emergency 609-799-2333
Emergencies 9 1 1
Website: www.plainsboropolice.com

Township Meetings
All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the Municipal Building, 641 Plainsboro Road, unless otherwise noted.

Development Review Committee
3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm Recreation Center

Environmental Advisory Committee
4th Monday or as needed Recreation Center
Call 609-799-0909, x1502 for more information

Fire Commissioners
2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm at firehouse

Shade Tree Advisory Committee
2nd Monday

Township Committee
Regular Mtg. 2nd Wednesday
Agenda Mtg. 4th Wednesday

Planning Board
1st & 3rd Monday

Zoning Board
1st Wednesday