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# the Fanwoodian

Volume #17 Issue #1 March 2015

On the web: [www.fanwoodnj.org](http://www.fanwoodnj.org)

## Treasures, prizes at the March 28 Easter egg hunt



Maggie Basuino of Fanwood checks out her haul for possible prize eggs at the 2014 Fanwood Easter Egg Hunt in Forest Road Park.

### Annual event is fun for kids 10-and-under

Fanwood's annual Easter egg hunt will take place at Forest Road Park on Saturday, March 28, starting eggs-actly at 10 a.m. The rain date is April 4, 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 jelly beans and the number of chocolate eggs
- Bunny drawing contest - bring your own bunny drawing to enter
- Egg decorating contest - bring your own decorated egg to enter

And, to get your egg ready to enter in the egg decorating contest, you can bring it to Be Craftful on Martine Avenue Tuesday, March 24, or Wednesday, March 25, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., and decorate it with paint, markers, felt, gems and sequins for free.

For more information, go to [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org) or call Fanwood Recreation, (908) 370-7092.

## Spring arts & crafts festival is big addition to Fanwood's calendar

Make a note on your calendar now to attend the first annual Fanwood spring arts and crafts festival at the south side train station lot Saturday, May 9, the day before Mother's Day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The juried show will feature the work of more than 50 top artisans displaying their own work including paintings, sculpture, metalworks, glassworks, pottery, jewelry, clothing, garden works and much more. Specialty food items will be available, too. And, there will be live music and activities for the kids.

"Fanwood's first annual arts festival will be a great way to spend a spring day downtown with your family and friends," said Mayor Colleen Mahr. "And, it is a perfect time to pick up a gift for your mom for Mother's Day!"

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## FANWOOD INFORMATION



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## The Fanwoodian

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Let us hear from you!  
**Borough of Fanwood**  
**75 North Martine Ave.**  
**Fanwood, NJ 07023**

## Fanwood seniors honor a local centenarian

For Laura Teste, who celebrated her 100th birthday this month, a long life is as simple as, "Don't give up. Get a hobby, not a rocking chair!"



Laura Teste

Teste, who was honored at a meeting of the Fanwood Seniors Club, still is involved in various crafts, is an avid seamstress and loves to cook.

The club presented the Scotch Plains woman with a tiara, a framed copy of the front page of the Plainfield Courier from her birth date, March 22, 1915, and a proclamation from the Borough of Fanwood, delivered by Council president Kathy Mitchell.

Her daily habit? "Each morning when I wake up, I thank God for letting me see another day," she says.

## Borough celebrates the earth

The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day in Carriage House Park on Watson Road, Friday, April 24, at 4 p.m..



Martine Avenue cleanup in 2014

The next day, the borough will mark Earth Day with activities for residents of all ages.

Volunteers should meet at the south side train station at 8:30 a.m. to help, including spring cleanup at the nature center and picking up trash and litter along the

streets and railroad tracks. For additional information regarding this event, please call the Dept. of Public Works, (908) 322-7404.

## What a winter!

As much as anyone, Director Clint Dicksen and the staff at Fanwood's Dept. of Public Works had their hands full this winter. While last winter had more snow, this winter had a series



Plowing on North Avenue

of back-to-back-to-back storms and extremely cold weather to make it a challenge.

Dicksen said there was one good thing about the cold weather. "Cold snow is powdery," he said, "and easier to plow!"

Winter 2014-2015 required more than 1,200 man-hours of plowing to keep the streets and parking lots open. And, 217 tons of salt was used to fight the ice.



## Mayor's message

by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr

Let's pray that the sun is shining as you read this column! Although we dodged the "fizzled blizzard" in January, we've experienced a steady run of snowstorms; enough to keep the Department of Public Works on their toes and in their plows!

The Emergency Management Team of Police, Fire, Rescue and Public Works collaborate closely and met again in January to review emergency action plans for winter storms. It's very rewarding to sit with these professionals as they work together to ensure our safety.

In that vein, please be aware that the Police Department keeps an Emergency Contact List for at-risk residents who wish to have the police check on them in emergency situations. You will find the application form on Page 7. For more information, please contact the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000.

I hope you all agree that the latest downtown building fits in nicely as yet another attractive example of our redevelopment efforts. Fanwood Crossing II is open and the one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments are filling up fast. I expect our local merchants to reap some of the benefits of a built-in customer base! Housing sales remain very healthy and, with additional "one-seat ride" trains now operating in the evenings along the Raritan Valley rail line, Fanwood is becoming an even more desirable place to call home with strong property values.

