

Annual Holiday Celebration



Fanwood's holiday season officially begins when Santa Claus arrives in town on Sunday, December 6th, at 3 PM! Everyone is invited to meet Santa under the big tent (twice as big as last year's!) on the lawn in front of the North Avenue train station and enjoy an afternoon of seasonal music, holiday crafts and refreshments—all for free. Children who stop by to say hello to Santa will get a free photograph of their visit with him. Contests will be held with prizes for the winners. The celebration concludes at 5 PM when Mayor Mahr

lights the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn. Event sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.

Tiny Tim Carol Night

Turn on your porch lights on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 to welcome carolers for the Tiny Tim Fund. Carolers will be traveling throughout Fanwood and Scotch Plains to spread holiday cheer and raise money for the non-profit organization. Once again, the Stage House in Scotch Plains will welcome participants who can drop off their proceeds and enjoy refreshments.



Celebrating its 26th year, Tiny Tim provides financial assistance to children up to age 18 who are unable to get needed medical attention 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

Fanwood Lions Club to Hold 60th Christmas Tree Sale!



Beginning December 1st, LaGrande Park will become a forest of Christmas trees and lights. Featuring a splendid array of Balsams, Fraziers and Douglas Firs, our tree sale will be held on weekdays from 6 PM to 9 PM and on weekends from 9 AM to 9 PM. Shop early for the best selection. The sale also features plain and decorated wreaths. All proceeds go to support Lions Club projects and student scholarships.

The Lions Club will also be collecting unwrapped gifts for United Family and Children's Society. If you have an interest in joining the Lions Club, see one of them on the lot.

Holiday Luminary Sales



The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is selling luminaries for the holiday season. Luminaries are small candles inside paper bags held down with sand. The luminaries can be placed along walkways, driveways and the sides of curbs to light pathways and instill the holiday spirit in community. They are sold in the Municipal Garage located at the Fanwood Public Works Department opposite

the Memorial Library. The luminaries may be purchased on weekends: December 5th and 6th, December 12th and 13th, and December 19th and 20th from 9 AM to 3 PM, and also on Christmas Eve from 9 AM to 12 PM. The proceeds from the sales support the Rotary Club's many charitable efforts in the local community. For more information, please visit www.fsprotary.org.



Councilwoman Dolce Says Farewell



On occasion people will ask me why would I spend at least six nights a week going to meetings and other events, for no money (actually \$1/year), for over six years?

Community service is just part of the way I was raised. Our family's routine included going to work, school, attending religious services, doing

chores around the house and volunteering.

Later, I found community service to actually make me feel better and happier. I consistently came away from the experience feeling like a better person and far richer from the experience. When I was first elected to the Fanwood Council I felt like I had hit the lottery! Since swearing in to the end of this term, I've enjoyed some of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had, with the added privilege of working with some of the most dedicated and generous people this community has to offer.

During my tenure I have worked with the Public Works Department, Environmental Commission, Board of Education and the Township of Scotch Plains. I have also worked on budget and personnel issues, downtown redevelopment, a multitude of community events and much more. Together we can be proud of: a new and invigorated downtown, expanded and cost-effective shared services, increased communication through an expanded *Fanwoodian*, TV35, open town hall meetings, etc., improved roads and sidewalks, expanded recreational programs for young and old alike, and oh, so much more! As the great philosopher Lao Tse said, "And to think we did this ourselves!"

As Fanwood is driven by its multitude of volunteers and the personalities that they bring to the table, I have met more dedicated and diverse Fanwood volunteers in the past six years than I ever thought that I could meet in a lifetime. The variety of personalities and views have enriched me more than any monetary value ever could, and, at the end of the day, I have learned that every resident desires the same thing; a safe, supportive and cost effective community in which to live, work and play.

As I move on to yet other volunteer opportunities, I look forward to meeting even more of you. If you haven't responded to the volunteer call, I urge you to make it a part of your life – I know I'm glad I did!

Who is This Fanwoodian?



This month's Fanwoodian has lived in town for ten years and devotes many hours of his time to the Recreation Commission. When not volunteering, he enjoys reading "Harry Potter" books, going to the movies with his family and rooting for the Jets.

- Member of Fanwood Recreation Commission for three years and current Chairman
- Fanwood's Easter Bunny, Super Hero "Fanwood Man" and Fun Guy "Professor Fanwood"
- Chair of annual Fanny Wood Day Street Fair
- Corporate travel manager for pharmaceutical company
- Graduate of Hartford's Barney School of Business
- Moved to Fanwood looking for a town that was like Andy Griffith's Mayberry
- Married for 16 years with two beautiful daughters ages 8 & 11

Who is this busy Fanwoodian? Turn to page 5 to find out.

