

## Fanwood Rescue Squad 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Charter Members of the Rescue Squad on April 6, 1948, including founder Bill Mathews (kneeling in the center of the first row with the dark hat)

With no formal training, a used ambulance and a garage shared with the fire department, the Fanwood Rescue Squad was born on April 6, 1948. The squad began with 29 charter members at a time when there was no such thing as 911, CPR or any certification other than a driver's license. By its second year, the squad answered 100 calls for assistance.

By 2008, the Fanwood Rescue Squad has answered tens of thousands of calls, now averaging 54 a month, a jump of about 25%

from just five years ago. Aging baby boomers and a growing population are often cited nationally as the reasons for the increase and the numbers are still climbing.

Today, the Rescue Squad's volunteer members are the most highly trained responders in the history of emergency medical services. Mandatory training includes CPR/defibrillation, advanced first aid, incident command management, hazardous materials awareness and, since 9/11, training for possible chemical, biological and nuclear incidents. Our EMTs receive additional intensive training and are certified by the state of NJ.

In May, we were pleased to offer free CPR training to our citizens, both to equip them for cardiac emergencies and to give them a taste of what we do. Thanks to the generous and civic minded local

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### A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

Without doubt, the 2008 municipal budget has proven to be the most challenging in recent history. The situation we're experiencing has been called a "perfect storm" of municipal budget writing. In 2007 the state imposed a 4% spending cap, followed this year by a 4% cap on the tax levy. If costs only rose by 4% and state aid remained the same, we could meet those limits.

But costs do rise faster than 4%, as each of you are painfully aware every time you gas up your car or stop for groceries at the supermarket. Borough costs for fuel and utilities have risen too, as have a myriad of other expenses we have no control over. One example is a 36% increase in Fanwood's mandated state pension payment this year. That increase alone is approximately \$200,000.

And state aid does *not* remain the same. In February we learned that Governor Corzine's proposed budget targeted all 323 small towns (populations less than 10,000) with aid reductions totaling \$37 million! Fanwood's State Municipal Aid would be drastically cut, by 17%; another \$200,000.

It is important to acknowledge that the state is waging an assault on small towns in New Jersey. The state incorrectly accuses us of being fiscally inefficient, despite substantial data to the contrary. Based on this false premise, the state is exerting financial pressure on small towns to merge.

The state should examine the facts closely before continuing  
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## Who is This Fanwoodian?



This issue's Fanwoodian is a 13-year resident with a passion for fashion and, of course, Fanwood. A former Long Islander and graduate of Pratt Institute, she is the creative director at a major children's wear manufacturer based in Manhattan.

- A key member of the original Fanny Wood Day Committee, she designed all of the posters, banners and at-home mailers used to promote the event and has helped to make it a continuing success
- Long-time member of the Recreation Committee and current chairperson
- Clean Communities Committee (Earth Day) member since 1999
- Member of the Fanwood Democratic Club

Happy that she and her husband (also a long-time town volunteer) chose to move to Fanwood, she is especially glad she has not only been able to give her time, but also put her artistic ability to use on various town projects. With an ever growing need for volunteers, she is hopeful other Fanwoodians will step forward to contribute their own unique talents.

Her limited spare time is spent enjoying time with her husband and son, as well as creating posters for events at her son's school, gardening and traveling. Who is this multi-talented Fanwoodian?

*Answer on Last Page*

### The Fanwoodian

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Contributions, comments and volunteers are always welcome!  
75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood

## Mayor's Message

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The state should examine the facts closely before continuing to pursue such flawed policy. As president of the New Jersey Association of Mayors, I am working towards a change in this policy and have hopes for restoration of some state aid. I also think it is important to mention that despite state pressure and despite local scuttlebutt to the contrary, there are no discussions going on to merge the Borough with Scotch Plains.

Your municipal council introduced an \$8.4 million budget in March. All borough departments submitted operating budgets with reductions ranging from 5-10% of the 2007 budget. Flat budgets are no longer acceptable; yet we are still forced to discuss further reductions in order to minimize the tax increase.

