



the

Fanwoodian

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On the web: www.fanwoodnj.org



Three local World War II veterans gather for a photo at the historic Carriage House in Fanwood. Bernie Blatt, left, served in the Air Force. Lenny Zuchowski, center, fought with the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific, while Howard Rudin was in the Navy.

Memorial Day activities honor Fanwood's 'Greatest Generation,' nation's fallen

Fanwood pauses at the end of May to once again pay respects to the men and women who served, and those who gave their lives, in the U.S. armed forces throughout the nation's history.

This year's Memorial Day weekend activities, jointly sponsored by Fanwood and Scotch Plains, fall just days before the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Europe by Allied forces, and this year's remembrance is especially dedicated to the troops who gave their lives or were injured in those battles.

"It is appropriate that we remember and honor the 6,000-plus American D-Day casualties, including 2,500-3,000 killed, just days before June 6, the 70th anniversary of the invasion," said Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover.

The weekend will begin with a two-hour Sunday evening concert featuring patriotic music of that era at Fanwood's historic North Side Train Station.

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

See 'Greatest', page 2

Weekend's activities

Sunday, May 25

6:30 p.m. - Concert featuring patriotic music performed by the Westfield Symphony at the North Side Train Station lawn (bring a chair). The concert will be cancelled in case of inclement weather; email alerts will be sent.

Monday, May 26

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

10 a.m. - Memorial service at the Scotch Plains gazebo

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

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Let us hear from you!

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Meet the Grand Marshal

Malcolm Nettingham of Scotch Plains, a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen unit in World War II, will be the Grand Marshal for this year's Memorial Day parade.

Nettingham was among 300 members of the all-black unit to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor, in 2008 in recognition of the unit's efforts and sacrifices in World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination and prejudice to form one of the U.S. Army Air Corps' top units. Their achievements paved the way for full integration of the U.S. military.

Except for his service during the war, Nettingham has lived in Scotch Plains since he was five years old. Nettingham is active in his church, Metropolitan Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, where he sings in the Men's Chorus and the Voices of Metropolitan group.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Greatest' (cont'd)

On Monday, the annual memorial service for the fallen will take place at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 9 a.m.

The parade will step off from the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 10:45 a.m., making its way down Martine Avenue to Fanwood's LaGrande Park.

World War II veterans, and those they left behind when they went off to war, are called America's "Greatest Generation," for the sacrifices they made. More than 16 million served. Nearly 300,000 were killed in action in the war. Fanwood and Scotch Plains are home to approximately a dozen or more veterans of that war.

Many who fought are in their late 80s and early 90s now. More than 1,000 World War II veterans die each day in the United States.

CORRECTION

In the March 2014 edition of the Fanwoodian, in Mayor Mahr's quarterly column, a company was misidentified. It should have read Intensive Therapeutics is partnering with the youth baseball and soccer organizations to develop a program for children with autism spectrum disorder.

mayor's message

by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr



Finally the May flowers and what seems like endless rain! And, soon to be followed by fun summer events and outdoor activities.

First among them will be the Fanwood Scotch Plains Memorial Day Concert and Parade. You'll see plenty of details about this event starting on page 1, but I want to personally invite you to join us.

The Sunday night concert has proven to be a lovely opportunity to bring out your lawn chairs and wind down; step out of the hectic pace and enjoy your neighbors!

The next morning, it will be our pleasure to host Malcolm Nettingham as Grand Marshal for this year's Memorial Day Parade. A lifelong resident of Scotch Plains, he is a WWII veteran who served with the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Join us at the parade to honor his comrades who have fallen and to honor the memory of all our veterans.

Later in the week, on Thursday, May 29, I'm calling on all the ladies to join me at Ladies' Night Out, hosted by the Fanwood Business Professional Association (BPA). Inaugurated two years ago, this event, starting at 6 p.m. at Mara's, is a great opportunity to check out local merchants, take a chance on the Tricky Tray and get some bargains!

The Ladies' Night Out is a great segue to my proud announcement that on June 5, Fanwood will be awarded a 2014 New Jersey Future Smart Growth Award by NJ Future, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes responsible land-use policies.

