



A Message from Mayor Louis C. Jung



Another milestone was reached for the further development of Fanwood's downtown when the Mayor and Council recently approved and authorized the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Downtown Developers.

The redevelopment effort began in the spring of 2000 when the Borough hired a professional planner to assess and advise the Mayor and Council of potential downtown redevelopment options. The planner, and subsequently the Fanwood Planning Board, recommended a study of the core commercial area bounded by Martine, LaGrande and South Avenues and Second Street.

A study by the planner then confirmed that portions of the downtown suffered from lack of development and improvements, and that some lots have lain vacant and underdeveloped. The planner's report of March 2001 concluded that the downtown core commercial block met the statutory criteria of an "area in need of redevelopment," i.e., redevelopment area.

The redevelopment area statute provides municipalities with proactive means of redeveloping their downtowns in collaboration with landowners, merchants, and developers. After several public meetings, the Planning Board and then the Mayor and Council formerly approved this approach in mid 2001. In the fall of 2001 and winter of 2002, the Planning Board and Mayor and Council held additional meetings and hearings to review, discuss and modify a redevelopment plan prepared by the Borough planner. The Redevelopment Plan was adopted via Ordinance by the Mayor and Council on March 12, 2002.

As you read this, the RFQ is being sent to all developers who have expressed interest in our downtown, or have seen our advertisements for downtown developers. The RFQ's must be returned by July 31, 2002. An eleven-person committee composed of Mayor and Council members, Borough professionals and Planning Board members will screen the RFQ's to a small number for Mayor and Council final review. The Mayor and Council will then select the developer from these finalists.

In order to keep up on all the current "happenings and doings" in Fanwood, I again encourage everyone to take advantage of TV Channel 35 and the Borough Web site, VisitFanwood.com.

I hope that you, your family and friends, and all others important to you, have a wonderful, healthy and safe summer.

Mayor Louis C. Jung

Meet Donald Domanoski, Fanwood's New Police Chief

On July 1, 2002, Donald Domanoski assumes his new position as Chief of Police with the Fanwood Police Department. On that day he becomes the fifth Chief in the department's history. Law enforcement in the Borough began in 1895 with the appointment of one man who was responsible for enforcing the laws of the day as well as performing other Borough duties which even included making necessary road repairs. The position of Constable was held by several men until the early 1920's when the Borough, by ordinance, formed the Fanwood Police Department. The first Chief of Police served until the early 1940's. The second chief served from then until 1975. The third chief, Anthony Parenti retired in 1998. In January of 1998 the fourth chief, Robert Carboy, was sworn in and his retirement on July 1, 2002 creates the opening to which Captain Domanoski is being elevated.

In 1977 Chief Parenti hired Donald Domanoski, then a young patrolman with the Rutgers' University Police Department to fill a vacancy. Patrolman Domanoski

spent the next several years distinguishing himself as an aggressive patrol officer who was attuned to the needs of all with whom he came in contact. His expertise in the area of traffic safety was recognized and in 1984 Patrolman Domanoski was appointed as the Traffic Safety Officer and received specialized training in order to meet the demands of the position. In 1989, while assigned to the Traffic Bureau, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The retirement of the Patrol Captain in 1993 created the opening for Commander in the Operations Division. Sergeant Domanoski competed for the position and was promoted to Lieutenant. He was assigned as Operations Commander undertaking responsibility for the Detective and Traffic Bureaus. He remained in this position until 1998 when he was promoted to Captain and assumed command of the Patrol Division.

During his career, Chief Domanoski received training in

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Fanwood DPW's Pat Bellone Retires After 45 Years of Service

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wife and partner in a marriage that gave them three children, Debbie, Marie, and Pat, while they lived in Plainfield and Piscataway. By 1971, perhaps in following the calling of his heart, he moved the family to Fanwood into a house on North Avenue that, coincidentally, is close to the railroad. Up until that time he was a Fanwoodian in spirit. After the move he became a Fanwoodian in fact and probably for the rest of his life. While a non-resident, it was not uncommon for him to sleep overnight in the municipal jail on Watson Road during an actual or impending snowstorm to be ready for emergency duty.

For forty five years Pat had played many vital roles, among them foreman, in making Fanwood's Public Works Department among the best rated in the state. He can remember back to his early days when the department's inventory of power equipment was rather meager, and that meant shoveling the snow off Borough sidewalks by hand. In recent years as the Borough purchased more power equipment, Pat could often be seen perched high atop and skillfully maneuvering his favorite big front loader.

When he was asked what his biggest adjustment has been in retirement, he replied, "Not having to be somewhere." But when there is a somewhere, this grandfather of three might have metal detector in hand scanning for little treasures. His collection of finds are 550 coins, many of them pennies, the oldest of which is an 1879 penny found on LaGrande Ave.

Public Works Director Ray Manfra pays Pat a high compliment: "Pat was totally dedicated to his work. He rarely if ever missed a day for illness or for personal reasons, and he was always where he had to be and on time."

Pat is quick to acknowledge that working for the Borough of Fanwood has over the years meant a big improvement in working conditions, safety, working hours, wages, and employee benefits. Gallantly acknowledging the supporting role of his wife, Pat declares with obvious satisfaction and contentment, "We jointly had forty five years of good service to Fanwood."



PAT BELLONE RETIRES... after 45 years - and thousands of tons of leaves, snow, sticks, branches and the occasional bee hive - with the Fanwood Department of Public Works. Although retired, Pat remains a Fanwood resident and true Fanwoodian.

Donald Domanoski Appointed Chief of Police

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many applicable professional areas and received instructor status in several of them. In 1997 he graduated from the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command.

The Chief is a member of many professional associations but is best known for his participation with the Union County Emergency Response Team. His dedication and expertise earned him the recognition and respect of his subordinates and superiors who selected him to be Commander of the unit in 1997. He continues to hold the position today.

