



# Plainsboro Reporter

A Quarterly Township Newsletter

Summer 2019

## Community-wide Ice Cream Social – Let’s Party!

Everyone loves ice cream, so what better way to celebrate Plainsboro’s 100th birthday than by gathering the entire community for an ice cream social?

Sponsored by Ovation Riverwalk – <https://www.ovation-riverwalk.com> our community-wide ice cream social will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the Plainsboro Recreation and Cultural Center. On this special night, we will not only be celebrating Plainsboro’s 100th birthday, but also honoring our 100 year-old residents!

After the social, stick around for our Summer Blast movie series. At dusk we will be showing *The Lego Movie 2* at

the Plainsboro Municipal Complex with FREE music and refreshments starting at 7:00 pm. Movie starts at dusk.

Let’s party and make this a very special day for both Plainsboro, and our 100 year-young residents!

**Seeking all Plainsboro Centenarians**  
If you or a loved one lives in Plainsboro, has celebrated a 100th birthday and would like to be recognized at this event, please contact us at 609-799-0909 x1708. We would love to celebrate 100 years with you!

## Plainsboro Celebrates 100th Birthday at Founders Day

Each year, Founders Day is the most popular community event in Plainsboro. This year it was even more meaningful given that Plainsboro Township celebrated its 100th birthday!

Sponsored by Penn Medicine-Princeton Health and Novo Nordisk, the festivities were rescheduled to Saturday, May 11th from Sunday, May 6th due to inclement weather. Dignitaries and local stakeholders were on-hand to welcome the crowd. Joining Plainsboro’s Mayor and Township Committee were Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Dan Benson, Middlesex County Freeholders Charles Kenny, Kenneth Armwood, Shanti Narra and Dorothy Guzzo - Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust. The fun then continued throughout the day with live entertainment, amusements, food and more.

The centennial celebration will continue throughout 2019 as we celebrate a century of Pride and Progress!



*Residents and dignitaries gathered at the historic John Van Buren Wicoff House for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official re-opening of the restored house to the public as a museum.*

## Did You Know?

**Did you know that *New Jersey Family* magazine again ranked Plainsboro as the #1 town in Middlesex County to raise a family?** In April, *New Jersey Family* magazine released their list of “Best Towns for Families”. Plainsboro ranked #1 in Middlesex County (for the second consecutive time), and #16 overall in the state out of over 500 communities! “The Township Committee and I are very proud of this accomplishment. Plainsboro is truly a great place to live, work and raise a family”, said Mayor Peter Cantu.

**Did you know that the Plainsboro Township Code Enforcement Department recently added lettering to its fleet of vehicles?** Prior to this initiative, the fleet of staff cars used daily by Code Enforcement inspectors were solid white with no lettering. “Before the logo and lettering were added, the only



way to identify that the car was a township-owned vehicle was through the municipal license plate”, stated Township Committeeman Ed Yates. “This led to some confusion amongst our residents in identifying these cars when they were on job sites, or, most often, parked outside of a residence.”

“To allow the public to clearly identify these vehicles as Township vehicles, we added the graphics”, stated Director of Code Enforcement and Construction Official Brian Miller. “It is a priority that our residents and businesses can identify us quickly and that they take comfort in knowing who we are before we even step out of our vehicles.”

**Did you know that in 2014 the United Nations declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga?** To celebrate, Plainsboro Recreation and Community services and SR Mosaic will hold yoga classes at 7:15pm at the Plainsboro Preserve on Thursday, June 20th and at 8:00am on Friday, June 21st. A full day of yoga will also be held on the municipal grounds on Saturday, June 22nd. Open to people of all ages and skill levels, please register at [www.plainsboronj.com](http://www.plainsboronj.com) for this FREE event. For questions, contact Craig Harley at 609-799-0909 x1707.

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. “People of all age groups, religions, nationalities and social backgrounds are welcome to experience meditateness and expand their perception of life from individuality to universality”, stated Township Committeeman Nuran Nabi.

## Summer at the Plainsboro Preserve

Summer is always a great time to be outdoors, with the shade of our woodland trees to protect from the heat of the day or light rain. Check out the New Jersey Audubon calendar for the Plainsboro Preserve at [www.njaudubon.org/centers/calendar](http://www.njaudubon.org/centers/calendar) for all of our summer programs, or come hike the trails to find hidden Geocaches, take young children on the Discovery Trail, or enjoy family fun activities with one of our Borrow a Bags, free to use and available at the front desk.

