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COLES PTA SPONSORS WINTER WEATHER CLOTHING DRIVE

Submitted by Elizabeth Valcich

Just in time for the arctic air and snowstorm, the J.A. Coles School winter weather clothing drive was a huge success. We were able to donate three large trash bags full of scarves, hats, and socks to those in need this winter. Donations were dropped off at St. Bartholomew Church in Scotch Plains to be distributed to those in need, including the veterans at Friends of Valley Brook.

Elaine Coupe, Director of Community Outreach at St. Bartholomew Church thanked the Coles community and added, "The Vets have fallen on hard times during COVID. Warm socks, hats, and gloves let them know that we still care about them and they are not forgotten."

The J.A. Coles PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to enhance the educational experience of our students and support the staff and parents at the J. A. Coles School.



(above) Poppy, Chloe the dog and Cole Muhlstock.



(above) Jack, Piper and Cadence Hamel with donations.

Photos by Fanwood Scotch Plains Public Schools

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J.A. COLES PTA SUPPORTS STAFF IN A CHALLENGING YEAR

Submitted by Elizabeth Valcich

The Coles PTA has been busy providing encouragement to its hard working teachers and staff during the 2020-2021 school year. We kicked off a return to hybrid learning on January 19 with a special surprise for our amazing Coles teachers and staff. As they entered the building, staff was greeted by beautiful signage donated by Insta Yard Grams. This sweet company worked with us to make sure that the signage was up for the entire week to show our teachers and staff some extra love as we transitioned back to hybrid learning.

You can follow Insta Yard Grams on Facebook or Instagram at instayardgrams.

In addition to the signage, the PTA kicked off the school year in September by Chalking the Walk with positive messages and gave each staff member a mask with the Coles Tiger logo. In lieu of the traditional home baked cookies for the holidays, the PTA provided staff with candy bags and a catered lunch. Our staff works so hard for our children and the PTA was grateful to be able to provide these well deserved treats and words of encouragement.



Photos by J.A. Coles PTA

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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 RECREATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER COUNSELORS

Fanwood Recreation is now accepting applications for Summer Counselor jobs. For more information, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org/job-applications.

Early registration is now open for Spring programs for kids and adults, including Karate Beginner Class in the Park, Skateboarding Lessons, Babysitting Certification Class, TGA Premier Junior Golf Lessons, Design the

Peasant Top, and Design the Paper Bag Shorts. All these programs will be held outdoors, and more programs are still being added. For more information about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

The opening registration date for Fanwood Recreation's 8-week Summer Park Program (day camp) will be announced soon.

REGISTER FOR SPRING, SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Fanwood Recreation announces that registration is now open for these spring programs that begin in April: Skateboarding Lessons, TGA Premier Junior Golf Lessons, Babysitting Certification Class, Karate Beginner Class in the Park (for adults too!), Design the Peasant Top, Design the Paper Bag Shorts, T-Ball Squirts, Parent & Me T-Ball Squirts, Soccer Squirts, Squirts Multi-Sports, Parent & Me Soccer and Parent & Me Sport Squirts. More

programs are still being added.

Also, registration is now open for the 8-week Fanwood Recreation Summer Park Program (day camp). You can register for one week, all eight weeks or any number of weeks in between. More summer programs are still being added.

All these programs will be held outdoors and will adhere to health safety guidelines. For more information about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

SAVE THE WORLD – PLANT A TREE!

Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Go Green Initiative is collaborating with Tree-Plenish to offset the paper usage at our school. SPFHS consumed over 2.4 million sheets of paper in the 2018-2019 school year, so our goal is to sell and plant 240 trees in our community.

There are three selections, River Birch,

Eastern Redbud, and Red Maple. For only \$5/tree you can help to bring more trees to the community. With a small action of planting a new tree in your yard, it can help future generations preserve nature and create a culture of conservation.

For more information, visit tree-plenishevents.org/spf.

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Want to get outside and enjoy the fresh air? Help improve our environment one small space at a time? Get creative using nature?