The South Avenue street-scape is pulling together beautifully and I look forward to the next phase of the downtown project, a three-story residential building with eight two-bedroom units, which just broke ground. The ground floor of the building will be attractively screened to provide parking for that building's tenants. Situated on La Grande Avenue, this building will run along La Grande, starting behind Frank's Auto and continuing to the mid-block parking lot entrance. For safety purposes, we have eliminated one of the two La Grande Avenue parking lot entrances; two ingress/egress points so close on a busy street is a recipe for accidents.

I'm sure you have seen the major water pipeline repairs currently underway on Madison and Portland Avenues. The purpose of the project is to replace an aging 48-inch water main. Upon completion in April, there will be temporary road restoration with final paving slated for September. Although this infrastructure work can be a challenge to maneuver through, these improvements are vital to our health, safety, quality of life and property values and well worth the temporary inconvenience. I want to thank the impacted residents for their patience. Residents with concerns about the construction should feel free to contact Jerry Castrogiovanni, American Water project inspector, at (732) 803-3770.

The Council has also green-lighted complete roadway improvements for the entire length of Burns Way, from Helen Street to Martine Avenue, and the entire length of

the La Grande Avenue Extension, from La Grande/Laurel to South Avenue. Borough officials are working closely with all utility companies to encourage them to complete any planned work for those roads prior to our reconstruction. I'm pleased to share that we have applied for and received a \$250,000 NJDOT grant toward the paving of Burns Way.

Many of you have heard about the anticipated Pilgrim Oil Pipeline, proposed to extend from Albany, N.Y., via Fanwood, to Linden. The Council is very concerned about this development and has approved a resolution requesting a moratorium on pipeline development within the borders of the borough. We have also requested a full Environmental Impact Statement to assess the myriad potential environmental consequences of the pipeline. This is an important issue for Fanwood and for communities throughout New Jersey. I hope you will all become acquainted with the facts and engaged in advocacy for the safety of your home and your neighbors.

Please remember to regularly check out the borough website at [fanwoodnj.org](http://fanwoodnj.org) and sign up for emails from the borough. These emails include emergency information as warranted and weekly reports on upcoming events and activities. It also reminds you of tax payments, pet licensing and all the other local news you don't want to miss. You'll also find a "Tax Lookup and Payment" button on the website. If you find yourself out of town when taxes are due, this can be a useful tool to avoid late penalties.

The 2015 Music Performance Series will continue again this year, beginning next month, thanks to the efforts of our very effective Cultural Arts Commission. Kudos to them for bringing so much excellent talent to the borough. The Carriage House is a wonderful, intimate setting to enjoy these performances and I urge you to check the schedule and join us!

You'll see on the front page of this newsletter the details regarding our FIRST-ever Fanwood Arts & Crafts Show on May 9; you'll find a wide variety of quality art pieces, perfect for Mother's Day on the 10th! And, don't forget Earth Day on April 25. We have a proud tradition of working together for the good of the borough on Earth Day, so I hope you will be able to come out and join us in keeping Fanwood as the wonderful home we all love.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers who once again signed up for committees and boards that add so much to our quality of life; your involvement is what keeps our community energized and active. Although much of the work you do is behind the scenes, you are much appreciated. I encourage anyone who is interested in "giving back" to contact my office at (908) 322-8236 x121 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful spring. I hope to see you at the Arts & Crafts Show!



## Time to sign up for youth Summer Park Program & camps

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

The cost is \$45 per week for morning (9 a.m.–noon) or afternoon (noon–3 p.m.) sessions. You can save \$10 by signing up for both morning and afternoon sessions of the same week for \$80. Information contact in right column.

