



Carriage House Poetry Series & Fanwood Arts Council



This year the Carriage House Poetry Series (founded and directed by Adele Kenny) celebrates its 10th anniversary, and was honored in April with resolutions presented by State Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr. The project initiative was funded by the NJ State Arts Council, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.



A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

Let me update you on the 2008 Municipal Budget. In March, your Municipal Council introduced an \$8.4 million budget. All departments submitted operating budgets with reductions ranging from 5-10% from 2007. Flat budgets were unacceptable. We are discussing further reductions to minimize tax increases.

Your Mayor and Borough Council have heard the pleas of the taxpayers. We know you expect this governing body to be leaders, take a stand and make the tough decisions in reducing the 2008 municipal budget.

After months of meetings, I am pleased to share with you a budget that presents a \$600,000 decrease over the introduced budget. This will mean an approximate 10% decrease in your 4th quarter tax bill; approximately \$200 per household. This decrease shows the commitment of the majority of your governing body to reducing the tax burden even as we face cuts in state aid and increased mandated obligations. With the reductions taken at the municipal level, your overall tax bill, which includes the county and board of education, will reflect a 5.6% total increase over 2007.

In June the focus shifted to a reduction of work force after operating expenses were reduced. Please understand that this was not an easy conversation, but a necessary dialogue. Actions to reduce the enormous tax burden on residents had to be taken. The ultimate decision was that across-the-board personnel cuts would be made. As you may be aware, there has been a lot of speculation regarding how this will affect the police department. The police department effective October 1st will now operate at a 20-man force versus a 21-man force. I have been personally assured by Police Chief Domanoski that public safety would NOT be compromised with this one man reduction. At no time have the Mayor and Council considered taking any action that would risk the safety and well-being of our residents and business community.

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In 1999, the Fanwood Arts Council (originally called the Fanwood Cultural Arts Committee) was founded as a special mayor's committee. In June 2005, the name of the committee was changed by Mayor Mahr to Fanwood Arts Council, and Tom Plante was appointed Co-Director. Since its establishment, the Fanwood Arts Council has presented over 75 events, including poetry readings, multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary arts festivals, dance recitals, vocal and instrumental performances, art shows, and "Bandstand Concerts." Funding has come from HEART grants, Merck & Co., the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Service League, the Fanwood Recycling Association, the Fanwood Borough Council, and local merchants. The Carriage House Series is currently a satellite project of the Arts Council and has featured dozens of distinguished poets, including a Pulitzer Prize winner, a National Book Award Winner, a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, NJ State Arts Council Fellowship recipients, Dodge Foundation Poets, and winners of various

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Councilman Bruce Walsh Leaves Office After 12 Years

In 1988 I was first elected to the Fanwood Council and served a three-year term from 1988 through 1991. I was given a year off in 1992, and then was elected and served two terms from 1993 through 1998. I am currently in the third year of my last term (probably) as a Councilman in Fanwood, and at the end of this year, I will have served a total of 12 years on the Fanwood Council. During those years, at various times, I have been Council President, Police Commissioner, Fire Commissioner and liaison to the Planning Board. I also served on committees such as Board of Health, Shade Tree, Library, Historic Preservation and Public Safety. In between terms on the council I was appointed to the Planning Board, and was a pro-bono attorney for the group opposing the “monopole” cellular tower once proposed for Fanwood.

In the last twenty years I suppose I have attended well over 1,000 meetings on matters related to Fanwood, and met hundreds of volunteers working for this wonderful Borough. I have had the pleasure and privilege of getting to know the dedicated people who work for Fanwood, beginning with our Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern, and including our Police Chiefs and Officers, our Borough Office Personnel and the men in our Public Works Department. I have a special admiration

for all the volunteers I have met, from the members of our volunteer Fire and Rescue Squads to all those who serve on our various Boards and Committees. These are the people who get little public recognition but who deserve the gratitude of all of us who love Fanwood.

Blue Star Family Update

From our last issue, we want to provide some updates on the Fanwoodians who are currently serving our country in various branches of the U.S. military. The Borough of Fanwood continues to honor and recognize their service to protect our country, and the sacrifices their families have made. Inside the main entrance area of Borough Hall is a listing of Fanwoodians currently serving in the military. Updates in alphabetical order are:

Lt. Huckelberry Finne, 29, of Farley Avenue, is serving in the U.S. Navy. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, attended School One, Park Middle School and SPF High School. He is a 2001 graduate of Rutgers University. He served three years aboard the USS Charlotte, a fast attack nuclear submarine home ported at Pearl Harbor, HI. He ended his service on the USS Charlotte with a voyage to the North Pole when the sub sailed from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Until recently he was a Navy ROTC instructor at SUNY Maritime College in NYC. He is beginning a six-month tour of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Jeff Peterson, 33, is still serving in Europe in the Army Reserves, in a military police unit on his second deployment overseas. Jeff is also a member of our Borough's Department of Public Works.

