



the Fanwoodian

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May 2013

Fanwood remembers, honors fallen heroes

Memorial Day weekend activities include Sunday evening concert, Monday services and parade



Fanwood and the nation will pause on the last weekend of May to honor and remember the men and women of the U.S. armed forces who have given their lives in service for the country.

A concert of patriotic music will kick off the holiday observance Sunday evening. A memorial service at the Fanwood Memorial Library is planned for Monday morning. Later, the annual parade steps off in Scotch Plains, moving down Martine Avenue and ending in Fanwood's LaGrande Park.

Meet Fanwood's "Mr. Parade" - page 5

The two-hour Sunday concert will be performed by the Westfield Symphony Orchestra on the lawn of the North Side Train Station.

See Memorial, page 2

Weekend's activities

Sunday, May 26

6:30 p.m. - Concert featuring patriotic music performed by the Westfield Symphony at the North Side Train Station lawn (bring a chair; will move to high school in case of rain)

Monday, May 27

9 a.m. - Memorial service at the Fanwood Memorial Library

10:45 a.m. - Parade starts at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue and proceeds down Martine Avenue in Fanwood, ending at LaGrande Park

• At left, Fanwood DPW worker Mark Bocchino raises the American and POW/MIA flags at the library

In this issue

3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Colleen Mahr's quarterly column on all things Fanwood

4

SUMMER IN THE PARKS

There's a full slate of summer activities including the annual Party in the Park, camps and evening movies.

5

FANWOOD'S NEW RESTAURANTS

Mara's Bakery and Cafe is open at Fanwood Crossing and the Chippery is getting some final touches for a summer opening.

9

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Mayor Mahr is calling a June meeting to invite public input on the proposed joint police department.

10

ARTS SCENE

Fanwood's acclaimed Carriage House music and poetry series are drawing crowds to the Kuran Center

12

CICADA INVASION

The little critters, who don't hurt anything but are a loud annoyance, are back for another appearance.

The Fanwoodian

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Let us hear from you!

Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

Memorial (cont'd)

"I'm inviting the residents to bring their families to the north lawn of the train station for an evening filled with patriotic music honoring the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice," Mayor Colleen Mahr said.

"This concert is a wonderful way to remind us what makes being an American so special," she added.

Council member Anthony Parenti, a member of the Memorial Day committee, says the concert and its music is a good way to remind people that the weekend is dedicated to honoring the fallen.

"A lot of people think Memorial Day is the beginning of summer," he says. "Somewhere they lose sight of the meaning of the day."

Parenti says the patriotic music and other parts of the concert are a good reminder.

Last year's concert drew nearly 500 visitors, Parenti says, and a larger crowd is expected this year. Concertgoers are asked to bring chairs.

In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the high school. An alert will be posted on the borough's website and also distributed via email.

Local veterans from several wars will form the honor guard at the library ceremony Monday morning for Fanwoodians who gave their lives for their country.

After Scotch Plains' memorial service, the annual parade steps off from the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, making its way down Park Avenue and Fanwood's Martine Avenue to LaGrande Park.

Four Scotch Plains police officers, all Iraq War veterans with the U.S. Marines, will be this year's parade Grand Marshals: Brad Belford, David Belford, David Lavery and Christen Ostrowski.

The annual parade draws crowds that line the curbs to watch dozens of veterans, local civic groups, first responders and youth groups march in honor of the nation's fallen.

Rehab program info available

The borough is sponsoring a housing rehabilitation program that assists residents in replacing a roof, siding, large plumbing repairs and electrical repairs/replacements, etc.

The program is for residents who qualify by income.

