



A Message from Mayor Louis C. Jung

December is the month that the Mayor and Council begin Municipal Budget preparation for the following year. For 2001 we will again be examining all possible ways to be efficient and optimize the use of your tax dollars, yet maintaining all Borough services at a high level.

For 2001 we will be taking a very close look at sharing some services and resources with Scotch Plains Township and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

Last February I attended a meeting hosted by Mayor Martin Marks of Scotch Plains. Also in attendance were School Board President, Terry Larkin and several key staff members from the three

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The New Downtown Fanwood

Visitors to downtown Fanwood can see that the contractor has all but completed the installation of new concrete sidewalks and the pavers to match the Fanwood Clock pavers and "The Fanwood" street lamp foundations. The project extends from LaGrange Avenue to South Avenue along Martine Avenue as well as to portions of South Avenue between First and Second Streets. All the old sidewalks have been removed and new concrete sidewalks have been poured. The pavers have been skillfully cut and fitted to fill gaps between the storefronts and the curbing. Reinforced concrete driveways have been placed where macadam and cracked concrete were once in evidence. The functional and aesthetic improvements are drawing very positive comments and are presenting a minimum of inconvenience to merchants and customers during the installation. "The Fanwood" lamps are now being fabricated, and with any luck will be operation late in spring or early summer.



A view of Martine Avenue showing the newly installed sidewalks and pavers. Note the safety cone in the lower left of the picture denoting the future location of a new "bishop's-crook" Fanwood lamp.

George Weiss The Star Behind The Camera

The maestro behind the televised offerings of Fanwood's TV Channel 35 is long time resident George Weiss. Since 1992 when Fanwood received its television cable franchise, George has been pouring his best artistic impulses with uncommon dedication into programs that bring entertainment and information to Fanwood's cable watchers.

George's roots are deeply set in this area. He was born in Plainfield, went to Plainfield High School, and lived in Middlesex Borough before he brought his family to Fanwood thirty-eight years ago. With his wife Betty (Bunin) of Roselle Park, who died over fifteen years ago, they had two children, Laurie of Centerville, Virginia and Michael of Branchburg NJ. His pride in his three grandsons, though distantly located in Virginia, is easily revealed by the frequency that they are part of George's enthusiastic conversation.

George's professional career was centered on the advertising division of the newspaper business. After twenty-one years with the West Essex Tribune as its advertising manager, George spent more than fifteen years with Metro Associate Services of New York, which provided commercial art services to the newspaper industry. Doing commercial photography developed his

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Mayor's Message

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entities the Borough of Fanwood, the Township of Scotch Plains, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. The sole purpose of this meeting was to explore ways to cooperatively reduce costs for taxpayers and improve services to citizens.

It was agreed that a Scotch Plains-Fanwood Shared Services Coordinating Council would be established. The Coordinating Council would be composed of two council members (one from each political party) each from both Fanwood and Scotch Plains, two Board of Education Members, Township Manager of Scotch Plains, Borough Administrator of Fanwood, and the Board of Education Business Manager. The Mayors would serve "ex-officio." The sole reason for the Coordinating Council to exist would be to investigate all means possible to reduce costs and improve services by the sharing of resources and services of the three entitles.

Since April, the Coordinating Council has been meeting at least monthly, has identified five areas for review, and established sub-committees and groups to analyze them:

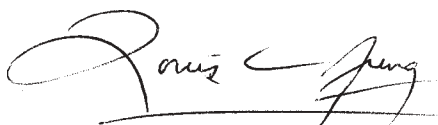
- **Administration & Technology** – includes computer systems and training
- **Recreation and Parks/Buildings and Grounds** – includes Engineering
- **Traffic Safety**
- **Services for Seniors**
- **Public Works** includes Custodial

These sub-committees have all met at least twice and are making progress toward some meaningful cost reductions and service improvements.

At the January 1 Mayor and Council Reorganization Meeting, I will be making appointments to the various Fanwood Boards, Commissions, and Committees. If anyone would like to become more directly involved in how Fanwood functions, please contact me at Borough Hall. More volunteers are always welcomed and needed, especially for the Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

I would like to thank Councilwoman Cynthia Swindlehurst for her hard work, dedication, and many contributions this past year. Also, I would like to welcome Councilwoman-elect Carol Wood, who will join the Council on January 1.

Finally, I wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.



Mayor Louis C. Jung



George Weiss

The Star Behind The Camera

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latent artistic talents that were later transferred in a natural way to videography. All of George's skills with a video camera and with video editing equipment are self-taught.

The interesting musical selections that provide background for various Channel 35 productions are a reflection of his past experience in the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra as a tuba player. Two acclaimed Channel 35 productions on the Central Railroad of NJ and the Rahway Valley Railroad give credence to George's reputation as a railroad buff. The model train layout in his basement is more evidence of his keen interest in railroading and railroading history. George's finely honed sense of local history is best represented by his recently produced and very popular, "Plainfield and Its Neighbors," Not too many people know more than George about the detailed history of our community.

