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COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZED AT COUNCIL MEETING

During the Fanwood Borough Council meeting held on Monday, June 17, 2019, true community leaders working to make Fanwood the inclusive, diverse and safe place to live were recognized. - Submitted by Tom Kranz



(above) Mallory's Army came to the Council in force with founder Dianne Grossman, mother of Mallory Grossman, a 12-year old Rockaway, NJ, girl who committed suicide in 2014, awarding trophies to her Soldiers of Strength, young girls who are spreading the word to fight bullying in our schools. Mrs. Grossman came back from Trenton that day where a bill she is championing, S-3433 "Mallory's Law", which adjusts anti-bullying laws to increase responsibility for parents, was passed by the Education Committee.

Photos by Borough of Fanwood



(above) Business of the Month was Enchantments, craft and gift store which has been on South Avenue in Fanwood since 1989. Owners Helen and Jeff Ling accepted the traditional print of the historic Fanwood train station from Mayor Colleen Mahr.



(above) Pride Month was celebrated with a proclamation by Mayor Mahr to Irasel Bueno who, with her partner, Oshanda Erb, is raising twin boys in Fanwood. They are involved as volunteers in our community.

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ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM PRESENTS \$17,073.32 CHECK TO AUTISM NEW JERSEY

On June 23, 2019, the Banks family hosted volunteers and supporters of the Rockin' for Autism fair, held this past April in Fanwood, to thank them and announce the total amount raised for Autism New Jersey.

Mallory Banks revealed this year's donations totaled \$17,073.32. Mallory, 17, the founder of the event, and her family, volunteers and supporters celebrated at a back yard event at their

home. A presentation was made to Ellen Schisler of Autism New Jersey, the recipient of the donations.

The fundraiser is dedicated to Mallory's brother Ethan who has autism and is a year-long project that involves the entire family. Congratulations to the Banks family and thank you for bringing this great event to our town each year. Jeff Banks is also a Fanwood Councilman.



(above) Ethan Banks holds check with sister Mallory and mom Gina at his right shoulder, dad Jeff in very back with glasses and volunteers and supporters.

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DECA TEAM TRAVELS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA team traveled to Orlando, Florida for the International Career Development Conference. Nine students participated in various events and leadership workshops at the four-day conference that took place in late April.

Sophomore Ryan Eng placed in the top ten of all competitors in the Financial Consulting event. There were over 250 students from the United

States and Canada competing in this event. Ryan was also recognized for having one of the top five test scores in his category.

Juniors Henry Saltzman, Brandon Weinberg, Bella Fiore, Devon Danielovich, and Lauren Kieltyka all earned achievement level scores in their events.

DECA is the co-curricular Marketing Club of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The goal of the club is to provide emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs the opportunities to become college and career ready. Mrs. Marjorie FitzGibbon is the DECA advisor at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.



(above) Ryan Eng, who placed in the top ten of all competitors in Financial Consulting event.

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools



(above) Back Row: Brandon Weinberg, Henry Saltzman, Jimmie McNichol, Sam Feinberg, Ryan Eng and Connor Alchus; Front Row: Bella Fiore, Devon Danielovich and Lauren Kieltyka.



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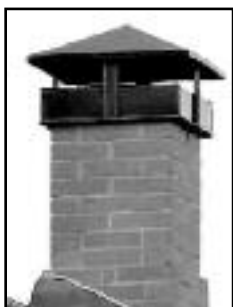




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TRISHAN RAY WINS SECOND IN HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH CHALLENGE

Trishan Ray, an Evergreen Elementary Fourth Grade Student, won second place in Pomptonian's First Annual Healthy School Lunch Challenge for creating rainbow veggie pancakes. On May 14, 2019, Trishan's winning

creation was prepared in Evergreen's lunchroom by Pomptonian's kitchen staff where Trishan's fellow students, teachers and staff were able to sample his delicious, healthy and colorful veggie pancakes.



(above, l-r) Trishan Ray holds his banner as he poses with school staff.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools

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LIONS CLUB GRANTS SCHOLARSHIPS



(above) Aubrey Bagdonas

Aubrey Bagdonas and Ryan Ackerman, both of Scotch Plains were recently awarded Grausso/Bendel Memorial Scholarships from the Scotch Plains Lions Club. This scholarship is in memory of two former leaders of the Scotch Plains Lions Club - Norm Bendel and Tony Grausso.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a Scotch Plains Fanwood High School senior who plans to go to college. Preference is given to students who have demonstrated involvement in community service especially those causes dedicated to the blind and visually impaired. The Lions Clubs are the World's largest and most active service organizations. They have more than 1.4 million members active in more than 43,000 Lions clubs around the world. They are dedicated to meeting a variety of their community's needs with the association's major service initiative being serving the blind and

visually impaired.

Both Aubrey and Ryan were honor students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and both were involved in many community service activities.

Some of Aubrey's community service activities included volunteering with the Mighty Ducks Special Olympics swim team where she taught some blind children how to swim. She will be attending Villanova University in the fall studying Business.

