



## Annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting Among Fanwood's Traditional Holiday Events

Come celebrate the holidays Fanwood style. Starting on Sunday, December 5th, Santa Claus will be arriving by train, at 3:00 p.m. to greet local boys and girls. Refreshments and photos will be available while visiting with Santa in the Fanwood Community Room located on the North side of the Train Station.

At dusk the Mayor will officially launch the holiday season with the lighting of the Fanwood Christmas Tree. Come and join us in celebration! Additional programs are currently being planned - so check out the website at [www.visitfanwood.com](http://www.visitfanwood.com) for details.

The Lions Club will once again be selling Christmas Trees at LaGrande Park during the month of December.

A variety of Balsam Firs, Spruce, Evergreen and more will be available at reasonable prices. Support this great local community organization who donates all or part of the funds raised to great organizations right here in Fanwood.

The Kiwanis will also be selling Luminary Candles at the DPW building most weekends in December. This Fanwood tradition of lighting candles along curbs and sidewalks on Christmas Eve is an admired and cherished event. Why not organize your neighborhood and light up the whole block! If you plan to be away on Christmas Eve, ask a neighbor to light your candles for you - it's such a great sight!



### A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

As 2004 winds down I hope you will join me in toasting a good year for Fanwood and its residents. Time goes by so quickly and this year is no different. It has been a year marked by great accomplishments both public and personal. I am very proud to be the Mayor of Fanwood and have

worked hard, in partnership with members of the Council, to do what is best for the Borough.

In the final quarter of this year I am pleased to share with you news of our continued successes:

On the grants front, thanks to an \$18,000 grant from the NJ Department of Community Affairs, a new partnership with Children's Specialized Hospital and the Scotch Plains - Fanwood YMCA has been created to offer swimming and gymnastic lessons for Fanwood children with disabilities.

Improvements to Forest Road Park continue with an additional \$50,000 grant from Union County to install an irrigation system for our fields to ensure that they are kept in the best possible shape. Fanwood also will receive a \$2,000 grant to purchase recreational sports equipment for our children.

All totaled, Fanwood has received over half a million dollars in State and County grants, this year, an accomplishment we should be proud of. I hope to make 2005 an equally prosperous year for our community as we meet challenges and celebrate our successes together.

The Fanwood Downtown Advisory Committee has held two very successful open public forums on the redevelopment of our downtown and we hope you can join us for the 3rd public forum on Wednesday December 1st at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church starting at 7:30 p.m. At this forum we will share several concept plans that will include integration of your comments and suggestions.

It has been the intent of the Committee to educate the public on the redevelopment process and plans, and to create an atmosphere where real discussion can take place. I am extremely impressed by the

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The annual Santa parade will be held Saturday, December 18th. For the first time, parents should bring all presents to the firehouse at times to be determined. Additionally, the size and number of presents will be strictly monitored. We regret that we cannot accept oversized gifts.

The Santa parade is a program sponsored by community volunteers from the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and PBA Local 123. Additional volunteers are needed to help sort the presents into routes and bundle them up for delivery day. Contact any member of the Rescue Squad or Fire Department.

Watch TV35 or visit the website to find out details about all of these great events.

**December 5th**  
Santa Arrives  
Holiday Tree Lighting

**December 9th**  
Tiny Tim Carol Night

**December 18th**  
Santa Parade

**December 24th**  
Luminary Display

# Assemblywomen Stender Moves Child Obesity Law

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared that 61% of American adults are affected by obesity. This condition is an epidemic in our nation. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "overweight" is now the most common medical condition of childhood. Up to 15% of children ages 6 to 17 are obese.

For this reason, Assemblywoman Linda Stender sponsored legislation prohibiting the sale of certain foods on school property. This legislation restricts elementary and middle schools from selling foods of minimum nutritional value, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture. Any food or drink that consists of more than 35% sugar or other sweetener or more than 8 grams of fat per serving will be prohibited. It will also place restrictions on vending machines located on school property. Snacks will be limited to items such as whole or

enriched grain products, fruits, vegetables, soy based and dairy products. Drinks will also be limited to milk, 100% fruit of vegetable juice, electrolyte replacement beverages and water.