Fanwood CERT Announces New Laptop PC

The Fanwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is proud to announce that it reached its fundraising goal to purchase a rugged laptop personal computer for use in team member training, inventory control, and local mapping. The team will also make this laptop available to other emergency groups including Fanwood's first responders (Police, Fire and Rescue Squads) and the American Red Cross during incidents in and around Fanwood. The team decided on purchasing a refurbished Panasonic Toughbook with a three-year extended warranty, rather than a new unit. This cut the price tag in half, to about \$2,000. The team will continue to add software and hardware over time, as contributions and grants allow.

The use of technology, including updated maps and access to systems on the web has become a top priority during disasters. The ability to have access in the field to these capabilities can provide a more accurate and timely response to help our residents during a time when they may need it the most. The Fanwood CERT would like to acknowledge the contributions of the H&R Block Foundation, the Fanwood Community Foundation, TD Bank of Fanwood, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and the Fanwood Lions Club towards this laptop project, which was completely funded through donations.

To learn more about the Fanwood CERT Laptop and what the CERT does, please visit their web site at www.FanwoodCERT.org.



A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

I send you all warm end-of-the-year greetings from Borough Hall. As 2009 winds quickly to a close, I hope this wonderful community newsletter find you and yours well.

As I sit here looking back over the last year and over the last several as your Mayor, I am struck how fast time goes by, how quickly children seem to grow up, including my own three boys who are now 7, 5, and 3. Yet, one thing remains a tried and true constant, that the Borough of Fanwood remains a wonderful

close knit town that we love to call home.

We are fortunate to create special memories, such as our summer movies in the park, our Halloween parade, and our upcoming holiday event, to the block parties you have with your neighbors whom you also call friends, sharing stories of children who have grown up here and remained, to wonderful new memories being created by families that “find” Fanwood for the first time and now cannot imagine putting down roots anywhere else. There is such a deep sense of pride of living in Fanwood.

But as I take stock of the past, counting so many good tangible improvements being made over the last several years, I must keep an eye to the future. I am thrilled to share with you the first map of our downtown, completed in collaboration with our dedicated Business and Professional Association. This idea was born from the transformation occurring in our downtown as new buildings and new retail and business opportunities open right next to merchants that have served us well for decades. They are committed to our community, even as they feel the bite of a slowed economy. They are hard-working business people investing countless dollars and time in Fanwood and they now need us to invest in them. Enjoy this map and keep it handy to shop local. Please visit our new stores on South Avenue, stop by and give a second look to a store you may have been passing by and discover a hidden treasure in your own backyard.

Sincere thanks to Councilman Russ Huegel, BPA President Peter Chemidlin and BPA member Mike Prasad for embracing our need to collaborate on every level and making yet another idea a reality.

As many of you know, the downtown has been a work in progress and something I have dedicated myself to completing over the past six years. Despite the national recession we have developers still investing in our community. The most recent piece of good news is that the former Sovereign Bank site has been sold and the Borough has opened up negotiations with the new owners on adjacent Borough-owned properties. It has always been our intention that a cohesive redevelopment project will occur on that site, and the adjoining piece, known as the former Livingston-Wilbor site, would factor into the plan's completion. It is an exciting time and a critical one to make sure that the overall vision, designed by the community, will be fulfilled. As I have repeatedly stated, “you get one shot to do redevelopment right, because what you build will be here for generations to come.” So while working with individual property owners versus one large developer may take a little longer, and is a road less traveled by many New Jersey communities, it was the right one for Fanwood.

As redevelopment is a top priority, so too are property taxes. Early in 2009 I, along with your Borough Council understood that the time had come to expand on our pre-existing shared services program with our neighbor in Scotch Plains. In addition to looking at ways to hold the line on the 20% of your tax bill that represents municipal spending, we hoped it might also provide expanded program and service opportunities. Both communities agreed and we are now nearing completion of this comprehensive shared services study. Please rest assured, this is NOT a consolidation study for our

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Senior Asides

To make the lives of our seniors as comfortable and mobile as possible, Union County is offering two services:

First, to assist seniors in getting around town easily and quickly, there is the Paratransit System, run by the Department of Human Services that provides a van to transport seniors to such places as the Westfield Y, grocery shopping and movie theaters. To access this service:

1. Call (908) 686-1884, ext. 210 or 209
2. Make reservations 7 days in advance
3. Provide the address of where you're going, an emergency contact, and the times you want to be picked up, dropped off and taken home
4. The service operates between the hours of 8 AM -4 PM

For more information, call Anissia, the Operations Manager, at (908) 686-1884, ext. 207.