Kick off the summer season with our Native Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1st. Native plants are ones that have always grown in this part of New Jersey, and usually have long blooming seasons, require very minimal care and watering, and attract a host of local birds and butterflies. Come find something new for your garden or patio.

We have hundreds of moths in Plainsboro, and they range from tiny non-descript to huge and beautiful, but usually come out at dusk and keep emerging all night. Celebrate National Moth Week on Friday, July 26th with an evening program on our deck that usually starts with some moth vs bat drama, and later might include screech owl activity. Find the details on our calendar.

Our most popular summer activity is our Nature Camp, where every week is different, yet every week has our campers outside

exploring and discovering during activities that are engaging, fun, and support Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) learning. Camp starts in late June and runs right up to Labor Day. Check out each week’s offering and availability at [www.njaudubon.org/centers/plainsboro](http://www.njaudubon.org/centers/plainsboro). We look forward to sharing the wonders of nature with your child this summer.



## 2019 Municipal and Capital Budgets Approved

**A**t the April 24th open public meeting, the Township Committee adopted the 2019 municipal and capital budgets. The municipal budget totals \$29,835,914. Based on the average home value of \$449,700 - the municipal tax will increase \$83.75 annually or \$6.98 per month over 2018.

Some of the larger increases are attributed to the of hiring Class III police officers for schools, payment on bond principal, the purchase of new police vehicles and replenishing the capital improvement fund for next year. Salaries for the Class III officers will be reimbursed by the school district.

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

\$17,338,844 and the use of surplus funds totaling \$2,864,000. The capital budget provides funding for road and trail maintenance and improvements, police equipment and municipal building improvements.

The township followed the same core budget values and principles: seeking the lowest possible tax rate while providing the 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 provide a budget that maintains a high level of service, funds capital improvements, while continuing to control property taxes, stated Mayor Peter Cantu.

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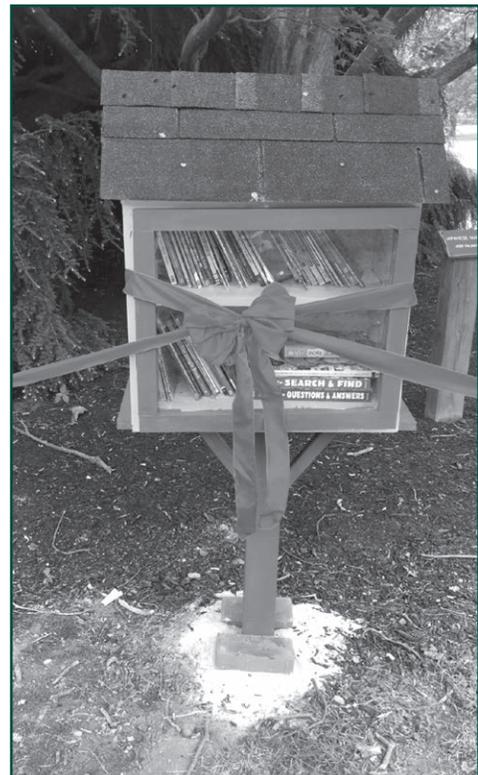
## Little Free Library is Open for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Season

**L**ast year, Shrinithi Seenivasan earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. Shrinithi is part of Troop 70051, led by Mini Krishnan. For her Silver Award, Shrinithi built a Little Free Library and installed it in the Children’s garden near the Plainsboro Recreation Center. In addition to this, she ran a Summer Reading Workshop for children ages 4-6, in the Children’s garden. A Little Free Library is a small structure that holds books. Kids can come and exchange the books with their own books. Her goal was to inspire kids and their parents to come visit the Children’s Garden more often, sit there and enjoy a book. She worked with Tara Miller, an Environmental Education Coordinator at the Plainsboro Recreation Center, to implement the Summer Reading Program. With over 60 hours of community service, Shrinithi was able to achieve her goal which was to inspire kids to read more and inspire them to visit the Children’s garden more often. After many trips to the hardware store, and many hours spent building the Little Free Library, she installed it in the Children’s Garden. She collected books from her neighbors and family members to fill the Library. Many hours were also spent creating the lesson plan for the workshops and getting the materials ready. She provided language arts instruction and with help from volunteers from Shrinithi’s Girl Scout Troop, the workshops took place in late June and early July.