Producing entertainment and information for Fanwood television forms a junction of George's professional experience, his avocations, and his basic artistic inclination. When combined with his spirit of volunteerism and the time afforded by retirement, he is comfortably settled into a very satisfying and very productive second career.

Nothing so clearly carries the signature of George's work in video than the series he labels, "The Fabulous Faces of Fanwood." In his unique way he presents the essence of his appreciation of Fanwood and its people.

Santa to Make Rounds Saturday, December 23

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Fire Department and Fanwood Rescue Squad. The police department sets the route and watches over the whole parade



as it makes its way slowly through the borough. If you'd like Santa to come to your house with presents for the kids, here's what you do:



- Bring gifts to the police station on Martine Avenue from December 11th through December 21st.

- Each gift must be clearly labeled with the child's name and address. If there is more than one gift per home, they must be bundled together with the name of the child clearly attached to each gift.

- Please limit the size of each gift to 12"x 12" x 12".

As usual, Santa announces himself on each street with a siren, so keep your ears open. This will be the 26th year of the Santa parade through Fanwood. It is made possible by the volunteers of the fire department and rescue squad. For a look at last year's Santa parade, check out the Santa page on the Fanwood Rescue Squad website, fanwoodnj.com/rescue. You can also get information there about becoming a member of the squad. We are always looking for volunteers. Call 908-322-9000 for more information.



The Bridges of Fanwood Receive Improvements

The importance of the four bridges that cross the railroad in Fanwood is unnoticed until they need to be closed for repairs. The fifty-year-old bridge on Hetfield Ave. was recently opened after being closed for major repairs. The 85-day project was a joint venture of New Jersey Transit, Scotch Plains and Fanwood because the boundary line between the two communities runs down the center of the bridge. New Jersey Transit bore fifty percent of the approximate \$300,000 total cost and Scotch Plains and Fanwood shared the balance equally. The basic structural components of the bridge were replaced or renovated, the deck was repaved, new approachways from both the north and the south side were installed. New sidewalks were installed and the vital pedestrian walkway on the Fanwood side of the bridge was repaved and resurfaced. A major gas line was repositioned on the bridge at the gas supplier's expense.

Just before the Hetfield bridge project was completed an emergency condition developed on the Martine Ave. bridge. From the effects of water, freezing, salt and vibration caused by the heavy vehicular traffic that includes trucks bearing heavy loads, a major hole opened in the reinforced concrete deck on the south bound side. The repairs were done immediately by New Jersey Transit and the State Dept of

Transportation, but an inspection revealed comparable imminent conditions in other parts of the bridge. These permanent repairs were deferred until the Hetfield Ave. project was completed. According to Public Works Director Ray Manfre, the Martine Ave. bridge project will be finished within about a week if favorable weather conditions prevail. During the Martine Ave bridge repairs, the Sheelen's Crossing bridge did yeoman service handling the diverted traffic.

The railroad cuts an east-west axis through Fanwood, and that fact magnifies the importance of the four bridges that provide north-south access to both vehicles and pedestrians. Through careful planning, inconvenience to our residents has been kept to a realistic minimum.

Time of Year for Dog/Cat Licenses

Dog and cat licenses for the year 2001 must be renewed by January 31st in order to avoid late penalty fees. To qualify the applicant must present proof of current rabies vaccination. The licenses are available at the administrative offices of the Borough of Fanwood between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM between Monday and Friday. The fees are as follows: spayed dog \$7:00, non-spayed dog \$10.00, spayed cat \$5.80, non-spayed cat \$8.80. Residents are reminded that the Borough will hold a rabies clinic in the spring at a date to be announced later.

Santa Claus to Make Rounds in Borough

It doesn't seem like a year has already passed, but very soon Santa will return to Fanwood, bringing presents right to the doors of our children. Santa's visit this year will take place on Saturday, December 23, beginning at 12 noon. It takes him just about six hours to get through the entire



borough. You should expect his arrival in your neighborhood at about the same time of day as last year. In 1999, traveling atop a fire engine, he made over 300 stops and delivered 739 presents, accompanied by helpers from the Fanwood Volunteer

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Vote on December 12: Bond Referendum

On December 12, Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents will be asked to vote on a school bond referendum for \$35,729,112.

The purpose of the bond is to solve problems of rising enrollment including:

- Meeting new standards in performing arts and time requirements in physical education
- Adding permanent walls to open classrooms, creating better access for the handicapped and fixing basic building problems.

By reason of a recently passed law in the New Jersey State Legislature, the state will pay approximately, \$11,600,000 or



about 33% of the total referendum cost.

Mark your calendar for December 12th and be sure to vote. For more information call the Bond

Hotline at (908) 889-9665 or visit the BOE's Web site at <http://www.njcommunity.org/spfnet>.

Fanwood Borough Hall
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

Fanwood Community News

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Our Neighbors

Fanwood, NJ 07023

Don't Forget

To Vote On
December 12