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# the Fanwoodian

Volume #17 Issue #3 September 2015

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

## See you downtown for Fanny Wood Day; fun event for all takes place Sept. 27

Join your neighbors and friends downtown on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the 20th annual Fanny Wood Day celebration in Fanwood.

“The great thing about Fanny Wood Day is that it’s more than just a street fair and we encourage everyone to come out and enjoy this great hometown experience,” said Mayor Colleen Mahr. “Come and join us on a beautiful fall day.”

This year will feature a wide variety of exhibits, kiddie rides, food competitions, a water balloon toss, a pet parade and a host of other great things to do. Musical performers

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will include Calista Quinn, featuring DJ Tori C & Company, appearing at 1 and 2 p.m. on the main stage at South and Martine avenues.

“I have had the pleasure of being part of the Fanny Wood Day Committee for the past ten years and I’ve seen it grow every year with more to see and enjoy,” said committee chairman Bruce Zakarin. “There will be fun for the entire family.”

See ‘Fanny Wood Day’, page 2

## Halloween costume contest, parade Oct. 31

Scary times return to Fanwood this fall!

The annual Fanwood and Scotch Plains Halloween Parade and Costume Contest begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, with a performance of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* outside the Fanwood Memorial Library (North and Forest Avenues, Fanwood). Audience members can get into the spooky spirit of things as hobgoblins, skeletons and, even Rip Van Winkle, cavort across the stage.

The Halloween Parade starts immediately afterward. Children and adults should assemble in front of the library by 6 because, at 6:15, the parade will depart for LaGrande Park.

Once the parade arrives at LaGrande Park, at about 6:30, the Costume Contest will begin for children of all ages. Anyone who wants to enter a pumpkin in the Jack-o-Lantern Contest should bring his or her carved creation to the park and fill out an entry form by 6:30. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and the best jack-o-lanterns! Free cider, donuts and coffee will be available.

The event is brought to you by the Fanwood and Scotch Plains recreation commissions.



Pie-eating contest winner Briana McGowan of Fanwood shows off her clean plate after taking the title in the event last year. McGowan also took the title in the ice cream and pizza-eating contests, too.

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### GOING TO THE GOATS

A dozen goats are making Fanwood's Nature Center home this fall.

## FANWOOD INFORMATION



### ON EMAIL!

Sign up for alerts at [www.fanwoodnj.org](http://www.fanwoodnj.org)



### ON THE AIR!

Fanwood information radio - 24/7 at AM530



### ON FACEBOOK!

Search Fanwood, NJ, and hit the LIKE button

## The Fanwoodian

Published quarterly by the Fanwood Communications Committee

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## FANNY WOOD DAY SCHEDULE

11	Car Show, vendors & kids' areas open
noon	Opening Ceremony F-SP Scouts Honor Guard
12:15	Fotos of Fanwood winners announced <i>Sponsored by Unity Bank</i>
12:30	Best Dressed Pet Parade <i>Sponsored by K-9 Resorts</i>
1	Music: Calista Quinn, featuring DJ Tori C & Company
1:30	Ice Cream Eating Contest <i>Sponsored by the Double Dipper</i>
2	Music: Calista Quinn, featuring DJ Tori C & Company
2:30	Water Balloon Toss
3:30	Pizza-Eating Contest <i>Sponsored by Nick's Pizza and Deli</i>
5	Festival ends

### FROM PAGE ONE

## Fanny Wood Day (cont'd)

The car show will also be back better than ever! Expect to see more than 60 old cars, like in the past, starting at 11 a.m. The car show will be on South Avenue, just east of Martine Avenue, in front of Scotchwood Florists.

And this year, the Fanny Wood Day Committee and the Borough of Fanwood have added a brand new, year-round website - [fannywoodday.com](http://fannywoodday.com) - with up-to-date information about the event. Go to the website and see an updated event schedule and a list of the sponsors of this great event. Without those sponsors, Fanny Wood Day could not happen.

