

Keller Williams Elite, Realtors

South Plainfield Town Information



South Plainfield is a delightful town, located in the heart of Middlesex County, in Central New Jersey. Sharing a border with such towns as Piscataway, Edison, and, to the North, Plainfield, South Plainfield offers a sense of community and "small town charm" while offering the opportunity to appreciate personal space. With several areas that could be considered a "downtown" area, including walking access to stores, dining, nightlife and community amenities, such as schools, libraries, local police and fire departments, a community pool and a wide variety of places of worship, including: Wesley United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, Sacred Heart Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church.

As of the census of 2000, there were 21,810 people, 7,151 households, and 5,856 families residing in the borough. The population density was 2,609.8 people per square mile. There were 7,151 households out of which 37.6% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 66.8% were married couples living together, 10.9% had a female householder with no husband present, and 18.1% were non-families. 15.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 7.5% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.01 and the average family size was 3.35. Making South Plainfield a perfect fit for any variety of family type.

The South Plainfield Public Schools serves students in prekindergarten through twelfth grade. Schools in the district four K-4 elementary schools — Franklin Elementary School (358 students), John F. Kennedy Elementary School (295 students), John E. Riley Elementary School (305 students) and Roosevelt Elementary School (361 students) — Grant Elementary School for grades 5 & 6 (611 students), South Plainfield Middle School for grades 7 & 8 (623 students) and South Plainfield High School for grades 9-12 (1,182 students); offering small class sizes that allow teachers to focus on education on an individual basis as opposed to a very broad approach with an



overwhelming number of students to teachers.



Along with schools and local services, South Plainfield also offers a wide array of community events that are enjoyable for the whole family, including: annual Labor Day Fireworks, Local Parades, Town Wide Garage Sales, Local Fundraisers, local holiday celebrations or even just appreciate the beauty of nature in Spring Lake Park, located in the heart of South Plainfield.



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South Plainfield, Location and Transportation



Strategically situated within Middlesex County; this location, South Plainfield, a smart move with a simple commute to New York City. South Plainfield is located less than two miles from a number of the state's major arteries, which include the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, Interstate 287, U.S. Highway 1 and State Highway 27, making South Plainfield a strategic placement for all major highways in New Jersey.

From South Plainfield, Manhattan can be reached within a mere 25 miles northeast making it a simple ride to be in the heart of the greatest city in the world. What's more, aside from driving, it is an easy commute to bustling New York City by train or bus, or to Newark, Trenton or nearby Rutgers University in New Brunswick from the New Jersey Transit Stop in nearby Plainfield.

The transit station, less than two miles from South Plainfield, serves as a connection point for many local New Jersey Transit bus routes, making South Plainfield the perfect placement for easy transportation.

These routes provide a connection between Metuchen and Fords, Plainfield, Perth Amboy, Raritan, Piscataway, Edison and any number of locations with relative ease. In South Plainfield, if one does not care to walk, convenient parking and other amenities are offered for those utilizing the train station as well.

Also, just a mere 20 miles from South Plainfield, air transportation is readily available to travelers through Newark International Airport, also easily reached through a simple train transfer route through Newark Penn Station. Allowing anyone to travel from their home in South Plainfield to anywhere in the world, creating a new advantage to South Plainfield.



Walking is another option for South Plainfield residents. With a small town feel, yet easy access, makes walking an enjoyable experience throughout the town. Each route one walks throughout this town offers a wonderful, gorgeous, scenic view, beginning in a different section of the community, leads to the downtown area and nearby neighborhoods in this quaint town, making these pleasant walking routes easy to admire the surrounding area along the way. All these routes are easily accessible from any location in South Plainfield.



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Historic South Plainfield

To a large extent South Plainfield's landscape was formed thousands of years ago by a Glacier. As the Glacier inched across the borough from the direction of New Durham Avenue towards Woodland Avenue it picked up soil along the way. As a result the two highest points in our town are where the Glacier started (Durham Avenue near what is now the Prudential/Motorola building) and where it began to melt (Woodland Avenue near the West Nine Golf Course). In the middle a flat basin was formed near what is now Spring Lake. That is why all the good



topsoil is on the north side of town and the soil content on the south side is shale. The landscape became important as prehistoric hunters arrived on the scene. They used the high points near Woodland Avenue and Durham Avenue as lookouts for the animals that grazed in the lower areas of town. South Plainfield remained a fertile hunting ground right up to the time of the Lenape Indians. A tribe of these Native Americans who lived here were called "Raritaing" from which the name "Raritan" was derived.

The area that later became South Plainfield was included in the "Elizabethtown Purchase" of 1664 as a part of Piscataway Township. The name "Piscataway" came from the "Piscataqua" Indians of Maine.

(Remember the early settlers were originally from New England). Piscataway Township encompassed all of the land from Woodbridge to the southern most part of Middlesex County, including what later became New Brunswick, Spotswood, Millstone, Princeton and Cranbury. Most of the first settlers were of Scottish descent although some Quakers also lived here.

This area of New Jersey was occupied by the British from December 2, 1776 to June 22, 1777. Much activity took place in this



vicinity during the spring and summer of 1777. There were continuing British and Continental Army movements between Perth Amboy and New Brunswick. It is documented that General Washington and his troops had an encampment in the New Market section of Piscataway and it is believed that British troops led by General Cornwallis moved towards General Washington and likely crossed Spring Lake on an old log road. In response, Washington sought a higher vantage point to view British troop movements and relocated his regiment to what became known as "Washington Rock".



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