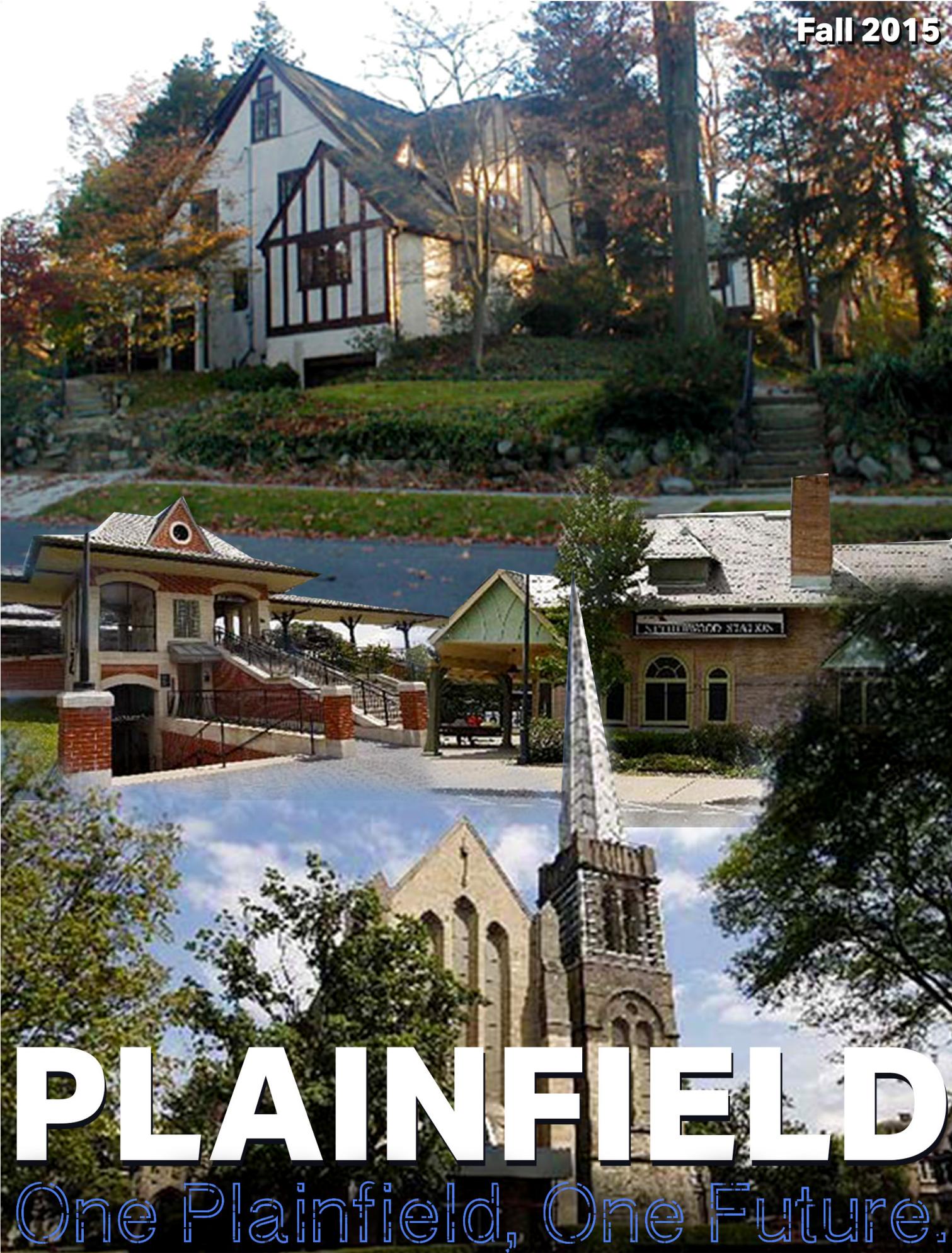




Fall 2015



PLAINFIELD

One Plainfield, One Future.





STATE OF THE CITY

One Plainfield. One Future.