Second, for those seniors who are unable to prepare their own food, Mobile Meals provides fresh and nutritious hot meals. Serving Westfield, Cranford, Clark, Garwood, Fanwood and Scotch Plains since 1968, Mobile Meals operates five days per week, Monday through Friday. An individual can choose to receive one hot meal (\$30 per week) or both a hot and cold meal (\$40 per week) delivered right to their door by Noon each business day. For more information, please call Cathy at Mobile Meals at (908) 233-6146.

Mayor's Message

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communities; rather, we are gathering facts and data to better determine potential economies of scale whereby each community can save money and/or improve services. Look to join us at future community forums as we share the results of this study during the first quarter of next year.

As Trenton is sure to reduce municipal aid and increase pressure on local municipalities with tougher caps on spending and appropriations, I am proud that we are already planning for the future. Fanwood, with this shared services study, our Budget Review Task Force and other proactive decisions made in the past, is ahead of the curve, but we are not out of the woods yet. It has always been my intention that Fanwood, as a small community, will utilize its power to control its own destiny and not be forced into anything that is not in the best interest of all of us who pay taxes and proudly call Fanwood home.

Change is not always easy, and as the Mayor I am only as good as the support I get from the Municipal Council. At the end of this year, I will sadly say goodbye to two Council Members - Donna Dolce and Dave Valian. For the last six years I have been so very fortunate to have Council President Donna Dolce sitting next to me as we have faced the many challenges, always with the goal of making Fanwood the best it can be. We have worked so hard shoulder-to-shoulder to get us where we are today. Donna's public mark will be left on our downtown, preserving the nature center with a conservation easement to prevent future development on that site, chairing our first-ever citizens budget review committee, providing leadership with the shared service committee, and so much more. Dave Valian is yet another example of a resident who stepped forward to do public service, recognizing he had a voice and something to share with all of us. I thank him for his leadership with the Recreation Commission, defining a new level of service in this community without greater expense. Dave is a leader with vision who understood the importance of this shared service study, and an everyday man that wants the best for his family and Fanwood.

We all have become good friends, and my respect for them deep. Donna and Dave have served each and every Fanwood resident with utmost dedication and commitment and I wish them well.

At the same time I want to welcome Mike Szuch and Bob Manduca to the Council. I look forward to listening to their suggestions as we head into a new year full of opportunities and hard fiscal realities. Serving one's community in elected office is a noble pursuit, and to all I say, "thank you."

There are countless volunteer opportunities in Fanwood, and I welcome the chance to talk to you about them. I wish all of you happy and healthy holidays. Please take the time to remember all the blessings we have. From my family to yours, may this holiday season be filled with joy and best wishes.

DPW 2010 Winter Pickup Schedule

Christmas Tree Pickup - January 4th through January 29th

Final Pickup - January 29th · All trees have to be on the curb by 7 AM.

Please note - wreaths and garlands are unacceptable for pickup.

Brush Pickup - NE and NW Quadrant – January 4th
SE and SW Quadrant – January 11th



When snow is forecast, please remove your car from the street. When shoveling your driveway, place the snow to the right so the plow can carry it away. Wait to shovel the last ten feet of your driveway until the storm is over and the streets have been plowed curb to curb. Do not blow or shovel your snow into the center of the road as this will freeze and cause a hazardous situation. Residents are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow event.

Reorganization Meeting of the Fanwood Council

The annual Reorganization Meeting of the Fanwood Council will take place on Friday, January 1, 2010. It will begin at 12 Noon in the Council Chambers in Borough Hall.



A highlight will be the swearing in of Mike Szuch and Robert Manduca as new councilmembers. The Mayor's annual "State of Fanwood" address will be delivered and appointments to commissions and committees will be made for the new year. Residents are encouraged to attend.

The Fanwoodian

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Chairperson: Joan Feller
Secretary and Photographer: Sherman Feller
Writers: Rosemarie McCallion, Michael Prasad, Robert Sommerich,
Lin Vlasaty, Bob Budiansky
Layout: Pat Hoynes
Council Liaison: Russell Huegel

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

Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Children

Fanwood Recreation announces its schedule of Winter 2010 programs for children. For more information about all these classes and to register, use the contact information below, go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation, (908) 370-7092.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Contact</u>
ASmartyCat Kids Junior Scientists Workshops	1/18	ages 3 1/2–11	www.smartycatkids.com
Fashion Illustration	1/19	ages 11–18	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Arts and Crafts	1/19	grades 1–4	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Lego & Bionicle Club	1/21	grades 1–5	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Sports Squirts	1/22	ages 3–5	www.ussportsinstitute.com
Chess Enrichment	1/23	ages 7–12	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Dance Fun	1/23	ages 4–5	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Hip-Hop Jazz	1/23	ages 6–8	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Jazz/Tap	1/23	ages 9–13	www.fanwoodrecreation.org

