



Rescue Squad, Police and Fire Department To Receive New Life Saving Defibrillators

If ever there were a living, breathing advertisement for the power of a battery operated box called a defibrillator, it is Jack Ruh. A 45 year veteran of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department, Jack has dealt with his share of dangerous situations. But none equaled the one he faced early on the morning of December 17,



2000, when Jack, responding to a fire call, collapsed in the kitchen of the firehouse on Watson Road. "I have no memory of that moment or the week following it," Jack recalled recently. He learned later he suffered a case of sudden cardiac arrest. According to the American Heart Association, 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before even getting to a hospital. But when an electric shock is applied to the heart within the first 6 to 10 minutes, the survival rate is almost 50%. As luck would have it, Jack collapsed in a room full of firefighters, several of whom were EMT's who are also members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. They quickly pulled a portable defibrillator from one of the ambulances parked just 50 feet away and within just a couple minutes applied the shocks according to their training. Once they got a pulse, Jack was rushed to the hospital. He returned home the day after Christmas with his new best friend-an implanted pacemaker/defibrillator. Portable automated external defibrillators (AED's) are standard equipment on the ambulances and will soon be standard equipment on Fanwood's police cars and fire engines. With money from grants and donations (no taxpayer funds), six new

A Message from Mayor Jung

After a shutdown for the winter, the downtown streetscaping is underway again. As I write this, PSE&G has begun installing the Victorian Bishop's Crook and Scroll street lamps after pulling the electrical wiring through the underground conduits that were installed last fall along with the new concrete sidewalks and pavers. Viola Construction will return this Spring to complete its contract - installing the streetscaping behind the stores on the West side of South Martine Avenue and on South Avenue between Second Street and Sheelen's Crossing and in front of the Chelsea. This is being funded with grants from the Union County Freeholders (\$300K) and the State Legislature (\$100K).

As of this writing, the contract with NJ Transit (NJT) for the new and expanded parking lot for the South side of the train station is being finalized and scheduled for Mayor and Council approval on March 15th. NJT is now scheduled to begin the project in early summer. The project includes clearing the cur-

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Find Out What's New at Watson Road Pocket Park

By Councilwomen Karen Schurtz

With spring in the air, our thoughts and attention naturally turn to the out of doors. It seems appropriate at this time to give a status report on the Watson Road Pocket Park.

The first newsworthy item is that the park is now officially known as the Carriage House Park. During September and October, we had a contest to deter-

mine the name of this .97 acre park. Over one hundred people offered their suggestions for the best name for the park. Approximately sixty different names – yes, sixty!! – were submitted. In addition to the winning entry, some of the choices included: Millennium Park, Slocum Shady Rest Park, La Petite Park, Firehouse Park, Volunteer Me-

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Find Out What's New at Watson Road Pocket Park

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memorial Park, White Oak Park and Victorian Park.

The members of the Pocket Park Committee and Council, excluding myself, ranked their top three choices. Since I knew the identity of the authors, I recused myself from the selection process. After two rounds of voting, the clear winner was the Carriage House Park.

Irma's Hallmark had donated one \$25.00 gift certificate for the person whose park name was selected, but since three people had submitted the name, it was de-

ecided to present each one with a \$25.00 gift certificate from Irma's.

This was made possible thanks to Mayor Jung, who subsidized the additional gift certificates from his budget.

The recipients of the gift certificates were George Weiss, Colleen Huehn, and Suzie Leonard.

As soon as the weather permits, the pavers for the walkway will be installed.

The Committee has approved a landscape plan designed by Dominic Bravo of Bravo Landscaping. Many of you may recognize the

name from the work done in the area surrounding the Millennium Clock.

The beautiful landscaping and the wall around the clock testify to Mr. Bravo's skill and excellent craftsmanship. Mr. Bravo has worked with the committee to sketch a landscaping design that matches the vision of the committee.

A former resident of Fanwood and a current resident of Scotch Plains, Mr. Bravo has donated the design for the park to us.

The signature piece of the park will be a white oak reminiscent of the original Fanwood Oak. Initially, we had hoped to plant an offspring of the original Fanwood Oak but, despite working with the New Jersey Forest Service, all attempts at regeneration proved futile. We, therefore, decided to plant the same type of tree as our beloved Fanwood Oak.

