

A Holiday Story!



Fanwood is a lovely town during the holidays and nothing is as special as the decorating and lighting of the official borough tree at the train station. The annual celebration of the arrival of Santa Claus and the lighting of the tree the first Sunday in December has been a Fanwood tradition for decades.

This year we were faced with a challenge. The tree has grown to a point where it is no longer safe to be climbed by our Public Works employees, as they have done in the past, to attach the thousands of light bulbs that adorn the tree. Estimates to hire a bucket truck or a professional crew ranged from \$3,000 and

up. Plus there is the added cost of attaching temporary electrical boosters to meet the increased electrical demand and connections.

Upon hearing of this challenge and the possibility

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Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale



For the 59th year, the Fanwood Lions Club will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths. The sale begins on December 1st at LaGrande Park on LaGrande Avenue. The sale hours are weekdays from 6:30 PM to 9 PM and weekends from 9 AM to 9 PM. There will be a great selection of Fraser and Douglas firs as well as Balsams. Plain and decorated wreaths will also be available. All proceeds go to student scholarships as well as other Lions projects. All are encouraged to come early to make your selections!



A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

Greetings from Borough Hall! Once again it's hard to imagine that another year is coming to a close. My thoughts reflect upon the year that was.

As Mayor, 2008 will be remembered as one of the most challenging of my five years in office. The good news is that steady progress continues to be made towards developing our downtown. All you have to do is drive along South Avenue and see for yourself. It is gratifying to hear from both residents and visitors how much they love what they see. But the most recent project makes me smile the most. Finally, all state permits have been secured and work on the former Dean Oil site has begun. This critical piece of land at the corner of Second Street and LaGrande Avenue had been vacant for 15 years. After years of false starts, "Station Square at Fanwood" will be built in 2009. This luxury townhouse development has already generated a lot of interest from potential buyers.

This year also saw the approval of "Fanwood Village," a three-story retail and commercial development planned as the gateway of our downtown, on the corner of South and Martine Avenues. Look for demolition of the former Internet Café and Try Cobb Groomers early next year. Both this "Fanwood Village" and "Station Square at Fanwood" are marked by the same level of architectural detail and high-end building materials you have come to expect. Feel free to stop by Borough Hall if you are interested in seeing the plans!

2008 also welcomed our first new residents in our downtown. "Fonte Plaza," at 300 South Avenue, is now an age-restricted complex, while the rentals and condominiums further down South Avenue at "Station Mews" and "The Cornerstone" are having no problems attracting new residents. It is a deep commitment to planning this development correctly and getting it right for future generations of Fanwoodians that keeps me working hard every day on your behalf. Although it may take a little longer, our approach to working with individual property owners has been effective in achieving downtown revitalization. No one wanted to see eminent domain used in Fanwood. Our downtown business owners deserve more consideration. They are making

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Annual Holiday Celebration

Santa Claus arrives in town on Sunday, December 7th, at 3 PM at the North Avenue Train Station to kick off the holiday season! Families are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of music, holiday crafts and refreshments—all for free. Every child who stops by to say hello to Santa will get a free Polaroid picture of his or her visit. Contests will be held with prizes for the winners. The celebration concludes at 5 PM when the Mayor lights the official borough tree on the train station lawn. This even is sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.



Tiny Tim Carol Night

Carolers for the Tiny Tim Fund will be traveling throughout Fanwood and Scotch Plains on Wednesday, December 3rd to spread holiday cheer and raise money for the non-profit organization. Turn on your porch lights so the singers know they are welcome. For the third year in a row, the Stage House in Scotch Plains will welcome participants who can drop off their proceeds and enjoy hot chocolate and baked treats.

Celebrating its 25th year, Tiny Tim provides financial assistance to medically needy local children up to age 18 when care cannot be provided due to temporary or long-term financial difficulties. Last year over two dozen groups participated. If you have any questions or would like to participate, contact Barbara Anilo at (908) 322-4472.



Holiday Luminary Sale - "Light Up The Night"



Originating in Mexico, Christmas luminary candle lighting has now become a rich heritage and tradition in our country .