Ryan has been active as a volunteer in organizations supporting veterans and their pets. One of the activities has been to assist a blind veteran. Ryan will attend Penn State University in the fall majoring in Social Data Analytics.

For more information on the Scotch Plains Lions Club or to attend a meeting call the club's president Barbara Anilo at 908-322-4472.



(above) Ryan Ackerman

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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

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On Saturday, June 29, 2019 (rain date June 30th), the Township of Scotch Plains will host its annual Independence Day Fireworks at the Scotch Hills Golf Course.

This year's celebration will feature a performance by The Scotch Plainsmen, a talented group of musicians who have performed as the backup band for our own Pat DiNizio of the Smithereens during his solo performances. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA will host a "Red, Y, and Blue" station with fun activities for kids. Food Vendors will be on site throughout the evening. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises. Pre-fireworks activities begin at 7:30 p.m. so

come out early and set down chairs and blankets to take in the show. The fireworks will go off at dusk.

Please wear comfortable shoes; no heels will be permitted on the golf course. There will be several road closures leading up to and during the event to ensure safety for pedestrians and motorists alike. Please check the Township website: www.scotchplainsnj.gov for details.

The golf course will be open Saturday morning for golfers; the last tee time is at 12:00 noon. The course will re-open at Noon on Sunday, June 30th.

For more information please contact the Manager's Office at (908)322-6700 Ext. 314.



Photos from 2016 Independence Day can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Fanwood Post page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/fanwoodpost). Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share."

FREE SUMMER MOVIES AT LA GRANDE PARK

The Fanwood Recreation Commission 2019 Free Summer Movie Series at La Grande Park continues. Enjoy a night under the stars watching one of Hollywood's latest family-friendly flicks on Fanwood's state-of-the-art, 16 foot-wide outdoor movie screen!

The series continues every Tuesday evening for eight consecutive weeks. Be sure to bring a blanket or a beach chair! (And maybe some bug spray too.)

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Peter Rabbit

Tuesday, July 9, 8:30 PM

Smallfoot

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Tuesday, July 23, 8:15 PM

Ralph Breaks the Internet

Tuesday, July 30 8:15 PM

Incredibles 2

Tuesday, August 6, 8:15 PM

Mary Poppins Returns

Tuesday, August 13, 8:00 PM

*Rain date for all movies is the following evening except for the July 2nd movie, which has no rain date. For more information, go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call (908) 370-7092.

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LOCAL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ENJOY PROM NIGHT

In this season of high school proms, one stood out. The prom goers were dressed to the nines, the lights were low and the music loud and the dance floor beckoned. Yet these prom goers were not teenagers but rather adults with developmental disabilities.

Dozens of members of Community Access Unlimited attended this annual special prom held at the agency's headquarters. CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.

"People with disabilities often do not have the opportunity to go to a prom when they are younger because they either attend an alternative school that does not hold the event or they are not invited to their traditional school prom," said Rolando Zorilla, CAU's managing assistant executive director. "So a number of years ago our member self-advocacy group decided to hold their own prom and have it each year to ensure that every member who missed prom when they were younger would have the chance to celebrate their own evening again and again."

This year's prom was CAU member Steven Agolia's fourth and he said he looks forward to the evening every year.

"I wanted to come tonight to mingle and see some old friends," he said. "Socialization is important, being with people who care about you and meeting new people."

Randy Mercado and Mary Jane French have been dating for years and were one of the many couples who took to the dance floor.

"We're a couple," Mercado said when asked why they came to the event. "I like the food and I like to dance."

French looked stunning in her lilac dress with sequins.

"I'm enjoying being dressed up and I'm looking forward to dancing," she said. "It's also a great opportunity to see old friends."

CAU's prom is hosted by its member self-

advocacy program, Helping Hands.

"I think it's great we do this for the members," said Juana Quinn, an officer of Helping Hands who never had a prom when she was in high school. "That's the sad thing about being disabled. Most of the members never had a chance to go to prom because people think it's not important to us. But it is."

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow CAU on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About Community Access Unlimited

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the

community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 5,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

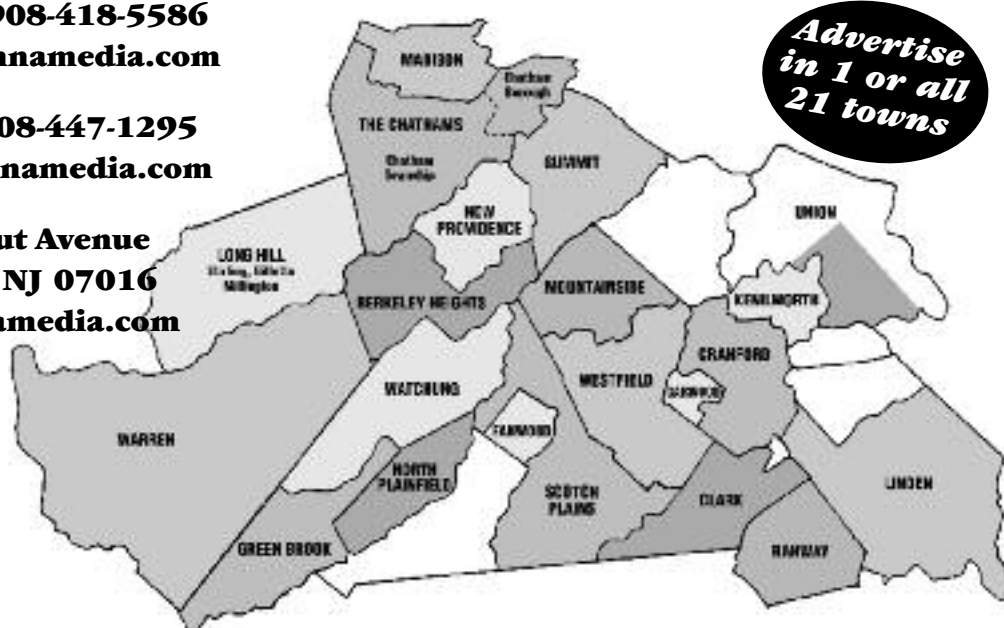
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(above) Juana Quinn is an officer in Helping Hands, Community Access Unlimited's member self-advocacy program that sponsors the annual event.

FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS GIRL SCOUTS RECOGNIZED

Submitted by Julie Murphy

On June 5, 2019, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Girl Scouts recognized five girls who have completed the Gold Award, 11 who have completed the Silver Award, and 10 who are graduating from high school.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that high school-age Girl Scouts can earn. After completing prerequisites each girl plans and creates a sustainable community service project addressing an issue of interest to her. This year's FSP Gold Award recipients and their projects are:

Katherine Agnello observed that every year, high school seniors graduate and go off on their own for the first time. They don't understand how to make the right choices in order to maintain a healthy diet. Katie's Girl Scout Gold Award project worked to fight this lack of knowledge by educating incoming college students about healthy eating choices. During four classes she taught recipes, tips, trivia, and creative challenges to give students a fun way to understand why good nutrition is important. Katie also created a website featuring short videos demonstrating how to make some of the delicious food made during the classes plus even more tips and recipes.

Audrey Davis created a special-needs walking club called the A.W.A.R.E. Club (Active Walking and Respite Exercise Club). The project helped special needs teens and young adults grow physically, become socially active, and created lifelong connections with their volunteer walking buddies. Over six sessions during the summer of 2018 A.W.A.R.E. Club grew to more than 70 participants and made a tremendous impact on the special-needs community throughout all of New Jersey. The club will continue in the summer of 2019 with the help of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Department for Persons with Special Needs.

Rachella Carlino created a music therapy program at the Chelsea Nursing Home called "Songs Make Smiles" to use music as a tool to stimulate memories and brain activity in dementia patients. Rachella sang multiple songs to the residents every week and printed song booklets so they could join in. Selecting songs from when most of the residents were younger helped spark emotions and memories among the group. Rachella also organized crafts and projects for residents who preferred to listen to the music rather than sing. Other students from the high school music department joined Rachella at every session to help engage and connect with the residents and stayed after the music to talk to the residents about the music they heard.

Anita Dazzo worked with the organization Need2Read, which promotes literacy in low income families in Union County. Anita started a Need2Read club at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School that gained more than 50 members. This year the club hosted a book drive, a fundraiser, and an event to raise awareness. An event was held at McGinn Elementary School with 3rd and 4th grade students where club members presented a variety of fun reading activities and spoke about homelessness and the effects it can have on literacy. The high school club members also volunteer with homeless children to promote reading and help with homework at events held in the community by Need2Read.

Isabella Verga incited interest in music education and addressed the need for music education in communities that lack resources. She collected a total of 66 used instruments from people in her community that were donated to Asbury Park Music Foundation, which refurbishes instruments and provides them to students of local music programs who desire to play but cannot afford to buy their own instruments. Isabella also hosted a booth at community street fairs that provided children

with interactive experiences with a variety of instruments, and created an informational flyer that educates parents on the benefits of music education.

Troop leaders of Gold Award recipients are Courtney Agnello, Sally Davis, Susan Dazzo, Tina Fairweather, Liz Maythenyi, Maureen McNamara, Jennifer Power, and Susan Schuman.

The Silver Award is the highest award that can be earned by Girl Scouts of middle-school age. This year's FSP Silver Award recipients and their projects are:

Amanda Hill and Ivana Fontora completed a project with Lifeline Animal Rescue, a rescue center for cats.

Victoria Solsky, Dylan Klein and Olivia Linderman created a reading program with the Coles School PTA After School Enrichment Program.

Sofia Ciullo worked on character development activities with children at Plainfield Elementary School.

Alexa Fazio and Alyssa Warbeck created birdhouses with residents of Brightview Senior Living in Warren.

Katelyn Gaulin, Natalie Green, Maeve Kahora and Catie Wilson collected donated sports equipment and painted a mural on the recreation building at Farley Field in Scotch Plains.

At the conclusion of the evening graduating 12th grade Girl Scouts walked over a ceremonial bridge to symbolize their passage to adult Girl Scouts, and Gold Award recipient Isabella Verga played "Taps" on the trumpet.



(above) Gold Award recipients with Julie Murphy representing the FSP Rotary Club.

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