According to Peter Kasabach, executive director of NJ Future, Fanwood's ongoing downtown redevelopment plan was selected for its mission to "secure economic opportunity, community vitality and quality of life for all New Jerseyans."

Ten years ago, I was first elected mayor on a mandate to revitalize the downtown, so this award is particularly rewarding and signifies solid progress. But, as nice as it is to win awards, seeing the BPA embarking on its third annual Ladies' Night Out is the tangible evidence of a viable downtown, and that is the real reward.

Work on the final South Avenue mixed-use building is underway, and should be available for retail and residential occupancy by this time next year. By this fall, I expect a groundbreaking for the two-story apartment building at 231 LaGrande Avenue.

Thanks are due to the entire community for supporting this effort, supporting our merchants, old and new, and tolerating all the growing pains!

The Fanwood BPA is also preparing for its annual Street Fair on Sunday, June 8, too, so get out your sunscreen and hats and be sure to come by and enjoy the car show and vendors and entertainment. Any time we have an opportunity to support our local businesses is a win for Fanwood, so I encourage you all to participate.

I hope those of you with young children have already signed up for our Summer Recreation Program at La Grande Park.

Opening June 23, it's a very successful and affordable program that the kids love! They get an active morning or afternoon with their friends while supervised by seasoned counselors who return year after year. I know my boys love their time in the recreation program and I appreciate some downtime too.

There are probably a few slots left, so check it out at fanwoodrecreation.org. At the same site, you can find information on other recreation programs that will be available in the coming months.

I am happy to report that our new online registration tool is working well, saving you the time of waiting on a long line filled with anxious parents!

And to our graduates, I wish you all the best of luck. Many in the Class of 2014 will be moving on to college; with economic indicators starting to rebound nationally, I am optimistic that they will be well-prepared and well-positioned for a smooth entry into the workforce.

I do hope some of our bright young people are considering a career in public service.

There is nothing more rewarding than helping to shape the world we live in, and to continue the efforts of our forefathers to, "... form a more perfect Union ..."

Although we are bombarded with negative reports of abuse of power by elected officials, the truth is that the vast majority of public workers and elected officials are good people who are honestly striving to do good. But, whether it be public service or private enterprise, I wish you a smooth road and much success!

Don't forget, as of May 27, Borough staff will be operating on summer hours; the Administration Building will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Thursday night hours remain the same, 5-8 p.m. On Fridays, the office will close at noon.

A few summer camp spots are still open

There's still time to register your child for these great summer camps and programs sponsored by Fanwood Recreation: Tennis; Soccer; Baseball; Basketball; Mining & Crafting Camp using Lego Bricks; Golf; Sports Squirts; T-Ball Squirts; Lacrosse; Make Your Own Comic Book; Camp Olympus: Greek Mythology-based Art, Writing & Games; Multi-Sports; Pony; Junior Scientists; Technology & Engineering; Groovy Girls; Art in the Park; and Reading—Summer Learning Made Fun.

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 23-August 15, 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.



Fanwood's Be Craftful profiled

Just shy of its first anniversary, Fanwood's Be Craftful and owner Amy Boroff, above, are profiled in the current issue of RetailMinded.com, a national e-magazine for independent businesses. The store in Fanwood Crossing is a mixture of a drop-in crafting workshop and a retail space for gifts, too. Boroff told the magazine that the feedback the store is getting has been great and that customers like that the store "is a creative indoor play space that is safe."

The program is \$45 per session per week (\$36 for week of June 30), or \$80 for both sessions in the same week (\$64 for week of June 30). You can sign up for the morning session, afternoon session or both, and for as many weeks as you wish, subject to availability.

For more information and to register online for most of these programs, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Training Wheel Toss teaches bike skills, safety

Are you struggling to teach your child to ride a bike the old-fashioned way? Did your child have a bad experience trying to ride and you're ready to throw in the towel? Are you and your child interested in enjoying a positive community event where dozens of kids learn to ride their bikes together?

If so, Fanwood Recreation's annual Training Wheel Toss is the event for you. Registration is required and is limited to the first 60 applicants.