If you are in need of help with a project like this and are interested in completing a confidential application, please call Robin Lospinoso, the borough's agent, at 732-382-8100, Ext. 13, or Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern at (908) 322-8236, Ext. 123.



mayor's message

by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr

Memorial Day is upon us and while many of us will be kicking off Summer 2013 with a picnic or trip to the beach, it is important to take a quiet moment of thanks for all the service men and women who have given their lives in service of this great country. Fanwood is celebrating the remembrance with a concert of stirring patriotic tunes on Sunday the 26th, followed the next day by our traditional parade. You'll see information about both events in this newsletter. Many thanks to the committee members from both Scotch Plains and Fanwood who have worked so hard to bring these meaningful events to our community. Be sure to visit the borough website at www.fanwoodnj.org for updates and a calendar of all borough events.

Last month there was an important hearing at the Planning Board. The Fanwood Crossing II and III buildings were approved for construction! Although groundbreaking isn't expected until the fall, these are significant milestones in the revitalization of Fanwood. The new construction will complete the South Avenue block of the downtown. It brings the dream of an attractive public space to reality in the form of a lovely public plaza that will be open on South Avenue, next to Mara's Bakery.

Have you been to Mara's yet? I'm happy to say that from the looks of it, everyone in town has been there at least once! We're very pleased to see them doing so well, and urge you to remember that you also can get delicious soup, sandwiches and ice cream treats from the Double Dipper and the best bagels in the county at Fanwood Bagel! Be sure to explore all the dining options that are now available in our bustling downtown, and elsewhere in town. Up the road, we have the Chippery due to open soon and down the road we'll soon have 25 South, a new wood-burning oven pizzeria. It is wonderful to have so many choices right here in our home town!

Also coming soon to South Avenue is CKO Kickboxing, a fun fitness studio to burn off those extra calories! I hope you will all be sure to visit the new merchants and support local business; the more we patronize our local shops, the more vibrant the downtown will be for us all to enjoy.

On that note, many thanks to Tracey Constandi, president of the Fanwood Business/Professional Association. Her continued leadership has been exceptional and we congratulate her, and all our local businesses, on the success of the 2nd Annual Ladies Night Out earlier in May. It was wonderful to see so many of you shopping downtown and having a blast! If you sign up for the weekly e-blasts on fanwoodnj.org, you'll be up to date on all the local doings!

Hats off to our Shade Tree Commission! Led for many years by Chairman Steve Falco, Fanwood has been recognized nationally by the Arbor Day Foundation for our commitment to sound urban forestry management. Our town recently celebrated its 20th year as a Tree City USA!!

I also want to thank commissioners April Lee, Joanne Muoio, Joe Higenbotham, Tom Plante and Earl Phillips for the dedication they all demonstrate toward keeping our streets shady and our trees healthy!

In the coming months you will see a lot of capital improvement projects throughout the borough. Forest Road Park is under construction for the installation of a ¼ mile walking track, field irrigation and some buffer landscaping. The Glenwood Road area will soon see the start of a large infrastructure project to improve area drainage. Due for completion by the end of the year, Glenwood, Birchwood, Waldon, Timberline & Tillotson will all be involved. There will be engineers on site, so if homeowners have questions or problems, please speak to the site manager. Failing that, call Borough Hall at (908) 322-8236.

Farley Avenue residents will be pleased to hear that the contract for Farley Avenue re-paving should be complete by September. Hunter Avenue also will see improvements this year. In 2013 we will focus on Hunter Avenue from North Avenue to Watson Road as well as the section of Hunter between Midway Avenue and the Scotch Plains border. These sections should be complete in October, with the remainder of Hunter Avenue scheduled for re-paving in 2014.

Finally, on May 28, Borough Hall will begin "summer hours," opening each morning at 7:30 and closing at noon on Fridays. Monday through Thursday closing time will remain at 4 p.m., and on Thursday, evening hours will continue from 5-8 p.m.

I wish you the best of health and happiness for the summer of 2013, and hope to see you at the Memorial Day Concert on May 26 and the parade on May 27. Don't forget the sunscreen!

Training Wheel Toss scheduled

If your child is struggling to ride their first bike, Fanwood Recreation's free Fifth Annual Training Wheel Toss June 9 is the event for you and your child.

