



THE WATER LINE

NEWS FROM PLAINFIELD, APRIL 2013

Splash Island to Open May 25

Splash Island will have its grand opening for the outdoor summer season on Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m. Hours for the Memorial Day weekend will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.; and Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The park will then be closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week due to schools still being open. Starting Saturday, June 1, Splash Island will begin its daily operation through Tuesday, August 6. Every Wednesday will have a "Wet Wednesday" celebration with evening hours from 7 to 10 p.m. featuring surprise visits, specials on food items, and more.

"We are looking forward to hosting our summer guests again this year and hoping for another record-breaking season," said Clay Chafin, Director of Parks & Recreation. "We are excited to introduce new guests to last year's big hit, Leisure River, our 900-foot long 'lazy river' style ride. One thing that will be new this year is additional parking. We are adding a lot north of Splash Island that should hold about 75 cars. Hopefully that will alleviate some of the traffic congestion we experienced last year."

Another new thing for 2013 is membership pricing for Guilford Township residents who are not within the town limits. "Thanks to the Guilford Township Health Initiative agreement between the Township and the Town, memberships at reduced prices are available to Guilford Township residents," added Chafin. "We hope that will encourage more local participation in all that we have to offer since memberships include the indoor amenities like the fitness center and Playworld. It's not just the water park."

Genco Contributes to the Miracle Field Fund



The Town recently received another \$5000 to add to the Miracle Field fund. The amount came from Genco, a logistics company that operates a distribution facility in Plainfield. They heard of the Miracle Field when they attended a Town Council meeting and were so impressed with the concept they wanted to contribute to it. The Miracle Field fund is over half-way to its goal of resurfacing one of the athletic fields at the Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex so that special needs children may play sports there. In the photo: Rob Cain, Operations Manager, Genco; Rich Carlucci, Town Manager; and Mitch Greskowiak, Facilities Manager, Genco.

Chafin said there will be promotional prizes to win like a "family reunion" prize package at Splash Island, courtesy of HANK-FM and the Plainfield Recreation and Aquatics Center. The contest runs June 3 through 16 on HANK-FM. Plus, Radio Disney visits every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with music, dancing, contests, and more. Listen to the stations for more information.

"Also, Splash Island will have a new mobile website to keep you informed on the latest happenings," he said. "And continue to visit our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, and view us on YouTube for chances to win prizes all summer long."

PARKS & REC SPECIAL!

Buy-one get-one free admission to Splash Island

Valid May 25 - September 2, 2013



Off-Duty Police Officers Serving in Schools

In early January after the Sandy Hook Elementary incident where twenty children and six adults were murdered in Connecticut, Plainfield Superintendent Scott Olinger was troubled by the fact that the four elementaries in his school system were not covered by security. "We have a resource officer, but he travels between six buildings. Naturally he spends most of his time at the high school and the middle school. I wanted more security for our elementary buildings."

"After Sandy Hook, administrators everywhere were on edge," said Plainfield Police Chief Darel Krieger. "The sense is that it could happen to us, too." At the school's request, he met with Olinger and Assistant Superintendent Jud Wolfe as well as the school's security officer, Bruce Felix. "We kicked around ideas about how to have more security in those buildings," he said, "including using off-duty police officers instead of adding more people to their staff."

The discussion extended to meetings with Town officials including Robin Brandgard, Town Council President; Kent McPhail, Council member; and Rich Carlucci, the Town Manager. The group decided the solution would be a partnership, with the Town and the School Corporation each paying half of the cost. "Protecting our children is not just a school problem, it's a community problem," said Brandgard.

The officers are off-duty, and they sign up to help out in the schools according to their schedules. Two police officers work two hours a day, dividing their time between the elementary school campuses, Van Buren/Central, and Brentwood/Clarks Creek.

"We asked the officers to be involved in the school community, and they are," said Olinger. "The kids love them. Sometimes they come into the classrooms. We want our young students to feel comfortable around police officers. The teachers are encouraged to use them as resources, not just security."

Parental reaction has been good. Ray Helmuth, Principal of Van Buren Elementary, reported, "The officers' presence has been a great addition to our school climate and has been received very positively by parents, students, and staff. We have utilized them creatively from day to day to help promote a safe and caring school environment."

"In addition, we've asked our on-duty police officers to drive by the elementary schools more often," said Krieger. "For example, if they have to write a report, maybe they could pull in a school parking lot to do it. That way there is more police presence around the elementaries. We have included St. Susanna (Catholic school) in this aspect, too."

Hadley Road to Close June 1st

Construction signs are up and the roundabout project at Hadley Road and CR 700E (Sugar Grove Road) will require the Town to close down Hadley Road from just east of Hall Road to just west of CR 725E (across from Hummel Park's Blue Heron Way). The goal is to have the shutdown completed before Plainfield schools are back in session.

"We knew we'd have to close the intersection for 60 days while we tie the roundabout in to CR 700E," said Don McGillem, the Town's transportation consultant. "Logically, the least disruptive time is during the summer when school buses aren't running and many people take vacation. Fortunately, the contractors were able to adjust their schedules so the shutdown could take place then."

Duke Energy, Hendricks Power, Comcast and AT&T have been working on moving their power lines to new poles away from where the road construction will take place. Once the old poles are down, Milestone Contractors will begin constructing the approaches and the new roundabout. Hadley Road will remain open to cross traffic under a reduced speed limit until June 1. After August 1, it will re-open but again under reduced speeds until the project is completed.

"The Town has another project going on to extend Vestal Road from the Al & Jan Barker Sports Complex to CR 700E," said McGillem. "We are phasing the two projects so those who live off of 700E always have a way in and out. Between June 1 and August 1, they will need to access the road from the north end at S. Center Street. Sometime after August 1, 700E will close at the new Vestal Road intersection. Residents will need to access 700E at the southern end from Hadley. Obviously it was important the projects be phased so as to not affect local traffic at the same time."

McGillem added that more information will be coming on the Vestal Road project. Both construction projects are expected to be finished by the end of the year.