

Fanwood Post NJ

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FANWOOD BOROUGH'S HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Fanwood's annual holiday celebration was held on Sunday, December 8, 2019. The festivities began when the Fire Department delivered Santa on their truck, then everyone was invited to meet with him and have their photo taken under the big tent on the lawn in front of the North Avenue Train

Station. Also under the tent were arts and crafts, treats, student carolers and a band, and more! The event concluded with lighting the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn. This event was sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.



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

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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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FANWOOD BIDS FAREWELL TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

Monday, December 16, 2019, was the last public meeting for veteran clerk/borough administrator Eleanor McGovern who retired on Dec. 31st after 35 years of service. Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell, her friend for many years, spoke of the many thousands of people Eleanor touched in her duties as borough administrator. Other Council members expressed their gratitude for her tireless work and her help in getting new Council members oriented. Eleanor received a fleece jacket with her name and the Borough seal embroidered.

Tom Kranz ended his stint on the Council after two terms. He did not run for re-election this year. Tom served six years and sat on the Public Safety, Health and Senior Services committees and was chairman of the Administration and Finance committee the past two years. A 26-year resident of Fanwood, Tom is still a volunteer with the Fanwood Rescue Squad and hopes to continue responding to 911 calls going forward.

Borough Attorney Russ Huegel was recognized. Huegel resigned as a Councilman in 2018 to become the Borough Attorney. Mayor Mahr acknowledged his ten years of service as a Councilman. Both Russ and Tom received commemorative plaques recognizing their Council service.



(above) Veteran clerk/borough administrator Eleanor McGovern, and Councilman Tom Kranz.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Trish Nering, a resident of Russell Road in Fanwood, was honored for her 25 years of volunteer work in collecting food, clothing and other necessities for people in need in our community. Her group, Heart for Humanity, is especially busy around holidays, collecting goods for those in need. Trish received the traditional print of the historic Fanwood train station from Councilwoman Trisha Walsh, a Russell Road neighbor, during the December 16, 2019 meeting.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

Scholarship applications for 2020-2021 are available from the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains. The application can be obtained from the SPFH counseling office or online at spfk12.org or fspcollegeclub.org.

Scholarships are awarded annually to women who are high school seniors or college students who plan to pursue a Baccalaureate degree at a four-year college.

Scholarships totaling \$37,000 were awarded for the academic year 2019-2020 to eleven students, six high school seniors of the Class of 2019 and five who were attending college.

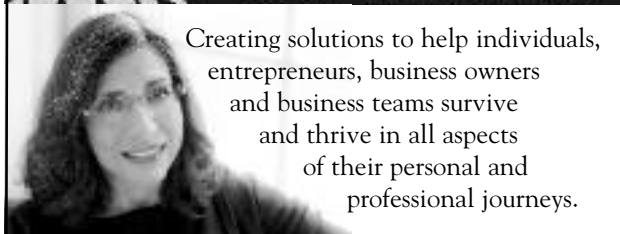
To be eligible for consideration, high school applicants must be residents of Fanwood or

Scotch Plains. College applicants must be local residents of Fanwood or Scotch Plains at the time they graduate from high school.

Scholarships are awarded based on three primary characteristics of the applicants: financial need, academic achievement, and character of the applicant.

This will be the 84th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been helped by the club's fund-raising efforts. To date the College Club has awarded approximately \$667,000 in scholarships to approximately 540 women.

Application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2020 to be considered.



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(above, l-r) Last year scholarships totaling \$37,000.00 were awarded by the College Club of F-SP to (sitting) Jillian Lapidus, Madison Haught, Aubrey Bagdonas, (standing) Olivia Gelding, Audrey Davis, Isabella Hurtado, Alexis Marta, Melanie Litwin and Vanessa Handy. Not pictured: Olivia Welham and Olivia Barcia.



