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HIGH SCHOOL REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS MAMMA MIA!

The SPFHS Repertory Theatre is proud to present this year's production of the Broadway hit musical Mamma Mia! This jukebox musical is told through the effervescent and enchanting music of ABBA. It has become a theatrical phenomenon, with audiences around the world dancing in their seats.

Performances will be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains, on Friday, March 8; Saturday, March 9; Thursday, March 14; Friday, March 15; and Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a matinee on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m.

The story takes place on a small Greek island where Sophie dreams of a perfect wedding — walking down the aisle with her father by her side. But how can that happen if the bride-to-be doesn't even know who her father is? Upon sneaking a peek in her mother's diary from the 70's, Sophie discovers three paternal possibilities: Sam, Bill, and Harry. She is so convinced that she'll know who her true father is when she sees him, she secretly invites all three to the wedding. Yet when the trio arrives, the only thing clear is that finding her dad is going to be far more of a challenge than she could have imagined!

Her mother, Donna, is a fiercely independent hotelier up to her ears in both debt and last-minute details as she preps for her daughter's big day. She has no idea what her determined daughter has in store for them both. Donna's dearest friends, Rosie and Tanya, are also on the guest list. When they arrive on the island, they bring fond memories of their days together singing in a group called Donna and the Dynamos. A hilarious reunion ensues; but when the spotlight fades, Donna is left to face the pieces of the past she's tried to forget over the last two decades. Meanwhile, Sophie is so caught up in finding her dad that she doesn't realize she is losing her fiancé, Sky. Who will escort Sophie to the altar and who will be there to say, "I do?"

This production of Mamma Mia! involves over 100 students, including the crew and live pit orchestra. The cast are under the masterful direction of Mr. Morgan Knight (Director) and Mrs. Jan Allen (Musical Director, Producer). When asked about the upcoming shows, Knight replied, "We proudly invite the community to join our incredible student performers as they bring the music of ABBA to life

on the SPFHS stage. A community production for all ages, Mamma Mia! is an event you and your family won't want to miss. Join us for an evening of music, dance, celebration, and platform shoes!"

Tickets are now on sale for Mamma Mia! at mammamiaspfhs.brownpapertickets.com and are \$13 for students and senior citizens, \$15 for adults. All tickets for the performance on Thursday, March 14 are only \$10. Senior citizens with "Gold Cards" may contact Kathleen Sheehy at ksheehy405@gmail.com to make arrangements for discounted tickets.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email
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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD GO RED EVENT

The Mayors of Scotch Plains and Fanwood kicked off the annual Go Red for Women's Heart Health Fair, held this year at the Jewish Community Center in Scotch Plains on Saturday, February 2nd. Event organizer, Fanwood's Melissa Padulsky, owner of Little Hearts Big World CPR Instruction, brought together health advocates from Union County and the American Heart Association along with healthy food and a variety of regional vendors for an event that had something for everyone. Scotch Plains Mayor Al Smith and Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr spoke to the group, reminding all that heart disease is the #1 killer of women and that awareness of symptoms and lifestyle are key to prevention. Anne McNair,

Director of Union County Office of Health Management, did a presentation on heart disease in women. A great night for women's heart health!

Photos by Borough of Fanwood



(above) Blood pressure checks conducted by Scotch Plains and Fanwood Rescue Squads



(above) Somerset Patriots' mascot Sparkie has a hug for Event Organizer Melissa Padulsky



(above) Event organizer Melissa Padulsky and Union County Health Director Annie McNair

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YMCA KICKS OFF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA (FSPY) kicked off its Annual Campaign on Thursday, January 31, 2019 with an event at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Over 80 people attended and learned about the YMCA's Annual Campaign through stories of those who have been helped by it.

"The YMCA and people like you have given my sons and myself so many opportunities. They gave me the opportunity to work and know my sons were safe during after school hours as well as the assurance that there is some place I can turn if I'm in need of assistance," speaker Cindy Gaud told the audience.

She added, "The Y has given my sons so much, the opportunity to learn healthy habits and life-saving skills during their growing process, a place to socialize with friends and make new ones and the formation of habits that will accompany them throughout their life."

The Annual Campaign is the YMCA's yearly fundraising initiative that helps to support their financial assistance program. Last year, FSPY gave out \$315,463 to support a number of programs and services, including: membership; 7th Grade Initiative program; chronic disease prevention programs; child care; day camp; aquatics, and more.