All participants must be at least four years old, wear a helmet, be able to rest their feet flat on the ground while sitting on the bicycle seat and have a bicycle that is in good working condition.

Limited registration is required for the event which runs from 1-4 p.m. in the Union County Vocational School parking lot, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains. The rain date is Sunday, June 16.

Contact Anthony Carter at TrainingWheelToss@Gmail.com for registration and additional information on the event.

Recreation



ParaNorman scene, left; scenes from the 2012 party, center and right

Summer series kicks off June 25 with movie, party

The sixth annual Party in the Park! sets the mood for the first Free Movie Night of the summer at LaGrande Park, Tuesday, June 25 as the summer series gets underway.

The party runs from 6–8:30 p.m. (rain date is the next evening). Enjoy food, music, beverages and more! And for the kids, there'll be rides and other amusements, and contests and crafts inspired by the free movie of the evening, *ParaNorman*, which will begin at dusk. Please note: small fees will be charged for rides and some food items at the party.

The series continues every Tuesday evening for eight consecutive weeks. The movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 early in the schedule, 8 p.m. later in the season).

Enjoy a night out under the stars watching one of Hollywood's latest family-friendly hits on a state-of-the-art 16-foot outdoor screen.

Be sure to bring a blanket or a beach chair. Veteran moviegoers suggest throwing some bug spray in the bag, too.

The rain date will be the following evening. For more information, go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org or call (908) 370-7092

Here's the movie schedule:

June 25 – ParaNorman

July 2 – The Pirates! Band of Misfits

July 9 – Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

July 16 – Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

July 23 – Brave

July 30 – Hotel Transylvania

August 6 – Oz the Great and Powerful

August 13 – The Avengers (PG-13)

Last chance to register for summer camp programs

There's still time to register your child for these great summer camps and programs sponsored by Fanwood Recreation: Tennis, Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Sports Squirts, Make Your Own Comic Book, Pony, Techno-Gineering, Junior Scientists, Groovy Girls, Multi-Sports, Art, Lacrosse, Proud Pilots, and Amazing Magicians.

Also, only a few spots in the morning session of the Fanwood Recreation Summer Park Program are left (plenty of spots remain in

the afternoon session). The program runs at LaGrande Park on weekdays from June 24–Aug. 16, and has two sessions: 9 a.m.–noon and noon–3 p.m.

The program features structured, fun-filled activities for children entering grades kindergarten through 6 in September, and is led by certified teachers and experienced counselors. Each week has a theme, and features activities and entertainment inspired by that theme. Activities include arts & crafts, sports, games, contests, water fun and a whole lot more, and

are tailored to three different age groups.

The program is \$45 per session per week (\$27 for week of July 1), or \$80 for both sessions in the same week (\$48 for week of July 1). You can sign up for the morning session, afternoon session or both, and for as many weeks as you wish, subject to availability.

For registration forms and more information about dates, times, prices, ages, etc., for the programs, please go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org.

Mara's Bakery and Cafe opens at Fanwood Crossing

There's one item that the co-owners of Mara's Cafe and Bakery at Fanwood Crossing can cross off their busy to-do list.

That's planning a grand opening to draw a crowd for Fanwood's newest restaurant.

The cafe's turnout has "exploded" beyond the wildest expectations of Fanwood's Marci (shown at right with one of the restaurant's desserts) and Mark Semel, Mara's co-owners. The crowds have been steady since the "soft" opening in late April, even during times the Semels thought it might be quiet. Mid-morning, lunch and after-school crowds have been unexpectedly big, Marci says.

They've hardly had a chance to catch their breath, Marci says, "which we are happy about."

Looking ahead, she says, "I think we are having our boom and I think then it will settle." But, she expects there will be many new customers as the warm weather brings an interest in the gelato.

Diners have a wide variety of choices in the restaurant that is a bit of a hybrid.

Marci explains, "we're not really a full-service restaurant, but we're not a fast-food restaurant either." The place is informal, but with a wide variety of items on the menu. Call it a coffee house with a little more polish. There's no TV, by design, but Mara's does offer free wi-fi to customers.

