

the Fanwoodian

Volume #18 Issue #4 December 2016

ON THE WEB: www.fanwoodnj.org

'Tis the Season to Celebrate Festive Community Traditions



Santa Claus is Coming to Town

One of Fanwood's most beloved traditions, the Santa Parade, takes place on Saturday, December 17 (rain date Dec.18), when Santa Claus, accompanied by volunteers from the Fanwood Fire Department, Rescue Squad and PBA Local 123 will go door to door, delivering presents to girls and boys.

To ensure Santa brings a present to your child, Santa's elves are currently accepting packages at the Fanwood Firehouse, behind Borough Hall, through Sunday, December 4. Drop off times are 5 - 9 p.m. each day. No late gifts will be accepted and please do not leave gifts at the police department.

Gifts must be no larger than a typical shoe box and only one gift per child is permitted. Multiple packages for the same address must be bundled together.

Santa begins his trek at 11 a.m. on December 17 and takes all day to get to every child's home. Listen for the sirens! You'll find all this and more information at fanwoodfd.com.

Annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting

Fanwood's holiday season officially begins when Santa Claus arrives in town on Sunday, December 4, at 3 p.m.! Everyone is invited to meet Santa under the big tent on the lawn in front of the North Avenue Train Station and enjoy an afternoon of seasonal music, holiday crafts and refreshments—all for free. Children who stop by to say hello to Santa will get a free photograph of their visit with him. Children can also enter contests and win prizes. The Holiday Celebration concludes at 5 p.m. when Mayor Mahr lights the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn. This event is sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.

Rotary Club's Luminary Sale

Be sure to visit the Fanwood Municipal Garage located at 1 Fanwood Place, across the street from the Library, as you begin to decorate your home for the holidays!

On Saturday, December 1, the annual Luminary Sale will begin. The sale will continue each Saturday on December 1, 10, and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the final Christmas Eve sale on Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The luminaries will be available at 75 cents per kit - including individual candles, paper bag, and sand. Local boy scout troops will be standing by as volunteers to assist with sand appropriation and of course, to spread spirited holiday cheer.

Everyone is welcome to join in the tradition and purchase luminaries for a beautiful holiday display. Not only does your donation provide worthwhile benefits to local groups, but your effort, along with your neighbors, makes for a magical neighborhood display!

All proceeds benefit the local Rotary Club and its mission to support its diverse charitable enterprises.

Canned food and other non-perishable goods will also be collected at the site and are always welcomed and encouraged.

**SIGN UP FOR
FANWOOD'S EMAIL
NEWSLETTER**

Be in the know about all things Fanwood with the weekly email newsletter. More than 1,500 Fanwood residents are subscribers. Go to the borough website, fanwoodnj.org, and enter your email address in the box beneath "Get Email Alerts" in the left column. You'll get timely news updates all-year-round and updated information in case of an emergency. Sign up today! Sign up for the Union County First Alert at ucfirstalert.org to receive additional local and regional emergency information and weather email alerts.

IN THIS EDITION

3 Mayor's Message
Colleen Mahr's quarterly column on all things Fanwood.

4 Fanwood Recreation
Fanwood Recreation Department announces their winter program schedules for children and seniors.

5 Fanwood Business
Fanwood businesses and economic development are bustling.

6 Library Winter Events
The Fanwood Memorial Library has a full schedule of upcoming events.

FANWOOD INFORMATION

 **ON EMAIL**
Sign up for alerts at www.fanwoodnj.org

 **ON THE AIR**
Fanwood Information Radio 24/7 at AM530

 **ON FANWOOD TV**
Find us on Comcast Channel 35 or FiOS Channel 24

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Search Fanwood, NJ and hit the  LIKE button

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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Fanwoodians looking for a nice, fresh Christmas tree for the living room can visit LaGrande Park for the annual Fire Department/Lions Club Tree Sale which begins Thursday, December 1. Hours are 6:30 - 9 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. All profits are donated to charities including local schools and scholarships. Plain and decorated wreaths will also be available. Volunteers will be on hand to trim the bottom of the tree trunk, bundle the tree and carry it to your car.

Annual Giving Tree Returns to Fanwood

The *Parents as Teachers* program makes home visits to needy families in Union County with a mission to provide parenting education, support and coordination of health and social services beginning with prenatal care for the mother until the child's third birthday. The goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, and family self-sufficiency. The Fanwood Police Department and the Fanwood PBA Local 123 have generously supported this program by

dedicating their Holiday Giving Tree to collect educational toys and books for the children. There will be ornaments on the township tree at Borough Hall at 75 North Martine Avenue with the age and sex of the child to purchase an educational toy for a holiday gift. Ornaments can be picked up starting Tuesday, November 22 and unwrapped gifts can be returned to the Police Department from November 23 through December 9.