Tara Miller, Shrinithi’s Project advisor, assisted with the workshops and provided many useful tips. “I first heard about the Little Free Library concept at a conference I attended and loved the idea. When Shrinithi came to me and asked me about doing her Girl Scout Silver Award project I thought it would be a perfect project for her to do. I am always looking for ways to encourage people to explore the Children’s Garden and thought this would be a perfect addition to the area. It is such a quiet and peaceful place where

children and their parents can enjoy sitting and reading. The Library has been restocked and is ready for use!” Tara Miller says. Shrinithi believes that implementing this project greatly improved her leadership skills along with her planning and communication skills.

If you are interested in joining the Girl Scouts in West Windsor or Plainsboro as a girl or adult volunteer, email [girlscoutswwp@verizon.net](mailto:girlscoutswwp@verizon.net) or call Louisa at 609-371-2119.



*Little Free Library*

# Environmentally Friendly Lawn Maintenance and Proper Watering Techniques

**M**aintaining a healthy lawn in an environmentally friendly manner is not difficult, but requires a change of thinking for most people. The following information provides assistance in making this change.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recommends keeping the height of a lawn between 2 ½” – 3 ½” high. Keeping the grass at this height shades the soil, cools the roots and prohibits weed growth.

A healthy lawn does not require the overuse of chemicals or water. Research shows that grass clippings can provide up to 25% of your lawn’s total fertilizer needs. When grass clippings decompose they deliver nitrogen and other organic material to the soil. As a result, you can annually decrease the amount of fertilizer used on your lawn.

A common myth about grass mulching is that it creates thatch; this is false. According to the NJDEP, thatch is formed from the accumulation of dead roots and stems. Instead of bagging your lawn clippings, mulch them!

Proper watering techniques are essential for a healthy and good looking lawn. Following are simple methods to efficiently and effectively water your lawn:

- Water your lawn in the early morning, many experts believe between 4:00 am – 10:00 am is optimal.

- Water your lawn only twice per week; too much watering can lead to fungus and shallow roots.
- Use a timer when watering your lawn so that you do not forget to turn off the water.
- Don’t water your lawn while it’s raining or immediately after it rains.
- A typical lawn needs 1 – 1 ½” of rain on a weekly basis. Learn how long it takes for your lawn to obtain and percolate this amount of water.

These are only five simple tips. While there other ways to improve your lawn, proper mowing and watering are extremely important.

“Grass mulching and proper watering techniques are an easy way for residents to help protect Plainsboro’s environment while maintaining their lawn”, states Township Committeeman David Bander.

Residents interested in grass mulching can contact the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at 732-398-5262.

A copy of the NJDEP Cut it and Leave it brochure is also posted on the municipal website at <https://www.plainsboronj.com/DocumentCenter/View/3288>

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## Centennial Arbor Day Celebration

**O**n April 18th, elementary school students visited the municipal complex to celebrate Arbor Day and assist in dedicating the Centennial Tree. Mayor Cantu and

Director of Public Works Neil Blitz kicked off the event which included an overview of how to properly feed and water trees, along with a demonstration on proper pruning techniques.



*Students from Township Center Elementary School (left) pose for a quick photo with the Mayor, as did the students from Wicoff Elementary School (right).*

## Emergency Search and Rescue Drill Undertaken

In February, Plainsboro Township emergency services conducted a full scale practice drill at the Plainsboro Preserve. The exercise involved a “hunter” who shot himself with a bow and arrow. The “victim” was located 20 feet in the air, injured and was hidden in the woods at an unknown location.

Combined efforts by Plainsboro Police Department, Plainsboro Fire Company, Plainsboro Rescue Squad, Plainsboro

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Plainsboro Park Rangers, and mutual aid (from Princeton, West Windsor and Monmouth Junction) made for a successful exercise!

The purpose of the drill was to rehearse anticipated emergency scenarios and to provide training to eliminate confusion in the event of an actual emergency.