In the morning, there's a selection of breakfast sandwiches, omelets and quiches, along with a dozen different muffins (breakfast price range: \$1.25-\$8). At

Meet Fanwood's "Mr. Parade"

There are no official records to check, but Fanwood's Bob Kruthers is a sure thing to get recognition if they ever hand out an award for participating in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Kruthers, who turns 87 in August and has been on the town's rescue squad since 1957, says he hasn't missed many parades since joining the squad. He didn't make it through every one, he says, remembering several times when the squad had to respond to an emergency.

He's been a spectator a couple of times, but says he far prefers being in the parade and seeing the people along the route. "It's a different feeling being in the parade," he says. "You know half the people you see."

Although he rides in the rescue squad's rig now, instead of walking, you know he'll be there.

lunch (\$6-\$9), there's a long list of salads, artisan sandwiches, wraps, paninis and quiches to enjoy. And, the dinner menu has all of that and adds a range of items from chicken parm to chicken pot pie to some pasta selections. There is a big menu for the kids, too.



At least nine different coffees are brewing at all times. And, there are enough dessert options (brownies, gelato, pies, cakes, etc.) to fill any appetite.

Next up? An app for smartphones so customers can order their breakfast as they leave home in the morning. Or, on their way home from the office, they'll be able to order dinner for pickup.

Chippery nearing opening

Many people in the Fanwood area remember long lines and the crispy fish and chips at the old Chippery. Brian Walter is hoping to restore those memories with the upcoming opening of the new Chippery at its old spot on South Avenue in the borough.

Walter is the landmark's new owner and he's been wading through more than 30 months of paperwork, planning, permits and construction to get Fanwood's "old friend" up and running.

Now, with the old favorites still on the menu and some new additions planned, too, Walter says he will open the restaurant by the end of the summer.

The 33-year-old chef and restaurateur, who also owns Oh' Brian's Pour House on South Avenue, had hoped to quickly reopen the Chippery when he bought it in early 2011 from the longtime owners, the O'Brien family. But, the building had been closed for several years and was in disrepair so Walter decided to start over fresh. Then,

See Chippery, page 11

Borough of Fanwood emergency contact form

The Fanwood Police Department is seeking information for Fanwood senior citizens and disabled residents in case they need special attention in the event of an emergency. The form may be completed by the person seeking assistance or by a friend, family member or neighbor. Fanwood residents are encouraged to submit forms for anyone they know in the borough who might need assistance. All information will be kept confidential.

Fanwood resident's name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Fanwood, NJ 07023

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Emergency contact #1 _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Emergency contact #2 _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Special circumstances (guide dog, wheelchair, walker, hearing or sight impairment, etc.)

Return survey to:

Fanwood Police Dept.
75 North Martine Ave.
Fanwood, NJ 07023
Attn: Neighbors in Need



CLIP AND RETURN

Borough of Fanwood Comcast Cable Television Survey

The Borough is negotiating Comcast's Cable TV Franchise Agreement that expires in August 2014 and we need input from Fanwood residents as to how Comcast has performed in the past. Please complete the following survey and return it by June 15 so we will be aware of any good or bad performance.

1. Are you presently a subscriber of Comcast cable television? Yes _____ No _____

If no, please skip to Question 15

2. Are you satisfied with Comcast's service? Yes _____ No _____

3. Have you had any problems with your Comcast cable service in the past 6 months?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which of these problems have you had in the past 6 months? (Please circle)

a) Complete loss of cable for several hours (outage)

b) Picture quality poor on all stations

c) Picture quality poor on specific stations

d) Equipment problems

e) Other _____

4. Would you say that outages occur

a) Frequently

b) Only during bad weather

c) Occasionally

d) Hardly ever

5. Has a Comcast field technician/representative made a service call to your home in the past six months?

Yes _____ No _____ If so, for what reason? _____

6. How many days did you wait for a service appointment? (Please circle)

a) Less than one day

b) 1 to 2 days

c) 3 to 5 days

d) 6 to 10 days

e) More than 10 days

f) If longer than three days, was it for a specific appointment? Yes _____ No _____