All participants must wear a helmet and have a bicycle that is in good working condition. In addition, all cyclists must be able to rest their feet flat on the ground while sitting on his or her bicycle seat. All participants must be at least four years old and be accompanied by an adult throughout the session. No exceptions.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to remove training wheels prior to the class, if possible. Note that on the day of the event, you will be required to sign a liability waiver to participate in the program.

The event takes place Sunday, June 8, from 1-4 p.m. in the Union County Vocational School parking lot, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains. The rain date is Sunday, June 15.

To register online, go to fanwoodrecreation.org. Registrants will be charged a \$3 non-refundable online registration fee. For further information, contact Anthony Carter at TrainingWheelToss@gmail.com.

Ready for the Party in the Park?

The Fanwood Recreation Commission invites you to Fanwood's seventh annual Party in the Park!

The Party takes place on the first Free Movie Night of the summer, at LaGrande Park, Tuesday, June 24, from 5:30–8:30 pm (rain date is Wednesday, June 25).

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, Frozen, which will begin at dusk.

For more information, check fanwoodrecreation.org. Please note: small fees will be charged for rides and some food items.

New summer camp uses mythology, writing, art

Two Fanwood women are combining creative forces to bring fun and adventure to art and writing.

Andrea Felcone and Paula Cohen-Martin are the driving forces behind “Camp Olympus,” part of Fanwood Recreation’s summer camp program. Felcone challenges the kids to express themselves by writing, while Cohen-Martin encourages them to create art that helps tell their story.



Paula Cohen-Martin, left, and Andrea Felcone

The camp experience is based on mythology and the works of popular author Percy Jackson. Using characters and scenes from the books, and adding their own imaginations, the campers will spend part of the three-hour morning sessions sharpening their creative writing skills and then close out each session by building a giant Trojan horse and making artwork that helps embellish their writing.

Cohen-Martin has run several art-based camps for kids. Her company, Picasso’s Basement, uses simple items like cardboard boxes, bottle caps, buttons and found objects as the basis for the artwork the kids create.

Felcone, who started teaching her writing courses a year ago and has had classes for kids at McGinn School and at the Fanwood Library, encourages the youngsters to put themselves in the place of the characters they are writing about — one session at McGinn had the kids put on Lone Ranger masks to learn how to write as another person. The owner of the Fearless Dragons Writer’s Club sees the Jackson books as a great entry to writing because the youngsters are captivated by mythology and its characters.

Down the road, both women would like to see the collaboration grow into a business providing after-school and summer activities for kids. “This is our first step,” Cohen-Martin says. “This is our starting point.”

The “Camp Olympus” program will run July 28 - August 1, for kids ages 8-11, at Forest Road Park. More information on all of the camps and registration is available on the web at fanwoodrecreation.org.

Summer movie lineup set

The Fanwood Recreation Commission announces its Free Summer Movie Series at LaGrande Park. Enjoy a night under the stars watching one of Hollywood’s latest family friendly flicks on Fanwood’s state-of-the-art, 16-foot-wide outdoor movie screen!

The series begins on Tuesday, June 24, and continues every Tuesday evening for eight consecutive weeks. The movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m. at the beginning of the schedule, 8 p.m. at the end). Be sure to bring a blanket or a beach chair! (And, maybe some bug spray too.)

Rain date for all movies is the following evening. For more information, go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call (908)370-7092.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

June 24	Frozen
July 1	Monsters University
July 8	Wreck-It Ralph
July 15	Cloudy, Chance of Meatballs 2
July 22	Thor: The Dark World (PG-13)
July 29	Despicable Me 2
August 5	The LEGO Movie
August 12	Ender’s Game

Save the date: June 8 Street Fair

South Avenue will be turned into the fun place to be on the second Sunday in June when the Fanwood Business and Professional Association (BPA) holds its annual Fanwood Street Fair.

In addition to music, rides, an array of food vendors, crafters, artists and retailers, many booths also feature raffles and giveaways.