At the same time, Fanwood is a model of how local government can benefit from Shared Service projects. We have numerous agreements in place throughout the county and with our local Board of Education, saving you real tax dollars. We are currently working on several more initiatives that will deliver the services you expect in an even more cost-effective manner.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, when the State Legislature adopts its budget, we will finally know how much aid we will receive from the state; at that point we will also know the status of our application for Extraordinary Aid. Extraordinary Aid grants must be dedicated to reducing the local property tax burden and Fanwood has been fortunate to secure these grants for the past few years.

Unlike our colleagues in state government, your mayor and council are unpaid and receive no compensation for the work we do, yet we have held a staggering number of budget hearings, which the public is always welcome to attend. We anticipate adopting a final budget in mid-July. The council will continue to operate as fiscal conservatives with your tax dollars. With this in mind, prior to budget adoption, there will be a public hearing scheduled where residents may share their suggestions. The meeting will be advertised at the train station and on TV 35, so keep your eyes out for announcements.

I can be reached by telephone at (908) 322-8236 and e-mail at [mayor@visitfanwood.com](mailto:mayor@visitfanwood.com). I welcome your comments and suggestions on the budget or any other issues relating to the quality of life we enjoy here in Fanwood.

## Memorial Day Schedule Of Events

### 8 am, Scotch Plains

- Memorial Service at the American Legion at Park Avenue and Sunset Place

### 9 am, Fanwood

- Presentation of wreaths at the Fanwood Library by Mayor Colleen Mahr, representative First Responders and American Legion Community Post 209
- Participating will be Mayor Colleen Mahr and Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks

### 9:45 am, Scotch Plains

- Assembling of community at the Scotch Plains Gazebo
- Presentation of wreaths at the Scotch Plains Monument
- Participating will be Mayor Martin Marks and Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr

### 10-10:15 am, Scotch Plains

- Assembling of parade marchers at Park Avenue and Front Street
- Parade steps off at 10:30 am

### 11:30 – Noon, Fanwood

- Post-parade picnic in LaGrande Park, Fanwood, presented by the Scotch Plains Police Athletic League (PAL)



There will be a moonwalk, pony rides, arts and crafts tent, face painting and refreshments (hot dogs and hamburgers.)

## Recycling Center Now Accepting CDs, DVDs and Assorted Electronics

Two new containers have been built at the Recycling Center. The first will allow Fanwood to broaden the list of currently accepted plastics to include plastic chairs, tables, buckets, CDs, DVDs, and shopping bags. The second container will allow recycling of various electronics such as TVs, computers, monitors, VCRs and stereo equipment.



In the past, Union County has established locations and dates on which it will recycle electronics. Now Fanwood's Recycling Center is, on a trial basis, accepting these materials. Visitors to the Center will see the special container marked with a sign which will house old computers, old TV sets, etc. This should be a major convenience to our

recycling citizens who otherwise have to travel wherever the county designates – often at an inconvenient time or at a good distance.

Our center has a history of keeping ahead of the county and the state by designating recyclable materials to keep out of landfills. We began accepting mixed paper and books before the state put them on its “must cycle list” and we are still unique in accepting solid plastic items like pails, children's toys, and computer printer ink cartridges.

The Recycling Center is at the intersection of Westfield Road and North Avenue. It is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm.

## 2nd Annual National Night Out



The Fanwood Community Policing Alliance will host its second National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5th at 6:30 pm at LaGrande Park in Fanwood. This event is designed to heighten crime, drug abuse and violence prevention awareness as well as strengthening our police-community partnership to let criminals know that Fanwood is organized and fighting back against crime. There will be food and fun for the kids as well as exhibits from local emergency services groups. For more details, please go to [www.FanwoodCPA.org](http://www.FanwoodCPA.org).