This legislation does not affect high schools. Students who are in high school are aware of the consequences of their actions and are capable of making their own decisions about nutrition and diet. Much like good study habits, students who learn about healthy eating will choose more nutritious meals in high school and later on in life.

The effects of obesity are at best detrimental to our society. The costs of obesity related illnesses are enormous. As parents and educators, Assemblywoman Stender believes it is our duty to instill a positive attitude about healthy eating in our children. "I hope that this legislation is a stepping stone for a healthier and brighter future for our children," she stated.

## A Message From Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr

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overwhelming turnout and the thoughtful and constructive comments that have been made so far. I encourage you to attend the December 3rd meeting because your input has been critical in shaping the future of this important part of our community. We anticipate that the Committee will present its report to the Borough Council in January.

Finally, as we approach the busy Holiday season please join us for the Annual Holiday Celebration on Sunday December 5th. Santa will be on hand and the lighting of the Borough's Christmas tree will take place.

I look forward to continuing to provide frequent updates on all Fanwood matters and, in tandem with the Borough Council, continuing to serve our community in 2005. We remain committed to hearing your concerns and suggestions, and keeping the lines of communication open.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a fruitful New Year.

Contributions, suggestions and comments are welcome and may be sent to:

The Fanwoodian  
75 N. Martine Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023

Fanwoodian@VisitFanwood.com

### The Fanwoodian



[www.VisitFanwood.com](http://www.VisitFanwood.com)

## Calling All Fanwoodians: Volunteers Wanted in 2005

Fanwood's greatest strength is its people! The Borough boasts over 20 different committees or commissions, each with no fewer than 5 members - we have more than 100 volunteers that give up several hours each month and who work in tandem with our full-time staff to ensure that the work of the Borough continues to run effectively and efficiently. If you have a special skill or interest and would like to be a part of what makes this great

community so special, contact Mayor Mahr at Borough Hall.

A few Committees and Commissions in particular need of volunteers are:

- Recreation
- Environmental
- Shade Tree
- Library Board
- Historic Preservation
- Cultural Arts
- Communications
- Community Events
- Board of Health

## Fanwood-Scotch Plains Tiny Tim Fund Carol Night

On December 9th your neighbors may regale you with Christmas and Hanukah songs. They are volunteers who are caroling to raise money for The Fanwood-Scotch Plains

Tiny Tim Fund, Inc. This fund was incorporated in 1983 to pay medical bills for needy children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. A board of volunteers runs the fund, donating their time and energy to help children. Over the years

the fund has paid for such things as medication, dentistry, broken bones, walkers and communication devices for children unable to speak.

If you need help for your child, contact the fund at PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023. You

will then be contacted by a caseworker.

Unfortunately, there are not enough carolers to cover the entire Borough. If you would like to carol this year, contact Mari McDevitt at (908) 233-6513 before December 1st.



## Annual Fanwood Council Reorganization Announced

The annual reorganization meeting of the Fanwood Council will take place on Sunday, January 2, 2005 starting at 12 Noon in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall.

Council members Katherine Mitchell and Joseph Higgins will be sworn in at that time. The Mayor's annual "State of Fanwood" address and various appointments will also be on the agenda.

### Remember: Renew Your Pet License By January 31

A reminder to pet owners that dog and cat licenses are issued through the Borough Clerk's Office and must be acquired each year between January 1 and January 31st.

An unexpired rabies inoculation certificate is necessary for the issuing and renewal of all animal licenses. A mail in request will be processed if the certificate of inoculation and the appropriate fee is sent with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The license fee for a neutered cat is \$5.80, unneutered is \$8.80.

The license fee for a neutered dog is \$7.00, while an unneutered dog is \$10.00.

A late fee of \$2.00 per month will be assessed on all licenses issued after January 31st.



A reception will immediately follow the program at the Chelsea on South Avenue in Fanwood from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

All Fanwoodians are invited to attend. See you there!

## Downtown Focus Groups

The 3rd Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Community Focus Group is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 1st at the Presbyterian Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

Information related to the recommendations and alternatives to the existing plan will be presented at that time.

Let your voice be heard - we want to hear your suggestions - so come out and participate.