Tiny Tim Carol Night

On the evening of Wednesday, December 7, from 4 - 8 p.m., carolers supporting the Tiny Tim Fund will be singing their hearts out and spreading peace, joy, and love to all ears that are open to them! Residents, be sure to leave an outdoor light on so that our community songbirds will know that they are welcome at your doorstep. No voice will be denied a holiday song booklet and no age is too young or too old to participate! This annual event is truly a family affair: "The more carolers on the streets, the merrier!" jested, Barbara Avilo, President of the non-profit corporation founded in 1983.

The Tiny Tim Fund is committed to continually and tirelessly contributing

aid to local families and children who are suffering financially due to medical needs. All donations are welcomed on behalf of the core team, including Barbara, Flavia Blechinger, and Mari Mc Devitt, as well as the many families in desperate need.

To register a group, reserve materials, or obtain further details, please contact Flavia Blechinger at 908-753-4228. Residents are also invited to jump in with friends and neighbors at any point! To end the night, Stage House Tavern, located at 366 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, will greet all participants with warm desserts and hot chocolate.



Mayor's Message

BY FANWOOD MAYOR COLLEEN MAHR

Dear Fanwoodians,

Thank you Fanwoodians, for resoundingly passing the Fanwood Open Space Question last month.

These funds will ensure that our natural and historic resources will be maintained for future generations. And of course I'm pleased that Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell was re-elected for her seventh term and Councilman Kranz for his second term. While the current council does not agree on everything, we work through our differences respectfully, and are always able to reach a consensus for the sake of the community.

One recent Council decision was to hire Liz Jefferies as Downtown Development Director. Liz has long experience in spurring commercial and retail development and has already been actively engaged with the Fanwood business community. Liz's article on Page 5 will give you an idea the work she is doing and update you on the status of development in Fanwood.

We've had a particularly active Fall here in Fanwood and I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank the Fanny Wood Day Committee for another great event. Bruce Zakarin once again put in countless hours of preparation with the support of Mindy Scarlett, Maria Moloney and Aimee Nuzzo. The Annual 5K was again led by the incomparable Joe Valente, followed a few weeks later with the ever-popular Halloween program at La Grande Park. These events are part of the bedrock of Fanwood and it is wonderful to see the public interest grow each year.

The Fanwood Environmental Commission (FEC) has had a productive year bringing the Nature Center back to life. The visiting goats did a wonderful job of poison ivy removal and the FEC



Mayor Mahr & Margaret Chowdhury Welcome TCNJ Volunteer Workers

pulled a real coup in securing a labor grant bringing in 25 workers for a full day of clean up and trail restoration at the Nature Center. Led by Gary Szelc, this hard-working group deserves our thanks. We are well on our way to the restoration of a productive and enticing Nature Center. The Historic Preservation Committee has also had an active year, hosting 4 Centuries in a Weekend at the Historic Train Station, continuing the restoration of the Carriage House and curating the Fanwood Museum, which is open the first Sunday of each month from 2-4 PM.

Volunteers do so much in support of this community; I urge all readers to consider getting involved. We currently have several openings and always welcome new thinking. The Environmental, Recreations and Communications groups have current openings, but other opportunities often come up, so if you have an interest please reach out to me at mayor@fanwoodnj.org.

And how about that curbside recycling!?! I'm happy to report we more than doubled our monthly recycling tonnage!! Clearly we are enabling residents who did not recycle in the past

to participate now. And, we're doing right by Mother Nature! Many thanks for your patience during the transition and thanks for your enthusiastic participation!

As we gear up for a new year, I am proud to announce receipt of several grants that will help our budgeting in 2017, including: \$197,000 from DOT for reconstruction on Poplar Place, \$40,000 for Kids Recreation Trust, \$20,000 for Recreational Opportunities for the Disabled, \$16,000 for Clean Communities, \$11,000 for Recycling, \$2,500 Heart Grant for the Arts, Union County Greening Grant to support tree-planting in Fanwood and several smaller grants in support of a variety of policing activities. We are always seeking the best "bang" for your tax dollar; that's why we seek grant monies so aggressively.

Don't forget to attend the December 4th Holiday Celebration on the North Avenue Green at the Train Station. Santa will be on hand for a visit with the youngsters and we'll culminate with a festive tree-lighting. I'm looking forward to the New Year and lots of new developments in our little home town and send you best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe 2017!

Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Children

Fanwood Recreation's winter lineup of after-school programs offers a fun, exciting mix of the old and the new. Coming back are favorites such as LEGO Club, Babysitting Certification Class, Junior First Responders, Child's Play Challenge Course, and Writopia.

