

HURRICANE SANDY EDITION

Having gone through this historic superstorm called Sandy, we have all learned a lot. With the benefit of this experience we will weather the next storm in an even more thoughtful and organized manner.

Please read this edition thoroughly and be sure to sign up with at least one of the many notification systems that are available.

A Special Message From Your Office of Emergency Management Team

Public safety officials spend a lot of time preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. Hurricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic storm ever recorded, brought its worst to the shores of New Jersey and New York, leaving at least 110 people dead in the United States and causing an estimated \$20 billion in damage.

In Fanwood, there were no storm-related casualties and all our homes are still



Councilman Parenti, Councilman Szuch, Mayor Mahr, Chief Trigo, Fire Chief Piccola and Councilwoman Mitchell discuss emergency management.

standing. However, downed trees damaged a number of homes and power was initially out for the entire town. Full power restoration not achieved for some residents until 13 days later. We may not have received the worst, but it was bad enough. Still, we prepared for it thanks to a dedicated team of paid and volunteer men and women who began planning days before the storm hit and maintained their focus on Fanwood's recovery in the days thereafter.

The emergency management

team, consisting of Emergency Management Coordinator Howard Drewes, Mayor Colleen Mahr, Police Chief Richard Trigo, Fire Chief John Piccola, Rescue Squad Captain Tom Kranz, Public Works Director Clint Dickson, Borough Council Liaison Kathy Mitchell and Administrative Assistant Dianne Howarth, began planning for the storm on October 26th, several days before landfall was forecast, and continued meeting several times a day through



Long-awaited tree removal on Farley Avenue

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Please Sign Up for at Least One of These Important Communication Tools!

Union County First Alert

(Reverse 9-1-1)

The UC First Alert Network is administered by The County of Union, Office of Emergency Management.

The County of Union uses the UC First Alert Network to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. The UC First Alert Network delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices:

- email account (work, home, other)
- cell phone (via text)
- pager
- smartphone/PDA (BlackBerry, Treo & and other handhelds)

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify you. The UC First Alert Network is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

It is easy to register; go to www.ucfirstalert.org/register and follow the simple instructions. If you have no access to the internet call (877) 424-1234.

Don't Forget Fanwood TV!

During emergencies the borough makes every effort to keep timely information posted on the Fanwood Cable television channel. Be sure you know your channel!



Verizon subscribers – Channel 24
Comcast subscribers – Channel 35

Fanwood Website E-Blasts

The Fanwood Website has a wealth of information that is updated daily. Along with lots of timely and up-to-the-minute information on what's happening in Fanwood, you'll also receive the weekly "Stay In Touch" e-blast when you sign up. Simply go to www.fanwoodnj.org and scroll down the home page until you see "Stay In Touch" in the left-hand column. Type in your e-mail address and you will immediately be added to the list to receive the weekly e-Blast and other updates about Fanwood.

During an emergency this list will be used more frequently by the Mayor to keep Fanwoodians aware of useful information.

Fanwood Police E-Newsletter

Receive emergency alerts about road closures, and community events and more.

Go to www.fanwoodpolice.org, look at the right hand column for the "Newsletter" box and type in your e-mail address. It's that simple!

Coming Soon: Like Us On Facebook!

The borough communications team is working to establish a Facebook account and a Twitter account.

Keep checking for more information on Fanwood TV and the borough website, www.fanwoodnj.org.

The Fanwoodian

Published quarterly by the Fanwood Communications Committee

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Council Liaison: Colleen Mahr

Contributions, comments and volunteers are always welcome!
Please call Pat Hoynes (908) 322-8236 ext 121.



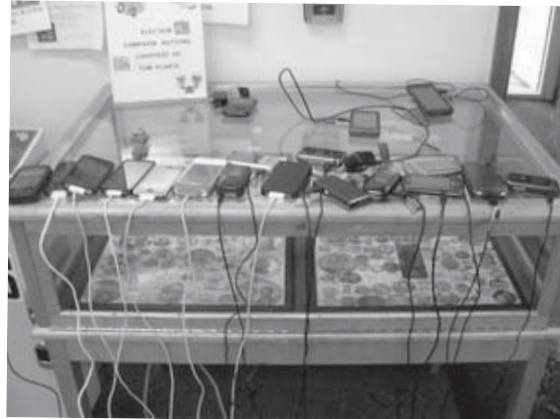
Are You or Someone You Know Housebound?