Fanwood Recreation Announces Winter Programs for Seniors



Seniors, make physical fitness your New Year’s resolution! Fanwood Recreation announces its winter program schedule for seniors. Programs begin the week of January 4th and run through the week of March 22nd: Aerobics (Tuesdays, 9:15–10 AM), Tai Chi (Tuesdays, 10:15–11:15 AM), Line Dancing (Thursdays, 1–2 PM), and Water Exercise (Fridays, 11–11:45 AM). The registration fee for Fanwood residents for each program is \$10. All programs are held in the recreation building at Forest Road Park, except for Water Exercise, which is held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool in Scotch Plains. Space is limited.

Registration forms may be picked up at Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue. For more information about fees, schedule and how to register, please visit www.fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092.

Who Is This Fanwoodian?

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Bruce Zakarin!

Fanwood Recreation Plans for 2010 Summer Park Program

Fanwood Recreation is now actively planning its 2010 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 or someone you know would like to apply for a counselor job, please go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org and click on the “Job Applications” button to download an application. Submission of an application does not guarantee an interview or a response. Registration for the program will start in March or April.



December Events in the Fanwood Library's Children's Department



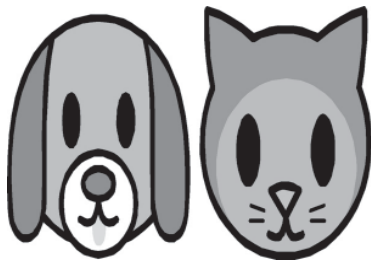
Jolly Bingo – Friday, December 4th, after school, from 3:45 to 4:30 PM

Children can play Book Bingo for Book Prizes. Children must be able to read or share with someone who can. Everyone is a winner at Book Bingo! Children age 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. A parent or caring adult must remain in the children's area of the library.

Come enjoy holiday and winter stories together as a family. Join us on December 7th, from 7 to 7:30 PM. Children four years and younger should be seated with an adult. Come early to browse and check out books. This storytime is always held the first Monday of the month, and stories are selected based on the age of the participants.

Craft Jam Friday, December 11th, after school from 3:45 to 4:30 PM

Come make a mini holiday scrapbook or photo album from brown lunch bags. Bring scraps of holiday gift paper, doilies, ribbon, buttons, anything you would like to use to decorate your keepsake book. For children in grades 1-5, a parent or caring adult must remain in the library. This Craft Jam will be repeated Wednesday, December 30th, from 11 AM to Noon.



Time to Renew Pet Licenses!

All dogs and cats in the Borough of Fanwood are required to be licensed each year. The licensing fees cover the payment of fees to the State of New Jersey and the cost of an Animal Control Officer. The deadline for licensing your animal, seven months or older, is January 31, 2009.

Licenses may be obtained in person at the office of the Municipal Clerk, Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ 07023, from 8 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday

through Friday, or by mail addressed to the Municipal Clerk at the above address and by enclosing the proper fee, current rabies vaccination certificate and/or prior year's license and a **self-addressed, stamped return envelope**.

The license fees are \$10 per dog or cat for those spayed or neutered, \$15 per dog or cat for those not neutered. If you are already in our system and you no longer have a dog or cat or have questions please call (908) 322-8236.

For your information, dogs are not permitted to be habitually howling, crying or barking. Owners are to remove their

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Friendly Suggestions From The Recycling Center

The Recycling Center has long been accepting various solid plastic pieces such as summer plastic patio furniture. Unfortunately, the prices that the Center receives from the vendors for these items are being reduced because the materials take a lot of space and are of comparatively little weight.

The Recycling Center wants to continue to accept these items. To do so they suggest that a donation be made to the Recycling Association, the amount being up to the recycler. These monies will help to recover some of the labor costs and compensate for the lower prices. Please see Site Manager Alan Ebersole when bringing in these materials.

New regulations regarding the handling and shipping of batteries makes it impossible for the recycling center to accept them. Rechargeable batteries should be recycled, but please **DO NOT** bring them to the recycling center! Only rechargeable batteries can be returned to a number of local stores. A full list can be found at www.call2recycle.org. Following is a partial list of stores that will accept them:

Radio Shack -1240 U.S. Highway 22, North Plainfield; 300 South Avenue in Garwood and
1701 U.S. Highway 22, Watchung

Home Owners Heaven - 351 US Highway 22 West, North Plainfield

Home Depot - 200 South Avenue, Garwood

Derco Office Solutions - 620 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights

Target - 1515 U.S. Highway 22 West, Watchung

AT&T Mobility - 1592 U.S. Highway 22, Watchung.