Raised in South Brunswick, in 1974 he graduated from South Brunswick High School where he participated in the football and wrestling programs. His thrust for a law enforcement career began while working as

a security officer for a national retail establishment. He then joined the Rutgers Police Department and graduated from the Middlesex County Police Academy in 1976. Married to Stephanie, his wife of 23 years, his family consists of daughter, Laura Beth and son Donald.

Appointed Acting Chief of Police in mid February, Chief Domanoski has begun to implement his plans for the future by embracing a philosophy that provides the type of law enforcement the citizens of Fanwood expect and deserve.

Fanwoodians congratulate Chief Domanoski on his promotion and pledge to work with him and the Fanwood Police Department in its efforts to continue to protect and serve all people.



THE ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK... held every Memorial Day, was again a smash this year as thousands attended the festivities featuring rides, food and fun for the whole family.

Meet Your Borough Council: Councilman Michael Brennan; Knows Fanwood From Childhood to Council Chambers

I would like to begin by introducing myself to you. My name is Michael Brennan, and I am new to the Fanwood Borough Council this year. I am, however, not new to Fanwood. I grew up here, went through the local school system and chose our town to start my own family. With all that time here you would think that I know all there is to know about such a small town. I was immediately surprised to learn how much effort goes into running the Borough and the various commissions.

One example is the Recreation Department. The Fanwood Recreation Commission consists of nine volunteers appointed by the Mayor, a Director and an Assistant Director (who are year round part time employees). The goal of the Commission is to provide enjoyable recreational activities for the citizens of Fanwood. The following is a list of some of those activities:

- **Fanwood Youth Organization;**
 - T-Ball League (Kindergarten)
 - Minor League (First- Fourth Grades)
 - Major League (Fifth-Eighth Grades)
- **Fanwood-Scotch Plains Basketball;**
 - Grammar School Division
 - Middle School Division
- **Adult Sports;**
 - Fanwood Old Men's Softball League
 - Fanwood Old Men's Basketball League
- **Halloween Parade**
- **Ice Skating**
- **Skate Park**
- **Easter Egg Hunt**
- **Memorial Day in the Park**
- **Movies in the Park**
 - June 25 - Shrek
 - July 2 - Spy Kids
 - July 9 - Recess Schools Out
 - July 16 - See Spot Run
 - July 23 - Snow Dogs
 - July 30 - Princess Diaries
 - August 6 - Jimmy Neutron
 - August 13 - Dr. Doolittle
- **Fine Arts Program**
- **Summer Recreation Department**
- **Summer Sports Camps;**
 - Tennis
 - Soccer
 - Baseball
- **Summer Art Camp**

As Council liaison to this department, I've seen first hand how many of the programs I once took for granted are organized, run and managed through the tireless efforts of volunteers. Without their dedication, these programs would not exist. I would like to personally thank all the volunteers, who through their selflessness give the residents of Fanwood an array of enjoyable family activities. While constructive criticism is always welcome, please keep in mind our volunteers are giving of their personal time to enrich our community.

Although not inclusive of the many volunteers, the members of the Commission are Chairman Russell Wells, Linda Caminiti, Tom Smith, Tom Drubulis, Ken Fischer, Art Badala, Rich Hopkins, George Speer, Doris Terry, Executive Director Kevin Ewing and Assistant Director Tom Baylock. The Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the LaGrande Park Building. The meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend. For questions regarding any of the programs, or to see how you can get involved, contact the Fanwood Recreation Department at 889-2080.

Your Borough Council Members

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Chairman Public Works Committee

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Chairman Land Use and Historic Preservation

Fanwood DPW's Pat Bellone Retires After 45 Years of Service

When coworkers and friends gathered at Fanwood's Public Works facility on April 19th, they came to celebrate Pat Bellone's retirement after 45 years of service to the people of Fanwood. The celebration, which included food, beverages and speeches from friends, coworkers and Borough officials, was befittingly set in the familiar open spaces of the main garage of the department that was an important part of Pat's working life.

Pat was born in Plainfield in 1940, and when he was just eleven years old his mother died. At age fourteen he moved from Plainfield with his older brother and his father to live with an uncle in an apartment located on the second floor of Fanwood's historic railroad station. A nostalgic aura envelopes Pat as he recalls the coal fired stoves that warmed the 5½ room apartment, and he remembers quite vividly the tasty fresh vegetables that came from the garden his uncle cultivated on the grounds that would later be part of the Public Works Department. Pat made an easy adjustment to living in the midst of the noise filled activity of the railroad station, but he recalls with a humorous smile how much he disliked the offensive odor of cattle in long freight trains of open cars passing through Fanwood.

Pat attended local schools, but formal schooling held little allure for him, and so he left high school before graduation and joined the Fanwood Public Works department at age 17. It was only two years later that he met Plainfielder, Jean Metner, who became his

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Happening At Your Library

- **MOVIE: THE PRINCESS DIARIES**
Rated PG, 115 minutes
Friday, June 21st - 7:30pm to 9:30pm
- **"STAR-SPANGLED" STORYTIME for 2 yr. olds**
Wednesday, June 26th - 10:30am to 11:00am
- **GOSFORD PARK**
Rated R, 137 minutes
Friday, June 28th - 7:30pm to 10:00pm

For more information about programs and services available from the Fanwood Memorial Library call (908) 322-6400, visit www.lmxac.org/fanwood or Email Fanwplib@LMXAC.org.

Become A Friend of The Library!!

Members receive a discount card from The Town Book Store as a "Thank You" for helping support the Fanwood Library.

Call (908) 322-7174

**Fanwood Borough Hall
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023**

Fanwood Community News

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