The Borough keeps a directory of those who may be in need of help during emergencies. Older people who live alone or folks with disabilities who need special consideration should be on this list. Emergency responders were able to check in to make sure those in the directory were safe after the recent storm.

If you or someone you know is in this position, please contact Borough Hall at (908) 322-8236 and let us know so your or that person's name can be added to the directory. It is important that we take care of each other in times of trouble.

Library Serves as Gateway, Magnet and Refuge

There's nothing quite like a natural disaster to draw neighbors together. And that's just what caused more than 5,000 visits to the Fanwood Memorial Library after Hurricane Sandy when the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) decided to open a warming and charging station in the library. For a week, people came to access their mail, update friends and family about their health and home, and research the Internet for answers to insurance and flooding problems. They came to recharge their phones and laptops, to commiserate about their losses, and to celebrate their survival. Some took the opportunity to explore hardcovers and magazines while waiting for electronic devices to recharge.



Fanwood Library Director Dan Weiss, his staff, volunteers, and student pages were more than up to the task. They manned the desk for long hours and provided technical, research, and personal support. OEM Director Howard Drewes kept on top of things, American Water donated bottled water, and the FRIENDS of the Library donated cookies.

Mayor Mahr commented, "I cannot express in words how proud I am of our community. The library staffers have kept this place open since day one of Superstorm Sandy. It's incredible. We have staff and volunteers who have left their own damaged homes to come and help serve. It is times like this that show the mettle of a community and I couldn't be more proud of Fanwoodians."

Mr. Weiss echoed that special thanks are due to all of the dedicated, hardworking library staff and some

volunteers who kept things running smoothly and effectively. Library pages Kevin Fleck and Josh Axlerod and volunteers Matt Fleck and Katherine DeMarco spent long hours helping people do everything from powering devices to getting internet access, troubleshooting computer issues and more. Extra special kudos go to staff member Nancy Kipping who, especially during the first few days following the hurricane, served long hours efficiently managing the crowds and keeping everything running smoothly. Thanks also go to Scotch Plains resident Colleen Gialanella who set up outside the library on Friday to warm residents by passing out free hot chocolate.

Many other Fanwood Borough employees also gave tirelessly in a variety of capacities throughout the crisis to make sure residents had what they needed to be safe and comfortable.

This was only the most recent evidence of what our library has become- a community center for the curious, a crossroads where neighbors recharge, research, and renew their ties to the local and global.

As the library explores ways to meet the ever-changing needs of residents, the FRIENDS of the Fanwood Library is collecting comments from residents. Ideas will be submitted to the library board in December as it continues to work on a strategic plan. To submit your thoughts, contact Carol Campell at fanwoodfriends@gmail.com. To help the library accomplish its mission, the FRIENDS raise funds for materials and services beyond the library's budget. A small but most enthusiastic group, this all-volunteer corps welcomes new members. To join, contact Eileen Spitler at emoritzspitler@comcast.net.

A Message from the Office of Emergency Management

(continued from Page 1)

the first week after the storm hit. Other members of Borough Council joined these meetings on an ongoing basis. The team made a concerted effort to communicate with our residents in as many venues as possible--email alerts to subscribers, a reverse 911 call to all residents' home phones and First Alert text messages to UC First Alert subscribers.

When the storm made landfall on October 29th but the Police Department had already geared up, notifying all officers to expect to be called in to work. The Rescue Squad and Fire Departments were both fully staffed at their headquarters. Once the trees and wires started coming down, the Public Works and Fire Departments hit the streets in force, answering calls for downed trees and wires non-stop. The Borough's OEM team met every few hours at Police Headquarters to keep up with the storm's effects. Power went out for everyone by dinner time and emergency generators kicked on at Police/Fire Headquarters and the Rescue Squad. The worst of the wind and rain continued Monday evening into Tuesday the 30th.