This year, FSPY's goal is to raise at least \$125,000 so they can help more people like Jessica Serna, who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2012. As she explained to attendees, the diagnosis changed her life drastically – her eyesight worsened, she had trouble with her balance, and eventually had to stop working at her full-time job.

Through the Y's partnership with Kessler Rehabilitation Center, Mrs. Serna learned about the MS Aquatic Exercise class at FSPY which is designed to enhance the quality of life for those diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. The program

helps participants increase their strength, flexibility and endurance, as well as promotes balance, stability, fine motor skills and emotional health.

"My body is not only growing stronger physically, but mentally as well with all the friendships I've made with the others in my classes," she said. "Getting to know others with MS has been beyond priceless. I am forever grateful to the YMCA for the opportunity they gave me."

This year's FSPY Annual Campaign is inspired by the work of the late Fred Rogers (aka Mr. Rogers) who, like the YMCA, was accepting of all people regardless of their background. The theme is neighbors helping neighbors. The campaign is led by FSPY Fundraising Chair Andy Calamaras, and Board Chair Mary DePaola.

"Mr. Rogers was a beloved character that most of us look back on kindly from our childhood because you knew, no matter what, he was in

your corner," said Kim Decker, FSPY Chief Executive Officer. "He believed in strengthening communities by helping your neighbors in need and that's what the Y is here to do as well."

To learn more about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA's Annual Campaign, please visit fspymca.org/giving. All funds raised stay in our community to help those facing financial hardship. Those in need of financial assistance can visit fspymca.org/financial-aid to view the application.

About the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. For information on membership or programs, or to request a schedule of classes, please call the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA at 908-889-8880 or visit fspymca.org. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is located at 1340 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.



(above) Kim Decker, Chief Executive Officer of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, Andy Calamaras, Board Fundraising Chair, and Mary DePaola, Board Chair, at the Y's 2019 Annual Campaign Kicked Off on January 31.

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SCHOOL ONE HOSTS MULTI-CULTURE NIGHT

The School One PTA hosted their first Multi-Culture Night on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Families were invited to participate in the evening by creating a display to share their customs, native clothing, artifacts and music. In addition, families were asked to share the customary food of their home countries.

Many School One families accepted the invitation and participated in the event which generated a Global Gallery and International Food Court of many different countries and cultures. The Multi-Culture Night was a positive experience for all and enjoyed by many School One families. School One principal, Justin Fiory, said they are looking forward to celebrating their school's beautiful diversity again next year.

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above) Ecuador display



(above) Greece display

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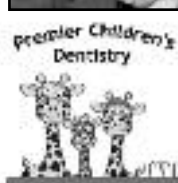


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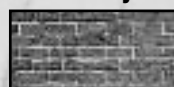
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FANWOOD RECREATION SPRING PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Fanwood Recreation announces its spring program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Programs begin the week of April 1 and run weekly through the week of June 17. Classes include Aerobics, Yoga, Zumba, Water Exercise and Tai Chi.

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 North Martine Avenue.

FANWOOD RECREATION SPRING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Fanwood Recreation's spring 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, Junior First Responder Class, Preschool Drawing and Elementary Drawing offered by Young Rembrandts, Golf, Tennis, and new this year: English Essay Writing and K through 2nd Grade Reading.

Plus, for our youngest athletes, USA Sport Group offers Soccer Squirts, Parent & Me Sports Squirts, and Squirts Multi Sports.

Most of these programs will begin the week of April 1. For more information about these programs, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices, and age group, go to fanwoodrecreation.org, where you can also register and pay online.