Message from the Mayor

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. I am happy to report that our great City of Plainfield is growing stronger by the day. Our hard work from day one of this administration has put Plainfield's economic outlook on a continuing upward path. As a result of our continued commitment to improving the city's fiscal health, we have been able to invest more resources in our youth and senior citizens.

My administration provided a series of opportunities to residents of all ages over the summer months, thanks to the great work of our Division of Parks & Recreation. The City of Plainfield offered many successful programs, from community trips for our active older adults, activities such as the new "Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs" Youth Program (which paired our young people with adult mentors), youth dance and double-dutch, summer camp, free swimming lessons at Hannah Atkins and Rushmore pools, movie nights and other fun events. Continuing with my administration's efforts to provide ongoing education opportunities for all of our residents, we also were able to provide Internet and basic computer training to over 300 Plainfield Seniors.

As the new school year commences, I would like to highlight our commitment to the city's youth. During late spring, we hosted a Mayor's Cabinet Shadow Mentoring program, where several high school students spent the day at City Hall to get exposure to their city's government and my administration. In June, we kicked off the Mayor's Summer Employment Program. This was a great opportunity and experience for first-time job holders and new hires.

I am proud to report that we provided summer jobs to over 225 youth, placing them in over forty-one different work sites throughout our City. The program was a tremendous success and I am extremely proud of all the young men and women who participated. At the end of September, there was a Spoken Word event for teens and young adults and, in October, the Recreation Division has started the fall season of youth activities such as basketball, dance, archery, double-dutch, chess, S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities, and coding for teens.

Finally, I would like to focus a special spotlight on some exceptional students from our city's schools. Four of our Plainfield Public School District students were awarded the Global Navigator Scholarship (worth \$22,800) from the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) this summer to study abroad in France, China, and Japan. This is a testament to our school district's commitment to providing quality education and developing global citizens. We will continue to work together towards creating One Plainfield – One Future for our great Queen City.


Mayor Adrian O. Mapp
City of Plainfield

QUALITY OF LIFE & SAFETY INITIATIVES



In partnership with the U.S. Postal Service, my administration hosted the Grow Your Business Day workshop on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at Plainfield City Hall.

Led by my Chief of Staff, John Stewart, we initiated a program to help local Plainfield businesses reach targeted markets to help grow their customer base with the use of the U.S. Postal Service products that do not require the purchase of a mailing list or mailing permit.

We will be announcing future small business workshops and seminars in an effort to fully support our City's small businesses.

CRIME IS DOWN IN PLAINFIELD AND CONTINUES TO DROP!

One of my top priorities as your Mayor is to improve the public safety for all the residents of Plainfield. I am proud to announce our crime rate continues to drop across the board; it is currently down by approximately 19% from last year.

We had a very successful National Night Out Event in which we had participation from all over our City.

In July we organized a City Wide Community Forum which focused on 21st Century Policing. The goal was to bring the community and law enforcement together to discuss better engagement and partnerships with one another in the name of safer streets and neighborhoods.

In partnership with our Plainfield Police Division, we have established "Freedom Fridays" where members of the Plainfield Police Division, volunteered to spend some time with the youth of our city. The purpose of this event is to try and bridge the communication gap between law enforcement and the youth of our community.

MAYOR'S LIGHT UP THE CITY CAMPAIGN

My administration, working closely with our Police and Public Works Division, conducted a street light survey in several areas of the City, identifying light outages due to bulb failures and poorly lit areas that need to be brightened. We reported 221 light outages to Public Service (PSEG) and repairs have been made. An additional street lighting list has been submitted to PSEG; we will be adding more street lights in areas that are now poorly lit.





IMMIGRATION REFORM

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO FORGE A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL RESIDENTS FEEL COMFORTABLE REPORTING CRIME WITHOUT FEAR OF DEPORTATION.