Since oak trees are rather slow growers and we wanted to plant something that looks like a tree rather than a twig, it was decided to purchase a larger caliber than usual. This translates to a larger expense.

To help underwrite the estimated cost of this size tree - approximately \$1,500 - and to stretch the grant money a little further, residents will be welcome to purchase "a piece" of the new Fanwood Oak.

A \$10 share entitles you

to ownership in the new Fanwood Oak. All shareholders will receive a certificate of ownership and be recorded by resolution in the minutes of a Fanwood Borough Council meeting. We hope to celebrate Arbor Day with our new tree at home in our new park.

Bids for landscaping based on our design will be accepted this month and, hopefully, awarded in April.

Unfortunately, with the high price tag associated with landscaping, we will not be able to afford all of the plantings represented in the plan. Being ever mindful of our promise to residents not to translate the cost of the park to additional taxpayer dollars, we are looking at alternative ways in which to fill in the foliage.

One avenue we are investigating is a memorial tree program. Residents, former residents, and friends of Fanwood would be able to purchase shrubbery, trees and plants represented in the landscaping design as a tribute or memorial to someone who has died or moved away from our borough. Details of the program have not yet been finalized.

As we begin to emerge from our winter hibernation, I encourage you to watch the progress at the Carriage House Park. It is a project that began as a dream, evolved into a vision, and will become a reality in the very near future.

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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

- **When crossing** at signalized intersections, utilize the pedestrian crosswalk button. This button does not change the traffic signal but extends the time for the pedestrian to cross the street.

DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

- **Look before** making a right turn at a red light, if allowed. Make sure to look to the right, as well as to the left, so as not to miss a crossing pedestrian.
- **Be especially attentive** to pedestrians walking along the roadway when operating a radio or cell phone.
- **Watch for pedestrians** who are walking with traffic rather than against traffic.
- **Be aware** that pedestrians may have more difficulty seeing vehicles in rainy conditions, especially if items such as umbrellas block their vision.
- **Also, be aware** of the extra time and distance it will take your vehicle to stop in inclement weather.
- **Be vigilant** in areas where children may dart out unexpectedly into traffic. These areas include residential and school areas, near school busses, park areas, and around frozen dessert trucks.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding traffic safety, contact Sgt. Richard Trigo, Traffic Bureau, Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000.

Meet Your Borough Council

This is the first of an ongoing series of columns to help residents get to know their elected representatives. This inaugural column is written by two-term, Republican Councilman Stuart Klein

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For the past year, I have served as chairman of the Council Finance and Administration Committee along with Council President Joel Whitaker and Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell.

Every month, the Committee meets with Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern and Chief Financial Officer Barbara Brennan to discuss a variety of issues which directly impact how we spend the Borough's money.

Over the last few months, for instance, the Committee has evaluated several issues including whether to accept credit cards to pay for borough services (e.g. for construction fees, dog licenses, or municipal court fines), the Comprehensive Enforcement Program (a State agency which targets collection of delinquent municipal court fines), implementation of an employee assistance program, and direct deposit of employee paychecks.

We also have addressed various aspects of Borough administration, such as or-

ganization, workload, policies, and procedures.

One of the most important issues the Committee is looking at is the cost of health care insurance benefits for borough employees.

The budget for health care insurance increased from \$420,000 in the year 1999 to \$470,000 in 2000. This year, the budget for health care insurance is projected to be approximately \$581,000.

Last year, based upon the Committee's recommendation, the Borough appointed Commerce National as the new health insurance broker to help contain the ever increasing costs.

The Committee will continue its efforts throughout the year to provide quality health care benefits to Borough employees that are also affordable for our residents.

From healthcare benefits to where the Borough banks, the Administration and Finance Committee will keep recommending ways to keep costs, and thus taxes, as low as possible.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 14th in the area behind the Fanwood Borough Hall.

A Message from Mayor Louis C. Jung

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rent Scotchwood Automotive property, and merging it with the present south side parking lot resulting in 53 additional parking spaces.

Also included is a total repaving and restriping of the lot, additional landscaping, and installation of streetscaping and the new Victorian street lamps along the north side of South Avenue. Overall completion is planned for early Fall.

Speaking of the fall brings thought of Fanny Wood Day in late September. The Committee has begun to make plans for the 6th annual Fanny Wood Day. If you would like to serve on the Committee, or be involved in some other way, please contact me at Borough Hall.

