



Customers board an NJT train in Fanwood, upper left; a new dual-power locomotive, lower right.

All aboard! One-seat rides to Manhattan begin

It's starting out as a limited test, with just five off-peak trains scheduled in each direction, but with New Jersey Transit's introduction of a one-seat ride in and out of New York's Penn Station, many Fanwood and Raritan Valley Line riders have a lot to smile about.

Initially, the one-seat rides are for trains arriving in Manhattan between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekdays, or trains to Fanwood between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. No peak-hour, weekend or evening schedule one-seat service will be offered during the initial test period.

For riders, it means a faster trip and no more guessing games at Newark as they dash from one platform to another to switch trains. For Fanwood homeowners, it may mean a significant jump in the resale value of their houses. And, for the borough, it means one more reason for people to want to make Fanwood their home.

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, who led a coalition of the region's mayors seeking the new service, says, "After all the work we have done with the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, we are delighted to see that the process of instituting the one-seat ride for Fanwood has begun. But this pilot is just the start; we won't stop working until we have 24-hour one-seat service!"

If the test proves successful and New Jersey Transit expands the program, it could have a major effect on home values in the borough. Local Realtor Pat Plante says she often hears from clients that a one-seat ride into New York

See Trains, page 2

Easter Egg Hunt set for April 12

Forest Road Park will host Fanwood's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, at eggs-actly 10 A.M. The rain date is April 19, same time and place.

All children 10 and under are invited to meet the Easter Bunny and join the fun! More than a thousand eggs filled with all sorts of goodies — including hundreds of prize tickets — will be hidden around the park! Plus, even more prizes will be given out for these contests:

- Guess the number of jellybeans!
- Guess the number of chocolate eggs!
- Egg-decorating contest — bring your own decorated egg to enter!
- Bunny-drawing contest — bring your own bunny drawing to enter!

For information, go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation, (908) 370-7092.

IN THIS EDITION

3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Colleen Mahr's quarterly column on all things Fanwood

4

SPRING AHEAD FOR REC

Fanwood's Recreation Commission has a full slate of spring and summer activities planned for seniors and kids.

6

FOOD BANK NEEDS

The largest food bank serving Fanwood needs more than food to help the large number of clients seeking aid.

7

RECYCLING NEWS

Recycling Center director Alan Ebersole is honored for his long dedication to the center and to the environment.



What a winter!

One of the toughest winters in recent memory left Fanwood with mounds of snow and some major icicles, including this whopper at the train station, as a stream of storms hit the town.

Snow totals and hours of shoveling and plowing far surpassed anything seen for several years. And, very cold temperatures only added to the ice, and misery.

FANWOOD INFORMATION



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FROM PAGE ONE

Trains (cont'd)

is high on their list of the things they are looking for when finding a home to buy.

"It would definitely increase the number of people who would want to live in Fanwood," Plante says. Home prices increased by as much as 30% in towns on the Midtown Direct line when one-seat service started there in 1996.

The service has been discussed for several years but it wasn't until NJ Transit recently purchased dual-power locomotives, which can run on diesel on the non-electrified Raritan Valley Line and electric on the mainline service through the tunnel into Manhattan, that the test could proceed.

Leeza Hernandez, a Fanwood-based graphics design consultant, visits clients in the city a handful of times each month, often traveling with large portfolio cases and projects in her arms.

She sees the one-seat ride as a matter of convenience.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing how this rolls out," Hernandez says. "Not having to change trains in Newark, carrying all of my materials, is a huge plus for me."

She also sees it as being great for parents taking their kids into the city for the day. Hernandez's daughter is older now, but she remembers having to wrestle with the stroller and the baby while changing trains. "It will be so much easier," she says, "to make the trip on a single train."

In addition to the new schedule changes, New Jersey Transit also revealed they will soon add a car to Raritan Valley Line trains to and from New York. Each train will have seven multi-level passenger cars, instead of six, and an engine.

The added capacity is part of the transit ramp-up due to the upcoming Pulaski Skyway construction project that is expected to last at least two years, curtailing auto traffic into Manhattan.

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Let us hear from you!

Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Ave.
Fanwood, NJ 07023

mayor's message

by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr



Well, it's safe to say we have all had plenty of chances this winter to make snow angels and enjoy ice skating at LaGrande Park, but I'm hoping the groundhog will be proven wrong and we'll soon be seeing signs of spring! It has been an icy and cold season, and because of the unexpected number of snowstorms, our road crews are putting in an extraordinary effort to keep our streets clear and safe.