It’s a great way to spend the day. The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There’s more information at fanwoodbusiness.com

Hilltop Tennis hosting open events at group’s North Ave. courts

Fanwood’s Hilltop Tennis Club, a Har-Tru surfaced court at 336 North Ave., is inviting residents to play a match and learn more about the private non-profit club, which opened in 1922.

On Saturday, May 24, and Sunday, May 25, the club will host non-members for mixed doubles from 1-3 p.m.

Then, through November, everyone is invited to play a free match on Monday evenings, from 5 p.m. to dusk. Just bring your racquet and meet other Fanwood players. For more information: hilltoptennisclub@gmail.com.

Poetry series announces contest winner, schedule of upcoming performances

The Carriage House Poetry Series and the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission have announced the winners of the 2014 poetry contest held in observance of Arbor Day.

More than 700 entries were received from poets throughout the U.S., as well as from other countries.



First prize of \$250 and publication in the Tiferet Journal was awarded to Andrena Zawinski of Alameda, Calif., for “Singing Bird Haibun.” Three other finalists were also awarded publication.

The Poetry Series continues to feature free readings by distinguished poets at the Kuran Arts Center in Fanwood on the third Tuesday of every month except January, July and August.

Music series wraps Spring season with June 14 concert

Now in its fifth season, the Fanwood Cultural Arts Performance Series has one more concert, on June 14, featuring singer Barbara Harley and pianist Alon Nechustan, before taking the summer off.

Supported by the Borough of Fanwood, charitable donations and a grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the series holds its performances in the Patricia Kuran Arts Center, the historic carriage house in Fanwood. Since its inception, the series has hosted more than 50 performances featuring all kinds of music - jazz, classical, folk and bluegrass, among them.

Volunteers handle the publicity and production of the shows. The level of professionalism draws packed houses to the venue.

The old building lends itself to a setting that is warm and inviting. Performers and the audiences enjoy the intimate setting and the interaction that goes on during the shows. Home-baked goods and offerings from local restaurants are available, which adds to the evening’s fun.

Final details are being worked out for the resumption of the series in the fall, but the dates are firm — Sept. 6, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8.

POETRY SERIES

June 17	Gail Gerwin, Yehoshua November and Ed Romond
Sept. 16	Renee Ashley and Peter Murphy
Oct. 21	Robert Carnevale
Nov. 18	Adam Fitzgerald and a special guest
Dec. 9	16th Anniversary Celebration

The featured readings are normally followed by an intermission and then an “open mic” session during which local poets can read one of their own poems (or someone else’s), giving them the opportunity to try out their work in front of an audience. For directions and/or more information on the series and the contest, visit carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com.



Coming up

JUNE

- 3 - Primary election day
- 8 - Fanwood Street Fair
- 17 - Borough council meeting
- 24 - 7th annual Party in the Park

JULY

- 4 - Independence Day (Borough Hall closed)
- 15 - Borough council meeting

AUGUST

- 1 - Borough property taxes due
- 19 - Borough council meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 2 - DPW bulk waste permit application deadline
- 16 - Borough council meeting
- 28 - Fanny Wood Day celebration

Fanwood's a winner!

Fanwood Borough is the proud recipient of a 2014 New Jersey Future Smart Growth Award for the downtown redevelopment plan with the Fanwood Crossing retail/residential complex at its core.

NJ Future, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that brings together concerned citizens and leaders to promote responsible land-use policies, chose Fanwood's Block 64 Redevelopment as one of this year's recipients in keeping with its mission to "secure economic opportunity, community vitality and quality of life for all New Jerseyans," according to Peter Kasabach, executive director.

"There were many who thought nothing would ever happen downtown, but together we proved them wrong," remarked Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, who noted that as recently as 10 years ago, there hadn't been any new businesses constructed in Fanwood for more than 50 years.

She extended her thanks to current and past members of borough council, T&M Associates, Maser Consulting and Rogut McCarthy.

Mayor Mahr will accept the award June 5 at the Newark Club in Newark.

Construction continues in downtown Fanwood with the Fanwood Crossing II retail/residential complex and additional parking being built on South Avenue directly across from the train station.

NJ Transit extends one-seat ride hours to include evenings

New Jersey Transit has announced the one-seat ride program, which began in March with midday hours, will now include evening trains, beginning in the fall.