## News from the Fanwood Memorial Library

### Joint Digital Archives

All residents are encouraged to browse the Digital Archives which can be found on the web at [www.thejointlibrary.org/archives](http://www.thejointlibrary.org/archives). This Archives project is a collaborative effort between the Board of Trustees and "The Friends of the Library" at both the Fanwood Memorial Library and the Scotch Plains Public Library. The Archives is a great resource for those wanting to learn about the rich history of Fanwood and Scotch Plains, whether it be through old newspaper articles (1963 to present), the SPFHS Yearbooks (1938-2000) or a collection of historic books celebrating both towns. The library is always looking for additional materials of local historical relevance (photos, pamphlets, etc.) To learn more, please contact them via the website or just stop by!

### Libraries and Autism

Recently, the staff of both the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries participated in a workshop designed to educate them about autism as well as train them in customer service aspects when interacting with individuals with autism and their families. This training workshop also included a customer service training video, "Libraries and Autism: We're Connected," which was developed by both the Fanwood Memorial Library and the Scotch Plains Public Library. To view this video and for additional information and resources regarding autism, please visit the library's comprehensive website at [www.thejointlibrary.org/autism](http://www.thejointlibrary.org/autism).

### Upcoming Event

On Wednesday, June 25th. at 7:30 pm, a presentation about the Jersey Tomato will be given at the Fanwood Memorial Library. Food historian Judith Krall-Russo will share her



knowledge and provide unique insights and tidbits of the origins and history of the tomato.

Among other topics discussed will be heirloom varieties, modern hybrids and the folklore attached to this fruit.

## "Catch the Reading Bug!"

"Catch the Reading Bug!" this summer at the Fanwood Memorial Library and discover the amazing world of insects and arachnids. The 2008 Summer Reading Club is open to all children who are able to read on their own. Families with children who are not yet reading on their own may join the Read-to-Me portion of the program.



All of our programs will be listed on the library website: [www.fanwoodlibrary.org](http://www.fanwoodlibrary.org). Just go to the Events Calendar. Children may join the reading club beginning Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am and begin earning incentive awards by making entries in their Reading Log each week.

Sign-ups for Book Discussion Groups based on grade levels will begin June 9<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a "Drop-In Craft" session for kids 7 years and up on Wednesdays at noon, a "Sing-Along" and Color session every Thursday at 10:30 am, a bug-themed feature movie every Thursday at 3:00 pm and a Buggy Book Bingo every Friday at 10:30 am.

Don't forget to ask about our Drama Workshop for kids entering Grades 5 through 9, and our Readers' Theater Workshop for kids entering Grades 3 and 4.

For more information, call the Children's Department of the Library (908) 322-4377, or e-mail Children's Librarian Susan Staub at [sstaub@fanwoodlibrary.org](mailto:sstaub@fanwoodlibrary.org)

## Moviemakers Come To Fanwood!

NHK Enterprises America, Inc. have been busy at Forest Road Park filming a 20-minute documentary for "NY Street" about stay-at-home dads. The filming was scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th between 2 and 5 pm. NHK is a Japanese company, the only public TV network in Japan.



# Fanwood Recreation News

## Last Chance to Register for Summer Camps and Programs

Summer is fast approaching, so don't miss out on the chance to register your child for these great summer programs sponsored by Fanwood Recreation. For more information about dates, prices, ages, etc., and to register, please use the contact information after each program name:

- Girls Softball Camp, [gktfj@hotmail.com](mailto:gktfj@hotmail.com)
- Raider Basketball Camp, [kewing@spfk12.org](mailto:kewing@spfk12.org)
- Fanwood Baseball Camp, [tbaylock@spfk12.org](mailto:tbaylock@spfk12.org)
- Fanwood Junior Tennis, [bmaloney197@comcast.net](mailto:bmaloney197@comcast.net)
- Fanwood Soccer Camp, [fanwoodsoccercamp@yahoo.com](mailto:fanwoodsoccercamp@yahoo.com)
- Sports Squirts, Multi-Sports Camp, Beginner Golf Clinic and Field Hockey Clinic, [www.ussportsinstitute.com](http://www.ussportsinstitute.com)
- icamp, [www.ctworkshop.com/mnj](http://www.ctworkshop.com/mnj)
- Pony Share Camp, (908) 439-3901
- High School Musical Theme Dance Camp and Hannah Montana Theme Dance Camp, (908) 322-8058

You can also go to [www.fanwoodrecreation.org](http://www.fanwoodrecreation.org) or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092 for more information.