The same folks who have been digging us out all winter long will soon be filling the potholes that inevitably follow. The Department of Public Works is compiling a list of areas that need immediate attention. Report potholes to (908) 322-7404 or use the online Public Works Request Form at <http://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/public-works/pw-request-form/>. Keep in mind that once the spring thaw hits, there will be many other areas that need to be addressed that are not evident at this point.

This year, the borough will be doing road improvements to Hunter Avenue between Watson & Midway; South Glenwood Road from Timberline to Rainier; Shasta Place from Midway to South Glenwood; Stagaard Place; and Second Street from La Grande to Marian. Design work has also been authorized for Vinton Circle and funding will follow.

Additionally, the borough anticipates receiving grant funding from the NJDOT for road improvements to Burns Way this year, with construction to follow when state funds are received in 2015.

This is the time of year department heads and staff are developing the 2014 budget. Fortunately, our efforts to revive the business community, along with the good work done by the Fanwood Business Professional Association (BPA) to promote those businesses, has resulted in a healthy influx of tax payments. I'd like to thank Tracy Constandi for her fine leadership of the BPA. Her energy and dedication led this organization to a wonderful engagement with the public. I LOVE Ladies' Night! Best wishes to incoming president Jenny DiVirgilio. I know she will have great success!

The borough was fortunate to receive thousands of dollars from outside grants this year for a variety of items ranging from recreational opportunities for children with disabilities to planting trees to bringing air conditioning to the historic Carriage House! Thanks are due to Therapeutic Solutions on South Avenue in Fanwood for teaming up with the SPF Soccer Association and the SPF Youth Baseball program to develop a program that engages children with autism spectrum disorder in team sports. These children had a successful soccer experience this winter and are looking forward to inaugurating the baseball program this spring.

I am happy to report that the new online tax payment and lookup system is up and running. There are three

options for online payment and I recommend you use the e-check option, which only adds \$1.05 to your cost. If you haven't checked it out yet, go to <https://wipp.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp2005/> and look up your tax history! It's a good resource not only for payments, but to review information regarding your taxes and assessment status. This is part of our effort to do more with less while improving services. I hope you will find it useful.

On March 3, New Jersey Transit rolled out a pilot program to make a "One-Seat Ride" available for train passengers traveling to New York City during off-peak hours. One-seat riders will be able to stay on the same train they board in Fanwood all the way into New York Penn Station without changing trains in Newark! As the head of the Mayor's Coalition of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, I will continue the fight to influence New Jersey Transit to expand this service to all hours. Such a change could be a real boon to our community, easing your transit experience and raising your property values!

Fortunately, most businesses in town are doing well and we are happy to report that Seng Couture, whose fine women's clothing has found a real following, has expanded its South Avenue dress shop. The Fanwood business community has been joined by Ivy Education on Martine Avenue and Williams Surgical on South Avenue. And, the Planning Board is continuing its work to re-zone the entirety of South Avenue in order to bring the same mixed-use business and living opportunities we so enjoy downtown to the semi-industrial area at the west end of South Avenue.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day in Fanwood, and we plan to celebrate! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26, and join us to re-dedicate ourselves to the conservatorship of all our natural resources. You may not be aware that we have three very active committees focused on maintaining a healthy environment in town. The Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission and Sustainable New Jersey Committee will be working together with the Earth Day and Clean Communities Committee to have a meaningful, educational and fun celebration this year.

A note for pet owners in town, you may have grown accustomed to having the annual rabies clinic each May at the Department of Public Works. Please make note that the Board of Health has rescheduled this clinic from the spring to the fall, beginning this year. The date will be publicized in the August Fanwoodian, on TV35, on the community message board at the train station and, of course, at www.fanwoodnj.org, where you can always find up-to-date information on the goings-on about town.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful spring, I hope to see you at Earth Day!

Time to sign up for youth Summer Park Program

Led by certified teachers and experienced counselors, the Summer Park Program offers structured, fun-filled activities tailored for specific age groups in a safe neighborhood environment for children ages 5–11.

The program begins the week of June 23, meeting Monday–Friday, and continues for eight consecutive weeks in LaGrande Park. The cost is \$45 per week for morning

(9 a.m.–12 noon) or afternoon (12 noon–3 p.m.) sessions. You can save \$10 by signing up for both morning and afternoon sessions of the same week for \$80. The morning sessions sold out last summer, so don't delay!