### 2015 Fanwood Recreation Summer Camps & Programs

<b>Recreation Summer Park Program</b>	grades K-6	6/22 - 8/14 (weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Fanwood Soccer Camp</b>	ages 5–10	6/22–26, 7/20–24, 8/3–7	email: <a href="mailto:kewingcoach@gmail.com">kewingcoach@gmail.com</a>
<b>Raider Basketball Camp</b>	grades 1–7	6/22–26, 7/6–10	email: <a href="mailto:kewingcoach@gmail.com">kewingcoach@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mining &amp; Crafting Camp with Lego Bricks</b>	ages 5–11	6/22-26	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>SPF Baseball Camp</b>	grades K–7	7/13-17	email: <a href="mailto:tombaylock@gmail.com">tombaylock@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fanwood Junior Tennis Lessons</b>	ages 4–14	tba	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Golf Squirts</b>	ages 4–5	7/6–10	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>First Play Golf</b>	ages 5–10	7/6–10	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Tweens &amp; Teens Travel Camp</b>	grades 6–9	7/13-31 (weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Total Sports Squirts (intro to sports)</b>	ages 3–5	7/27-31	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Weekly Total Sports Squirts (intro to sports)</b>	ages 3–5	6/25 - 8/6 (Thurs., weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Weekly T-Ball Squirts</b>	ages 3–5	6/25 - 8/6 (Thurs., weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Weekly Soccer Squirts</b>	ages 3-5	6/25 - 8/6 (Thurs., weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>First Play Lacrosse Clinic</b>	ages 6–14	7/13-17	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Smart Fun Pre-School Camp</b>	ages 3-5	6/15-19	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>World of Wizardry: Art, Writing &amp; Games</b>	ages 8–13	7/20–24, 8/17–21	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Multi-Sports Camp (15 different sports)</b>	ages 5–11	7/27-31	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Groovy Girls Summer Program</b>	grades 1-6	8/3-7	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Pony Camps</b>	ages 3-6, 7-13	7/6-9	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Junior Scientists Summer Program</b>	grades K–5	8/10-14	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Technology &amp; Engineering Program</b>	grades 1–6	8/10-14	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Remote Control Mania</b>	ages 5–11	6/29 - 7/3	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Writopia: Creative Writing Workshop</b>	ages 6-18	weeks of 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/27	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>String Orchestra</b>	ages 8 and up	6/29 - 8/24 (Mon., weekly)	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Electronic Game Design</b>	grades 3-8	7/27-31	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Creative Kids Summer Program</b>	grades K-9	8/3-7	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Smart Fun Kids Reading &amp; Writing Camp</b>	grades K-4	8/17-21	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Smart Fun Kids Math Camp</b>	grades K-4	8/17-21	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Smart Fun Kids Kindergarten Prep</b>	entering K	8/24-28	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Smart Fun Kids Prince &amp; Princess Camp</b>	grades K-3	8/24-28	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>
<b>Babysitting Certification Class</b>	ages 11-15	7/13, 15, 17	<a href="http://fanwoodrecreation.org">fanwoodrecreation.org</a>

# Senior spring programs set to begin week of March 30

Fanwood Recreation announces its spring program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Most programs begin the week of March 30 and run weekly through the week of June 15.

All classes are held in the recreation building at Forest Road Park with the exception of Water Exercise, which is held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool in Scotch Plains. 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](http://fanwoodrecreation.org). Or, if you prefer to pick up a paper schedule and registration form and pay by check, go to Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Ave.

## Spring Rec programs set

This spring, Fanwood Recreation is bringing back after-school favorite programs that include LEGO Club, Preschool LEGO, Junior Scientists Science and Technology Workshop, Pokémon Club and Kodu Video Game Programming. Plus, for our youngest athletes, US Sports Institute offers Sports Squirts and Soccer Squirts.

Beginning in May, tennis instructor Brian Maloney will be offering residents beginner and intermediate tennis lessons, for ages 4 through adult, at the LaGrande Park tennis courts.

And we'll be offering a few new programs as well: Aviation Workshop, Magic Workshop, Food Factory, Build It! Launch It! Roll It!, and a Babysitting Certification Class taught by Fanwood Rescue Squad EMT Melissa Padulsky. For more information about, and to register for these programs, go to [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org).

## 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 13, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$320 per week for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents, and \$370 per week for non-residents. The cost covers transportation, admission fees and a camp t-shirt. Registration forms and more detailed information can be found at [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org). Space is limited, and registration ends April 17, so don't delay!

### Senior spring programs

Aerobics	Tues., 9–10 a.m.
Tai Chi	Tues., 10:15–11:15 a.m.
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, Ballroom & Latin Dancing	Thurs., 1–2 p.m.
Zumba Gold #2	Fri., 9:15–10 a.m.

## Health services for 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 and are done in conjunction with the monthly meetings of the Fanwood Seniors Club 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](http://westfieldnj.gov/health) — or by phone at (908) 789-4070 x4090.



## Coming up

### MARCH

28 - Easter Egg Hunt, Forest Road Park

30 - Spring seniors' recreation programs begin

### APRIL

6-10 Spring leaf, brush and branch pickups

24 - Arbor Day, Carriage House Park

25 - Earth Day, south side train station lot

### MAY

1 - Borough property taxes due

9 - Fanwood Arts & Crafts Festival

24 - Memorial Day concert

25 - Memorial Day observance, parade

# Arts Scene

## AT THE KURAN CENTER

### Poetry series has a full schedule

Despite a tough winter causing havoc with the schedule at the Patricia Kuran Arts Center, the Carriage House Poetry series is back up to speed as it heads into spring.

This year's series will include an appearance in May by Gerald Stern, the past winner of the National Book Award for Poetry and a former New Jersey Poet Laureate. He was the first featured reader when the series began in 1998.

