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## FANWOOD OFFICIALS ACCEPT STATEWIDE PLANNING AWARD



(above, l-r) Courtesy NJ Planning Officials: Elizabeth Jeffrey, Fanwood Director of Economic Development; Jeff Weinflash, Landmark Companies; Matt Juckes, Fanwood Planning Board Chairman; Matt Leshetz, Landmark Companies; Jake Harvitt, Landmark Companies; Antonios Panagopoulos, Fanwood Borough Engineer; Rayna Harris, Fanwood Business Administrator

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### Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood Borough officials accepted a 2021 Achievement in Planning Award from New Jersey Planning Officials, the statewide association of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment, during an awards breakfast on October 1 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ.

Fanwood won the award for its Station Square project, the 35-unit townhouse development by Landmark Companies located at 2nd Street and LaGrande Avenue. Station Square sits on the site of the former Dean Oil Company which left behind a polluted corner of land that sat fenced in and overgrown for a decade. Through the diligence of the developer Landmark and the support of Mayor Colleen Mahr, the Borough Council and Planning Board, the land was cleaned and finally certified by the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and Station Square was created. Today, these rental properties are highly desirable homes for couples, families and singles alike.



(above) Station Square photo courtesy of the Borough of Fanwood

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## 58TH EDITION CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

**Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club**  
 The 58th edition of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club Community Calendar for September 2021 through September 2022 provides the currently available dates of school events for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District K-12, Union Catholic High School and St. Bartholomew Academy. It also contains listings of local Houses of Worship, advertisements for local businesses, contact information for approximately 100 local organizations and a 2023 calendar preview.

Each year the College Club honors one of its long-time advertisers in the calendar. This year's featured advertiser is The Bike Stand, 1778 East Second Street, Scotch Plains. Steve Willis, the owner of The Bike Stand, has been a member of the Scotch Plains community for 40 years and he has supported the College Club for over 35 years.


The Bike Stand offers a varied selection of bicycles for sale but is best known for its quality mechanical work, offering exceptional turnaround time on most repairs.

Due to the loyalty and support of nearly 100 local advertisers, the entire purchase price of \$10 goes directly into the club's scholarship fund for scholarships that are awarded annually. The Community Calendar is a community service as well as a major source of scholarship funds each year. In May the College Club awarded \$31,500 in scholarships to eleven young women.

The College Club Community Calendar can be purchased from College Club members, the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries, and the following local merchants: Norman's Hallmark, Apple Blossom Flower Shop, Fanwood Larder, Scotchwood Florist and Shear Magic.



(above) College Club members Joanne Sheffield and Mari McDevitt congratulate Steve Willis, owner of The Bike Stand, for being selected as the featured advertiser in the 2021-22 College Club Community Calendar.



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(above, l-r) Mike Caporaso of Lebanon; Janet Colman of Warren; Karime Herrera of Elizabeth; James Walker Jr. of Elizabeth; Regina O'Connor of Fanwood; Komal Nankani of Summit; and Veronica Gardner of Union.

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## HALLOWEEN PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST

Fanwood's annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest returns on Sunday, October 31. Open to costumed creatures of all ages, paraders assemble outside the Fanwood Memorial Library at 6 p.m. and begin their march to La Grande Park at 6:15. Once the parade arrives, around 6:30, the frightful festivities continue with the Costume Contest, which is held within the park's asphalt circle. Residents are also invited to submit their diabolically decorated pumpkins for the Jack O'Lantern Contest. Enjoy the free refreshments! And for the kids: free glow-in-the-dark foam sticks, free light-up glasses and lots of prizes! (Quantities of all items are limited.) Please note: for the safety of everyone in attendance, all participants 2 and older must wear a face mask. (Halloween masks don't count.)

## LITTLE-KNOWN STORIES FROM NJ HISTORY

What was it like the night the Martians "invaded" New Jersey in 1938? How did Princeton residents feel about having Albert Einstein as a neighbor? What inspired young Charles Addams from Westfield to come up with his ghoulish cartoon creations? How did a teenage Bruce Springsteen from Freehold get his high school band into a recording studio?

Have you ever heard of Mundy Peterson from Perth Amboy, who cast an historic vote 150 years ago? How about Garret Hobart from Paterson, who was almost president of the United States? What about Col. Robert Johnson from Salem County and the legend of the poisonous tomato?