For more information about the Summer Park Program and to register, go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Fanwood Recreation Summer Camps & Programs

Recreation Summer Park Program	grades K-6	6/23 - 8/15 (weekly)	fanwoodrecreation.org
Fanwood Soccer Camp	ages 5–10	6/23–27, 7/21–25, 8/4–8	fanwoodsoccercamp@yahoo.com
Raider Basketball Camp	grades 1–7	6/23–27, 7/7–11	email: ewingcoach@gmail.com
Mining & Crafting Camp with Lego Bricks	ages 6–11	6/23–27	fanwoodrecreation.org
SPF Baseball Camp	grades K–7	6/30-7/3, 7/14-18	email: tombaylock@gmail.com
Fanwood Junior Tennis Lessons	ages 4–14	6/23 – 8/14 (weekly)	fanwoodrecreation.org
Golf Squirts	ages 4–5	7/7–11	ussportsinstitute.com
First Play Golf	ages 6–10	7/7–11	ussportsinstitute.com
Tweens & Teens Travel Camp	grades 6–9	7/14 – 8/1 (weekly)	fanwoodrecreation.org
Total Sports Squirts (intro to sports)	ages 3–5	7/14–18	ussportsinstitute.com
T-Ball Squirts	ages 3–5	7/14–18	ussportsinstitute.com
Parent & Me - Total Sports	ages 2–3	7/14–18	ussportsinstitute.com
First Play Lacrosse Clinic	ages 6–12	7/14–18	ussportsinstitute.com
Make-Your-Own Comic Book Camp	ages 8–13	7/21–25	fanwoodrecreation.org
Camp Olympus: Art & Writing	ages 8–13	7/28 – 8/1	fanwoodrecreation.org
Multi-Sports Camp (15 different sports)	ages 5–12	7/28 – 8/1	ussportsinstitute.com
Groovy Girls Summer Program	grades 1-6	8/4–8	fanwoodrecreation.org
Pony Camps	ages 3-6, 7-13	8/4-8	fanwoodrecreation.org
Junior Scientists Summer Program	grades K–5	8/11–15	fanwoodrecreation.org
Technology & Engineering Program	grades 2–6	8/11–15	fanwoodrecreation.org
Art in the Park Camp	ages 5–11	8/18–22	fanwoodrecreation.org

Listed above are the youth summer camps and programs that Fanwood Recreation is sponsoring or partnering with others for Summer 2014. For more information and to register, use the contact information in the right column.

Kids' spring programs set

Lego Club, Upcycle Sewing Workshop, Design & Make Doll Clothes, Hand Puppet Workshop, Junior Scientists Lab and Little Bakers Workshop return to Fanwood Recreation's after-school schedule for Spring 2014. Plus, for our youngest athletes, US Sports Institute offers Sports Squirts and T-Ball Squirts. And for future fashion designers, there's a first-time offering, Design and Create your own Butterfly Top! Also, in partnership with the SKY Yoga studio on South Avenue, Yoga for Teen Girls, Kids Yoga and Mommy & Me Yoga are being offered.

For more information about these programs, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, price, and age group, go to fanwoodrecreation.org, where you can also register and pay for these programs online or download a registration form and pay by check.

Travel camp is the answer for kids seeking adventure

Do you have kids looking for a little adventure this summer? Sign them up for Fanwood Recreation's Tweens & Teens Travel Camp, and tell them to bring a friend! Open to children entering grades 6–9 in the fall, this program will take campers on a fun-filled field trip every day, Monday through Friday, in a supervised and safe environment. Destinations will include water parks, amusement parks, beaches, IMAX movies, outdoor laser tag and more!

The camp will run for three consecutive weeks, beginning the week of July 14, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The cost is \$295 per week for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents, and \$345 per week for non-residents. The cost includes transportation, admission fees and a camp t-shirt. Registration forms and more detailed information can be found at fanwoodrecreation.org. Space is limited, and registration ends April 25, so don't delay!

Senior spring programs set to begin week of March 31

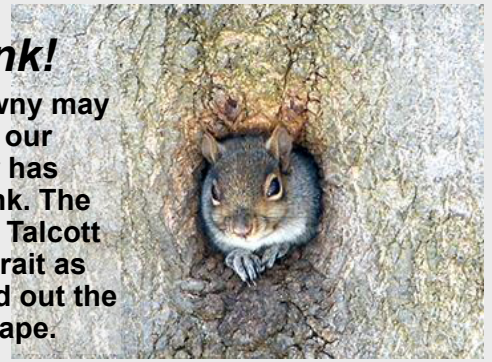
Fanwood Recreation announces its spring program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Most programs begin the week of March 31 and run weekly through the week of June 16.

All classes will be held in the recreation building at Forest Road Park with these exceptions: Water Exercise will be held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool in Scotch Plains and Tennis will be held at the LaGrande Park tennis courts. The fee is \$15 per program for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents, \$30 for all others.