This will allow Fanwood residents, for instance, to go into the city for dinner and the theatre and not have to worry about changing trains in Newark.

The next steps will be to add weekend service and, eventually it is hoped, rush hour service.

Primary set for June 3; Council race on ballot

The 2014 New Jersey primary elections will be held Tuesday, June 3.

Fanwood Councilman Kevin Boris and Council President Russell Huegel are running for re-election on the Democratic ticket for Borough Council. There are no Republican candidates.

There are also county Freeholder and Surrogate races and U.S. Senate and House seats on the ballot.

Summer reading on the agenda at the Fanwood Library

Readers of all ages will explore a wide variety of science topics as Fanwood Memorial Library presents "Fizz, Boom, Read," its annual Summer Reading Club.

The program, to encourage kids to read while school is out, kicks off June 23 with the first "Monday Night Is Special" program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. All Monday night programs start at 7 p.m. and all ages are welcome. The programs, which get their themes from the reading topic of the week, run through the summer on the Library's front lawn. Bring a blanket or beach chair.

The 2014 Summer Reading Program also begins June 23, and is open to young people who are able to read on their own. There will be workshops, a book-of-the-week club for every age, a game of Book Bingo every Friday morning and weekly prizes. Kids will also have an opportunity to list the books they have read in their own online reading log.

In addition, there are programs teenagers, too. And, families are invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program for preschool children, including story times with early literacy activities.

Call or stop in for more information, or to sign up for book clubs and workshops. For more information, call the Library's Children's Department at (908) 322-4377 or go on the web at fanwoodlibrary.org

Ladies' Night Out promises bargains, fun, great prizes

Fanwood's third-annual Ladies' Night Out, sponsored by the Fanwood Business and Professional Association (BPA), is set for May 29, from 6-9 p.m., downtown.

Last year's event drew 200 shoppers and BPA president Jeni DiVirgilio wants to make the event even bigger this year. "We're looking to top last year's great evening and hope everyone will join us in downtown Fanwood that night," said DiVirgilio.

Participants will check in at Mara's Cafe, at South and Martine Avenues, and pick up a map and a goodie bag loaded with coupons and other items. Several stores will have big sales going that night and more than 20 merchants will be taking part.

Shoppers will get tickets for the Tricky Tray drawing in their goodie bags and will qualify for extra tickets as they make purchases during the evening. At 9:30 p.m., after the stores close, Oh' Brian's Pour House will host the Tricky Tray drawing for more than two dozen gift baskets.

Go to fanwoodbusiness.com for more information.

Fanwood Museum looking to add to its collection

Do you have some Fanwood artifacts lurking in your basement, your closets, or in the attic?

The borough's Historic Preservation Commission would like to take a look at your "treasures" to see if they'll fit into the collection at the Fanwood Museum in the historic North Side train station.

Commission secretary Joe Nagy says the seven-year-old museum wants to build a collection that will ensure that future generations have the reference material they need to understand Fanwood's history. "These kinds of things will allow people to get answers on Fanwood's history that they might not get anywhere else," Nagy said.

"We hope to grow with artifacts that contribute to the story of Fanwood," Nagy said.

Using a map from the museum's collection, for instance, Nagy can show how the area was laid out originally and even who owned the parcels of land.

Among the items on display now, in addition to the extensive collection of maps, are census tracts from the 1800's and early 1900's and post cards, books and photos from Fanwood's early days. There's a collection of police and fire department badges and other memorabilia, too.



Earl Phillips, 92, of Fanwood, checks over handwritten census forms from 1900 and 1910 with the help of Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission member Barbra Lea Couphos at the Fanwood Museum in the old train station. Phillips found that his family wasn't in the 1900 Census but did show up in the 1910 Census. The tracts are a permanent part of the museum's collection.

AROUND FANWOOD A postcard from our town



Two-year-old Maggie, the daughter of Kara and John Basuino of Fanwood, checks out her haul for possible prize eggs at the Fanwood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, at Forest Road Park in Fanwood. The annual hunt, sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission, drew a large crowd under warm and sunny skies.