The newest additions to the schedule are Nature's Neighborhood's Winter Garden, a program that introduces children to how a garden grows, and Group

Flute Lessons, grades 4–6.

Plus, for our youngest athletes, USA Sport Group offers several sections of Soccer Squirts—indoors!

Most of these programs will begin the week of January 23. For more information, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices, and age group, go to fanwoodrecreation.org, where you can also register and pay online for these programs.

Senior Recreation Programs

Fanwood Recreation announces its winter program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Most programs begin the week of January 2nd and run weekly through the week of March 27th:

| SENIOR WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE* | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Aerobics | Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m. |
| Zumba Gold section 1 | Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. |
| Water Exercise (Aquajam) | Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. |
| Yoga | Thursdays, 9–10 a.m. |
| Tai Chi | Thursdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m. |
| Line, Ballroom, & Latin Dancing | Thursdays, 12–1 p.m. |
| Zumba Gold section 2 | Fridays, 9:15–10 a.m. |

*This schedule is subject to change.

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 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. Schedules will be available after December 5.

Fanwood makes good business a priority

Mayor Mahr and the Borough Council are making good business a priority!

The Borough has created a Business and Downtown section in both the Fanwood Friday email update and the Quarterly Fanwoodian mailer. Also, Fanwood's newly refreshed website now includes a Downtown/business tab. The website will include business information, events, visitor information and more. These enhancements will greatly improve informing, connecting, and promoting our fantastic Fanwood businesses.

Also, Fanwood is increasing its collaboration and assistance through its new Business liaison, Liz Jeffery. Ms. Jeffery has expanded her role as the Borough's economic development advisor to include business retention and expansion activities. As the new business liaison, Ms. Jeffery has begun holding Quarterly Business Roundtables to connect and communicate about business needs in the community and ways in which the Borough can better assist. Two Roundtables have been held this year and were a terrific success. The next Quarterly Business Roundtable will be held in January.

If you are a Fanwood based business and would like to receive email invitations for the Business Roundtable and other correspondence from the Fanwood Business Liaison. Please email lizjeffery@verizon.net

The Borough has embraced its new membership with the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and is working hard to maximize GWACC benefits to the Fanwood community.

The Chamber held an enormously successful and informative Business Open House at the Chelsea in November. Fanwood businesses received specialized business assistance, Borough updates on economic development, and a great presentation on how to market your business through GWACC

There will be several town wide events held by the GWACC in 2017, so stay tuned for information and dates for those events.

Fanwood's Downtown is changing

1. The interior parking lot has been upgraded and repaved.
2. Planning has begun for a new pedestrian plaza which will run from LaGrande Ave on the westerly side of the parking lot behind the Martine Ave Stores and connect to the existing plaza
3. Rocco's Ice-Cream has opened in the Double Dipper Space
4. Fanwood Pharmacy is open for business
5. Kessler has found a new home at Fanwood Crossing
6. Ivy Ed has expanded into the former Be Craftful space
7. Joli Visage, a permanent makeup facility & day spa is coming soon to Fanwood Crossing
8. The China Moon/Ginger Sushi storefronts have a beautiful new facade
9. Streetscape and pedestrian and bike friendly improvements are in the works

Economic Development and investment are bustling in Fanwood

Two projects in the Downtown Redevelopment Area have received approvals and will be under construction within a year. Station Square at Fanwood- located at the corner of LaGrande Ave and Second Street, entails 28 market rate rental units and 7 affordable housing rental units for a total of 35 residential units. Site plan approval was received August 31. Jobar Realty- Jobar Realty Company, Inc. received approval for a three unit

residential building on Second Street. There will also be 2,900 square feet of commercial space on the first floor. In addition, the following new developments in the Borough have also been approved-

FRANKS AUTO BODY - Franks Auto Body received site plan approval on July 27, 2016. The improvements include a 945 square feet one story addition for the creation of a new third bay for auto repair. The site work includes redesign of the parking area and the elimination of the two driveways closest to the corner of Martine and La Grande Avenues.

264-268 SOUTH AVE. (China Moon Strip Mall) - Renovation of these storefronts has begun. The Building facade will be comprised of Hardieplank and brick. A sidewalk café space in the front of China Moon and Ginger

Sushi will also be created. The building renovation should be completed by the end of November.

200 SOUTH AVE. - The expansion of the former Flannery's/Oh Brian's site has been completed. The new restaurant/pub- Sheleen's Crossing, opened mid-October.

15 SOUTH AVE., BLOCK 55, LOT 2 - The former Sun Tavern site has been leased to Lightbridge Academy. Lightbridge Academy is a preschool and child care facility. Lightbridge received Site Plan approval on May 25, 2016.