We are looking for volunteers to help maintain gardens at Borough Hall and other areas around Fanwood. The gardens or areas to be maintained already exist - no new ground will have to be cleared. The Environmental Commission will provide guidance, advice and know how (and garden tools if needed). If interested, please send us a note at fanwood.ec.1895@gmail.com.

AREAS UP FOR GRABS:

- Flag Pole garden in front of Borough Hall
- Rain garden at the side of Borough Hall
- Carriage House (front and sign areas)
- Area around the Ambulance HQ
- Welcome to Fanwood Signs
- and others...

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4TH GRADERS LEARN CODE AT COLES

Submitted by Elizabeth Valcich

Barclays Capital volunteers recently hosted a virtual Code Playground event for the 4th grade students at J. Ackerman Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains, NJ. The students learned the basics of programming through coding a video game in Scratch. The 4th graders were so excited to create their own video game from start to finish.

The Barclays program is hosted by a Coles parent and Barclays employee, Marci Needle, whose daughter is currently in 4th grade. Dr. Karen Wetherell, principal at Coles, feels fortunate to have hosted Barclays Coding Playground for the past 5 years.

"Coles 4th grade is so grateful to Mrs. Needle and the volunteers from Barclays," said Wetherell. "Teaching coding to students is not easy and teaching virtually added another level to the challenge. The Barclays group made it look easy! Giving our students this experience enhanced their skills in sequencing, counting, problem solving, logical thinking, cause and effect, and critical thinking. Plus, it's really cool to create a video game!"

Wetherell commented that it is always a great experience, enjoyed by everyone and she, the teachers, and the students appreciate the time and patience of the Barclays team in working with Coles School.

"I really liked coding my own video game,"

commented 4th grader Finn Doyle. "I can't wait to keep coding."

"My favorite part was learning how to make the characters move," added 4th grader Caroline Valcich.



(above) 4th grader Caroline Valcich enjoys coding her own video game.

Photo by FSP Public Schools

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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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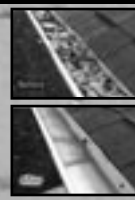
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JANUARY 20TH NAMED JACK ROSS DAY

A resolution has been adopted naming January 20, 2021 Jack Ross Day to officially thank Jack Ross for serving as a role model for all residents to follow.

Special Officer Jack Ross has been a resident of the Borough of Fanwood since 1976 and served as a Special Police Officer for 40 years.

The resolution states in part: Jack has been married to his wife Arlene for over 50 years, and has volunteered his time to the Borough of

Fanwood since 1980 in many capacities and leadership roles, including, but not limited to the Halloween Parade and Costume Contest, Memorial Day Parade, Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Tree lighting, 5k's, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer movies in the park, election day security, court security, walking the beat in the business district during the holiday season, assisting during storms and backup to our crossing guards, and has maintained his training and has completed all annual mandatory training, including firearms qualifications, use of force, domestic violence, and pursuit policies.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Colleen Mahr, Mayor, do hereby proclaim January 20, 2021 as Jack Ross Day in the Borough of Fanwood and ask all who know him to mark our good fortune of having this extraordinary man as a resident and a contributor to the well-being of our community.

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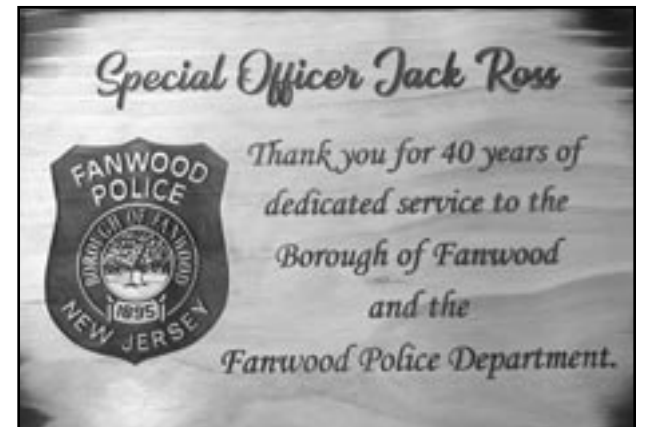
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Photos by Borough of Fanwood

