

the Fanwoodian

Volume #19 Issue #4 December 2017

ON THE WEB: www.fanwoodnj.org

Year in Review

2017 was another great year here in Fanwood! This past year brought in new events, such as the Fanwood Summer Fan Jam, as well as continuing our community favorites like the Easter Egg Hunt and Fanny Wood Day. A special thank you goes out to all of the Fanwood Departments, Commissions, organizations and volunteers who help make these events possible each and every year!

Without the continuous support and collaborative efforts made by Borough administration, Council, Departments and more, these events would not be nearly as successful as they are! We hope that 2018 will continue to bring us new events and keep the ones that we love growing year after year.

Memorial Day Observance



Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Fanny Wood Day



Annual Fanwood Halloween Parade



Fanwood Summer Fan Jam



Rockin' for Autism

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NEWSLETTER**

Be in the know about all things Fanwood with the weekly email newsletter. More than 1,700 Fanwood residents are subscribers. Go to the borough website, fanwoodnj.org, and click on the email sign up button on the homepage. You'll get timely news updates all-year-round and updated information in case of an emergency. The Union County First Alert sign up is located on fanwoodnj.org in the right sidebar. Sign up to receive additional local and regional emergency information and weather email alerts.

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FANWOOD INFORMATION



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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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Annual Holiday Celebration

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Holiday Celebration at the beginning of this month! On Sunday, December 3rd, crowds of Fanwood residents and visitors joined to welcome Santa on the lawn in front of the North Avenue Train Station and enjoyed an afternoon of seasonal music, holiday crafts and refreshments. Children were able to get a photo with Santa and entered to win prizes and contents! The celebration concluded at 5 p.m. with Mayor Colleen Mahr who lit the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn. Thank you to the Fanwood Recreation Commission for sponsoring such a great event. Stop by the train station lawn today to see the tree for yourself!

Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club Luminary Sale

During weekends in December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works Building on Manfra Way off of North Avenue (across from the Fanwood Public Library). The sale dates are December 9, 10, 16, 17 and 23 from 9AM to 3PM and December 24 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The luminary kits cost 75 cents each in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to ensure effective luminary coverage.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and overseas. The Rotary Club will also be collecting canned food for their annual Holiday Food Drive to support local food pantries.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938 and will be celebrating its 80th birthday next year! The club meets on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant. On the last Wednesday of the month, members can volunteer for a service project or attend a fellowship lunch. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org.

Mayor's Message

BY FANWOOD MAYOR COLLEEN MAHR



Dear Fanwoodians,

Happy Holidays Fanwoodians! As we head towards the last days of 2017 I hope you can all reflect with some satisfaction on the course your year has taken. The Borough has done well in 2017; our water and gas infrastructure have received millions of dollars of investment by the utility companies, redevelopment on our downtown block is drawing to a close with construction on the last two vacant properties, and the Borough was very successful in winning an \$800,000+ grant for infrastructure and streetscape upgrades on South Avenue, the largest grant in borough history!

And while these hardscape improvements are tangible tokens of our success, it is often the intangibles that tell the real tale of a community's well-being. One of the most important and very special features of our lives in Fanwood is the degree of caring we find in this community. How often do you see neighbors helping each other with the small things in your neighborhood? You pick up some groceries for the sick friend, carry the newspaper to your neighbor's door when rain threatens, knock on someone's door when you see the car lights are still on, offer a ride to the station...all small kindnesses that grease the wheels of civility among us. This mutual caring is further expressed in the volunteerism we enjoy in Fanwood, with many of the traditions and events we enjoy together being planned and staffed by residents.

I would like to recognize all of the caring Fanwoodians who through their goodness and their shared sense of community enrich our lives through their efforts. From the Board of Health, where members quietly do their work to ensure that local dining establishments are safe to enjoy and who regulate our pet vaccination program; to the Environmental Commission which

plows its efforts into maintaining and enhancing our resources while moving into such serious arenas as climate change and sustainability. Long-time members of the Historic Preservation Commission work diligently to preserve our past by researching and executing detailed renovations of our historic buildings while continuing to expand our resources and programs to share our history with residents. Members of the Library Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library provide programming for residents of all ages while doing the serious work of lobbying state officials for financial support for this priceless mainstay of a free society. Planning Board members review and adjudicate countless applications, regulating development in order to protect homeowners from unwelcome encroachments, while also setting guidelines for future commercial development.

Our Recreation Commission members get a workout too, planning and executing Borough events throughout the year, overseeing the summer camps program and maintaining our recreational resources. The Cultural Arts Commission stages seasonal musical and poetry performances at the Carriage House, and the Shade Tree Commissioners are kept busy throughout the year assessing the condition of all our trees and conducting a year-round maintenance program.

And we can't forget those volunteers who help to plan and staff special events such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, Ladies Night, Fanny Wood Day, Fan Jam, the Memorial Day Parade, National Night Out, the 5K and the Halloween Parade. And of course, thanks to the wonderful folks in the Garden Club who keep the downtown planters refreshed and healthy throughout the year.