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary will hold its annual luminary sale for three weekends before Christmas: Saturday, December 6th; Saturday and Sunday, December 13/14; Saturday and Sunday, December 20/21 from 9 AM - 3 PM; and Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 from 9AM until 12 noon at the Fanwood Municipal Garage (across from the Fanwood Library on North Avenue.) The cost for each luminary candle kit is 50¢ (candle, bag and sand.)

All proceeds will go to the charities supported by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club. For more information please contact Neil Schembre at (908) 889-9500.

Blood Donations Depot Open Before Thanksgiving

The Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield and Clark areas are known as some of the best in New Jersey for blood donors and donations. To help serve these donors more conveniently and efficiently, New Jersey Blood Services is opening a "Blood Donations Depot" to be located at 2283 South Avenue in Scotch Plains. Scheduled to open before Thanksgiving, it will be next door to the Boutique Beauty Salon and directly across the street from the Allstate Insurance Building.

The depot will accept whole blood donations as well as apheresis donations such as platelets or plasma.



The Queen of Hearts and an Angel, just two of the many prizewinners at our annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest.

Who is This Fanwoodian?



The Fanwoodian we are highlighting in this issue has lived in the borough for 35 years. When he arrived in 1973, he immediately got involved with his son's Boy Scout troop as well as with the Presbyterian Church. There, he was a trustee, taught Sunday school, and worked with the youth group.

- Involved with the Music Boosters for ten years and President for two years
- President of the Lions Club for two separate years
- Deacon at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church and currently serving as the Chairman of the Board
- Volunteers to maintain the Fanwood Bulletin Board
- Helps with the Fanwood public access TV station
- Norwood Terrace Nursing Home volunteer
- Has come to be known as "Santa" for the past 20 years

In addition to all of his hard work and dedication to the community, he makes sure to find time to enjoy all of his grand- and great-grandchildren.

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A Holiday Story!

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of moving the event to another location or decorating a small tree in front of borough hall, Mayor Mahr and our Public Works Director, Clint Dickson, began to reach out to find alternative ways to keep this tradition alive without the added expense.

Through two shared services agreements, Union County personnel have agreed to provide the necessary support to decorate the tree this year (at no cost to the borough) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood School personnel have agreed to provide assistance to the electrical installation, saving the borough an additional \$1,000!

Rest assured that by working together we will make every effort to ensure that Fanwood will "make the season bright" throughout the holidays and beyond.



Senior News

By now you know Medicare open enrollment began on November 15th and ends December 31st. Each year plans adjust what they cost and what they cover. Now is the time for people with Medicare to review the charges being made by their current plan and compare it to others to make sure it still meets your needs. Those who don't have prescription drug coverage can also enroll or change their current drug plan during this open enrollment.

Jim Peeney, President of the Seniors Club, wants all to know about some of the exciting trips club members have taken in the past few months. In September they took a cruise to Nova Scotia. In October they went to Oktoberfest in New York State, and have gone to the Culinary Institute of America. All events were well attended. They are planning many more excursions as they make the calendar for 2009. If you would like to become a member, please join us the second or fourth Monday of the month at the Forest Road Park building at 10 AM.



Do Not Forget Your Flu Shot!

Fanwood's Municipal Access Television Joins the Verizon System

Fanwood's Municipal Access TV station is now available to local residents on both the Verizon and Comcast systems. The station will now be known as "Fanwood Municipal Television."

Comcast viewers will still see the station on Channel 35. However, Verizon viewers will see it on Channel 24. With two different numerical channel assignments, the choice of a new name became necessary.

Fanwood's monthly meetings of the Mayor and Council are televised live on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 PM. Only Comcast viewers will see the live telecasts. Verizon viewers will be able to see the videotaped Council meetings the next evening (Wednesdays) via a simulcast at 8 PM on Channel 24.

Fanwood's cable station is currently looking for volunteers who are available during daytime hours. A basic knowledge of Windows software is needed. Local volunteers will receive specific instructions from the station's staff. Volunteers should be available for a minimum of two to six hours a week. Please call (908) 322-2373 and leave your name and phone number.