By Tuesday morning, it was apparent that the storm had caused epic damage across the Northeast. During the first of many conference calls with PSE&G, the utility reported 2.4 million customers in New Jersey without power. Reports from Fanwood police patrols and public works crews indicated most, if not all, of our town had no power, which also meant no cable TV, internet or telephone and little or no cell phone service. Downed trees and wires blocked Martine Avenue, Midway Avenue, LaGrande Avenue and many other streets throughout the Borough. Trees came down onto at least a dozen homes, causing those residents to find other places to live temporarily. Traffic lights at our major intersections stopped working. All our businesses were dark except for the A&P, which had power for lights but little else. And Nick's Pizza and Pasta continued baking pizzas despite having no power.

After declaring a local emergency, Mayor Mahr began steering the OEM meetings towards what would turn out to be a key element of the post-Sandy response--figuring out how to communicate with residents in a town with

no power, internet, television or cell phone service, and with limited mobility in an unsafe environment. By lunchtime on Tuesday, a one-page flyer was drafted with essential information including what we knew about power, damage in town, safety warnings and a device charging/information station created at the Fanwood Memorial Library. In the absence of electronic delivery systems, the flyers were delivered door to door by police officers and volunteers of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department. This would be repeated on two other occasions as power was slow to return. Police visited senior citizens and special needs residents, and began managing intersections where there were no lights.

Borough Hall was staffed throughout the storm, including weekends.

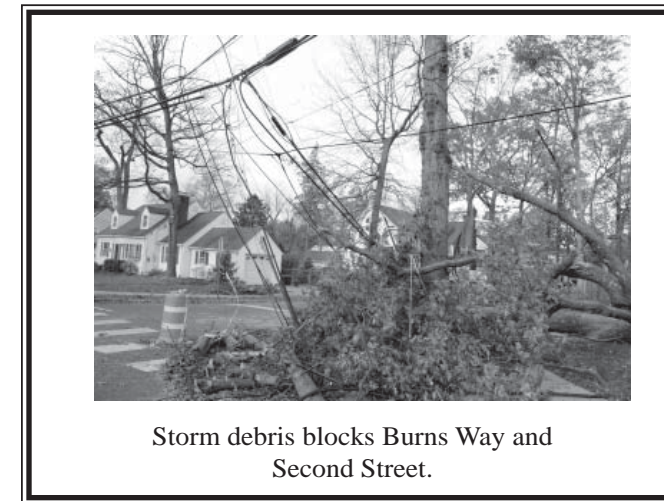
Numerous volunteers assisted with answering phones and walk-in inquiries. The Borough continued daily information updates utilizing its website, email, Union County First Alert texts and reverse 911 calls. In addition, members of the OEM team spoke to groups of residents in the neighborhoods to spread information.

On Wednesday, October 31st, the Rescue Squad

opened its device-charging station and the Chelsea opened as a warming station. In the interest of safety, all Halloween activities were reluctantly cancelled. Borough Hall was reopened for regular business. Public works was clearing trees from the roadways 24/7.

The Fanwood Memorial Library and Fanwood Rescue Squad, both of which have natural gas-powered generators, became hubs of social activity as residents came by the hundreds to get warm and charge their phones and iPads. By the end of Friday, November 9th, the library had seen 5,000 people sign-up to recharge devices and use the Internet and the Rescue Squad hosted 368.

PSE&G faced what was perhaps its greatest challenge ever, in terms of the damage to its power lines and infrastructure. Extensive damage to a switching station at Sewaren, Woodbridge Township, contributed to the



Storm debris blocks Burns Way and Second Street.