Fanwood Recreation Receives Grant

The Union County 2009 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant, made possible through the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, has awarded Fanwood's Recreation Commission two grants: a grant of \$9500 for summer camp scholarships, and a grant of \$28,468 for recreational equipment. The Fanwood Youth Organization Baseball League, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Lacrosse League and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL Youth Football Program applied for equipment through this grant for their programs and received funding as well.

The Scholarship Grant will enable the Recreation Commission to award scholarships to children from families in financial need so they can attend summer programs and camps. This grant does not require a match. Scholarship applications can be downloaded from www.fanwoodrecreation.org.

The 2009 Kids Recreation Trust Equipment Grant is a 50% matching grant. The Borough will fund 50% of its portion, or \$3,352.50, and the sports organizations will fund 50% of their portion, or \$10,701.50. The Recreation Commission will use its portion of the grant to purchase equipment for the Summer Park Program and Training Wheel Toss Program, as well as equipment for Fanwood's TV 35 programming to broadcast recreation-sponsored events throughout the year.

In recent years Union County has given the Borough several recreation grants, which have been used for the purchase of new playgrounds, improvements to park fields and buildings, and the purchase of recreational equipment.

Here's A First Look At Fanwood's Historic Caboose!

Caboose #91544, a 1943 Northeastern Caboose made for the Jersey Central Railroad and retired in 1979, is currently at the Fanwood Recycling Center waiting to be sandblasted and primed. The caboose was donated to the Borough, and Fanwood received a \$100,000 grant from the NJ State Department of Transportation (earmarked for historic preservation) to restore this caboose as close to its original state as possible. The grant requires a bidding process for all of the



tasks needed to restore the caboose in terms of the sandblasting/priming process. The group of volunteers organizing the restoration process is seeking other historic items to add to it. If anyone has any historic Jersey Central Railroad memorabilia they would like to donate to either be added to the caboose itself or displayed at the Fanwood Museum, please contact Sgt. Tom Jedic of the Fanwood Police Department at sgtjedic@fanwoodpolice.com.

Santa's 34th Annual Visit To Fanwood's Children On December 12th



Santa Claus is coming...

Santa Claus will be making his annual visit through town escorted by the Fanwood Emergency Services Groups. Santa and

his "honorary elves" will make their journey on Saturday, December 12th, beginning at 11AM.

If you are interested in having Santa bring a gift to your house, please deliver it to the Fanwood Police Headquarters on Martine Avenue from Sunday, November 29th, through Sunday, December 6th. 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!

Pet Licenses

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pet's solid waste and dispose of it in a proper receptacle. As of December 1, 2009, "no person owning, possessing, keeping or harboring any dog, whether such dog is licensed or unlicensed, shall allow, suffer or permit such dog to run at large on or about any place within the Borough except upon the premises of the person who owns or is entitled to the custody of such dog and/or unless securely held by a leash no more than twelve (12') feet long in the hands of a person able to control such dog."



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club is welcoming new members at this time. If you are new to town, or recently have become a parent and are looking for daytime activities and to meet new people, consider joining the club. For more information, please visit www.scotchplains.com/newcomers.

Business Directory

The insert in this issue of *The Fanwoodian* is the Fanwood Business & Professional Association's Business Directory. As part of the Mayor and Council's "shop locally" campaign for the holiday shopping season, the Directory is designed to provide an easy guide for shoppers to the Borough's local merchants, restaurants and other points of interest. Enjoy all that Fanwood has to offer this holiday season by taking advantage of the wonderful merchandise offered by the business establishments in our downtown.

The Fanwood Nature Center Needs Your Support



The Borough of Fanwood recognizes the importance of having the nature center's eight-acre piece of open space for all community residents to use and enjoy. While it affords a quiet place to stroll, an educational facility for children and adults, an area to enjoy bird-watching and view the sights of nature in all seasons, let's not forget that it is also

home to various wildlife. In recent months, the Fanwood Nature Center has become a habitual place for visitors to carelessly litter. On your next visit, you can support the nature center by being mindful not to leave plastic bags, soda cans, glass bottles and other debris in and around the nature center. By doing your share, you will help make the Fanwood Nature Center a caring place for wildlife to live and community



Fanwood, NJ 07023

Our Neighbors

Community News

Fanwood

Fanwood Borough Hall
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

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