Staff Sgt. Frank Schwartzberg, 34, of Madison Avenue, is serving in the U.S. Army. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, attended School One, Park Middle School and SPF High School. He just finished a tour in Iraq and is returning to his home base at Ft. Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma. He has also served in Germany and South Korea, including service near the border of North Korea.

If you know of any other Fanwood Blue Star families, please contact Mike Prasad via e-mail at mprasad@aol.com, so we can recognize their service in the Fanwoodian and at Borough Hall. To learn more about the blue star flag and what it represents, please visit www.BlueStarMothers.org.

Today we face fiscal challenges which are unprecedented. To successfully meet these challenges will require the cooperation of all of us, along with our elected representatives, and it will require new approaches to problems, innovative thinking, and the realization that only by working together can we continue to survive and thrive as The Borough of Fanwood.

I wish to thank everyone with whom, and for whom, I have had the privilege of serving. Hope to see you around town!

News from the Fanwood Memorial Library

Let's Talk About It: Modern Marvels - Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel

This innovative book discussion series comes through an American Library Association grant. It explores Jewish literature and culture through scholar-led discussions of contemporary and classic graphic novels. The graphic novel is an exciting new form of storytelling. Here, five

Jewish artists experiment with words and pictures to tell stories of childhood, war and desire, to conjure up lost worlds, both real and imaginary, and to contemplate history, myth, and the individual psyche.

The 7:00 PM discussions are:

September 16 - "A CONTRACT WITH GOD" by Will Eisner.

October 7 - "THE COMPLETE MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE" by Art Spiegelman.

October 28 - "JULIUS KNIPL REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHER" by Ben Katchor.

November 18 - "THE QUITTER" by Harvey Pekar

December 9 - "THE RABBI'S CAT" by Joann Sfar.

Copies of the books are available at the circulation desk. To register and for more information contact Nancy Kipping at (908) 322-6400.

For information on all of our Fall Programs, check the online events calendar at www.youseemore.com/fanwood/ or call (908) 322-6400.

Fanwood Library Book Sale

The 2008 Friends of the Fanwood Library Annual Book Sale will take place September 25 - 28 at Forest Road Park. A Members preview day will be held on Thursday, Sept. 25th. The sale is open to the general public from Friday, the 26th. through Sunday, the 28th. (Sunday is \$5/ bag day). Donations will be accepted at the Forest Rd. Park location beginning September 18th. Specific times will be announced.

The Friends WILL accept the following donations: CDs, DVDs and books for all ages in good condition.

The following are NOT acceptable: NO audiotapes, out-of-date non-fiction, textbooks, old fiction, magazines, condensed books, toys, games, puzzles, old encyclopedias. PLEASE NO mildewed books. Unacceptable books and magazines can be brought to the recycling center.

For more information about the sale, Friends membership, volunteering, donations and so on, contact Nancy Eisenbarth (908) 322-6559 or Thena Rosahl (908) 889-1661 or call the library at (908) 322-6400.

Ephemera Joint Digital Archives

There is a newly designed and growing collection of Ephemera on the Joint Digital Archives (www.thejointlibrary.org/archives) - photos, documents and so on celebrating our collective past. The library is encouraging community and civic groups, local houses of worship and other organizations to get involved by posting

their own historic materials for everyone to browse or search through. It's a great way to let the public know about the history of your group or organization. We can make it easy and fun for you. If you would be interested in exploring how to go about putting your items up on the site, contact Dan Weiss at the library for more information about this Shared Services community project.

The Fanwoodian

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Contributions, comments and volunteers are always welcome!

75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood

Carriage House

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national honors and awards.

Events are always free, open to the public, and take place in the Kuran Arts Center (Fanwood Carriage House) on Watson Road. Upcoming programs include Poetry Series readings (8 PM, third Tuesday monthly except January and August), and a presentation of a jazz ensemble on Fanny Wood Day. Other events will be announced via the media and Channel 35. Visit the Carriage House Series online at www.carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com/.