## Fanwood Summer Park Program

There are still a few slots available for children entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in September at The Fanwood Recreation Summer Park Program. All other age groups are filled. The program will run at La Grande Park on weekdays from June 23<sup>rd</sup>–August 15<sup>th</sup> (closed July 4<sup>th</sup>), from 9 am–12 noon (9 am–12:30 pm the week of June 30<sup>th</sup>–July 3<sup>rd</sup>). Structured, fun-filled activities for children ages 5–11 will be led by certified teachers and experienced counselors. Activities will include arts & crafts, sports, games, contests, water fun and a whole lot more. Each week will also feature special events. Activities will be tailored to three different age groups.

The program is \$35 per week, and you may register your child for as many weeks as you want. But since space is very limited, you must email the program director at [lisacapanna@verizon.net](mailto:lisacapanna@verizon.net) to find out if the weeks you want are still available before registering. Registration forms may be picked up at the Fanwood Municipal Building or downloaded from [www.visitfanwood.com/recreation](http://www.visitfanwood.com/recreation).

## Free Summer Movies at LaGrande Park

LaGrande Park becomes a theater under the stars as Fanwood Recreation's free summer movie series begins on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and continues every Tuesday evening for eight consecutive weeks. Movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 pm at the beginning of the schedule, 8 pm at the end). Be sure to bring a blanket or a beach chair!

June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ratatouille
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Enchanted
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Shrek the Third
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Surf's Up
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	High School Musical 2
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Robinsons
Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>	Alvin and the Chipmunks
Aug 12 <sup>th</sup>	The Water Horse

\*In case of rain, rain date is the following evening. For more information, email [rec@visitfanwood.com](mailto:rec@visitfanwood.com) or call (908) 370-7092.



## Fanwood Recreation Wants YOU!



The Fanwood Recreation Commission already provides many terrific recreational services for the residents of Fanwood, but we're always looking to do more! And to do that, we need the help of people like you. At the moment we have vacancies on the

Recreation Commission that we want to fill, and we're always looking for more volunteers to help run the many events that we stage throughout the year. So if you'd like to get involved in the Halloween Parade & Costume Contest; the Holiday Celebration at the Train Station; the Easter Egg Hunt; the Summer Party in the Park; creating programs for children, adults and seniors; and more, please let us know! You can contact us by email [rec@visitfanwood.com](mailto:rec@visitfanwood.com) or phone (908) 370-7092. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Property Tax Relief Programs

The following property tax relief programs are available to individuals who meet certain income and age requirements:

- **\$250 Senior Citizen Deduction:** 65 and older or disabled. Income cannot exceed \$10,000 (not including Social Security).
- **Property Tax Freeze aka Property Tax Reimbursement Program:** 65 and older or disabled. To qualify, 2007 income for a married couple cannot exceed \$55,344; single person \$45,135 (includes all sources of income).
- **\$250 Veteran Deduction:** Available to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the Armed Services of the United States and served during active war and certain peace-keeping missions.



For more information or to obtain an application for the above programs, contact the Office of the Tax Collector (908) 322-8236 Extension 126.

- **Homestead Rebate:** The State of New Jersey will be mailing applications during the month of May. According to the State, homeowners with gross income of \$150,000 or less will qualify for a rebate this year. For residents with an income of less than \$100,000 the rebate will be 20% of the first \$10,000 paid in property taxes. Homeowners with gross income between \$100,001 and \$150,000 will receive rebates of 10% of the first \$10,000 (instead of the 15% that was received last year).

Under the Homestead Rebate program, seniors and disabled persons will receive the greater of a percentage of their property taxes or an amount calculated under last year's alternate rules which provide rebates ranging from \$500 to \$1,200 depending on income and taxes paid.

If you did not receive your Homestead Rebate application or if you have any questions about the program, please contact the State of New Jersey at (888) 238-1233.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fanny Wood Day Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Fanny Wood Day will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 starting at 11:00 am and ending at 5:00 pm. This annual fall Street Fair will be held along Martine and South Avenues in downtown Fanwood.