## *Annual free rabies clinic scheduled for Nov. 4*

The Borough of Fanwood and the Board of Health will hold their annual rabies shot clinic for cats and dogs Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the LaGrande Park recreation building. The clinic is free and no pre-registration is required. It is open to anyone who lives in Union County. You don't have to be a Fanwood resident to take advantage of this clinic.



# Mayor's message

by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr

Happy Labor Day, Fanwoodians!

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and was able to recharge for another busy fall.

At Borough Hall we've been very active managing the summer programs, getting road work done and planning for the coming months.

Hats off to the dedicated folks who work tirelessly to keep our children safe and engaged through the summer months. We had another terrific summer of fun in our parks. From the kick-off Party in the Park to the final Tuesday night movie and the many nights of family fun at the Fanwood Memorial Library, it is a pleasure to watch our community come together to nurture and engage our children.

Now in my twelfth year as mayor, I have had the pleasure of watching these youngsters grow from playing duck-duck-goose in the daily park program to "giving back" as high school students performing community-service projects. I confess to getting a little misty-eyed with the pride I feel in Fanwood and how we take care of one another.

You will remember receiving the "Citizen Report" last year. It was a separate mailer that outlined the borough's fiscal health with revenues, spending, upcoming capital projects and the status of our fiscal health. We are updating that information for 2015 in "Citizen Report Updates" found on page 7 of this issue of the Fanwoodian. The information directly affects the municipal property taxes you pay so I hope you will take a moment to study the material. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Borough Hall at (908) 322-8236.

Don't forget the Bulk Waste Program is gearing up, so it is time to submit your application. The form can be found at <http://www.fanwoodnj.org/government/forms/>

And no, the Nature Center goats are NOT part of the Bulk Waste Program! Yes, I said goats! Protected behind electric fencing, the goats should not be fed or disturbed, but you are welcome to visit and take a look. Chosen as an eco-friendly solution to a bumper crop of poison ivy and other invasive plants, we are hosting these hungry herbivores for 8 to 10 weeks and expect a return engagement next year to finish the job! I assure you, these goats neither leap nor scream; they are perfectly civil neighbors who will quietly graze and stay in the woods!

The grounds at Borough Hall are becoming eco-friendly, too. Environmental Commission members Margaret

Chowdhury and Phyllis Sandrock installed a lovely rain garden on the front lawn and the front walk has been newly planted with a Pollinator Garden project by Girl Scout Gold Award candidate Annemarie Kearns. Add to that a pretty rain barrel painted by Earth Day poster winner Taylor Klein and you will agree that we are heading in the right direction! By this time next year, we hope to have an Environmental Information Center installed at Borough Hall with the help of the Rahway River Watershed Association.

And, I hope you'll take notice of the new mosaic planters downtown. Kaavya Krishna-Kumar produced these lovely pots as her Girl Scout Gold Award project with the sponsorship of our supportive local businesses. Kaavya solicited drawings from local students, transformed those drawings into mosaic tiles and decorated each pot with the tiles. It is a beautiful way to celebrate the accomplishments of our young people and personalize our downtown streetscape. Bravo on a job well done!

Fanny Wood Day will be on Sunday, September 27. This will be another special day for the entire community and I encourage you to come out and share the fun. We will have music, crafts, vendors, food vendors, games, contests, amusement rides (including a zip-line!) and, of course, your Council members will be on hand to say hello and answer questions. I always enjoy seeing you all and am looking forward to another great day.

For those of you who enjoy cultural events, you need look no further than the programming at our historic carriage house, also known as the Patricia Kuran Cultural Arts Center. The schedule is on page 6 and we have something for everyone.

Please remember Election Day on Tuesday, November 3. The voter registration deadline is October 13. Either stop by Borough Hall for a paper application or simply go to <http://ucnj.org/board-of-elections/forms-applications/> and download a postage-paid registration application. If you plan to be away on Election Day, the deadline to apply for your absentee ballot is October 27.

Finally, I want to say a sincere thank you to the DPW, the Garden Club and all the good merchants who took the time to keep downtown planters looking fresh and healthy. The annuals we plant CANNOT survive without the help of these fine caretakers, so a special thank you to everyone who helped keep downtown attractive through the heat of summer.