But finally, I feel deep gratitude

for our Volunteer Fire Company and Fanwood Rescue Squad, whose members devote countless hours of training, and on-call duty to protect our health, our safety and property. These are the folks who are there for you in your darkest hours and give comfort in our times of need. The word "hero" can be over-used, but in this case it is an apt description. The men and women of these organizations are true heroes of Fanwood.

Take a moment to imagine life in Fanwood without these wonderful folks. For me the vision is a cheerless and a dull commuter town full of disconnected individuals. While that may be a place to lay your head, it would not be a place worthy to be called home. And for all the intangible benefits we garner through this generous volunteerism, we cannot discount the tangible value of their time. If we had to support these activities through local taxes we would not have these activities, it's as simple as that.

So in this holiday edition, I'm using my pulpit to ask that you take a moment to think about these volunteers and how they enrich your life, to thank a volunteer for working on your behalf, and to consider joining their ranks.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Fanwood and I am looking forward to welcoming more of you into their ranks as we gear up for 2018. Top priority at the moment is beefing up our Green Team that will be addressing issues of climate change and sustainability. The group will be kicking off in January, so now is a great time to join. Please visit our website at www.fanwoodnj.org to check out the types of boards and commissions you might serve on, or if you have a new idea, call my office at 908-322-8236 x 121. I'd love to hear from you!

But for now, best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year for 2018!

Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Seniors

Fanwood Recreation announces its fall program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Programs begin the week of January 1st and run weekly through the week of March 26th:

Aerobics	Tuesdays, 9-10 AM
Yoga section 1	Tuesdays, 1-2 PM
Zumba Gold section 1	Wednesdays, 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Water Exercise (Aquajam)	Wednesdays, 11:30 A AM - 12 PM
Yoga section 2	Thursdays, 9-10 AM
Tai Chi	Thursdays, 10:15-11:15 AM
Zumba Gold section 2	Fridays, 9:15 - 10 AM

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 registration form and pay by check, please go to Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue. Forms will be available all winter.

Fanwood Recreation Winter Programs for Children

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

For the first time offered in Fanwood, young scientists who like creating things that are a little bit...icky, Fanwood Recreation presents Slime-ology!

Plus, for our youngest athletes, USA Sports Group will be offering several sections of Soccer Squirts (ages 3-5, 5-6) indoors! A winter session will be available for registration that begins in January.

The majority of these Recreation sponsored programs will begin the week of January 22nd. For more information, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices and age groups, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org where you can register and pay for the programs you wish to sign up for!

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.



Little Free Libraries

If you've been to one of Fanwood's local parks recently, you may have noticed something new. Two beautiful "Little Free Libraries" have been installed as part of Eagle Scout Michael Fleck's final project. Michael, who is a member of Fanwood's Troop 33, came to the Friends of the Library and the library staff with this idea as a fun way to bring the library out to the community. The Friends of the Library provided guidance and the financial support for the project.

Little Free Libraries are now currently located in both Forest Road Park and La Grande Park. Michael got approval for his project from the Borough Council and the Recreation Department and received help from the Fanwood Public Works Department in the installation.

The Little Free Library movement is rooted in community, literacy and sharing. The idea behind the Little Free Libraries is to simply "Take a Book – Leave a Book". It inspires a love of reading, builds community and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

So the next time you're in the park, take a moment to visit one of our little libraries and grab something to read, or leave something you've enjoyed for your neighbors.



Michael Fleck with a Little Free Library

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE *Free Streaming Movies!*

The library has recently subscribed to **Kanopy**, a new, on-demand film streaming service for adult Fanwood cardholders. The kanopy collection offers a broad selection of more than 30,000 feature films, documentaries, foreign language, and training videos, including: the Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, the Frontline series, and international films.

Visit fanwoodlibrary.kanopystreaming.com to set up your free kanopy account today (you'll need your card number and PIN) and start watching amazing movies!

To stay up to date with all library programs and information, sign up for the FRIENDS of the Fanwood Library e-mail newsletter at www.fanwoodlibrary.org/fml-e-newsletter.



Upcoming Events at the Fanwood Library!

Sensory Storytimes

First Saturday of the month - 1 p.m.

This Storytime includes new & familiar stories, and feature activities that develop and enhance the story with enriched sensory experiences. On the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., families are welcome to engage in activities that include use of sand, play-doh, duplos, music and more that cater towards those with sensory sensitivities and special needs. Autism friendly. Prior sign-up is required.

Valentine's Day with Nina Et cetera: Music for the romantically inclined!

February 4, 2018

On this First Sunday in February, celebrate Valentine's Day with Nina Et cetera: Songs of lust, mischief, murder, mayhem, love faithful, faithless, eternal, or fleeting. Songs by Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Elvis, Ray Charles and lots of others... A lovely way to spend an afternoon!