As Mayor I continue to stand firm in my commitment and support for immigration reform at the national level and in creating a community in our great city where all residents experience an inclusive and welcoming environment. Plainfield is home to immigrant residents who live, work and contribute to the vitality of our communities. Congress has been contemplating passing legislation that would penalize cities that would not cooperate with immigration law enforcement measures that target undocumented immigrants. I stand in diametric opposition to any legislation that would seek to target any segment of our population.

I believe it is important to forge a community where all residents feel comfortable reporting crime without fear of deportation. Our streets and neighborhoods will be safer as a result and those who commit crime are more likely to be brought to justice. Therefore, I joined with 20 other Mayor's across the nation in writing to Congress to oppose congressional bills that would undermine our efforts of maintaining welcoming communities. I strongly believe immigration law enforcement is the responsibility of the federal, not local government.

ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCE

Under my administration fiscal management is and will continue to be a top priority. Our City's improved financial operations and performance has resulted in a Moody's rating upgrade. This upgrade in rating allows the City to sell Bond Anticipation Notes at a reduced net interest charge of .7681%. Lowering the City's cost of borrowing and selling Notes will allow us to make more substantial investments in our City.

We continue to work hard to bring additional revenue sources to our city; we have received over \$1.5 million in new grant funds over the past several months.

We also implemented several cost saving measures such as participating in an auction to purchase electricity, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$15,000 per year. We replaced the city copiers saving approximately \$12,000

per year and changed the postage services provider saving an excess of \$4,000 per year.

We have transitioned the Bilingual Day Care Center (BDCC) to an established Plainfield entity to handle the management and day-to-day operations of this service. We truly believe this cost saving measure is also in the best interest of the children, as everyone will be better served through the new service provider. The BDCC began operations in 1978 when there were only over 3,000 Latinos as compared to the current population of over 20,000 as per the 2010 Census. Currently, 70% of the Plainfield education population is Latino. With the transition to HOPES, the 69 students being serviced by the Center will be provided with additional services such as mental health and disability specialists, as well as an on-staff nutritionist.

ENGINEERING DIVISION

We are pleased to announce the receipt of several grants for infrastructure projects that will continue to improve our city.

- \$1,100,000.00 from Green Acres for Synthetic Turf at Seidler Field, Rushmore Field Improvements, and Improvements to the Green Brook Multi-Trail. Improving our parks is a top priority for me, as I would like to continue expanding the recreational opportunities we offer our residents.
- \$85,000.00 from Kids Recreation Trust for Improvements to the Rushmore Playground existing building – Installation of a Concession Stand and Restroom Upgrades.
- \$594,000.00 from the NJ Department of Transportation-Enhancement Grant for Improvements to the North Ave Streetscape from Park Ave to Watchung Avenue.
- \$100,000.00 from a Community Development Block Grant for Installation of a Restroom Facility at Madison Ave Playground.

We will continue to provide progress updates as the projects get underway.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

My administration continues to work to enhance the image of the city by removing buildings that are vacant or in severe disrepair and will in turn provide new up-scale housing that does not currently exist in Plainfield.



The consolidation of 11 Lots and construction of two (2) four-story residential apartment buildings totaling 212 market rate units, with 302 accessory parking spaces at the 'Gateway South' tract at 1340-1426 South Avenue & 1353 & 1355 East Seventh Street. Some of the onsite amenities will include an indoor fireplace with group seating, an outdoor patio with benches and outdoor grill area, indoor community room, a theatre, a dog run enclosure, a health and fitness area. The developer also agreed to maintain Plainwood Square Park in perpetuity, and make an annual \$10,000 donation for park maintenance.

The Administration continues to contribute to the growth and revitalization of the City of Plainfield by:

- The approval of a four-story, 124 unit market rate residential apartment building consisting of 48 one-bedroom, and 76 two-bedroom units, with 166 surface and underground parking spaces, and accessory playground and passive recreation areas in the East Third and Richmond Streets redevelopment area.
- The conversion of a vacant two-story building on East Second Street on the Downtown Transit Oriented Development Area to 4,414 square feet of commercial space on the first floor, and 5 residential apartments on the second floor.
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge crossing at Green Brook Park.
- A partnership with the Regional Business Assistance Corporation (RBAC) to provide up to \$250,000 in loans for start-up and existing businesses. The fund is available for working capital, improvements, equipment and other business needs.
- Re-funded the sign and facade grant program to continue to provide assistance in beautifying and improving store fronts and signage.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to offer Senior Citizen homeowners with a low to moderate income, a maximum grant of \$500 to assist with health related repairs such as grab bar installations, handrails and walkways.