Wishing the best of luck to all our young people for a successful school year; I look forward to seeing you all downtown at Fanny Wood Day on the 27th!

## 6th annual Fanwood 5K, Fun Run goes off Oct. 25th

The Fanwood 5K & Family Fun Run returns for its 6th year on Sunday, October 25, at LaGrande Park in Fanwood.

The race day's activities begin with the Family Fun Run at 9 a.m. in LaGrande Park; the 5K Race follows at 9:30. Pre-registered runners who want to avoid the lines that morning will be able to pick up their numbers and t-shirts the day before, from 4-6 p.m., at the LaGrande Park building.

On the morning of the race, music and refreshments will await runners at the finish line in LaGrande Park.

Children will be able to enjoy free face painting, and each child who participates in the Fun Run will automatically be entered in the raffle for gift cards.

The entry fee for the 5K is \$25, \$20 for USATF members and \$30 after October 22. The entry fee for the Family Fun Run is \$10 with a t-shirt and \$5 without. You can download a race application or register online at [Fanwood5K.org](http://Fanwood5K.org). The race is fully sanctioned by the United States of America Track and Field (USATF) and is part of the New Jersey Grand Prix as a 500 point race.

The Fanwood 5K & Family Fun Run is presented by the Fanwood Recreation Commission. All proceeds will help to purchase new playground equipment, build new recreational facilities and expand recreational programs for local residents.

Sponsors for the 5K & Family Fun Run include the Balyasny Foundation, The Wonder Years Academy, The Goddard School, Public Service Electric & Gas, Family Investors, Joint in Motion Physical Therapy, The Chelsea at Fanwood, K9 Resorts, Nick's Pizza, 4-D Automotive and GC Architecture.

The event is still accepting sponsorships. Visit [Fanwood5K.org](http://Fanwood5K.org) for details on becoming a sponsor.

### Borough seeks information on those serving their country



**Fanwoodians:** If you have a member of your family currently serving in any branch of the military or activated reserves, the Borough would like to recognize and honor their service in an upcoming issue of *The Fanwoodian*.

If you would like your family member to be included, please contact Colleen Huehn via email at [chuehn@fanwoodnj.org](mailto:chuehn@fanwoodnj.org) and let her know the full name of the person who is serving, their age, their connection to Fanwood, their branch of service, and where they are serving.



Fanwood 5K runners grab water on the go in the 2014 race.

Come out and be a part of the day: enter the 5K or the Family Fun Run with your children, cheer the runners, or volunteer to help. Visit [Fanwood5K.org](http://Fanwood5K.org) or contact Joe Valente at (201) 725-2032 for more information.

### Fall Senior Rec lineup set

Fanwood Recreation announces its fall program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Most programs begin the week of September 21 and run weekly through the week of December 14.

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

To register online and pay by credit card, please go to [www.fanwoodrecreation.org](http://www.fanwoodrecreation.org). Or, if you prefer to pick up a paper schedule and registration form and pay by check, please go to Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue.

#### Fall senior recreation schedule

Aerobics	Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.
Tai Chi	Tuesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Water Exercise	Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-noon
Zumba Gold (sec. 1)	Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Gentle Yoga	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Line, Ballroom, Latin Dancing	Thursdays, 1-2 p.m.
Zumba Gold (sec. 2)	Fridays, 9:15-10 a.m.

## Some favorites, some new in Fall Rec series for kids

Fanwood Recreation's fall lineup of after-school programs offers a fun, exciting mix of the old and the new.

Coming back are such favorites as LEGO Club, Babysitting Certification Class, Mystery Makers Magic Workshop, Fall Into Tennis (tennis lessons), and String Orchestra.

New additions to the schedule include Cool Chemistry, Comic Book Creation Class, Electronic Game Design: Platform Games, and Child's Play Challenge Course. Plus, for our youngest athletes, US Sports Institute offers Parent & Me Sports, Lacrosse Squirts, T-Ball Squirts, and Soccer Squirts.