Fanwood Halloween Parade and Costume Contest

With summer drawing to a close, can ghosts and goblins be far behind? They're certain to make an appearance at Fanwood Recreation's annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest on Friday, October 31st! You're invited to join the parade, which will assemble in front of the Fanwood Memorial Library at 6 PM that evening and depart at 6:15 PM for LaGrande Park. At approximately 6:30 PM, LaGrande Park will



host the Costume Contest for children of all ages, from 0 to adult. Also, remember to enter your personally designed pumpkin in the Jack-o-Lantern Contest outside the LaGrande Park building. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and the best jack-o-lanterns. Free cider, donuts and coffee will be available, and a fun evening in the park is promised to all who come!

Fanwood Recreation Fall Programs

Fanwood Recreation has something for everyone as it announces its schedule of Fall programs.

...for Kids

- Fall Into Tennis (begins 9/7; ages 4–14)
- Sports Squirts (begins 9/22; ages 3–5)
- Art and Crafts (begins 9/29; ages 6-9)
- Fashion Illustration (begins 9/29, ages 11-18)
- Wearable Art (begins 9/30; ages 11-18)
- Science Exploration Workshops (begins 9/30; ages 3 1/2–5, grades K–2 and grades 3–5)
- Junior Jazzercise (begins 10/1; ages 6–10)
- Video Game Creation Workshop Club (begins 10/2; grades 3–4 and grades 5–8)
- Digital Stop Motion Animation Club (begins 10/2; grades 2–6)
- Multi-Sports Mini-Camp (11/6 & 11/7; ages 5-14)
- Musical Theater (beginning date TBD; ages 6-7 and 8-12)
- High School Musical Dance Class (beginning date TDB; ages 5-7)
- Boys Dance Crew (beginning date TDB; ages 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)



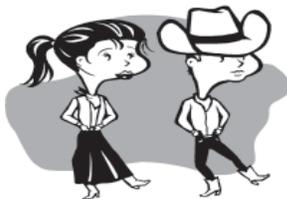
...for Adults

- Ceramics (begins 10/14)
- Fall Into Tennis (begins 9/7)



...for Seniors

Beginning the week of September 29th each class will run for approximately 12 weeks and end the week of December 5th:



- Aerobics (Tuesdays, 9:15–10 AM),
- Tai Chi (Tuesdays, 10:15–11:15 AM)
- Line Dancing (Thursdays, 1–2 PM)
- Water Exercise (Fridays, 11–11:45 AM)

All senior classes will be held in the recreation building at Forest Road Park, except for Water Exercise, which will be held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool in Scotch Plains. Registration forms for Senior Programs are available at Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue. For more information about fees, schedule and how to register for all these programs, please visit www.fanwoodrecreation.org on the web or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092.

Driver and Pedestrian Safety Tips

Driver Safety Tips

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere – even in places where they are not supposed to be found.
- Do not overtake and pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.
- When you are turning, you often have to wait for a “gap” in traffic. Beware that while you are watching for that “gap,” pedestrians may have moved into your intended path.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active.
- Stay focused and alert for pedestrians.
- Stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is approaching from the opposite half of the roadway and is close enough to be in danger.
- Stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk while executing a right or left turn and the pedestrian is in the half of the roadway that your vehicle is entering.
- Look out for the pedestrians that may be hidden from view by other vehicles that have stopped.
- Be extra vigilant for pedestrians when driving at dawn or dusk.
- Anticipate the difficulties of the elderly or young children who are crossing the street.
- Obey all traffic laws and pay attention to traffic control signals and posted signs.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

- Always cross within marked crosswalks or at street corners
- Look left, right, then left again for vehicular traffic before stepping onto roadway.
- Yield to any approaching vehicles while crossing even if you have the right of way. Oncoming vehicles may reach you faster than you anticipate.
- Make eye contact with drivers to ensure that they see you.
- Keep to the right of the crosswalk, and be patient and alert when crossing the street.
- Obey all traffic signals and use the pedestrian signal buttons at intersections.
- Cross the street only when the “Walk” light is on. Do not begin crossing if the “Don’t Walk” or raised hand is flashing steadily.
- Be especially careful of vehicles that may turn right on red or turn left at an intersection. Drivers may be busy looking out for the other vehicles instead of pedestrians.
- If buses or other large vehicles are blocking your view, wait for them to pass before crossing. These vehicles may also be busy looking out for other vehicles instead of pedestrians.
- Do not walk behind a vehicle that has its reverse lights on.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the roadway so you can see oncoming traffic.
- Stand at least ten feet away from the curb while waiting at bus stops.
- Do not allow your children to walk near roadways or cross the street unsupervised. Parents should accompany their young children until they are sure that their children can cross the street safely.
- Do not try to cross mid-block or between parked cars.
- Make it easy for drivers at night to see you. **Dress in light colors and wear retro-reflective material. If possible, attach a piece of reflective material to your clothing or handbag.**
- Carry a flashlight when it is dark.