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Fanwood Police Department Holiday Safety Tips

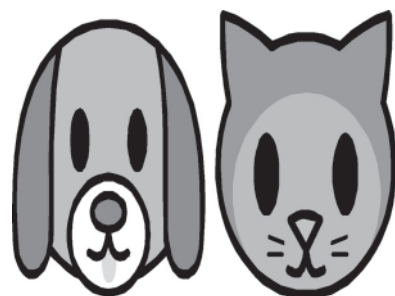
Shopping Safety Tips

- Do not leave purchased items visible in the car, leave them in the trunk.
- While shopping in the evening hours may be less crowded, there are additional potential risks involved. Park in areas of parking lots that have adequate lighting. Consider shopping with someone rather than going alone.
- Make sure purses and wallets are secure on your person and you are aware of their location at all times.
- Keep the amount of available cash you have at a minimum or separate it into different pockets or locations on or about your person. This way all of it is not lost if your purse or wallet is misplaced or stolen.
- Even though credit cards offer convenience and security, you need to keep track of all cards and keep receipts to compare to your monthly statement.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at all times and move to and from your vehicle with confidence and purpose. Have keys ready *before* getting to your car so you don't have to search for them while standing near it.
- Report suspicious people or activity to law enforcement *immediately!*



Home Safety Tips While Away

- Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers should be inscribed with an identifying number unique to its owner (do not use your entire social security number).
- Create an up-to-date home inventory including make, model, serial numbers, other detailed descriptions, and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). This inventory should be kept somewhere safe, outside the house.
- At least two light timers should be set to turn the lights and TV on and off in a logical sequence when away for an extended time period to give the appearance that someone is home.
- If you have an alarm system you should activate it before you leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up should be made when you are away from home for a period of time.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to tend the yard, shovel the snow, and watch your home when you are away or have a trusted friend or relative house sit in your absence.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave, even if you have an alarm system.
- Provide the police with a complete vacant house form, available at Fanwood Police Department Headquarters.



Renew Pet Licenses

or cat who are spayed/neutered; \$15 for those who are not spayed/neutered. The deadline for obtaining the license is January 31, 2013, or a late fee will be imposed. If you no longer own a dog or cat, please

All dogs and cats in Fanwood, seven months or older, are required to be licensed annually. The license fees are \$10 per dog

inform the Borough by calling (908) 322-8236.

Licenses may be obtained in person at the Municipal Clerk's office at the Fanwood Borough Hall. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM; and Thursday evenings from 5 PM - 8 PM. Credit cards are also accepted. Residents can also obtain licenses by mail; the proper fee, current rabies vaccination certificate and/or prior year's license must be included along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue.

Fanwood Recreation Winter Children Programs

Fanwood Recreation announces its schedule of Winter 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>Age/Grade</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Lego & Hero Factory Club	1/22	grades K-5	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Make Your Own Comic Book	1/22	grades 3-6	paula@paulacohenillustration.com
Junior Scientists Workshop	1/23	ages 4-6, 7-10	www.smartycatkids.com
Passport To Art	1/23	grades 1-4	paula@paulacohenillustration.com
Young At Art	1/24	ages 4-5	paula@paulacohenillustration.com
Lego & Hero Factory Club	1/24	grades K-5	www.fanwoodrecreation.org
Little Bakers Workshop	1/28	ages 5-10	www.smartycatkids.com
Jewelry Design	1/28	ages 5-10	www.smartycatkids.com



Fanwood Recreation Announces Winter Programs for Seniors

Fanwood Recreation announces its winter program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Programs begin the week of January 7th and run through the week of March 25th:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time</u>
Aerobics	Tuesdays	9-10 AM
Tai Chi	Tuesdays	10:15-11:15 AM
Water Exercise	Wednesdays	11:30 AM-12 noon
Line Dancing	Thursdays	1-2 PM
Zumba Gold	Fridays	9:15-10 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.

The fee is \$10 per program for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents, \$25 for all others. To get a schedule and a registration form, please visit www.fanwoodrecreation.org on the web or pick them up at Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue. For more information, call Fanwood Recreation at 908 370-7092.

Ice Skating Comes Back to Fanwood!

For those of you who have fond memories of ice skating in the LaGrande Park rink, and for those of you who just like to tie your skates on when the weather gets cold and look for a slab of ice to carve with your blades, Fanwood Recreation has good news—ice skating is returning to LaGrande Park! As a result of a resurfacing project in LaGrande in 2011, the circular rink area can once again be used for ice skating. Last winter was unseasonably warm, but this winter we anticipate more sub-32 degree days, which will allow

the rink to be filled with water and turned into a frozen pond.