Most of these programs will begin the week of September 28, although the sports programs will begin earlier. For more information about them, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices, and age group, go to [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org), where you can also register and pay online for these programs.

## Seniors are a busy bunch; upcoming schedule is full!

The Seniors Club has a busy calendar of meetings and trips planned for its 2015-16 year, beginning with a general meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, followed by the club's anniversary luncheon on Tuesday, September 22, at The Westwood in Garwood.

The club will also sponsor a trip to the Westchester Theater production of "Showboat" on Oct. 7, and the annual Christmas party is set for Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Snuffy's Restaurant in Scotch Plains.

Club membership is open to all residents of Union County who are at least 55. General meetings of the club are held at Forest Road Park at 10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from September to June. For more information, contact Joe Bruno at (908) 889-7262, or email [joebruno2099@comcast.net](mailto:joebruno2099@comcast.net).

## Library news: retirements, new staff and more ...

Lots of news from the Fanwood Memorial Library, where Director Dan Weiss has announced some recent staff changes with the retirement of longtime employees Gloria Rusnak (25 years), Annie Mackenzie (15 years) and Eileen Marino (26 years).

A new librarian, Mandy Richards, has joined the Library. And you'll also find Danielle Hirschhorn, media specialist at Brunner School, who started her library career at the Fanwood Library as a page, now at the library part-time on evenings and weekends.

## 28th Library book sale coming up this fall

The Fanwood Memorial Library's 29th annual book sale fundraiser, organized by the Friends of the Library, is coming up, starting with the collection of donations starting on Sept. 12 and the sale itself, beginning Sept. 17.

The sale includes recent fiction - hardcover and paperback - for all ages; children's books at all levels; current or relevant non-fiction in all subject areas; and CDs and DVDs. New this year will be vinyl LPs, which can be donated and will be sold.

The sale cannot use toys, games, puzzles, textbooks, video or audio cassettes, encyclopedias or old, dated fiction and non-fiction. Please do not bring musty, mildewed or damaged goods.

The collection and sale site will be at Fanwood's Forest Road Park building. For more information, call the library at (908) 322-6400.

Proceeds from the sale pay for all library programs and for equipment and furniture outside the library budget.

### DONATIONS

start Friday, Sept. 12	noon-4 p.m.
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### PREVIEW SALE

for members of the Friends of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Libraries

Thursday, Sept. 17	5-8 p.m.
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### PUBLIC SALE

Friday, Sept. 18, and Saturday, Sept. 19	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Sunday, Sept. 20 Bag Day bargains	noon-5 p.m.
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For the kids, two baby guinea pigs have taken up residence with the library's old favorite, Brownie. They are Cinnamon Sugar Pancake, and Coconut Marshmallow Cupcake ... and yes, they love snacks.

This fall, the library is launching its new Mobile Tech initiative with iPads for in-house use for both kids and adults, and pre-loaded Kindle Paperwhite e-readers for patrons to borrow.

And, a full schedule of free adult programs. Check the Library website - [fanwoodlibrary.org](http://fanwoodlibrary.org) - for details.

## POETRY AND MUSIC AT THE KURAN CENTER

### 'Suicidal Poets' program just part of Carriage House lineup

The Carriage House Poetry series will feature Dean Kostos and Michael T. Young on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 8 p.m., in the Kuran Arts Center, based in the historic Carriage House, adjacent to Borough Hall on Watson Road.

The "Suicidal Poets" program, set for Nov. 17, will feature several distinguished poets appearing in the roles of famous poets who committed suicide. "The Poetry Series will remember and honor those poets who, sadly, took their own lives but who left us a rich legacy of words," series director Adele Kenny said.

The Nov. 17 program is funded by a grant from the Scotch Plains Service League, which has generously supported the poetry series for a number of years.

Featured readings are scheduled for 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month except January, July and August. All readings are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com](http://carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com).

#### 2015 poetry series

Sept. 15	Dean Kostos and Michael T. Young
Oct. 20	Penny Harter and Gary T. Whitehead
Nov. 17	"Suicidal Poets"

### Performance Series details fall music schedule

Fanwood's Performance Series at the Kuran Arts Center picks up after a summer break with Christine Deleon and Mike Agranoff on Sept. 12.