Ulysses S. Grant Program

February 25, 2018 - 2 p.m.

Ken Serfass, an expert on the life and times of Ulysses S. Grant, stars in the spectacular one-man show. His reenactment of Ulysses S. Grant, as General and President, has taken him coast to coast with his lectures and stage performances.

"The Course of True Love"

March 4, 2018 - 2 p.m.

The Hudson Shakespeare Company is back at the library in this romantic program featuring Shakespeare couples and their respective love scenes with Shakespeare's take on the different stages of love.

Teen Photography Contest, Grades 6-12: Your Town Through Your Eyes

Contest Starts: November 15th

Submission Deadline: February 15th

Email your photo as a JPEG (no bigger than 20 MB) to Nkipping@fanwoodlibrary.org. In your email, please include your:

- Name
- Grade
- School
- Phone number
- Title of the photo

Entry Rules & Prizes:

- **Contest Category:** Take a photograph that captures Fanwood-Scotch Plains through your eyes
- This contest is open to all Fanwood-Scotch Plains library card holders in grades 6-12
- Must be your original photo and limited to ONE (1) entry per person
- **PRIZES:** There are two contests: one for high school and one for middle school. EACH contest winner will receive \$50.00.

Disclaimer: The Fanwood Memorial Library (FML) reserves the right to determine what photos are appropriate for this contest. By entering the contest you grant FML permission to exhibit your photo in the Library, display it on the Library website, and use it on publicity releases.

Local Poets Pack Adventures into New Issue of EXIT 13 Magazine

Two dozen local poets lead the way in the new issue of EXIT 13 Magazine as they write about journeys to places near and far-away. The Garden State poets find inspiration in all sorts of places, whether it's a graveyard in Ireland or a desert road in Arizona. They also write about Jersey snow and swimming pools; Greek islands and Scottish pubs. The emphasis is on geography and the fertile ground of imagination.

Since 1988, editor Tom Plante of Fanwood has carefully selected poems for publication in EXIT 13 Magazine, an annual collection of contemporary poetry from around the corner and around the world. The new issue reflects the landscapes and adventures of 24 New Jersey poets plus 19 contributors from other states.

"EXIT 13 Magazine focuses on poems of exploration and discovery," Plante says. "It's a celebration of journeys great and small."



Tom and Pat Plante in Haiku Town, Maui, Hawaii, 2016.

Local poets in this 23rd issue of EXIT 13 Magazine include: Adele Kenny of Fanwood, who contributes postcard-like haiku poems from European journeys; Nancy Lubarsky of Cranford examines the fabric of life in Panama; John Larkin of Edison shares glimpses of Greece; Ed Romond of Woodbridge remembers the summer of '66; Wanda Praisner of Bedminster views renewal in Asian ruins; and Bob Rosenbloom of Bound Brook muses about life after boyhood in Brooklyn.

Other Garden State poets in the new issue include: Paul Sohar of Warren; Tony Gruenewald of Edison; William Nunez of Elizabeth; Carol Stone of Verona; Penny Harter of Mays Landing; Mauricio Rosales of Hackensack; Lavinia Kumar of Plainsboro; Sander Zulauf of Andover; Elaine Koplow of Blairstown; Matthew Ayres of Hillsborough; Denise La Neve of

Wayne; J.F. Battaglia of Hampton; Jessica de Koninck of Montclair; Peter Donahue of Morris Plains; Lisa Coll Nicolaou of Fair Lawn; Karen Lee Ramos of Oak Ridge; Nancy Scott of Lawrenceville; and John David Muth of Franklin Park.

EXIT 13 Magazine, #23, is available from EXIT 13 Magazine, PO Box 423, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023. For more information or poetry submission guidelines for the 2018 issue, send e-mail to: Exit13magazine@yahoo.com; or visit www.facebook.com/Exit13Magazine.

EXIT 13 Magazine is included in library collections at Rutgers University, Brown University, the University at Buffalo, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the New York Public Library.

2018 Recreation Department Jobs

Fanwood Recreation is now accepting job applications for ice skating rink attendant at the La Grande Park rink, and for counselor positions for its 2018 Summer Park Recreation Program and Tweens & Teens Travel Camp. The Park Recreation Program, which will begin on June 25th and run for eight weeks from 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday–Friday at La Grande Park, provides children ages 5–12 with structured, fun-filled activities under the supervision of experienced counselors. The Summer Travel Camp will run for 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 "Job Applications" to download an application. Submission of an application does not guarantee an interview or a response. Registration for the summer programs will start in February or March.

Election Night in Fanwood



Local voters went to the polls on Tuesday, November 7th to elect a new governor, general assembly members, freeholders, county sheriff, Fanwood Council members and a Board of Ed candidate on Election Day.

Congratulations to Russ Huegel and Anthony Carter, elected to Fanwood Council, and to Amy Boroff who received write in votes for Fanwood's seat on the Board of Education.

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