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CHELSEA CELEBRATES 103RD BIRTHDAY OF RESIDENT WALTER DOER

Walter Doer, a bicycling enthusiast who cycled into his 90's, celebrated his 103rd birthday on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the Chelsea at Fanwood assisted living residence, 295 South Avenue, Fanwood.

Mr. Doer, originally from Newark, lived in

New Jersey all his life. He worked as a tool and dye maker for 40 years and had a talent for building clocks and watches. He and his late wife Lorraine raised their daughter, Diane, in Kearney.

He won many awards as a bicyclist while a

member of the North Jersey Wheelmen Bicycle Club.

Surrounded by friends and Chelsea staff, Mr. Doer enjoyed cake and was read a proclamation by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr naming December 3 Walter Doer Day.



(above) Walter blows with Chelsea staff at the birthday celebration.

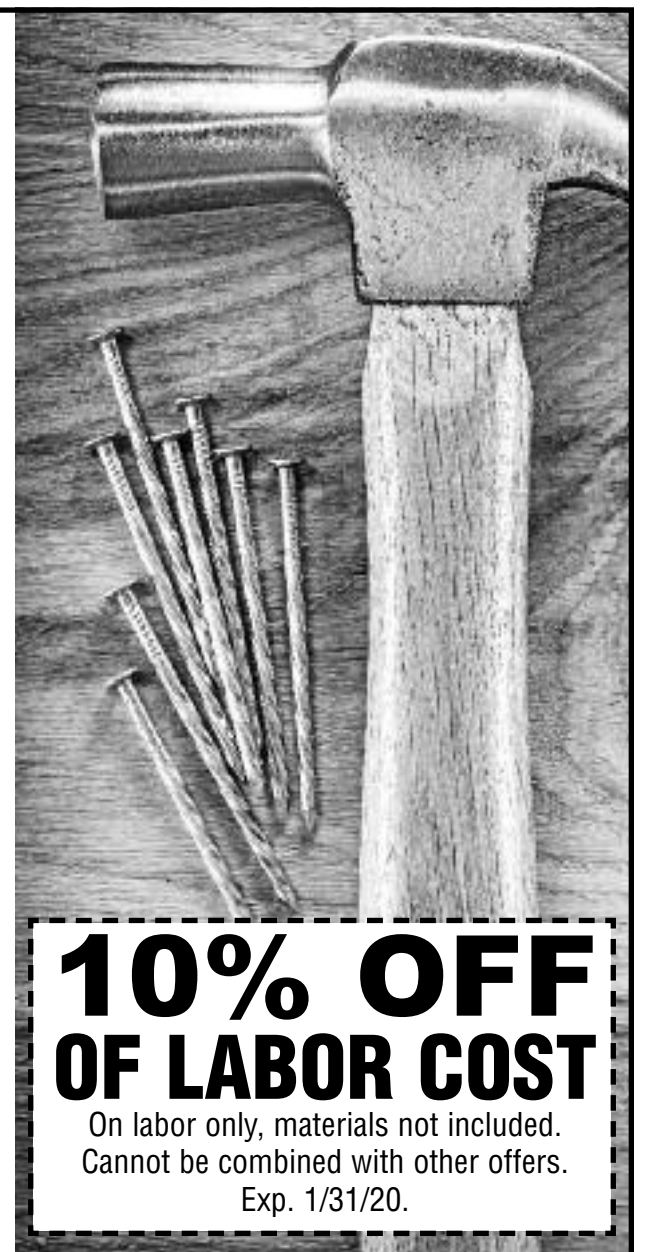
Photos by Tom Kranz, Chelsea Senior Living



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THIRD GRADERS WELCOME THE ROTARY CLUB

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Elementary third grade students welcomed the Rotary Club into their schools on November 13, 2019. Every year our third graders look forward to

their visit with the Rotarians as they present the students with dictionaries to open up their world of vocabulary as a chance to help promote great readers and writers.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is grateful to the Rotary Club for supporting our schools.

Photos by SFPS Public Schools



(above) School One with their dictionaries from the Rotary Club.