All concerts in the series start at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House, located adjacent to Borough Hall on Watson Road. Suggested donation: \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students). For more information, go to [fanwoodperformanceseries.org/](http://fanwoodperformanceseries.org/).

#### 2015 performance series

Sept. 12	Christine Deleon, Mike Agranoff
Oct. 20	Hiroya Tsukamoto, Daphne Lee Martin w/ Frank Lombardi
Nov. 17	Jon DiFiore

### Bulk waste permit deadline coming up

The deadline for securing a permit for the borough's bulk waste pickup is fast approaching. You have until Friday, Sept. 4, to apply for the permit to take advantage of the curbside bulk waste pickups planned for later in September. Permits are \$65 and the form can be mailed with a check to Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Ave.

More information and a form at [www.fanwoodnj.org/government/forms/](http://www.fanwoodnj.org/government/forms/)

## Two Fanwood Girl Scouts give back to their community

Two Fanwood Girl Scouts are on track to receive the Gold Award this fall for projects which have contributed to the beauty of Fanwood.

Annemarie Kearns and Kaavya Krishna-Kumar completed projects this summer to receive the highest honor the Girl Scouts bestow.

Kearns planned, planted and is maintaining a pollinator garden at Borough Hall, which not only adds to the beauty of the area but makes a positive environmental impact for butterflies and bees in search of pollen.

With an assist from Parker Greenhouses, Kearns got many of her plants started in March, then moved them to Borough Hall as the weather improved. She has continued to maintain the garden this summer.



Annemarie Kearns in the garden.

Krishna-Kumar found local sponsors to purchase planters along South Avenue in the downtown area, which she decorated with intricate mosaic tiles over a period of weeks using designs from friends.

Among the sponsors are Ivy Educational Services, Coldwell Banker and Home Depot.



Kaavya Krishna-Kumar, center, poses with Carol Chimento of Ivy Educational Services, left, and Mayor Colleen Mahr.

# CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT: FANWOOD'S FINANCES

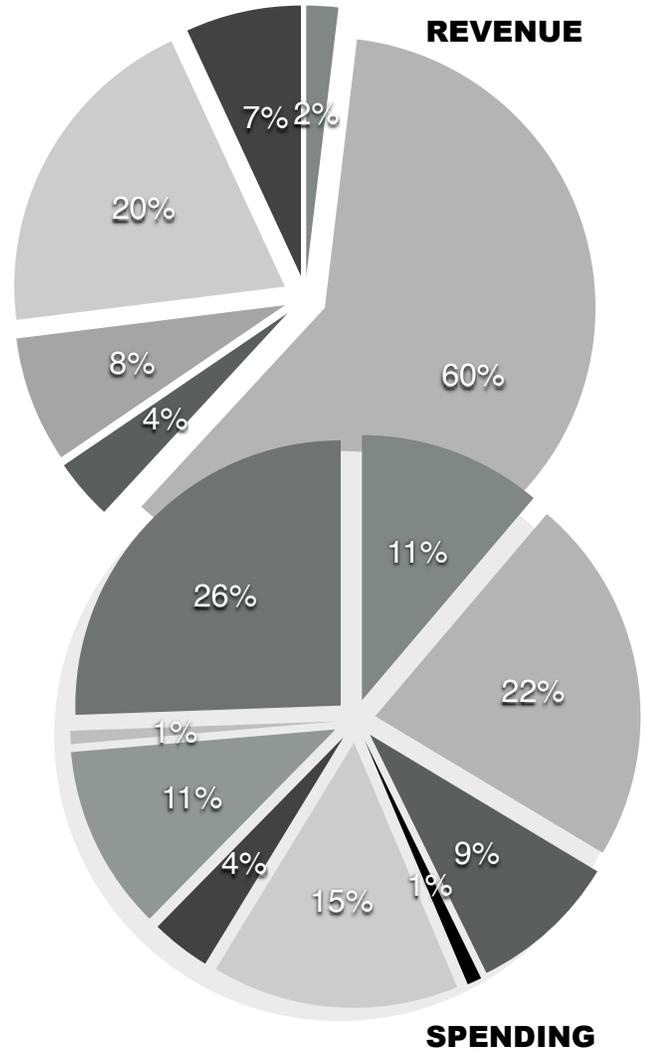
The current fund is the primary operating fund of the borough. It pays for the services traditionally associated with local government. Included are police, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, general administration and any other activity for which a special fund has not been created. Municipal spending is only 21% of your entire property tax bill. County taxes account for 19% and school taxes are 60% of your property tax bill. School and county taxes are nearly 80% of the average property tax bill. Complete financial information can be found at [www.fanwoodnj.org/government](http://www.fanwoodnj.org/government)