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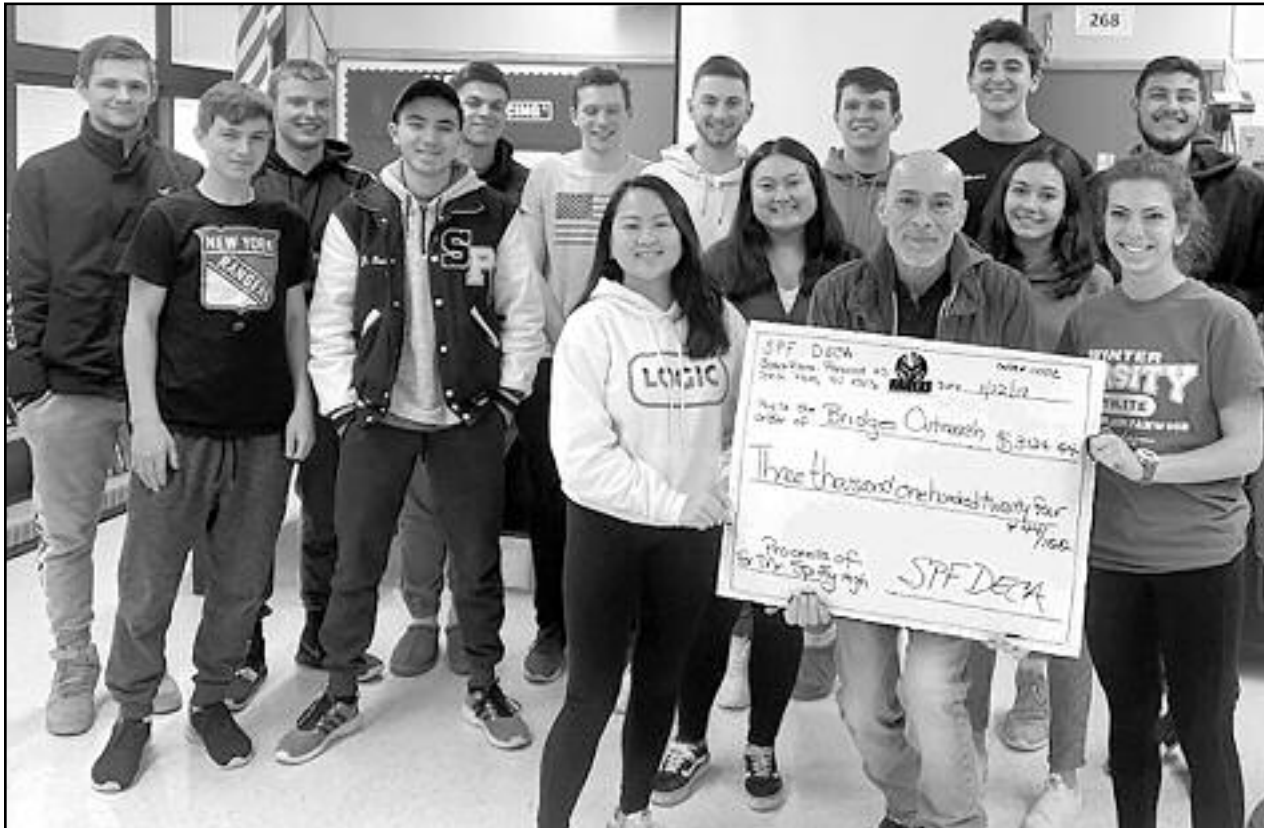
The senior officers of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's DECA recently met with Frank Damico, the operations manager of Bridges Outreach in Summit, New Jersey. Mr. Damico spoke to the students about the role of marketing in not for profit entities. He also spoke for the

need of organizations to engage young adults in charitable endeavors.

Mr. Damico spoke about how Bridges Outreach works to connect the housed and homeless to create a better understanding of the needs of others. Mr. Damico told the students

how the organization provides meals, toiletries and, more importantly, hope to those in need.

At the end of the presentation, DECA Chapter officers, Sara Greene and Caroline Nguyen, presented Mr. Damico with a check for \$3,124.44. This check represented the proceeds of the Mr. Spiffy High competition held on January 7, 2019. The chapter also presented over 200 personal care items that had been collected for distribution to the homeless. Business teacher Marjorie FitzGibbon is the DECA advisor the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.



(above, back, l-r) Ryan Cleary, Thomas Scarcella, Ryan Walsh, Justin Giaimo, Jack Quinones, Daniel Resnicoff, Charles Widder, Sam Goetz, Dakota Verrico, Shariff Saleh; (front, l-r) Caroline Nguyen, Nicole Alvarez, Bridges Operations Manager Frank Damico, Maya Schwartzman and Sara Greene.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August). There is no fee to attend a meeting.

Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W.33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ. A Guest speaker to

be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served. There is no fee to attend.

Annual Youth Fishing derby on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Echo Lake in Westfield. Free for children under 16. \$10 for adults who wish to participate. Sign up early morning. Tagged Fish will be stocked that day so the children can see them get stocked. Prizes are awarded for different species of fish. This is an ongoing event so if a child cannot fish that day they can sign up and send in their tag if they catch a tagged fish up to the deadline that tags will be received.