Mayor's Message

Continued from Page 1

significant financial investments in Fanwood and care deeply about the community.

2008 will also be remembered as one of the most challenging budget years in recent memory. The global financial crisis is a local problem as well – at every kitchen table in Fanwood. As President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, an organization of 500 mayors, I see first-hand that all towns in New Jersey are facing declining revenues and increasing demands. It is especially hard on smaller municipalities like ours.

That is why 2009 will see continued discussion and action addressing the need to provide affordable municipal services to tax-weary residents. Though we control only 20% of your residential property tax bill, the Council and I understand that every dollar counts. We will continue to tighten our belts to cut costs, reduce spending and do more with less. I look forward to hosting town-wide community meetings again next year so that your voices continue to be heard.

Fanwood has always been known for its civic and volunteer spirit. Now is the time to join your neighbors on the various boards and commissions, and volunteer to be part of what makes Fanwood such a nice place to live. I encourage you to contact me to review the various openings to be filled for 2009.

Finally, I want to thank my friend, Councilman Bruce Walsh, for his many years of service to Fanwood. Bruce decided not to run for re-election after giving nine years of his free time to serve on the Borough Council. For his attention to detail, quick wit and passion for getting it right, Bruce will be missed.

As always it is my pleasure to serve as your Mayor. I want to extend my family's warm wishes to you all for a happy and safe Holiday Season and New Year! See you at the tree lighting at 5 PM on December 7th!

After the Egnog is Finished!

Christmas Trees will be picked up beginning January 5th until January 30th. Christmas trees for the final pick-up must be placed at the curb by 7 AM on January 30th. WREATHS AND GARLANDS are not acceptable for pickup.



Winter is quickly arriving and residents are reminded to remove their cars from the streets when snow is in the forecast. When shoveling your driveway, place the snow to the right so the borough plows will carry the snow away from your driveway. Please wait to shovel the last ten feet of your driveway until the snowstorm is over and the streets

have been plowed curb to curb. Please do not blow or shovel your snow into the center of the road as this will freeze and cause a hazardous condition. Residents are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow event to avoid receiving a fine.

Reorganization Meeting of the Fanwood Council



The annual Reorganization Meeting of the Fanwood Council will take place on Thursday, January 1, 2009. It will begin at 12 noon in the Council Chambers in Borough Hall.

A highlight will be the swearing in of Russell Huegel for his first term on the Council and of incumbent Joan Wheeler for her second term. The Mayor's annual "State of Fanwood" address will be delivered and appointments to commissions and committees will be made for the new year.

A reception with light beverages will follow the meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend.

The Fanwoodian

Published quarterly by the
Fanwood Communications Committee

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Secretary: Sherman Feller
Writers: Rosemarie McCallion, Michael Prasad, Robert Sommerich,
Lin Vlasaty, Bob Budiansky
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Contributions, comments and volunteers are always welcome!
75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood

Winter Recreation Programs for Seniors and Children

For Seniors:

Each class will begin the week of January 5, run for between 9 to 12 weeks, and end the week of March 23rd:



Aerobics
Tai Chi
Line Dancing
Water Exercise

Tuesdays, 9:15–10 AM
Tuesdays, 10:15–11:15 AM
Thursdays, 1–2 PM
Fridays, 11–11:45 AM



All 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 are available at Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue. For more information about fees, schedules and how to register, please visit www.fanwoodrecreation.org on the web or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092.