The festivities include plenty of food and craft vendors, as well as great activities for the kids. The special children's area will feature an array of fun things for kids to do at an all day rate of \$10/person. Included are bounce-and-slides, trackless train, moonwalk, kiddie maze and more. Clowns, balloons, a magician, music and other entertainment will be also part of the fun.

This year, there will be plenty of contests starting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Anything on Wheels" Parade, a pie baking contest, an ice cream eating contest and more. The Cougar Car Club will host an exhibition of classic automobiles in the South Avenue train station parking lot with over 100 cars expected to be part of the display.

"We encourage everyone to mark September 21<sup>st</sup> on their calendars and join us downtown to honor Fanwood's legendary first lady and to celebrate the borough's 113<sup>th</sup> Birthday," said Mayor Colleen Mahr.

Vendor solicitation is being handled by streetfairs.com.

Volunteers, 18 years of age and older, who would be willing to assist in the children's area for a 2 hour shift should contact Jennifer Ricci at (908) 654-5200.

## Welcome Neighbors!



Two new businesses have joined us here in Fanwood on South Avenue across the street from The Chelsea. The Goddard School features pre-school education (including an all-day kindergarten) for ages six weeks to six years. The Town Bank welcomes new depositors and commercial enterprises. Stop in, say hello and get acquainted.

## Senior Sidelights - Handyman Program

The Borough of Fanwood is applying for a grant from Union County for a Senior Citizen Handyman Program.

This would provide low-income seniors with professional home repairs, maintenance and improvements. The program includes MINOR repairs: carpentry, plumbing, electrical or masonry.

The focus of this program is to subsidize health and safety type repairs. The program funds the repair person; the materials are supplied by the homeowner. To qualify for this program, you must be 65 years or older and qualify for the income limits as follows:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Very Low Income</u>	<u>Low Income</u>
1	\$ 29,550.00	\$ 43,050.00
2	\$ 33,750.00	\$ 49,200.00

If approved, you will be required to supply your last tax return as proof of income.

If you are interested in this program, please complete the information below and return it to Eleanor McGovern at Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ 07023 or call either Eleanor McGovern at (908) 322-8236 or Paulette Drogan at (908) 322-5244 x 148. All information will be treated as confidential.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of repairs I would need: (circle those that apply)

Carpentry

Plumbing

Electrical

Masonry

## Save Money with Energy Saving Light Bulbs!



In March the Borough Council committed to promoting the statewide Clean Energy Program to save energy and help reduce climate change by encouraging residents to commit to using ENERGY STAR light bulbs in their homes.

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

ENERGY STAR qualified Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs:

- Use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer
- Save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime
- Produce about 75 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling
- Are available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors

Go to the link below to find out what kind of bulb is the best for use in your home.

<http://www.drmediaserver.com/CFLGuide/index.html>

# News from the Fanwood Business and Professional Association

- The Annual Street Fair will be on Sunday, June 8th along South Avenue from 11am until 5 pm.
  - The Fanwood BPA welcomes new members and businesses along South Ave: The Goddard School and The Town Bank. Both are open for business now.
  - Classic Car Shows in the Municipal Lot between South Ave. & LaGrande on Tuesday evenings between 6 pm and 9 pm on June 24th, July 15th and August 12th.
- Please see our web site [www.Fanwood.biz](http://www.Fanwood.biz) for more details on these and other events.

## Fanwood Rescue Squad 60th Anniversary!

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businesses that sponsored those classes.

The Fanwood Rescue Squad is always looking for new volunteers. No previous medical experience is required. We provide all training, free of charge. Our members come from all walks of life; students, retirees, sales people, teachers and even computer geeks.

If you have a sincere desire to help your neighbors in this vital way, please email us from our website at [www.visitfanwood.com/rescue](http://www.visitfanwood.com/rescue), or call (908) 322-9000 and leave a message.

## Who is This Fanwoodian?

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**Pam Sayles!**

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

# Fanwood Community News

**Our Neighbors  
Fanwood, NJ 07023**

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 16