As the weather gets colder, please check fanwoodrecreation.org and your weekly email updates from the borough's website for more information on ice skating at LaGrande Park, including days open and hours. (If you don't get the weekly updates, you can subscribe to them by going to www.fanwoodnj.org and scroll down to the "Get Email Alerts" window in the lower left corner.)

Recycling Center Serves Borough and Beyond



Fanwood is the only community in Union County that does not have curbside pickup for recyclables. This policy saves taxpayer money, generates over \$20,000 worth of grants to local

service organizations and, allows us to recycle many more materials than elsewhere. Perhaps it is that breadth that attracts residents of other communities to our Recycling Center. A recent month-long survey showed that 70% of the users were Fanwood residents; the remaining 30% came from 16 other communities in Union County, as well as towns as far away as Bridgewater, Morristown, and Kearny. We are having an impact well beyond the confines of our borough.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association, the all-volunteer organization that manages and staffs the Center, continues to expand the types of materials residents can recycle. Since starting collection of fluorescent

bulbs last August, over 4000 bulbs have been processed through the cooperation of the Home Depot store in Watchung Square Mall. We recently started to collect button batteries used in hearing aids and watches. A full listing of accepted recyclables is posted on the Fanwood website under the Department of Public Works. Uncommon recyclables include:

- Used ink cartridges
- Rigid plastic products, such as patio furniture, toys, pots
- Compact discs/DVDs
- Aluminum products, such as gutters, doors, lawn chairs



Hundreds of runners sprint through the streets of Fanwood for the third annual Fanwood 5K and Family Fun Run on a beautiful fall morning in October

Message from OEM

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delay in restoring power. Power did return to a few Fanwood homes after the first day. Many more homes had power restored after five to seven days. Several streets and some individual homes went thirteen days without electricity.

Surviving a catastrophic event couldn't happen without the town's residents and businesses coming together to help each other. Residents with generators opened their homes to their neighbors and, later, loaned generators to families without power. Our Senior Citizens Club assisted in doing phone checks on senior residents. The Chelsea provided meals, and even lodging, to our police officers and public works employees. Volunteers helped deliver flyers.

While patience wore thin for those without power the longest, we saw a great convergence of Fanwood's positive forces in the days after Hurricane Sandy. Let's hope we don't have to do this again for a long time.

2013 Summer Counselor Jobs

Fanwood Recreation is now actively planning its 2013 Summer Park Recreation Program and Tweens & Teens Travel Camp. The Park Recreation Program, which runs for eight weeks from 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday-Friday at LaGrande Park, provides children ages 5-12 with structured, fun-filled activities under the supervision of experienced counselors. The Travel Camp runs for two weeks from 9 AM-5 PM, Monday-Friday. 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" link to download an application. Submission of an application does not guarantee an interview or a response. Registration for the programs will start in March or April.

63rd Annual Lions Christmas Tree Sale

Be sure to check out the variety of Christmas trees available for sale at LaGrande Park from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on weekdays and from 9 AM to 9 PM on weekends. Proceeds support Lions Club projects and student scholarships.



Boys & Girls Have Been Good! Santa Confirms Visit!

Escorted by the Fanwood Fire Department, Rescue Squad and PBA 123, Santa Claus will be making his annual ride through Fanwood on Saturday, December 15th beginning at 11 AM and continuing into the evening. Listen for the sirens! Santa has already gathered all his gifts for the trip, so please, no more deliveries!

Luminaries for Sale!

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club is sponsoring its annual Luminary Sale on December 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM and December 24th from 9 AM to 12 noon. The luminary kits, which include a candle, bag and sand, can be purchased at the Fanwood Municipal Garage located on North Avenue across from the Fanwood Memorial Library. The cost for each luminary kit is 60 cents or 50 cents when purchasing more than 50 kits. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to charities supported by the Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

Fanwood
Community News

Residential Customer
Fanwood, NJ 07023

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