Revenue by source	2014	2015
● Receipts from delinquent taxes	\$255,000	\$190,000
● Local tax	\$5,920,000	\$5,999,000
● Library tax (1)	\$365,000	\$363,000
● State aid	\$755,000	\$755,000
● Misc revenue (2)	\$1,695,000	\$2,008,000
● Anticipated surplus	\$645,000	\$690,000

Spending by service area	2014	2015
● General Government	\$984,000	\$1,119,600
● Public Safety	\$2,317,000	\$2,242,000
● DPW	\$896,000	\$915,000
● Health & Welfare	\$66,500	\$88,000
● Insurance & Health Benefits (3)	\$1,450,000	\$1,507,000
● Library Fund	\$363,000	\$363,000
● Cap. Improve. & Debt Service	\$1,100,000	\$1,129,000
● Recreation & Community	\$98,000	\$80,500
● Misc. Spending (4)	\$2,366,000	\$2,556,000

**Total revenues and expenditures: 2014 - \$9.64 million; 2015 \$10.01 million** — Notes: Totals may not add due to rounding. (1): Library Tax is calculated per NJ statutes; (2): includes grants, fees and licenses, PILOTs and uniform construction code fees; (3): includes employee health benefits and insurance, workmen's compensation and unemployment; (4): includes grants, civilian pension, Social Security, special emergency authorizations and utilities.

Fanwood facts	2000	2010	2013
Population	7,174	7,318	7,510
Per capita income	\$34,804	\$43,474	\$46,775
Median household income	\$85,233	\$123,750	\$127,348
Median value of ratables	\$224,300	\$417,700	\$421,100
Assessed value of property	\$219.1 m	\$228.2 m	\$228.2 m
Total housing units	2,615	2,686	2,611



## Living within the 2% cap

In today's economy, municipalities also face pressures to sustain current levels of services while operating within the 2% cap. Additionally, state aid remains flat while costs continue to rise. The 2% cap, enacted in 2010, is a 2% limit on the annual increase on property taxes imposed upon local municipalities in New Jersey. In order to get around this, many municipalities have simply increased fees such as water or sewer. But, Fanwood has not. The borough has gotten creative in its financing efforts by attempting to create partnerships with neighboring towns and the county through shared service and has been proactive in its ability to bring in grants.

# Oh, give me a home, where the ivy-eating goats roam ...

Twelve goats are the newest residents of Fanwood after moving in to the borough's Nature Center in early August.

The goats, from Green Goats farm near Rhinebeck, N.Y., are being used to fight invasive plants in the center, including poison ivy and Japanese knotweed.

Mayor Colleen Mahr and members of the Environmental Commission welcomed Green Goats operators Ann and Larry Cihanek and their goats to Fanwood.

According to the Cihaneks, the animals have the run of about half of the center and will eat away most of the invasive vegetation below six feet. The goats are unaffected by the poison ivy, considering it a delicacy, according to Larry Cihanek.



Mayor Mahr and the Environmental Commission welcome the goats.

The goats are being used so herbicides won't have to be used in the center. During the project, which will last about a month, half of the center will be closed to the

public. Fences have been erected to separate the public from the goats. The goats are scheduled to return in the spring to finish the project.



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