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## Have a ‘Blast’ With Us This Summer

Summer is right around the corner and it’s followed by the Summer Blast series. Summer Blast is a monthly family event that includes live music, face painting, games, refreshments and ends with a family friendly movie. This year we have added teen movies as well!

This summer’s movie lineup includes:

Friday, June 21st at 6:30pm

**Lego Movie 2** - Plainsboro Municipal Complex

Wednesday, June 26th at 7:00pm

**Crazy Rich Asians** – Plainsboro Preserve

Friday, July 19th at 7:00pm

**Incredibles 2** - Morris Davison Park

Wednesday, July 24th at 7:00pm

**Avengers – Infinity War** - Plainsboro Preserve

Friday, August 21st at 7:00pm

**Bumblebee** – Morris Davison Park

Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00pm

**Quiet Place** – Plainsboro Preserve

Special thanks to our co-sponsor Princeton Alliance Church! We hope to see you at there!

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## Deloitte Celebrates 20 years of Positive IMPACT

On June 7th, Deloitte will partner with Plainsboro Township for their annual IMPACT Day. This is the 20th year for this program, and the 11th year they have worked with Plainsboro.

Each year on IMPACT Day, nearly 25,000 Deloitte professionals come together in 80 cities across the country to volunteer on more than 1,000 projects-contributing 179,000 collective hours of volunteer service.

A day dedicated to the community, over 70 Plainsboro-based Deloitte employees volunteer in town for the day, making this the largest independent event in the state!



*Deloitte employees pose for a quick photo at the Plainsboro Preserve last year before heading out to the trails to tackle a variety of projects.*

## Police Launch Strategic Plan Initiative

The Plainsboro Police Department continuously aspires for excellence and is dedicated to critical self-assessment, ongoing improvement, and when necessary, substantial change to be the best law enforcement agency possible to serve the community. To ensure the police remain at the forefront of law enforcement's best practices, a three-year Strategic Plan (2020-2022) is being prepared.

The Strategic Plan will be comprehensive, yet remain flexible to address specific and developing needs of the agency. The following six strategic goals will provide direction for the next three years:

1. Achieve Organizational Excellence through Professionalism, Accountability, & Efficiency

2. Enhance Traffic and Pedestrian Safety
3. Reduce, Solve, & Prevent Crime
4. Broaden Community Outreach
5. Integrate Technology & Improve Equipment Management
6. Emphasize Professional Development & Training

An important component of our plan includes gathering the input from local stakeholders and community members. Candid feedback is a significant part of improving our services to Plainsboro Township. We invite you to complete our questionnaire at <http://www.plainsboronj.com/785/Strategic-Plan>. We want your input and feedback and the opportunity to improve our services to the Plainsboro Community.

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## A Seasonal Reminder About Drugs and Alcohol

From and graduation season are a time of celebration and achievement, but for many families it can also become a time of mourning. According to a study conducted in 2017, 30 people die every day as a result of driving under the influence. Each year during the months

of May and June, alcohol and drug-related fatalities increase among people aged 17 to 24. Please talk to your children about the dangers of impaired driving, binge drinking, and using drugs.

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## D.A.R.E. Marks 30<sup>th</sup> Year of Drug Abuse Prevention Partnership

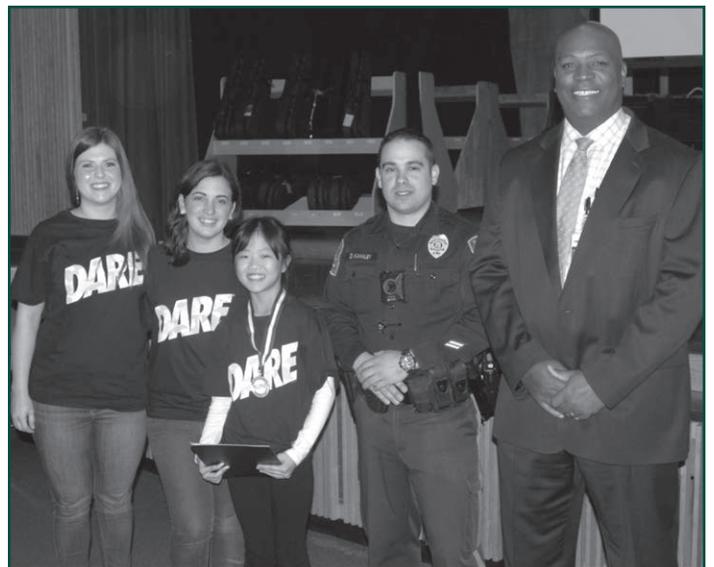
This year's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation marked the 30th year of the community partnership between the Plainsboro Township Police Department and the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