You may Donate and sponsor a fish for this event. Download our form online or we can mail one to you.

For more information visit nbfcc.org or contact Bob Jones BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com

SPF PRESCHOOL PROGRAM APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools is now accepting preschool applications for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. Visit spfk12.org/preschool or the main office of any Scotch Plains/Fanwood elementary school to obtain an application. For more information, contact the Preschool Office at (908) 889-600 x3302 or preschool@spfk12.org.

THE FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS COLLEGE CLUB MARCH MEETING

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes University of the Philippines Alumni and Friends Rondalla (UPAFR) for a musical performance at their March 18, 2019 meeting. UPAFR is a nonprofit traditional string ensemble based in New Jersey. Since 1992, the UPAFR has been promoting Filipino culture through music using native instruments such as the bandurria, laud and octavina. The group performs educational concerts that integrate Philippine history, customs and traditions in key cities in the United States and abroad. The UPAFR performs regularly in cultural heritage festivals, theaters, schools, as well as community, government and social events. Free weekly lessons are offered by the group for all age groups interested in learning to play a rondalla instrument. See upafrondalla.org for more details.

This program is open to the public, is free of charge and will take place on March 18, 2019 at The Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 South Martine Avenue, Fanwood (McDermott Street entrance) at 7:30 p.m. after a brief refreshment period that begins at 7:15 p.m.

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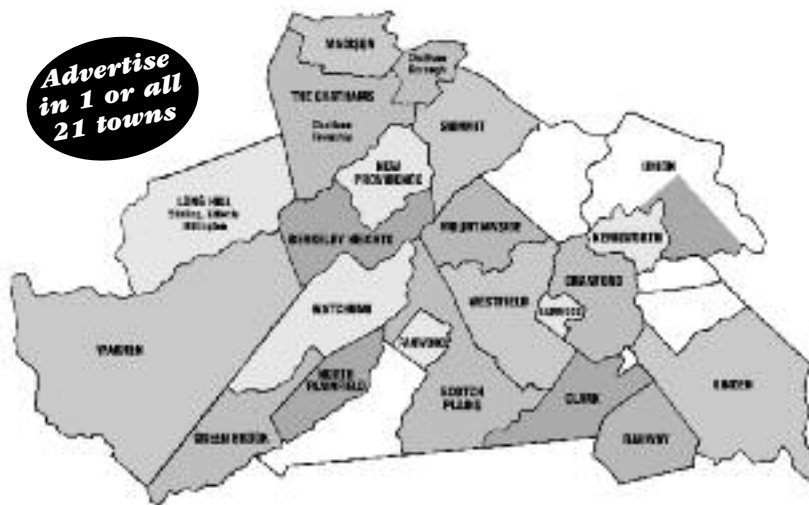
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GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recently recognized eight tenured teachers as recipients of the 2018-2019 Governor's Educator of the Year Awards as well as six staff members who have been identified as recipients of the Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year Awards, among them are a distinguished Reading Recovery teacher,

outstanding classroom aides and a wonderful school nurse.

The following teachers and staff members were recognized by the Board: Brunner School: Amie Berlant (4th grade teacher) and Jessica Brzezinski (Classroom aide); Coles School: Tara Mann (Spanish teacher grades 2 to 4); Evergreen School: Jordan Gray (Kindergarten teacher) and

Linda Pearl (Classroom aide); McGinn School: Christine Donnelly (Special Education teacher) and Donna Bachi (Reading Recovery teacher); School One: Charity Morris (SOS Math and Gifted & Talented teacher) and Venessa White (Classroom aide); Park Middle School: Peggy Brown (Science teacher) and Kourtnei Fortune (Classroom aide); Terrill Middle School: Tracy Galen (Special Education teacher) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School: Amy Rutkowski (Special Education teacher) and Lisa McNally (Nurse).

In addition, the following educators have been selected by the New Jersey Department of Education as "2018 New Jersey Exemplary Elementary Educators": Colleen Haubert, Evergreen School Principal; Joseph Roskin, 5th grade teacher at Terrill Middle School; and Allison McGee, 3rd grade teacher at McGinn School.

photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above) Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized the 2018-2019 Governor's Educator of the Year Award winners the Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year Award winners.

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