1 SOUTH AVE., BLOCK 55, LOT 1 - Young's Paint is under contract to be sold to a developer- Empire Properties. Empire plans to demolish the existing structure and building retail with housing above on this site.

Library News

The Fanwood Memorial Library will be continuing its popular program, First Sundays at the Fanwood Memorial Library, featuring family-friendly events through the Spring.

First Sundays: The Magic Conductor's Reading Adventure: The Caboose Mystery

Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m.

This is a fun family experience! Steve, the Magic Conductor, along with the audience, will go on an exciting adventure to a simpler time in history to search for clues, laugh, learn, explore, and solve a mystery.

Cookie Recipe Exchange for the Holidays

Thursday, December 19 at 2 p.m.

Bring in a favorite recipe or try one of ours in this lively hour of flour power!

First Sundays: Experiment with Circuits on Paper

Sunday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Scientists of the community, unite! Make simple or complex electrical circuits on a flat piece of paper during this hands-on program!

First Sundays: The ABCs of Candy

Sunday, February 5 at 2 p.m.

This popular program from the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts highlights familiar and not-so-familiar candies...one for each letter of the alphabet! Taste-testing included!

First Sundays : Laura Nyro

Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m.

Come enjoy Spero plays Nyro...a heartfelt and moving tribute to Laura Nyro, one of the greatest and most covered songwriters of the 20th century.

Teen Events offer functional skills for the future!

How to Talk to a Robot

Monday, December 5 at 4 p.m.

Students will learn how to code and communicate with a robot in this fun class.

Day of Code at the Library

Tuesday, December 6 at 4:40 p.m.

Join in for a valuable introductory program focused on the basics of coding.

Fanwood voters went to the polls in November

The presidential race wasn't the only reason Fanwood voters went to the polls on November 8. Fanwood community members re-elected Council members Kathy Mitchell and Tom Kranz to another term in office. Both ran unopposed. Fanwood voters also gave a big YES to the Open Space referendum, the first Fanwood ballot question in 20 years. The tax, averaging \$8-\$11 per household, will go into a fund dedicated to green space, recreation projects, and historic preservation projects. Thanks to our citizens for proving once again that they care about our environment and history.

Fanwood's Year in Photos 2016



ABOVE Children enjoyed Fanwood Recreation Commission's Party in the Park with games, rides, and of course, The Minions movie.

BELOW Fanwood's Fury Finest competed in the Annual Fanwood Pet Parade as part of Fanny Wood Day on September 18.



LEFT The Fanwood Recreation Commission invites residents to get their rackets and try out the recently reopened, newly resurfaced La Grande Park tennis courts. In addition to getting a new paint job, the courts have been leveled and drainage around them has been improved to reduce water collecting on the surface.



ABOVE Fanwood's first curbside recycling program began on Thursday, October 6.



ABOVE The Fanwood Recreation Commission opened the Fanwood Skatepark in June, located in Forest Road Park, providing a safe location for our many residents who enjoy skateboarding and bmx biking.

LaGrande Ice Skating Rink

Ice skating season is almost here! As soon as the first sub-freezing cold spell arrives, Fanwood Recreation, with the help of the Fanwood Department of Public Works, is planning to fill the LaGrande Rink with water and turn it into a frozen pond for ice skating. Please note that the rink will require at least a few days of below 32-degree weather in order for the

water to freeze sufficiently so it can be safely skated upon.

As in past years, once the rink is up and running it will be open to the public for late afternoon hours on weekdays and extended hours on weekends. Skating is free, but you'll have to bring your own skates. The best place to check for the exact hours of operation and rink status is fanwoodrecreation.org.

2017 Recreation Department Jobs

Fanwood Recreation is now accepting job applications for ice skating rink attendants at the LaGrande Park rink, and for counselor positions for its 2017 Summer Park Recreation Program and Tweens & Teens Travel Camp. The Park Recreation Program, which will begin on June 26th and run for eight weeks from 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday–Friday at LaGrande Park, provides children ages 5–12 with structured, fun-filled activities under the supervision of experienced counselors. The Summer Travel Camp will run for two or three weeks in July from 9 AM–5 PM, Monday–Friday. If you or someone you know would like to apply for an attendant or counselor job, please go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org and click on the “Job Applications” button to download an application. Ice skating attendant applicants must be at least 14 years of age, Summer Park Program counselor applicants must be at least 15 years of age by June 20, 2017, and Travel Camp counselor applicants must be 19 years or older by July 1, 2017. Submission of an application does not guarantee an interview or a response. Registration for the summer programs will start in February or March.

Around Fanwood A postcard from our town



Fanwood runners line up for the start of the Fanwood 5k Super Hero Run on October 16. Registration fees from the race benefit Fanwood Recreation events, projects, and programs.