(above) Coles third grade students pose with their new dictionaries.



(above) Brunner School on Dictionary Day.



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SPF HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND RECOGNIZED FOR A WINNING SEASON

Submitted by Patrice Barth

On November 14, 2019 the SPF Board of Education recognized the SPF Marching Band at their monthly meeting for their remarkable 2019 Fall Marching Band Season. The Marching Band earned a top 3 placement in every competition

this season and were first in 3 of 7 competitions for the 2019 season.

Led by Band Director: Mr. Durand Thomas, Assistant Director: Mr. John Gillick Jr., Color Guard Director: Ms. Jackie Tumolo, Assistant Directors: Jackie Close and Katie Westerlund, and Volunteers: Cristabella Fortna, Tracy Prusik and Allan Romero, the SPF Marching Band earned a Silver Medal in the U.S. Bands NJ States Group VI A Championship in Allentown, PA with a score of 87.37, earning the award for Best Visual and earning the prestigious Cadets Esprit DeCorps "Award of Excellence" in recognition of Creativity, Performance and Overall Effect. At the same competition they were awarded with a Bronze Medal with a score of 92.46, winning the caption of Visual Effect.

The SPF Marching Band should be commended for their outstanding talent, dedication, and teamwork throughout the season. This team received well-deserved recognition from fellow students, staff and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood communities for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments.



(above) Marching band faculty Durand Thomas, Jackie Tumolo, Cristabella Fortna, Katherine Westerlund and John Gillick, Jr. were recognized.



(above) The SPF marching band receiving awards.

Photos by SFPS Public Schools

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HOPE LIES IN THE PAST IN NEW SCI-FI NOVEL BY TOM KRANZ

COLLEGE CLUB OF F-SP JANUARY PROGRAM

A journalist for 40-plus years, Mark DiIunno has penned five books since 1997. “Gods of Wood and Stone,” released in 2018 will be the topic of his program on January 20th. The novel is a riveting story of baseball, pop culture and nostalgia.

DiIunno grew up in Summit and trained as a journalist while serving in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Rutgers University, he worked as a sports columnist, sports and news reporter, features writer and editor. As a news columnist with the Star-Ledger, his coverage of New Jersey families recovering from Hurricane Sandy made him a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2013.

The program is free and open to the public. It will take place at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 Martine Avenue, Fanwood (around the back at the McDermott Street entrance). It will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be found on the club’s website at fspcollegeclub.org.



(above) College Club of F-SP will host Mark DiIunno, journalist and author, on Jan. 20.

REGISTER FOR WINTER SENIORS PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for Fanwood Recreation’s winter programs for seniors. Programs include Aerobics, Yoga, Meditation, Zumba, Water Exercise and Tai Chi and run weekly beginning the week of January 6. All these programs will be held in Fanwood’s Forest Road Park recreation building except for Water Exercise, which will be held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool, 1391 Martine Ave, Scotch Plains.

For more information about these classes, including schedule and fees, and to register online and pay by credit card, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Fanwood Councilman Tom Kranz has published his third novel, *Time Travel Rescue*, a science fiction thriller in which climate change turns Earth into a dying dystopia.

Living in a wasteland that is beyond repair becomes too much for Rick who, like most of those left on the planet in 2212, works for the Big Five mega-corporation. A chance, online meeting with a young hacker named Chen leads to a perilous journey through a wormhole back to the 21st century where he and Chen hope to set things right before they go terribly wrong. Unbeknown to Rick is Chen’s propensity for violence and her murderous exploits complicate an otherwise altruistic mission.

Rick’s 21st-century guide, the smart and attractive Jill Strawbridge, introduces him to the charms and challenges of life 157 years before he was born. Their time together sparks mutual curiosity that draws them into something more than just a working relationship.