The monthly poetry readings, which begin at 8 p.m. 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 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, or visit [carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com](http://carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com)

#### 2015 poetry series

April 21	Catherine "Cat" Doty and Douglas Goetsch
May 19	Gerald Stern and Anne Marie Macari
June 16	10th Anniversary celebration of the Westfield Poets workshop
July 21	Ed Baranowski
Sept. 15	Dean Kostos and Michael T. Young
Oct. 20	Penny Harter and Gary T. Whitehead

### Performance Series kicks off with bluegrass April 11

Fanwood's Performance Series at the Kuran Arts Center - [fanwoodperformanceseries.org/](http://fanwoodperformanceseries.org/) - kicks off its 2015 season with toe-tapping bluegrass Saturday, April 11, at 7 p.m., featuring Marc Black with Beaucoup Blue. Suggested donation: \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students).

#### 2015 spring performance series

April 21	Marc Black with Beaucoup Blue
May 9	Rich Deans and The Fine Line
June 13	Lords of Lichtenstein and Marc Berger Trio

## Local woman solves eldercare issues with tech solutions

In a world where aging parents often live great distances from their children, technology can help bridge that gap. A Fanwood woman has started a business to help ease that situation for both parts of that equation.

Distant Daughter founder and president Teresa Keeler, Ph.D., says, "there's a lot of technology out there," but her research has shown that people don't always understand what it can do for them and how they can apply it to their caregiving situation.



Teresa Keeler

Monitoring the elderly from a distance, medicine management systems and care information are among the ways technology can be used to shrink the distance.

Keeler's business is just in the early stages, but she sees her initial plan of providing reviews of software and technology as a great way to enter the market.

She wants her website - [distantdaughter.com](http://distantdaughter.com) - to become the CNET or Consumer Reports of eldercare technology, providing reviews and information on what's out there.

An obvious next step, she says, would be to become a provider of that technology and, later, include a "help desk" component, too.

But, for now, the Fanwood resident sees herself networking at conferences and other chances to meet developers and technology experts so she'll get early looks at what's ahead in the field and build her credibility.

It will be a slow process, she knows, but the former Rutgers educator and Raritan Valley Community College assistant dean sees it as a growing field that serves a great need.

"It's a rapidly growing field," she says, "and there is a need for real information and informed critiques" to help consumers.

# 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.)**

*Mail,  
or hand-deliver,  
survey to:*

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





## Two Fanwood women honored for dedication, service

Two Fanwood women, Amy Boroff and Tricia Nering, have been chosen as winners this year of Union County Women of Excellence Awards. This is the 23rd year for the awards, which recognize the dedication and service of women to their communities.

### Property tax relief available for disabled, vets, seniors

Seniors, disabled persons and veterans may be eligible for property tax relief programs.

If you are over 65, or a disabled person, with annual income of less than \$10,000 (not including Social Security), you may qualify for a \$250 deduction on your property taxes.

If you are a veteran who served during active wartime, you also may qualify for a \$250 property tax deduction. In addition, veterans who are 100% disabled as a result of service-related injuries may be entitled to be 100% exempt from property taxes.

For more information on these and other state programs, and to obtain applications, contact the borough Tax Collector at (908) 322-8236 x126.



Women of Excellence honorees Amy Boroff, left, and Tricia Nering

Boroff, who opened Be Craftful ([becraftful.com](http://becraftful.com)) on Martine Avenue downtown in 2013, was recognized for entrepreneurship. Her store is a unique hub of activities for parents and children in the community. Boroff also serves on the Recreation Commission and supports several volunteer and fundraising efforts in Fanwood.

Nering, who started Heart for Humanity in 1994, was honored for her humanitarian work. For more than 20 years, she has collected money, clothing, food and personal-care items and redistributed them directly to a broad range of at-risk single women with children, families who have lost everything in fires and floods and seniors in the area, too. With her front porch as the hub of her activities, Nering devotes 25-30 hours-per-week year-round to helping others. She can be reached at [heartforhumanity@verizon.net](mailto:heartforhumanity@verizon.net).

## AROUND FANWOOD A postcard from our town



Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr leads the crowd in a cheer at the Fanwood St. Patrick's Day celebration. A large crowd turned out Saturday, March 7, for a great celebration with the wearin' of the green, food, drinks, live music, Irish dancers and bagpipers at the 5th annual St. Patrick's fundraiser under a heated big tent on the grounds of the north side train station in Fanwood. The event, a benefit for the SPF Music Boosters, was sponsored by Oh' Brian's Pourhouse and the Fanwood Business and Professional Association.