### Meet Your Borough Council: Councilman Jack Molenaar

My first year on Council in Fanwood is coming to a close and it has been a wonderful experience to date. Every Councilperson in Fanwood is assigned to the many groups of government and volunteer groups to act as a liaison. I am assigned as the liaison to the Planning Board, the zoning officer and construction office, the Rescue Squad and the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, or "PARSA". Along with these "formal" assignments there are other areas that I am interested in, so I tended to get involved there as well.

Professionally, I work as a Transportation Planner for Rutgers University. In my career as a Planner I have designed and reviewed many transportation projects. This is the primary reason that in 1995 I was appointed to the Planning Board by then Mayor, Linda Stender. And also why I am still on the Planning Board as the Council liaison. Another area that I was interested in was "capital projects" or construction projects, along our streets. As a resident of Fanwood, prior to being on Council, I was always advocating more public input into the capital construction process. As a planner, I have always found that a good public process will always save a community money and will result in a better product. Therefore, this year I have begun to put my ideas into action.

Those Fanwoodians that live on the south side of town may have seen the construction along Second Street between Herbert and Coriell. The primary reason for this project was to improve the stormwater drainage in the area. In addition, we have been able to put in new belgian block curbs, new sidewalks and new concrete aprons for all driveways. Also, the intersection of Second and Coriell has been narrowed. This narrowing will help to reduce the motor vehicle speeds along Second and make the crosswalk for kids and parents much safer, because the distance is now much shorter; by more than half!

Since this project was going to entail a lot of disruption in the neighborhood, I recommended to the Mayor that we should walk the project and give the residents a personal notice of the project. In the past, the Borough would only give a two-week notice to residents of a construction project and I felt that we could do better. So this "walk" was intended to serve two purposes. One, of course, was to give a two to three-MONTH notice to the residents. The other reason was to find out any issues that the residents might have had that the project plans may have missed.

All and all the new process was a good start. This advanced notice enabled more residents to have an opportunity to influence the eventual plan. It also gave them the opportunity to work with the contractor to have their whole driveway replaced during the construction at their own cost, if they so desired. One resident told us that they were just about to replace their driveway apron and driveway. Because of this new process, we were able to save her money, as well as provide transportation improvements for the community. Like all new processes, it is a work in progress. It is my goal to have more input from the public prior to finalizing the plans and going out to bid. If you have any ideas on how to improve our transportation infrastructure or see any problems on your streets and sidewalks, please feel free to contact Borough Hall.

## Give The Gift of Life Donate Blood Today!

Many things help to define the spirit and quality of a town or borough. Size, taxes, educational system, average income, age groups, interest in town affairs and willingness to volunteer are some of the characteristics that distinguish one town from another. When it comes to volunteering, Fanwood can be proud of its record on blood donations. Time and again, when blood drives are held in Fanwood, the response is more than excellent. In addition, Fanwood residents are often found responding to drives in Scotch

Plains, Westfield and Plainfield.

In May, 2004, there was a very successful community blood drive sponsored by both Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Plans are being made to repeat this event sometime in the Spring of 2005 and as soon as a date is agreed upon an announcement will be made. For further information on this or any future blood drives, be sure to tune in to TV Channel 35 on cable or access [www.visitfanwood.com](http://www.visitfanwood.com) on the Internet. You can also call Bob Sommerich at 908-889-1891 or try 1-732-233-BLOOD.

## Historic Fanwood Park Makes State/National List

The Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission takes great pride in its recent achievement of the creation of the Fanwood Park Historic District as designated on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

The district includes parts of North Avenue, east and west of North Martine Avenue and North Martine Avenue from the Fanwood Railroad Station, north to the Scotch Plains border.

The district includes 79 homes, of which 58 are "contributing" structures.

Contributing structures are those homes or dwellings built before 1935. A majority of homes in the district were constructed in the late 1800's and early years of the 20th century.

This district designation provides residents additional protection from state, county and municipal encroachment and over time has been shown to increase property values.

This designation also marks the importance of Fanwood as a railroad and resort community in the late 19th and early 20th century.

**Wishing You and Yours A Safe, Healthy  
and Happy Holiday Season!!**

Fanwood Borough Hall  
75 North Martine Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023

## Fanwood Community News

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**Our Neighbors  
Fanwood, NJ 07023**