For Children:

CTW Video Game Creation Workshop	grades 3–8	8 sessions	Thursdays, 4–5 PM, beginning 1/8
CTW Amazing Architects Workshop	grades 4–8	8 sessions	Thursdays, 5:15–6:15 PM, beginning 1/8
CTW Robotics & Control Systems	grades 3–8	8 sessions	Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM, beginning 1/8
Science Exploration Workshop	ages 3 1/2–5	10 sessions	Tuesdays, 3:30–4:15 PM, beginning 1/13
Science Exploration Workshop	grades K–1	10 sessions	Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 PM, beginning 1/13 Wednesdays, 4:30–5:15 PM, beginning 1/14
Science Exploration Workshop	grades 2–5	10 sessions	Tuesdays, 5:30–6:15 PM, beginning 1/13

For more information and to register for the CTW classes online go to www.ctworkshop.com or call (908) 264-9147. For more information about the Science Exploration Workshops go to www.smartycatkids.com/; to register, email info@smartycatkids.com or call (732) 762-5022.

Who Is This Fanwoodian?



Jim Grover!

Fanwood Recreation Plans 2009 Summer Park Recreation Program

Fanwood Recreation is now actively planning its 2009 Summer Park Recreation Program. The 8-week program, which runs from 9 AM to noon, Monday–Friday at LaGrande Park, provides children ages 5–12 with structured, fun-filled activities under the supervision of experienced counselors. If you would like to apply for a counselor job, please go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org/fanwood-recreation-summer-park-program—job-applicants/ to download an application. Registration for the program will start in March or April.



Register Your Alarm System in 2009!

Starting in January homeowners must register their existing home alarm systems with the Borough. Forms will be available on the Borough website at visitFanwood.com. New systems must be registered within 30 days of installation. In an effort to educate the public and reduce false alarm calls to the Police Department homeowners whose alarm system is mistakenly triggered will first receive a warning and explanation of the regulations. After the third false alarm in a year a fine will be imposed.

Fanwood Recycling Center Accepts Numerous Recyclables



In spite of Fanwood Borough's one-square-mile size and 7500 residents, we recycle a larger percentage of our solid waste than any of our larger neighbors. The average town with curbside pickup of recyclable materials is limited to the items the program will accept. In general this means pickup of only such staple

items as glass or plastic bottles, old newspapers, and tin or aluminum cans.

The Fanwood Recycling Center accepts numerous recyclables which are not included in curbside programs. Some of these items are listed below:

- PAPER - such as mixed paper, corrugated and cardboard and books
- PLASTICS - plastic bags and solid plastic items such as pails, children's toys etc

- ELECTRONICS - computers, FAX machines, computer printers and mice, old TVs, TV and computer monitors, digital cameras and camcorders, etc. In addition the center accepts CDs and DVDs
- ALUMINUM - items such as pots and pans, aluminum gutters and downspouts and old storm doors and windows (without glass)
- Used motor oil, household and automobile batteries
- Metal objects, large and small, ranging from wire coat hangers to old filing cases, old refrigerators or old barbeques, etc. We do not charge for handling these items.

The Recycling Center is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM and is located on North Avenue at the end of Westfield Road in Fanwood. The Center gladly accepts recyclable material from residents of other towns. Please don't hesitate to tell your friends they can bring their materials to Fanwood.

For further information please call Alan Ebersole, Recycling Center Site Manager at (908) 889-8347 or Bob Sommerich, President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association at (908) 889-1891.



The Fanwood Public Works Department gives thanks to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association for the many donations that have provided the department with the tools to help them perform their work more efficiently. Pictured with a sample of items that their donations have made possible (snow pusher, trailer, weed wacker and line painter) are Public Works Director Clint Dickson, Bob Sommerich, President of the Recycling Association, Councilwoman Donna Dolce who is Liaison to both Public Works and Recycling Committees, and Al Ebersole, Recycling Center Manager. More than \$60,000 in grants are given to local causes annually through the work of the Recycling Center and an additional \$20,000 is earned annually by a variety of local non-profit organizations or faith-based organizations.

New Neighbors!

Something for the ladies and something for the gents. Two new businesses in town are the Diva Nail Salon specializing in nail care, waxing, facials and massage and The Sports



Place which sells sports memorabilia and is a great place to have a party. Drop in and say hello to these newest additions to Fanwood's downtown.



Learn to Help Yourself, Your Family and Your Community



In 2004 a group of Fanwood residents started the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program and in February 2005 the Fanwood CERT was officially recognized by the Mayor and Borough Council. The Fanwood CERT is only activated through the OEM and the team leader reports to the Operations Bureau of the Fanwood Police Department.