Low to moderate income residents can qualify for a loan up to \$25,000 for rehabilitation, lead remediation, consultant access and repairs such as plumbing, masonry and electrical work.

We are also providing emergency housing assistance to individuals displaced due to the condemnation of their households.

SOME OF THE CITY'S RECENT BUSINESS GRAND OPENINGS

ITZAYANA RESTAURANT & BAKERY

117 PARK AVENUE
FINE LATIN AMERICA RESTAURANT.

FARMERS INSURANCE

110 E. 4TH. STREET
PROVIDING ALL TYPES OF
INSURANCE SERVICES.

STORM'S AUTOMOTIVE

230 EAST 3RD. STREET
AUTO REPAIR SERVICE FACILITY

ZUFITDANCE STUDIO

12 WASHINGTON AVENUE
GET FIT, BE ACTIVE AND GET THE
ZUMBA OUT OF YOU

MARBIN DESIGN

155 E. 4TH. STREET
ALTERATIONS AND CUSTOM MADE
APPAREL FOR EVERYONE

LATIN NAILS

436 WATCHUNG AVENUE
HIGH QUALITY AND PROFESSIONAL
DESIGNS

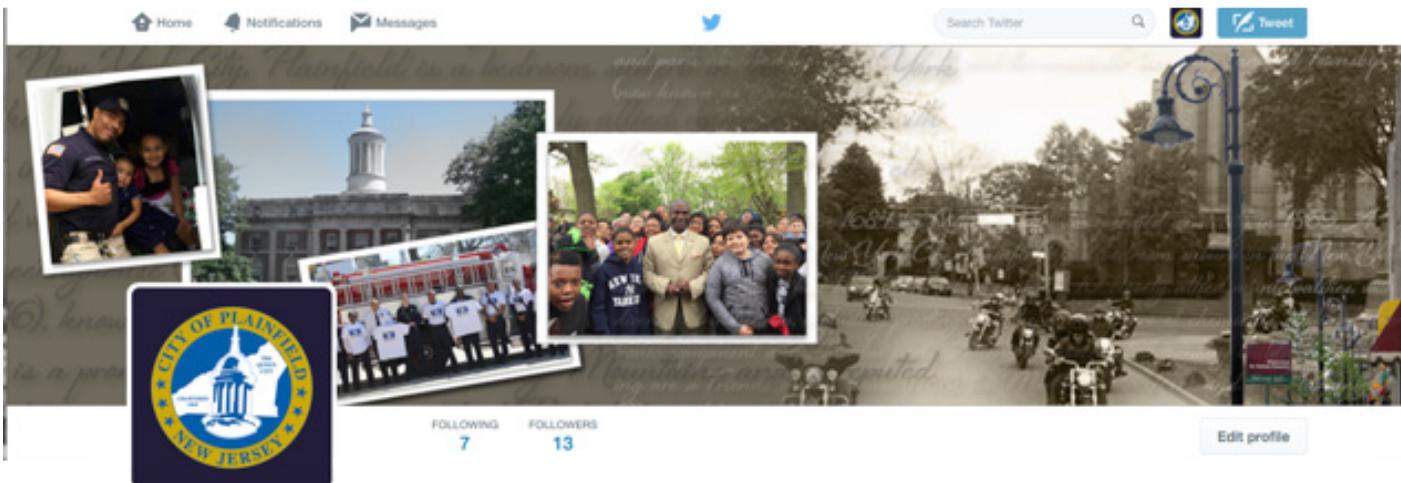
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