“Writing science fiction was harder than I thought it would be,” Kranz said. “It’s the science that makes science fiction intriguing. I tried not to get bogged down in too much nerd-speak because I’m not a visionary or a physics expert, but I had some ideas on what the future might look like if we keep abusing the environment and ignoring the signs of the damage we’re doing. There is a lot of information available from people smarter than me on how our world will be affected in as few as thirty years from now.”

Kranz researched some of the elements of his story with help from his brother-in-law, John Kamal, a Philadelphia public school science



(above) Kranz, a Fanwood Councilman, recently published his third novel.

The book cover of Tom Kranz’s third novel, *Time Travel Rescue*, a science fiction thriller.

teacher with a Master’s in mechanical engineering and a previous life designing power systems for NASA. He holds a patent for the nuclear-powered device like the one that saved Matt Damon’s character in *The Martian*.

“I bounced a couple of ideas off John about what kinds of power and propulsion systems personal-sized vehicles might need to take off and fly for extended periods and reach great speeds, and whether it could happen in our century,” Kranz says. “I think he found it fun. But my emphasis in science fiction is definitely on the fiction.”

Time Travel Rescue is available in paperback and e-book exclusively at Amazon. More info can also be found at tomkranzbooks.com.

“OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS” WITH THE SPF WOMEN’S NETWORK

Submitted by Elaine Coupe

The SPF Women’s Network is hosting a Women’s Conference entitled “Overcoming Obstacles to Success” on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Shady Rest starting at 7:00 p.m.

The SPF Women’s Network is a newly founded group that came together with the desire to “build community”. The mission of the group is to provide an opportunity for the women of Scotch Plains/Fanwood to gather, share their stories, make greater connections and establish relationships with other women in our great towns. The inaugural event will be held on January 23rd at the Shady Rest at 7:00 p.m. and will include a panel of impressive women from Scotch Plains/Fanwood.

The diverse panel includes Bernadette Rossi of Rossi Funeral Home, Oshanda Erb of the US Air Force, Kristen Bush or NY1, Samantha Kowalczyk of MettaCasa and Sofia Casimiro of Catcalls of Union County. These women will share their experiences and how they overcame obstacles in their path to success. Each woman has an interesting story to tell.

While the panel discussion is the main part of the night, the real purpose is to bring the women of our towns together and to start building

relationships and community. The night will be filled with stories, sharing and the beginning of friendships. Moving forward, the Network will ask the guests what they would like to see in the future.

The team behind the scenes are a group of women who care for our community consisting of Elaine Coupe, Susanna Cates, Holly Schneider-Brown, Margaret Heisey, Betsy Ringel, Phyllis Mirabella, Lisa Mohn and Kelly Watson.

“We recognized the need to provide a place and opportunities for the women of Scotch Plains/Fanwood to come together, share their lives and build a community,” explains Elaine Coupe.

The event is free and is open to all SPF Women.

To register, email SPFWomensNetwork@gmail.com. (There is babysitting upon request.)

The group would like to highlight woman owned businesses in Scotch Plains/Fanwood in their program. If you would like to have your business listed, please send an email. This night will be the first of many gatherings for the women of our great towns!

FANWOOD RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Registration is now open for Fanwood Recreation's Winter Programs for Children. Programs include: LEGO Club, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Squirts Multi Sports, Squirts Soccer, K-2 Reading Program, English Essay

Writing, Pre-School Drawing, SAT Prep, Elementary Drawing, Babysitting Certification Class and Teen Hip Hop Experience.

For more information about all these programs and to register, please visit fanwoodrecreation.org.