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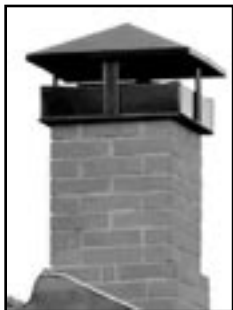
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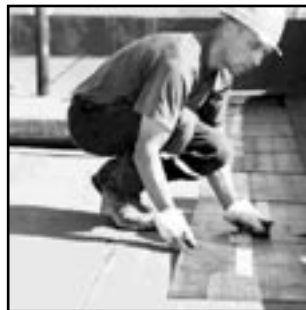
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Older adults in particular are encouraged to join these classes, which are designed to address the loss of balance and strength that can occur as we age. Yasmin's instruction integrates principles from the Feldenkrais Method, which

emphasizes moving with awareness to allow your nervous system to discover easier, more efficient movement patterns. Combined with her knowledge of anatomy and experience as a fitness trainer, Yasmin's classes can help you establish a better connection between the brain and body, while also gently strengthening the muscles that keep your body upright.

All you'll need are a chair and sneakers to begin this gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan! Registration is required. Please sign up at scotlib.org/events or call the Library at 908-322-5007, x204.

You will be sent the Zoom link prior to the class. Live closed-captioning will be available during the classes to anyone who would like to use this service.

Developed resources reported in this project are supported by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012342 with the University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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Veterans and their families who are experiencing a housing crisis may be eligible for emergency assistance such as motel/hotel stays, security deposits, rent, rental arrears, groceries and utilities through Community Hope.

Community Hope's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently providing assistance remotely. Urgent community-based services such as critical supplies and veteran wellness-checks are provided in person.

The increase in support services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19

pandemic is possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Community Hope is a nonprofit that helps individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty. Learn more at

communityhope-nj.org.

To make a referral, please call the referral hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or email SSVF@communityhope-nj.org, or email Gema Diaz at gdiaz@communityhope-nj.org.



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FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT HOLDS PROMOTION CEREMONY

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The Fanwood Police Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Officer Kevin Stomber and Officer Daniel Kranz to the rank of Sergeant.

Please join the Fanwood Police Department in congratulating Fanwood's newest Sergeants.



(above) Newly Promoted Sgt. Daniel Kranz and family.



(above) Newly promoted Sgt. Kevin Stomber accompanied by his family.

TINY TIM FUND BOARD THANKS COMMUNITY FOR FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

The members of the Tiny Tim Fund Board extend sincere thanks to all Scotch Plains and Fanwood neighbors as well as their family members and friends who assisted and supported the organization's contact-less fundraiser in December.

Many volunteers assisted board members in distributing more than 2,000 solicitation letters to residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Volunteers included members of the community who have participated in the Fund's

annual Carol Night fundraiser in the past as well as new volunteers who recognized the importance and difficulty of soliciting donations during a pandemic. The time devoted by groups from the SPFHS, the ST Bart's Youth Group and Girl Scout members is very much appreciated.

Gratitude and appreciation are also extended to the generous donors who have made it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue its mission of providing financial assistance to local families for children who need medical, dental

or psychological services as well as medical supplies and equipment.

Traditionally the Tiny Tim Fund, which is a registered NJ Non-Profit Corporation 501(c)(3), actively seeks funds once during the year. Donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated at any time as well as requests for referrals and financial assistance.

The Tiny Tim Fund can be contacted at TinyTimSPF@gmail.com or by mail at The Tiny Tim Fund, Inc., PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