Local author Fred T. Rossi literally wrote the book on lesser-known stories about interesting people and unusual events from Garden State history.

Join Rossi, a writer and journalist for 30 years, at the November meeting of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood as he

recounts some of the fascinating tales in his book, *Jersey Stories: Stories You May Not Have Heard About People and Events in New Jersey History*.

"There's something for everyone in *Jersey Stories*," Rossi said. "History, politics, entertainment, lots of trivia and plenty of interesting characters and events. I think whether you're a New Jersey resident or an expatriate, you're sure to find something of interest in *Jersey Stories*."

The upcoming meeting is free and all are welcome. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, at the Shady Rest Scotch Hills Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Rd. (at the corner of Plainfield Avenue) in Scotch Plains. Note that in accordance with township policy, masks will be required in common areas of the building. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the presentation.

For further information, please contact Connie Klock at (908) 232-9489.

## TINY TIM FUND LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER

The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered NJ Non-Profit Corporation 503(c)(3) that provides financial assistance to help families pay for medical expenses of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The organization has been providing financial assistance to local families since 1983.

The Fund is administrated by a volunteer Board of Trustees which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community.

Traditionally, The Tiny Tim Carol Night held annually in December has been the organization's sole fundraiser. Last year in an effort to keep carolers and neighborhoods safe during the pandemic, a contactless fundraiser was held through publicity and a letter distribution campaign. Due to current COVID concerns, the trustees are preparing to launch the fund's second letter distribution campaign.

The success of the letter distribution campaign rests on the ability to distribute letters to as many homes as possible. Volunteers are needed to help deliver letters to local homes. Anyone interested in helping to distribute letters and/or to get more information can contact Barbara at 732-259-6348 or send an email to [TinyTimSPF@gmail.com](mailto:TinyTimSPF@gmail.com).

Donations from civic and service organizations, as well as donations from local citizens will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to provide assistance for current cases as well as to be able to accept referrals for financial assistance during the coming year. The trustees are anticipating that members of the community who have supported the Tiny Tim Fund in the past will make this year's mail-in fundraiser a success.

Donations and requests for assistance can be mailed to: The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

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## SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1951 REUNION

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reunion at The Stage House on Park Ave. in Class of 1951 recently celebrated their 70th class Scotch Plains.



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## ANNUAL DOLL & TOY EVENT - NOV 9

### Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop

Mark Tuesday, November 9 for the start of the annual Doll and Toy event at the non-profit Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop, located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains.

The store will be all “dolled up” with a wide selection of Barbie dolls, baby dolls and accessories, and limited edition porcelain collector dolls from companies like Heritage and Design Debut. Items for sale include toys from name-brands such as Fisher-Price and Melissa & Doug, as well as a series of Land’s End teddy bears by Gund housed in their original boxes. Puzzles and board games that are 100 percent complete, along with children’s books and DVDs that are either new or in excellent condition, could help to round out holiday shopping for the children on your list. Christmas-themed bric-a-brac will also be out for sale.

Donations of new or gently used dolls, toys, and seasonal décor will continue to be accepted throughout the month of November. Please note that any gift of giving and/or purchasing store items is an act of generosity, as all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are donated to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. It’s a great way to spread kindness as the holiday season approaches.

Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The shop will be closed Thanksgiving week from Tuesday, November 22 through Friday, November 26, opening on Saturday, November 27 for “Small Business Saturday.”

To protect our volunteer staff and other store patrons, face masks are required of everyone entering the store. Children are welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult. To learn more about the Service League and types of donations accepted call the store during Thrift Shop business hours at 908-322-5420.



(above) Rapunzel is just one of the porcelain collector dolls for sale at the Thrift Shop, sure to bring a fairy tale to life for a new young owner!

## ST. BARTHOLOMEW/UNICO ITALIAN FESTIVAL

Submitted by Paul Raphael

The community came out in full force to support the annual St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival held over Labor Day weekend in Scotch Plains, NJ.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States. The organization's objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO was chartered in 1973. Our chapter has raised and donated thousands of dollars annually to support scholarship programs, organizations and individuals in the New Jersey area. Since 1974, we have co-sponsored the St. Barts/UNICO Italian Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors over Labor Day weekend.

UNICO great pride in its rich history, cultural heritage, and dedicated membership. Our local chapter also has been recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” and has earned it place in our community for service to others and charitable contributions since its inception.