TINY TIM BOARD THANKS COMMUNITY FOR CAROL NIGHT SUPPORT

The members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Tiny Tim Fund Board would like to thank all residents who shared holiday spirit and solicited donations during the annual Carol Night event on December 4, 2019 and made it a successful fundraiser for the organization. With gratitude and appreciation to all caroling groups and to all generous donors, the Tiny Tim Fund will be able to carry on its mission of assisting local families. Special thanks are extended to the general manager of the Stage House Inn and Tavern on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, who graciously provided us with a warm room in the Stage House as the collection site for the donation canisters and a comfortable space for carolers to enjoy refreshments provided by the members of the Tiny Tim Board members and the Stage

House.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children of Scotch Plains and Fanwood in need of medical or dental services, psychological testing, prescriptions or medical supplies and equipment. The organization was established in 1983 and is run by a volunteer Board of Trustees comprised of residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood with diverse backgrounds in fields such as education, medicine, religion, social work and business. Donations and/ or referrals for assistance can be made in writing to: The Tiny Tim Fund, Inc., PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Sincerely,

The Tiny Tim Board of Trustees

MADRIGAL SINGERS TO PRESENT POST-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Madrigal Singers will present their annual "Last Chance at Christmas" concert, "A Child is Born", on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the United Methodist Church, 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, New Jersey at 4:00 p.m. General admission, available at the door, is \$15; admission for students and seniors is \$10.

The program will feature music by Melchior Franck, Jean Mouton, Tomas Luis de Victoria and many others, along with traditional favorites and Christmas Readings.

The Madrigal Singers are an a capella choral

group specializing in Mediaeval and Renaissance music.

The group, founded in 1948, is currently under the direction of John Sichel, and is comprised of sopranos Martha Desmond and Amy Wechsler; altos Donna Brumbaugh, Roberta Lichtenberg, Jennifer Melick, Holly Hartline and Sarah Riffel; tenors Richard DeVany, Christopher Ferro and Thom Reese; basses Greg Hartline, Scott Hobson, Kirk Robbins and Gordon Rowan. Kirk Robbins will perform the readings and flutes will be played by Eugenia Cline and Clarissa Nolde.

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CHESSE CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazarus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McMauliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, r-l) Kenilworth Chess Club President Jack McCorkell, Vice President Dave Lazarus, John Moldovan, Treasurer Geoff McMauliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.

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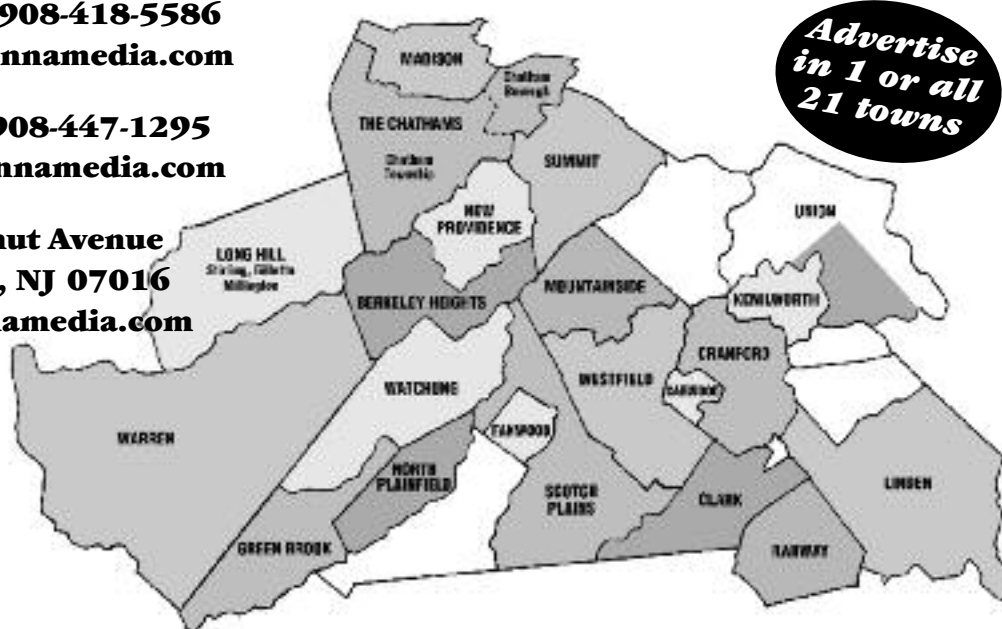
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