7. Have you contacted Comcast with complaints or questions by telephone? Yes _____ No _____

8. Have you had any billing problems with Comcast? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, explain: _____

9. Please rate Comcast's service in the following areas:

(G=good; S=Satisfactory; P=poor; or N/A) (Please circle)

a) Routine service response including installation G S P N/A

b) Emergency service response G S P N/A

c) Telephone accessibility G S P N/A

d) Billing adjustments G S P N/A

CLIP AND RETURN

Borough of Fanwood Comcast Cable Television Survey

10. Have you ever watched public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access programming?
(Channel 35) Yes _____ No _____

11. What modifications to basic or premium coverage are you interested in?

12. What types of additional programming services would you like to see?

13. How satisfied are you with the overall bundle provided (internet, phone, TV)?

14. How important are the following to you? (5=very important; 1=not important)

a) Expansion of channel capacity/programming _____

b) Quality of service _____

c) Cost _____

d) Local programming:

 Educational _____

 Governmental _____

 Public _____

15. Have you ever subscribed to another cable system? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which one? _____

If yes, how does Comcast compare to the other system? Better _____ Worse _____ Same _____

Comments: _____

16. General Comments _____

Return survey
by June 15 to:

Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Ave.
Fanwood, NJ 07023
Attn: Comcast survey



Community invited to joint police discussion

Mayor Colleen Mahr will schedule a June meeting to invite public input on the creation of a joint Fanwood/Scotch Plains police department

"We have spent a lot of time looking at this complex issue and we want to be able to discuss our findings and our recommendations with the public," Mayor Mahr said.

Joined by Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover, the two agreed, "The

Bulk pickup reminder

Residents are reminded that the borough's annual bulk waste cleanup program will be held again in September. The cleanup is for items that you can't usually be included in the trash pickups or recycled - air conditioners, mattresses, furniture, barbecue grills, etc. - and each home is limited to 750 pounds. Permits must be purchased for \$65 at Borough Hall before Sept. 2.

Planning underway for Street Fair, Fanny Wood Day

Fanwood's downtown will be the focus with two big gatherings coming up.

The annual borough Street Fair will take place Sunday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with more than 200 artists, crafters, and vendors. Many vendors will also feature raffles and giveaways. There will also be live music and rides for the kids.

Then, after Labor Day, the 18th annual Fanny Wood Day celebration will be held Sunday, Sept. 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event turns the downtown into a giant block party complete with music, activities and vendors.

If you are interested in being a Fanny Wood Day volunteer, vendor, or want more information about renting a table, visit www.fanwoodnj.org, or call event co-chair Jason Parker at (908) 490-0808.

reason that we are even discussing this possible merger is because of the continuing budget pressures that local governments, including Scotch Plains and Fanwood, are experiencing year after year."

"You must also consider," continued Mayor Mahr, "that the governor's office is pushing us in this direction. If we did not at least study this seriously, we might find a joint police force, or even a merger of the two towns, imposed on us."

Declining revenues, state-ordered caps on spending and taxes coupled with rising costs have made it imperative for all towns throughout the state to investigate other ways to deliver services. Both mayors emphasized, "We're not able to just continue to reach into the pockets of our respective taxpayers. Towns are looking at ways to provide services through a different avenue. This is happening all over the state."

The joint police department is an obvious possibility, because of the geography involved, with Fanwood sharing borders with Scotch Plains on three sides.

Mayor Mahr stressed that no changes would be made that diminish the level of service or put public safety in jeopardy. "Any sort of shared service must save taxpayer dollars and services must be equal to existing services or improve them," adding, "the basic premise has been, from the very beginning, that a joint police department would be a police department in which Fanwood has an equal voice in the operation."