We invite you to learn more about UNICO. Please visit [unicospf.org](http://unicospf.org).



(above) SPF UNICO Members Paul and Genevieve Isolda pictured with daughter Mia.

Photo by Jon Joshua



(above) Metropolitan Procession Band playing at the St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival.

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## Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood Police Director Mike Bramhall hosted “Coffee With A Cop” on Wednesday, October 6 at the Railside Café, South and Martine Avenues. The Director, Officer in Charge Lt. Dan

Kranz and several other Fanwood police officers made themselves available to answer questions from residents, buy them coffee or just have a relaxed chat. Borough Council members Anthony Carter and Trisha Walsh were also on hand.



Photos by Tom Kranz

## FAREWELL TO RETIRING CFO FRED TOMKINS

### Borough of Fanwood

Fred Tomkins was given a warm sendoff Thursday night, October 7th, on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Financial Officer of Fanwood for the past 18 years. Co-workers, elected officials, friends and family gathered at Fanwood’s Houdini Pizza Lab for the celebration.

Tomkins, a veteran of north Jersey politics whose steady financial advice and guidance helped steer Fanwood through the past 15-years of growth, retired October 1st. Borough accountant Patricia Celardo was elevated to CFO.

Fanwood elected officials, including Mayor Colleen Mahr, lauded Tomkins as the wizard behind the curtain who had a major hand in the town’s financial policies and budgeting. Tomkins told the gathering his job was to remain behind the scenes while elected officials were the front-facing voices for the town.

Among parting gifts were a fleece jacket embroidered with his name and the town’s official seal and a pen crafted from Fanwood’s signature oak tree.

Tomkins expects to spend more quality time with his wife Kathy and their family.



(above) Fred mimics caricature drawn by Fanwood Recreation Director Bob Budianski, a talented artist

Photos by Tom Kranz

## MEET LOCAL AUTHOR, ROBERT E. CONSTANT, VIA ZOOM NOV. 15TH

College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains



(above) Robert E. Constant will be the presenter of a Zoom program hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains at

Robert E. Constant is the Associate Director for Leadership Gifts at Princeton University and is an adjunct Professor at Georgetown University. He leads fundraising activities for alumni in New York City and the state of Florida. He earned his Master’s degree from St. Thomas University in Miami, FL and his Bachelor’s degree from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL. He currently resides in Scotch Plains with his wife and two children.

Constant is an award-winning author who enjoys writing about people, places and communities that have impacted his life. During his presentation he will share information and insights about his children’s books. His book, Hey Tuskegee!, spotlights the importance of Tuskegee Alabama and Tuskegee University in our nation’s history. He is of Antiguan and Bahamian descent and has been traveling to the Bahamas since he was six weeks old. His book, Hello Grandma, takes his family back to the Bahamas where they learn about Bahamian culture, foods and animals.

The Zoom program will be hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains at 7:30 p.m. on November 15th. The program is free and open to the public. To receive a link to view this entertaining and informative program, send an email request to tishisack17@gmail.com.