Through CERT, citizens can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. CERT volunteers also support the community year-round by participating in community preparedness outreach activities and distributing materials on disaster preparedness and education.

Brush Program In January

The next brush program will begin on January 5th in the NE and NW quadrants, and on January 12th in the SE and SW quadrants. In accordance with the New Jersey stormwater management regulations, brush may not be placed in the street any earlier than 7 days before the first day of your scheduled pickup. Brush or branches accumulated before or after the winter brush program **MAY NOT** be placed in the street. Residents are asked to store the brush on their properties until the next available pick-up program.



Fanwood Business & Professional Association News

The Fanwood BPA welcomes Joseph Lorenzo of State Farm Insurance in Scotch Plains as a new member. His office is located at 431 Park Avenue.

The BPA is also looking for new members to help plan and run social and networking events that interact with the community and local businesses. A core group

of committed volunteers is needed to keep the BPA functioning. Please call Peter Chemidlin of Family Investors Company at (908) 322-1800 to learn more about this opportunity.

Residents who want to learn more about what is going on in the Fanwood business community can visit their web site at www.fanwood.biz.

The team hopes as many adults as possible take the training courses to help themselves and their families become more prepared. And for those people who want to make a volunteer commitment to help Fanwood in a disaster, there are also openings on the team for those who have completed all of the required training.

Right now the Fanwood CERT is raising money for a laptop computer to help with training and on the scene of a disaster/major event. You can learn more about the project and even donate online at our web site listed below.

The Fanwood CERT also maintains a web site that includes storm alerts, road closures, water alerts, etc. There are also links to local weather advisories, SPF School closings/delays, traffic links and Amber alerts in NJ. Their web site is www.fanwoodcert.org

33rd Annual Visit To Fanwood's Children on December 13th



Santa Claus will be making his annual visit escorted by the Fanwood Emergency Services Groups. Santa and his "honorary elves" will make their journey on December 13th, beginning at 11 AM.

If you are interested in having Santa bring a gift, all gifts are to be delivered to the Fanwood Police Headquarters on Martine Avenue from Sunday, November 30th, through Sunday, December 7th. Because Santa has to make his list and check it twice, late gifts will not be accepted. Santa asks that no gifts be larger than 12 inches by 12 inches because of space limitation on his "sleigh." Each gift must be wrapped tightly and securely and clearly labeled with the child's first and last name, address and telephone number. We ask that all packages for the same address be bundled together. It is extremely important that the labels are securely attached to the packages.

The annual Santa visit is a joint effort of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department, Fanwood Rescue Squad and the Fanwood Police Benevolent Association Local 123.

Volunteers gather the gifts, organize them into routes, and then help Santa load them up onto the fire engines and ambulances. Listen for the sirens on that Saturday!

Blue Star Families



From our ongoing series, there are two new additions to the list of 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 and their families' sacrifices, to help protect our country. In alphabetical order they are:

PFC David Belford, 20, of Arlene Court, is currently serving with the 2/25 Marines in Iraq. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, having attended Brunner, Park Middle School and SPF High School.

1st Lt. John Cossolini, 25, of Arlene Court, is currently serving in Iraq with the Army Rangers. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, having attended St. Bartholomew's School.

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

Fanwood Borough Hall
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

Fanwood Community News

Our Neighbors
Fanwood, NJ 07023



Brand new playground equipment has been installed at Forest Road Park and is open for good times and safe play. This equipment was paid for by the 2008 Union County Kids Recreation Grant. Come on down and give it a try!

Contribute to The Wish Tree!

On December 1st our community will continue this generous tradition of helping local families and children in need. Holiday trees decorated with "wish" tags will be at Borough Hall, the SP Municipal Building, SP Library and the Goddard School. Select a tag from the tree and return the wrapped donation with the tag to the SP Town Hall at 430 Park Avenue by December 18th. For more information call (908) 322-6700 x1-204

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