A date and place for the meeting has not been set at this time but announcements will be circulated through the township's and borough's websites and email channels and in the local media. Mayor Mahr stated that she is really looking forward to having a conversation with the community on the findings.



Hilltop hosts fun day of tennis for kids

Fanwood's Hilltop Tennis Club taught a little tennis and provided a lot of fun in late April, hosting a day of lessons for kids from Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

Brian Mahoney, a teaching pro from Fanwood, and a large group of volunteers taught fundamentals according to a U.S. Tennis Association curriculum to three age groups of kids. The 5-6 year olds, shown above, learned the basics of keeping their eye on the ball, while the 7-8 and 9-10 year old groups learned a little more about the game.

Poetry series marks 15th season

The Carriage House Poetry Series, the long-running series of free monthly gatherings devoted to writing, reading and appreciating poetry, is celebrating its 15th year at the Patricia Kuran Cultural Arts Center, the historic white carriage house structure adjacent to Fanwood Borough Hall.

The series has a June event planned before taking July and August off, then resumes its monthly events through the end of the year.

The poetry series opened on Dec. 10, 1998, and has presented more than 200 distinguished poets, poetry journal editors, and winners of various honors and awards.

Poetry performances begin at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Kuran Center. One or two featured poets usually start the evening and read for a half hour or more from their work. After a short intermission, there is usually an “open” session which gives local poets a chance to read one of their own poems to the group.

The Carriage House poetry events are free and the public is invited. There’s room for parking along Watson Road and in the lot at Carriage House Park.

Here’s the schedule of featured poets in the series coming up through the end of the year:

June 18 – Adam Fitzgerald, book launch for “The Late Parade” (Liveright/Norton, 2013)

July and August – Summer Hiatus

Sept. 17 – Martin Jude Farawell

Oct. 15 – Tom Plante & local poets celebrate the 25th anniversary of Exit 13 Magazine

Nov. 19 – John Petrolino & Charles Rodhus

Dec. 10 – Mark Doty & 15th anniversary celebration for the Carriage House Poetry Series

For more information call Adele Kenny at (908) 889-7223 or Tom Plante at (908) 889-5298. For online directions and information, visit <http://carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com/>.

Music series wraps up 5th year

Five years in, performance series committee member David Blechinger says the music is great, the crowds are turning out and the venue keeps getting better and better.

Blechinger credits a great venue, the Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road, and an appreciative audience for putting Fanwood on the music map.

For artists used to playing noisy venues like bars and other places where the music competes for attention, the Kuran venue is tremendous.

“The artists like playing our series because it is a listening thing for the audience,” Blechinger says. “The audiences come to listen to the musicians. The musicians love our venue for that reason - it is like a little listening room.”

More and more shows are standing room only, or even sold out, and there is tremendous support from the community, including local restaurants that contribute food that’s sold at intermission with the money going to paying musicians and keeping the venue going.

Blechinger sees a bright future for the series. “We came together as a community of people and we have prospered by word of mouth.”

The series wraps up its 2013 season on June 8 with the Madison Brass Quintet, whose selections “stretch from Bach to Broadway and beyond.”

Helping Hands helping seniors

Because of the high demand for their services, “Helping Hands,” the volunteer organization of local high school students who assist our senior citizens with such chores as grocery shopping, yard work and/or household tasks, will continue to provide those services during the summer months and into the fall, according to Caroline Ross, one of the group’s founders.

The students also are available for home visits to socialize with our senior citizens on a one-to-one basis. To schedule a service, please call Caroline Ross at (908) 444-1325 or Brendan Pierce at (908) 803-8044, after 4:00 p.m.

School kids will have lots to read this summer

School is out for the summer at the end of June, but both the Fanwood Memorial Library and Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District are encouraging children to continue to read during summer break.

Readers of all ages will explore all things underground this summer as the Fanwood Memorial Library presents "Dig into Reading," its annual Summer Reading Club. This year the library will be digging into the ground with gardening, into the past, into animals, into construction and for buried treasure.