To register online and pay by credit card, go to fanwoodrecreation.org. Or, register and pay by check at Borough Hall.

Hey, Frank!

Punxsutawny may have Phil, but our Nature Center has Fanwood Frank. The center's Dean Talcott made the portrait as Frank checked out the snowy landscape.



Summer camp counselor spots available

If you know a high school or college student (or anyone else) who is looking for a summer counselor position, it is not too late to apply for a job in Fanwood Recreation's Summer Park Program and Tweens & Teens Travel Camp. The Summer Park Program runs for eight weeks from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday–Friday, at LaGrande Park. The Travel Camp runs for three weeks from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. To download an application, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org and click on the "Job Applications" link. Submission of an application does not guarantee an interview or a response.

Fanwood 5K volunteers sought

Your help is needed to continue the success of the last four years of the Fanwood 5K race. The Fanwood Recreation Commission will again present the 5K Race and Family Fun Run in Fanwood on Sunday, Oct. 19. Volunteers are a huge reason for the success of the race. It takes about 60 volunteers just to direct people along the race course. If you'd like to volunteer to help organize the event, fundraise or just direct people along the race route, please contact Joe Valente at (201)725-2032 or jvrace@fanwood5k.org. Check out the website at Fanwood5k.org.

Aerobics	Tues., 9–10 a.m.
Tai Chi	Tues., 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Tennis	Wed., 11–11:45 a.m. (begins 5/14)
Water Exercise	Wed., 11:30 a.m.–12 noon
Zumba Gold #1	Wed., 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Gentle Yoga	Thurs., 9:30–10:30 a.m.
Line Dancing	Thurs., 1–2 p.m.
Zumba Gold #2	Fri., 9:15–10 a.m.



Scouts assemble packages for hospitalized children

Local volunteers of all ages give back on MLK Day

In one of the largest Martin Luther King Day of Service events in the area in January, nearly 600 people volunteered for a wide range of activities coordinated through the Jewish Community Center of Central Jersey.

Meals for the homeless were prepared, Scouts made up packages of gifts for children who are hospitalized, the Fanwood Nature Center got a good cleanup and a crew worked on a home in Plainfield. These were among many events that day.

Among the participants was U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), who helped with food prep for the homeless at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA.

In another MLK Day of Service observance, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club, a non-profit social club (spfnewcomers.com), organized an event to make snack packs for the Home First After School Kids Club.

Nearly 80 people took part at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. The club's initial goal was to assemble 60 snack packs, but due to the generosity of the community, they were able to assemble 423 packs, enough to provide 7 weeks of snacks to the children in the Home First program.

Handyman program, assistance with minor repairs, available for seniors

Fanwood's senior citizen homeowners who meet certain income requirements may take advantage of the borough's handyman program for assistance with minor home repairs while paying only the cost of materials.

The participating contractors may also be available for hire at reasonable rates by seniors who do not meet the income threshold.

For more information, go to fanwoodnj.org/seniors or contact Paulette Drogon, Senior Coordinator, at (908) 322-5244 x148.

St. Bart's food bank has needs other than food

The community food pantry at St. Bartholomew's Church, which replaced the now-closed municipal distribution center in Scotch Plains late last year, continues to serve many local residents, but the needs of the pantry have shifted, according to the pantry's director.

Food supplies are currently plentiful, but the pantry urgently needs personal hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, toothpaste/toothbrushes, and paper products such as toilet paper, napkins and paper towels.

Donations may be dropped off at the church, 2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains, during weekend Mass or at the rectory on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Families or individuals seeking food or any of these items may contact the church at (908) 322-5192 or email contact@stbartholomewchurch.org for a registration letter.

Celebrating the earth

The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day in Carriage House Park on Watson Road, Friday, April 25, at 4 p.m..

And, the next day, the borough will mark the 25th anniversary of Fanwood Earth Day with activities for residents of all ages. Details coming up at fanwoodnj.org.



Coming up

MARCH

18 - Borough council meeting

31 - Spring seniors' recreation programs begin

APRIL

Spring leaf, brush and branch pickups

7 - Spring children's recreation programs begin

12 - Easter Egg Hunt, Forest Road Park

15 - State, Federal income taxes due

26 - Earth Day celebration

MAY

1 - Borough property taxes due

20 - Borough council meeting

26 - Memorial Day observance, parade

Busy Spring coming up at the Fanwood library

In addition to the new Sunday hours starting this month at the Fanwood Memorial Library, there are some interesting programs going on this spring, too!

- The library is now open seven days a week. Sunday hours, 1-4 p.m., have been added.

- **Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.** Celebrate Jackie Robinson Day with Dr. Lawrence Hogan, author of "Forgotten History of African American Baseball."