Likewise, plans are underway for our Holiday Celebration event in early December. New this year are plans on how to integrate our Victorian Street Lamps, for the first time, into the

celebration. Again, contact me at Borough Hall if you would like to be on the Committee or involved in this event.

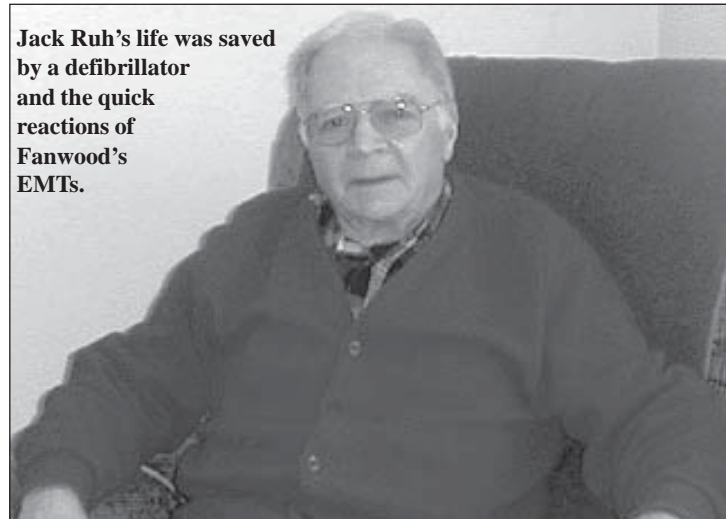
Lastly, I would like to invite you to a Family Safety and Health Day on Saturday, March 31st sponsored by our Fanwood COP-tv, Fire Department and Rescue Squad. The event will begin at 10:00AM behind Borough Hall.

Life Savers

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Lifepak 500 defibrillators are being purchased. Each of the Rescue Squad's two ambulances will get one to replace the older First Medic models now in use. Each police patrol car and each fire engine will also be equipped. The police department is hoping to get a seventh AED donated to keep in police headquarters. The Lifepak 500, manufactured by Medtronic Physio-Control, costs about \$3,000. AED's have gotten so simple to operate that even lay persons can be quickly and easily trained to operate them. They have only two or three buttons and a computerized voice actually talks you through the process. The Fanwood Rescue Squad's members are certified in their use, and training will be provided for police and fire personnel.

Jack Ruh's life was saved by a defibrillator and the quick reactions of Fanwood's EMTs.



Important Safety Tips for Pedestrian and Motorist

Spring is just around the corner. A time of year where everyone emerges from their homes and many enjoy a leisurely stroll. The Fanwood police department would like to offer the following tips to pedestrians and motorists to help everyone have a safe and enjoyable Springtime:

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

- **Do not jaywalk.** Always try to cross the street at a crosswalk or signalized intersection.
- **Do not assume** that a green light, a walk signal, or a crosswalk means the street is safe to cross. Look left, right, then left again before crossing. Be aware that some drivers may disregard traffic rules and that you must be aware of vehicles even when you have the right of way.
- **Carry a flashlight** when walking at night and wear reflective materials so drivers can easily spot you.
- **Walk on sidewalks** whenever they are available. When they are not, walk facing traffic as far off the roadway as possible.
- **Be aware** of limited visibility and the extra time and distance it takes vehicles to stop in rainy conditions.
- **Refrain from using** cell phones and headsets while walking along a roadway. Your attention and hearing are greatly diminished. – *continued on page 2*

DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

- **Yield to pedestrians.** Do not attempt to pass in front of or around pedestrians while they are in crosswalks.
- **Obey the posted speed limit.** The risk of injury to a pedestrian increases with the speed of the vehicle.
- **Do not pass cars** stopped at an intersection as these cars may be stopped for pedestrians. Pedestrians may get caught in an intersection when the light changes.
- **Stop well short** of the crosswalk at an intersection so as not to block pedestrian crossing signals.

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12th Annual Earthday 2001

Clean Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st. Volunteers are asked to assemble at 8:30AM in the South train station parking lot.

T-Shirts, work gloves, and garbage bags will be furnished to the volunteers who will be assembled into teams and assigned areas for cleanup. The Public Works Director will announce merchants who will furnish refreshments afterwards.

Join us this year and make this a family event to spend quality time together while helping your community.

Fanwood Borough Hall
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