Hundreds of people descended upon LaGrande Park on June 24th for Fanwood Recreation's second annual Party in the Park to enjoy an evening of food, fun and the first movie of the summer free movie series. Above, competitors willing to risk getting wet line up for the Water Balloon Toss Contest.

English Ivy

- English ivy is a non-native plant species – an alien plant that does not naturally grow in a particular area.
- Originally brought overseas from Europe during colonial times
- A monoculture – once this plant is grown, it will completely take over & not allow other plants species to grow.
- Invasive – if planted and not kept in check, it will continue to spread out to other areas (parks, woodlands and neighboring sites).
- If allowed to climb up a tree, its vines will eventually “suffocate” and kill the tree.

Ivy Removal Is Easy!

1. The Fanwood Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Commission recommend the removal of English ivy from trees.
2. Wear gloves, a long sleeve shirt and long pants
3. Tools: Pruning shears, clippers, prying tool or large screwdriver
4. Sever all vines about 3 ft. up the tree starting from the ground closest to the bottom of the tree trunk; do this around the entire circumference of the tree trunk.
5. Pull severed vines off the tree.
6. Remaining vines on the upper part of the tree will eventually dry up, fall off, and decompose.
7. Pull out all vines from the ground at least 6 ft. away from the tree trunk’s circumference.
8. Discard or allow cut vines to dry and then compost them; **DO NOT** place any vines on soil; it will re-grow.
9. Monitor the site for any signs of re-growth.

Fanwood Museum

On Sunday, October 5th, the Fanwood Museum, located in the Community House (on the north side of the train station), will be open from 2 - 4 PM. Long time residents Jacqueline Cecchettini, June McCarthy and Earl Phillips will share their memories of life in Fanwood over the past several decades including the 1930s and 40s. In 1995, to mark the borough’s centennial, Ms. Cecchettini compiled *Fanwood - The Way It Was - The Way We Were*, random recollections of Fanwood.

The museum houses a variety of artifacts chronicling the history of Fanwood. Brochures are available at Fanwood Borough Hall and other locations around town. For more information, call Borough Hall at (908) 322-8236.

Changes in Bulk Waste Cleanup Program!

The Department of Public Works has announced important changes in the Borough’s annual bulk waste cleanup program

Starting this Fall, the annual bulk waste cleanup program for household materials will be by permit only. Residents will be required to buy a permit for disposal. A special mailing outlining the requirements for this cleanup will be sent to all Borough residents in the near future.

Mayor’s Message

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I wish to express my gratitude to the more than 200 residents who attended the Special Budget Meeting on July 9th at Forest Road Park. The Mayor and Council reached out to you to share the difficulties of producing a budget, hear your opinions and open the lines of communication. Residents who could not be present at the meeting have written and called me, expressing their point of view on the budget and taxes. Their concerns were taken into account and did not fall on deaf ears.

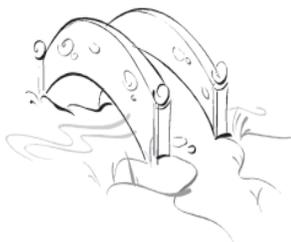
The Borough was fortunate to receive \$425,000 in extraordinary aid from the State that will go directly to reducing taxes. On behalf of us all I would like to convey my appreciation to Assemblywoman Linda Stender for her assistance in securing this aid for the Borough. We are lucky to have such a strong advocate. Without her help I doubt we would have been as successful in petitioning for aid from the state.

The governing body expects to adopt a final budget in August. Please understand that I hear your wish for budget cuts. Although we control only 20% of the tax bill, I will continue to make the difficult decisions on the portion of the budget we do control.

Finally, with the return to school, I recommend that you read the tips on pedestrian and driver safety that you will find on page 5, and be aware of those sharing the road with you. The Fall promises several local events including Fanny Wood Day on September 21st. I look forward to seeing all of you there. I can be reached by telephone at (908) 322-8236 and e-mail at mayor@visitfanwood.com. I welcome your comments and suggestions on issues relating to the quality of life in Fanwood.