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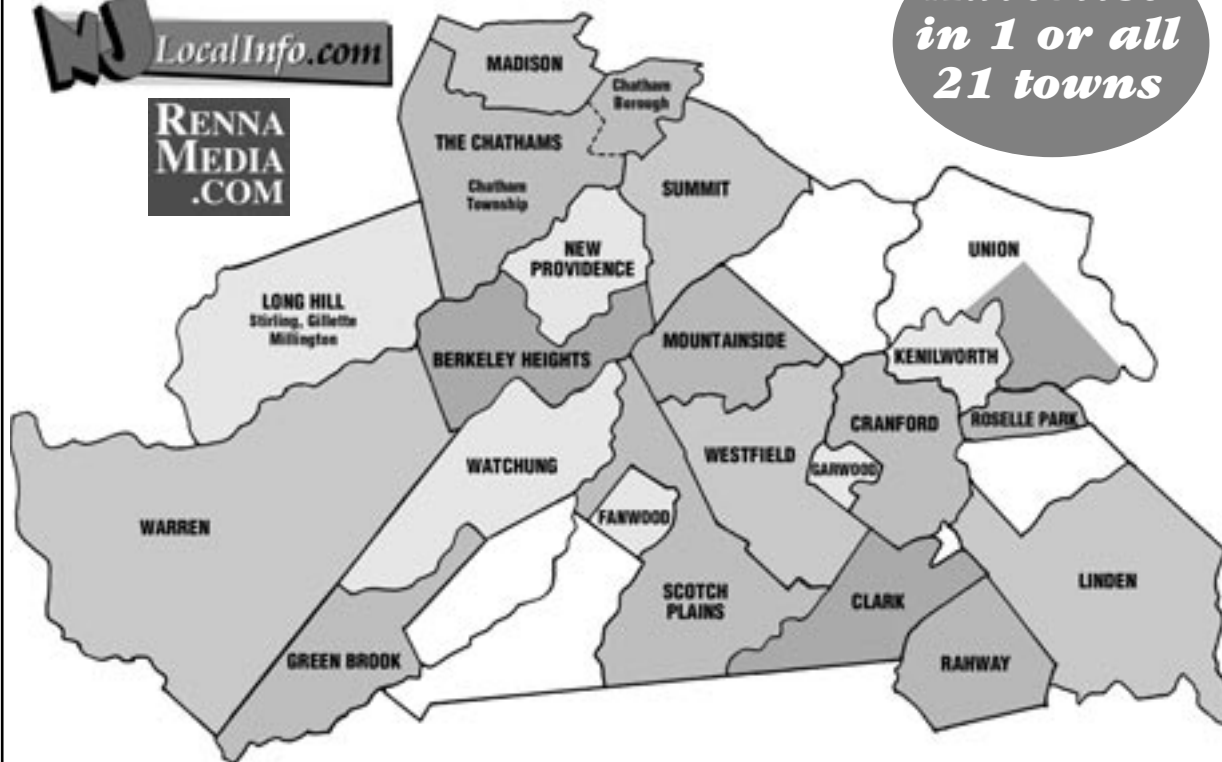
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## HELP US SAVE A VET - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Michael D. Boll, Director

New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network and its mobile outreach team has been aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing them resources to have a better way of life. This is only possible because of our volunteers' commitment and dedication with helping our veteran community. Donations are wonderful and help us purchase food, clothing, medical equipment and other life changing items, however someone's time is what makes an enormous difference.

During our charity's existence, we have provided meals for thousands of veterans and servicemen, dropped off PPE and clothing to veterans, provided medical equipment for disabled veterans, had 30 cars donated to disabled veterans, and most importantly we successfully saved the lives of veterans who were in some type of a dangerous crisis.

Every day we lose approximately 22 veterans to suicide and unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Depression, PTSD and

trauma run extremely high among our veterans and their family members. There are countless lifesaving programs out there for veterans, however it's a difficult task to get veterans to trust others and go get the help they need to live a better life.

The New Jersey Veterans Network also has a program called Operation Rebound that consists of a mobile outreach team that helps to train veterans for events like races, hiking, and other athletic activities. The goal of Operation Rebound is to do athletic events from 5k races to long distance Iron Man competitions in order to empower the veterans and show the public how people can do amazing things with the proper support. It is truly incredible to see the veterans go from no physical activity to completing these tremendous athletic challenges.

Our charity has been able to work alongside other amazing charities that always put veterans first and are capable of rapidly providing them with essential resources. Recently, we formed a veteran anti-suicide and PTSD awareness coalition, called Uniformed Heroes, that will

provide peer support sponsors for any veteran in need. Our peer support sponsors will be trained by the VA and Penn Med and our goal is to have volunteers statewide to help veterans in need.

To make this upcoming Uniformed Heroes campaign successful, we are in desperate need of volunteers from both the veteran and civilian communities. There are numerous events and daily tasks that our charity could use assistance with and we are always looking to have more volunteers willing to help us reach veterans in need.

Our goal is to provide all veterans in need with a peer support sponsor that will do whatever they can to help veterans with obtaining the resources needed to live a better life. This is not an easy thing to do, but the New Jersey Veterans Network has already been able to make a huge difference because of the team's volunteers and its strong partnerships with other charities.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send us an email at [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) and provide your name, email, and phone number. Also, if you have any questions, and concerns please feel free to contact us at 973-332-1556.



(above) Memorial Day Murph Event

Photos by New Jersey Veterans Network

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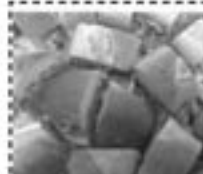
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