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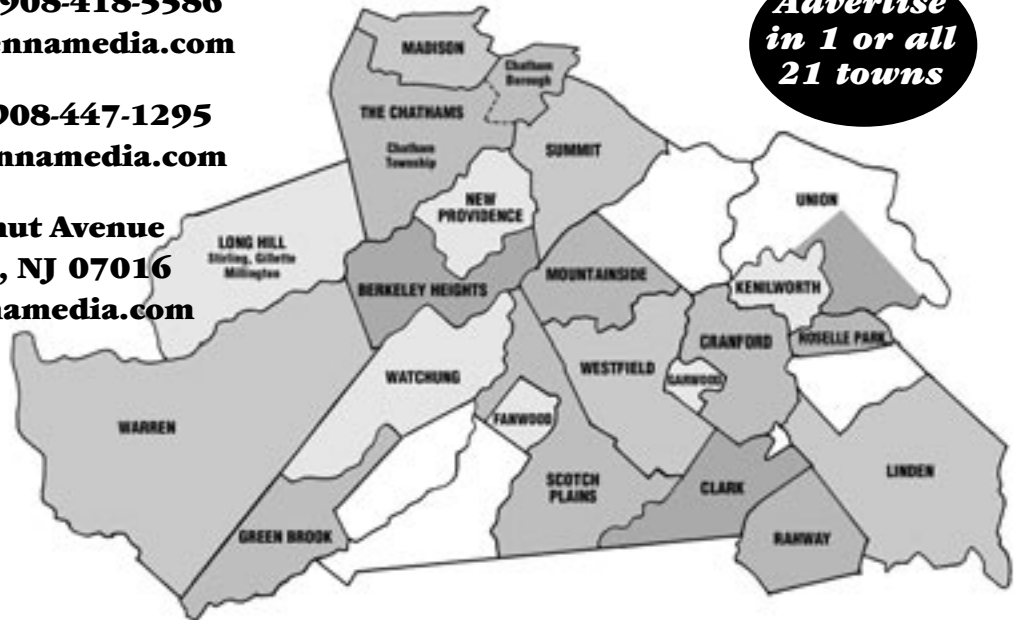
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MAKING MAGICAL MEMORIES AT CAMP FATIMA

Submitted by Sue Baldani

Like most nonprofit organizations, Camp Fatima of New Jersey is experiencing major challenges due to COVID-19. Founded in 1968 by four Seton Hall seminary students, the camp offers free sleep-away programs for disabled children and adults. And it's determined to continue doing so. Seeing the smiles on the faces of those it serves, and providing a respite to their families, is not something that can be sacrificed due to a pandemic.

And smile they do. It's not called FATIMAGIC for nothing. The campers, regardless of their disabilities, get to do things that most able-bodied children and adults take for granted. They splash around in pools, sing songs, eat s'mores, dance, and take part in arts and crafts. Every child has his or her own dedicated counselor to ensure the utmost care, so each activity can be individually tailored according to the camper's ability.

Its mission statement, "Camp Fatima provides free, life enriching camp experiences for children and adults with developmental disabilities," says it all. Some of the campers are in wheelchairs, while others have neurological, sensory or other serious issues. Camp Fatima and its volunteers open their hearts to all who come. It truly is a magical place.

The volunteers come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Most have experience working directly with the disabled, and include teachers, nurses, police officers, firefighters, college students and other professionals. For these selfless individuals, the sounds of laughter and the looks of pure joy on the campers' faces are all the payment they need.

Many of these volunteers live locally. Billy Malone, a Scotch Plains firefighter and Fanwood resident, became a volunteer in 1994 and has

been the chairperson for the past 13 years. Scotch Plains resident and former Scotch Plains police officer, Jamie Denman, has been a volunteer since 1979, and is the current director.

Even though no one at the camp is paid, all this magic requires funding. It costs several hundred thousand dollars to operate the two children's summer sessions and the four adult weekends each year. Funding to support and host the more than 200 campers and over 450 on site-volunteers comes from generous benefactors, corporate matching gifts, private giving, and fundraising. Because of COVID-19, many of the usual fundraisers are not able to take place. So this year, Camp Fatima is looking for individuals to sponsor a camper. The cost to feed, house, and supply materials to each camper is more than \$1,000.

To find out more about Camp Fatima, or to volunteer, make a donation, or sponsor a camper, please go to campfatimanj.org/. Since the camp is a designated 501(c) (3) organization, all donations may be tax-deductible.

Camp Fatima of New Jersey: Changing Lives, Enriching Hearts - One Camper, One Volunteer at a Time.



Photos by Camp Fatima

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