Did You Know...

Sheelen's Crossing



Sheelen's Crossing, or Central Crossing as it had been called, was originally a wooden truss bridge that provided passage over the railroad tracks between North and South Avenues.

In 1966, it was replaced by a modern concrete structure at a price of \$123,000.00.

The bridge was dedicated in January, 1995 by the mayor at the time, Linda Stender, and was named after one of Fanwood's pioneer families, the Sheelens. The Sheelen Brothers' store stood on South Ave., just over the bridge, and served as Fanwood's first grocer and butcher shop in the late 1800's. A descendant of the Sheelen family, Charles J. Sheelen, Jr., was an active and dedicated member of the community. He joined the Fanwood Fire Company in 1930, where he served in various capacities for over 60 years. He also was a charter member of the Fanwood Rescue Squad and presided over the Board of Health.

13th Annual Fanny Wood Day

Sunday, September 21st

The 13th annual Fanny Wood Day will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 starting at 11 AM. and ending at 5 PM. Once again this annual street fair and community event will be held along the length of 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. Balloon-making clowns, live entertainment, and loads of contests will all be a part of the day's fun.

This year the day will begin with the third Annual "Anything On Wheels" parade. There will

also be other contests including pie-baking, ice cream eating and birdhouse making. Please go to www.visitfanwood.com for further details and forms. The Cougar Car Club will again host an exhibition of classic automobiles in the train station parking lot along South Avenue. The New Jersey Bloodmobile will be on hand to collect blood donations.

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

Anyone interested in being a Fanny Wood Day volunteer or vendor should call Jennifer Ricci at (908) 654-5200.



Pledge to Make a Difference, One Light at a Time

Be part of Fanwood's commitment to save energy and our environment.

In March 2008, the Mayor and Town Council of Fanwood agreed to promote the "Change a Light, Change the World Program" sponsored by the Office of Clean Energy of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The resolution specifies "soliciting a minimum of 200 residents and/or businesses to sign the CHANGE-A-LIGHT PLEDGE to switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for the five most commonly used lights in their homes or businesses."

The Fanwood Environmental Commission has also taken up the challenge to help preserve our country's energy resources and join Americans nationwide in the fight against global warming. The Commission encourages Fanwoodians, by September 30th, 2008, to change at least one light at home to one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR for energy efficiency.

To give you a sense of the impact that small actions can have on our energy resources and the environment, if every American home replaced just one light bulb or fixture with an ENERGY STAR label, each year we would save more than \$600 million in energy costs, enough energy to light more than 3 million homes, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars!

Please join us now in taking the pledge. It's a simple commitment that will go a long way to assure that the energy resources we rely on and the environment we live in are preserved for generations to come. Go to www.fanwoodec.org and click on "Take the Pledge" button and demonstrate that Fanwoodians are a significant part of this vital national movement.



On The Wing!

The meadow outside Fanwood's Nature Center has been a beehive of activity, as a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers have prepped and planted a colorful 600-square-

foot butterfly garden. An Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project conducted by Andrew Van Haasteren of Fanwood's Boy Scout Troop 33, this suburban oasis has been attracting butterflies, bees and insects of many varieties. The blooming season is winding down, but it's not too late for a visit! For more information, see the Environmental Commission's website at <http://www.fanwoodec.org>.

Many thanks to the generous individuals and local businesses who supported the project: Double Dipper Café, Fanwood Bagel, The Fanwood Corner Store, Miele's Greenhouses, Parker Gardens, and Tom the Greengrocer.

Recycling Association Makes Donations

With many thanks for strong community support, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association announces its spring 2008 donations. They are as follows:

- \$1,050 to the Fanwood Rescue Squad for two children's pedi boards and pagers for two new members
- \$3,000 to the Recreation Commission for an inflatable movie screen on which to show summertime movies
- \$425 to the Fanwood Library for a door counter and display acrylic
- \$525 to the Volunteer Fire Department for replacement of worn saws
- \$4,600 to the Department of Public Works for a truck-mounted calcium chloride tank to spread salt on snowy Borough streets

As usual the grants are in line with Association policy favoring municipal departments and/or committees that will return something to the town as a whole. Practically all donations are for items desired by each group but are off-budget and not funded. Fanwood also saves at least \$46,000 each year by not having curbside pickup.

Fanwood Borough Hall
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

Fanwood Community News

Our Neighbors
Fanwood, NJ 07023

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