The ten week course is taught annually to more than 400 fifth grade students at Millstone River School. At the conclusion of the program, students write an essay that expresses what D.A.R.E. means to them. The essays are entered into a contest where the students compete for prizes. A winner is chosen from each of the participating classes by their respective D.A.R.E. Officer and a grand prize winner is then chosen by Plainsboro's Chief of Police, Fred Tavener.

"The D.A.R.E. program has been an essential part of the police department's involvement in the community. For 30 years now, it has strengthened the bond between our police and our residents," stated Public Safety Liaison and Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis who also spoke at this year's ceremony.

D.A.R.E. is a national program that places emphasis on teaching students decision-making tools that can be utilized

in a variety of situations as they mature into young adults. For more information on D.A.R.E. go to - <https://dare.org/>



*Chelsea Wang, a 5th grade student at Millstone River School, was this year's D.A.R.E. essay contest winner. Pictured from left to right are teachers Shannon Hart, Abyssa Zara, Chelsea Wang, Detective Daniel Kanaley and Assistant Superintendent James Earl.*

# At your service . . .

## Township Clerk's Office 799-0909, extension 2547

### Elections

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	06/04/19	By District	6:00am– 8:00pm	05/14/19	05/28/19	06/03/19
GENERAL	11/05/19	By District	6:00am– 8:00pm	10/15/19	10/29/19	11/04/19

### 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.

## Public Works Department 799-0099

### Recycle Coach

Keep track of your recycling schedule. Download the customizable software for your smart phone from our website, <https://www.plainsboronj.com/774/Recycle-Coach>

### Conservation & Recycling Center

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

### Brush Collection Guidelines:

- 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, 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:

#### April, June, August, October

Beechtree Lane, Brentwood Lane/Shallow Brook Estates, Cypress Court, George Davison Road, Grace Court, Louis Court, Mapleton

### Vital Records

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.

Road, Perrine Road, Princeton Collection, Princeton Crossing, Princeton Manor, Serina Drive, Woodland Drive

### March, May, July, September

Brookside Court, Cooks Corner, Cranbury Neck Road, Dey Road, Eiker Road, Gentry, Grovers Mill Estates, Grovers Mill Road, Heritage Way, Mayfarth Terrace, Millstone Court, Nostrand Road, Okeson Street, Petty Road, Plainsboro Road, Pollack Court, Ponds End, Scotts Corner Road, Stults Drive, Sullivan Street, Village Area, Walker Gordon Estates

### Curbside Recycling

Scheduled pickup dates for this quarter are:

June 1\*, 10, 24

July 8, 22

August 5, 19

\*Please note that Memorial Day pickup of May 27th is changed to June 1st

### 2019 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 8, August 10 and November 2. Please note that these items require special handling and are only accepted at the center on the dates listed above.

### Middlesex County Programs

Paint, household hazardous waste and consumer electronics disposal services are provided by the county.

For more information, call Middlesex County Solid Waste Management at 732-745-4170

or visit <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/Government/Departments/PSH/Pages/Solid-Waste-Management.aspx>

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# PLAINSBORO

Township of Plainsboro  
641 Plainsboro Road  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536-2094

## TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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

## 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  
*Hours of Operation:*  
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm  
*Township Website:* www.plainsboronj.com  
*Centennial Website:* www.centennial2019.com

Like us on Facebook at  
[Facebook.com/PlainsboroTwpNJ](https://www.facebook.com/PlainsboroTwpNJ)

Register at: <http://www.plainsboronj.com> to receive notifications from township officials and to request services online.

### 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

### Plainsboro Recreation and Cultural Center

*Location:* 641 Plainsboro Road  
*Phone:* General 609-799-0909, press 6  
Email [recdept@plainsboronj.com](mailto: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

### Other 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

### 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, 7:00pm or as needed  
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