- **Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.** Crossword Puzzles: Learn the Tricks of the Trade with Deb Amlen, a humor writer and crossword puzzle constructor whose work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and other national publications. She will show us how to construct a crossword puzzle and the tricks to finishing one. Bring your pencils (or pens if you dare).

Finally, the library will celebrate the 350th birthday of New Jersey in June with speakers, programs and a grand concert birthday party!

Free health services available to Fanwood area seniors

Many health services are available cost-free for area seniors, including flu and pneumonia vaccinations each fall and screening programs for blood pressure and diabetes year-round.

The services are offered by the Westfield Regional Health Department, which also serves Fanwood.

Free blood-pressure screenings are offered on the second Monday of each month, except July and August, from 10-11 a.m., at Fanwood's Forest Road Park. Information on other services is available from the department's website — westfieldnj.gov/health — or by phone at (908) 789-4070 x4090.

Rabies clinic rescheduled

There is a change in the calendar for pet owners.

The annual rabies clinic, held each May for many years, is changing dates, but the location stays the same. Beginning this year, it will be held in the fall at the Public Works Garage on North Avenue.

The exact date has not yet been decided, but will be publicized in the August edition of the Fanwoodian and through the borough's other news outlets — email, train station sign board and website.



The Recycling Center's Alan Ebersole

Ebersole honored for years of service to town

Alan Ebersole has been at the helm of the Recycling Center since it opened in 1986. Few have been as involved as the 91 year old in making Fanwood "green."

In January, to mark his contributions, the office at the center on North Avenue was named in his honor.

Ebersole not only oversees the collection activities at the site on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the World War II Army veteran also deals with the many outlets for the borough's recycled materials. That includes glass, paper, plastic, etc. The retired telephone company worker also manages the recycling center's workforce.

He's not into computers, but has a desk full of periodicals and flyers detailing what is a hot item for buyers and what the various recycling items will bring on the open market.

Over the years, Ebersole's leadership has helped the borough recycle tons of material, and it has also brought in a steady stream of dollars for the borough's coffers.

And, at his direction, the center has been a learning experience for thousands of youngsters whose volunteer efforts not only help the organizations they represent but also give them an up-close look at how recycling can help the environment.

Recycling Association president Harold Clark sums up Ebersole's contributions. "How can you not admire a man in his nineties," Clark says, "who has such energy and passion about the environment and educating the public? And he's not doing it for himself. As he often comments, 'I'll be getting off soon, but I want to leave a healthy world for my granddaughter's generation'."

The Recycling Center isn't the only thing that keeps Ebersole busy at an age when most people are taking it easy. He's also a 78-year member of the Boy Scouts and still does weekly projects at the group's camps, including repairing buildings, constructing picnic tables and camping platforms and clearing brush and debris.

He's just not one to take it easy.

Kuran Center busy with poetry sessions

Details have been announced for the next five readings at the Patricia Kuran Arts Center as the The Carriage House Poetry Series marks its 16th season.

The monthly poetry readings begin at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (except July, August and January). The readings at the Kuran Center, adjacent to Borough Hall, are free and open to the public. The featured readings are usually followed by an intermission and then an open reading session in which audience members may read a poem if time permits.

The season kicked off Feb. 18, rescheduled from December due to severe weather, and featured a reading by the

Arts Scene

distinguished poet Mark Doty, winner of the National Book Award. Doty is a professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where he directs Writers House.

The series was established Dec. 10, 1998, by Adele Kenny, Fanwood's Poet Laureate. For more information, call Kenny at

(908) 889-7223, or Tom Plante at (908) 889-5298. For information, visit carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com

The winner of the Carriage House Poetry Prize, sponsored by the Carriage House Poetry Series and the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission in observance of Arbor Day, will be announced soon. The first prize in the contest is \$250 and publication in the Autumn 2014 edition of 'Tiferet Magazine: Literature, Art, & the Creative Spirit.'

2014 poetry series

March 18	Priscilla Orr and Chuck Tripi
April 15	Laura Boss and Maria Mazziotti Gillan
May 20	B.J. Ward
June 17	Gail Gerwin, Yehoshua November and Ed Romond
Sept. 16	Renee Ashley and Peter Murphy

AROUND FANWOOD A postcard from our town



North Avenue's Bob Keough carves a path through one of many snowfalls that hit the borough this winter. It seemed like another would arrive just as cleanup efforts were winding down from the last one. At one point, the Public Works salt pile had just enough for one more good storm before new supplies arrived. Efforts by the borough's eight-man Public Works department, and residents like Keough, kept Fanwood moving throughout the tough weather.