It kicks off Monday evening, June 24 at 7 p.m., with a visit from

Field Station: Dinosaurs' Dinosaur Troubadour for dinosaur story time, sing-a-long and dance party. Kids will meet an unbelievably life-like roaring, breathing 15-foot juvenile T-Rex.

Every Monday night, also starting June 24 at 7, and throughout the summer, the Friends of the Library is hosting programs. All ages are welcome to bring a blanket or beach chair and enjoy the festivities on the library's front lawn.

Other summer events for the kids include a musical workshop, a workshop with performances of skits, book of the week clubs for every age, a game of Book Bingo every Friday morning and an opportunity to record

the books the students read this summer in their own online reading log. Families are also invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program for pre-school children.

The Library is also offering the second annual Shakespeare Festival beginning Sunday, July 28 at 3 p.m. with a performance of Henry the V on the Library's front lawn by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's NEXT STAGE Ensemble. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library and are free of charge.

For more information, contact the library or visit the website at www.fanwoodlibrary.org.

Chippery (cont'd)

when old fuel storage tanks were discovered under the parking lot and had to be removed, the process was delayed again.

Walter took that opportunity to design and build a more modern, efficient operation, but all of that took time. His plans for a "turnkey" purchase and opening went out the window. Months turned into years but, Walter says, his "dream" is now within sight.

The Fanwood Chippery opened in 1970 and was later a part of an eight-restaurant Chippery chain in Union and Middlesex counties. It had achieved



enough renown as a fish and chips place that it was even reviewed in the New York Times in 2005 ("The golden-fried fish is so good

that customers will often pack in like sardines just to get a taste," the Times said). By 2008, when the Fanwood location closed, it was the last survivor.

He says the restaurant will have strong ties to Fanwood - he's planning to hire locally, just as the previous owners did. Many a local high school kid earned spending money working at the old Chippery and Walter hopes to keep that tradition going.



Chippery owner Brian Walter

Walter promises all of the old favorites will be there from Day One. If you want a "Captain," you'll get it. "I have the original chips recipe, the original batter. Everything that people loved about the old Chippery will still be there," he says.

After the opening angst settles, Walter is going to update the menu a bit with the addition of salmon, mussels, clams and other seafood and accompaniments. Everything will be available to eat in or as dinners to go. Or, Walter says, you'll be able to buy anything on the menu, along with the Chippery batter, to do your own seafood recipes or Chippery dinners at home.

Yikes, the cicadas (crunch) are coming!

Get out your earplugs and the biggest broom you have. Our area is bracing for the arrival of the 17-year cicadas, known as the Brood II invasion.

The actual emergence of the cicadas, which don't do any real harm but are a great annoyance with their noise and shell refuse, depends largely on the temperature of the soil - it must maintain a steady 64 degrees, eight inches below the surface. Residents are already seeing the small holes in their yards from which the cicadas will arrive.

It is estimated that Fanwood, Scotch Plains and surrounding areas will be inundated with approximately 1.5 million of these creatures per square acre and 1 billion per square mile. The duration of this invasion is 4-6 weeks.

It is important to know that cicadas do not harm people, pets, trees or other plant life. They cannot bite. Experts warn to not use pesticides in an attempt to kill them, as you may inadvertently harm other things. Instead, allow the cycle to run its course.

They will no doubt be a nuisance in the weeks to come as they will encompass tree trunks, limbs, fencing, porch

and window screens and anything from about a foot off the ground.

The males' mating ritual involves the rubbing together of its wings; this collective sound could reach 100 decibels.

The female cicadas will be busy laying eggs, usually on tree branches. If residents have any new plantings and/or fruit trees, netting of 1/2 inch or smaller

may protect them. Natural predators such as birds, wasps, foxes, as well as house pets (dogs, outdoor cats) will have a "field day" when the cicadas arrive as they are lean and a good source of protein. For the adventurous types, the website cicadainvasion.blogspot.com offers recipes to sample!



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