

Fanwood Post NJ

Published by Renna Media

Issue 74 • January 2022

FANWOOD'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood officially welcomed Santa Claus and lit the borough Christmas tree at its holiday celebration held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at Fanwood's historic train station on North Avenue.

The celebration was held all outdoors, Santa arrived via fire engine and set up shop under the eaves of the front porch of the Fanwood Train Station, which doubles as the Fanwood Museum. He sat on the original sled that adorned the former Homestead Hotel, the spot now occupied by Borough Hall. Families lined up the length of the parking lot to wait their turn to sit with Santa and have their picture taken. Afterwards, they enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies. Live on stage, student musicians and a choir performed seasonal songs while an ice sculptor created a Christmas tree and a snowman.

Mayor Mahr counted down the tree lighting, and Councilwomen, Trisha Walsh and Francine Glaser, pulled the switch. Applause from the large crowd followed, along with more holiday songs by the high school choir.

The holiday celebration was a production of the Fanwood Recreation Commission and Public Works Department. The stage was made possible by the County Board of Commissioners. The Fanwood Rescue Squad and Fire Department were also on hand, along with Special Police Officer, Jack Ross.



(above) Santa with Mayor Mahr; Councilwomen, Trisha Walsh and Francine Glaser, and Recreation Commissioner, Bruce Zakarin

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(above) Recreation Commissioner, Scott Sinclair, at the cookie table



(above) Fanwood Rescue Squad and Firefighter, Sean Manette



(above) The Kalmbach family

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LOCK YOUR CAR AT CONVENIENCE STORES

The Fanwood Police Department

As the police drive through the borough, we notice many residents warming up their cars in the morning. We also see people leaving their vehicles running as they run into Quick Check, Wawa, etc.

While the reasons people leave their cars on are obvious, it is also obvious to potential car thieves that your car may be unlocked and ready to be stolen or broken into. Union County has been menaced by vehicle thefts and burglaries recently.

We highly recommend that if you're going to

warm your vehicles, that you ensure they are locked. Also, please turn your cars off and lock them when stopping at stores on your way to work. Criminals have been watching these businesses because they know that they can run into your unlocked car and drive off with it. This has happened in Fanwood in the past and we don't want anyone to fall victim going forward.

Please contact the Fanwood Police Department if you see anything suspicious at 908-322-5000, or 911.



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SANTA VISITS FANWOOD CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood's legendary Christmas House attracted hundreds of families who stood in a line that wrapped around the block for a chance to meet Santa Claus on Saturday, December 4, 2021.

The Christmas House is the home of Greg Roser and his family and is located on Paterson Road, near Farley Avenue. For years, they have lit up the house with epic Christmas decorations as a fundraiser for the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities (NJID), a charity based in Edison,

which operates a day school for disabled children whose parents pay no tuition. NJID also operates group homes for disabled adults. A box for donations was on the front lawn and all the donations that were given went to NJID. Greg pays for the decorations and electric bills out of his own pocket.

The display, containing at least 30,000 lights, takes about three months to set up. The fabulous lights attract people from all over the region. However, the highlight that night was the arrival of Santa Claus. He sat under a tent in front of the house to listen to what all the children wanted for Christmas, posed for photos, and gave out presents. The Roser family and friends assisted with the logistics, which is significant given the number of people who showed up and the tables that were full of gifts and needed wrapping. The night's event was luckily blessed with perfect weather.

Video address: youtu.be/Xe2G9gP9es0



(above) Beneficiary sign for NJID



(above) Santa came to visit the kids!



(above) Greg Roser house

FANWOOD CELEBRATES HANUKKAH WITH MENORAH LIGHTING

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood neighbors and Council members turned out on November 30, 2021 for a ceremonial lighting of a giant Menorah to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights.

Rabbi Avrohom Blesofsky of The Chabad of

Union County officiated while injecting great energy into the small gathering at the North Avenue side of the Fanwood Train Station, where the Menorah stands. He was accompanied by a keyboardist and was assisted in lighting the candles by Councilman Jeff Banks and Councilwoman Francine Glaser.

"May we all have miracles, large and small," Rabbi Blesofsky shouted before launching into a spirited rendition of "I Have a Little Dreidel" and encouraging the children in attendance to sing and dance along with him. Donuts were served, a traditional Hanukkah treat, in commemoration of the miracle associated with the Temple oil that burned for eight days.



(above, l-r) Members of Fanwood Rescue Squad, Councilwoman Glaser, Councilman Banks, and Rabbi Blesofsky.



(above) Councilwoman Francine Glaser lights the candles for the first three days.

Photos by Tom Kranz

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POLICE SUPPORT HIP-HOP DANCE EXPERIENCE

Fanwood and Scotch Plains police recently took part in the Junior Hip Hop Experience Parent Performance held at Forest Road Park, part of a dance class by local instructor Maria Daniels.

Ms. Daniels is founder and artistic director of the iDance Ministry and has been featured on national media. She conducts hip hop classes for the Scotch Plains Recreation Department. Fanwood Police Director Mike Bramhall and

Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley were on hand, along with several officers from both departments and Fanwood Councilwoman Trisha Walsh.

Photo by Borough of Fanwood



THE FANWOOD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Peter J. Chemidlin, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Fanwood Community Foundation, and Neil Schembre presented a \$1,000 grant to Caring Contact on December 15, 2021. The Fanwood Community Foundation was established in 1998 by Bob and Carol Kraus, Fred Chemidlin and Ted Frankenbach to better the Fanwood community and its citizens. Since its inception The Foundation has granted more than \$10,000 in grants to Fanwood area organizations in need.

“Answering more calls results in increased connection to individuals experiencing mental health crises,” states Caring Contact’s Executive Director Mary Claire Givelber. “This increased connection means fewer suicide attempts, a healthier population and fewer people ending up

in the already strained health system as a result of a suicide attempt or an unchecked mental health crisis. Caring Contact is truly thankful for this donation from the Fanwood Community Foundation. Their generosity will ensure that Caring Contact has more trained listeners available to answer hotline calls, and that we will be able to quickly and effectively prioritize the needs of our most fragile callers, increasing the number of people who benefit from contacting us and reducing the incidence of suicide in New Jersey.”

Caring Contact is an award-winning,

volunteer-staffed caring and crisis hotline providing active listening support and best-in-class education to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. They attentively and compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate communities about the power of personal connection. Caring Contact is affiliated with CONTACT USA, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the American Association of Suicidology. If you, or someone you know, is in crisis and need someone to listen, call 800.273.8255. To learn more, visit www.caringcontact.org.

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(above, l-r) Peter J. Chemidlin; Mary Claire Givelber, Executive Director Caring Contact; and Neil Schembre.

WELCOME DUKE'S PET DEN

Fanwood's newest downtown business is Duke's Pet Den, owned by Fanwood resident Kimberly Fela. Kim cut the ribbon at a grand

opening celebration held on Shop Small Saturday with Mayor Mahr, Council members Jeff Banks and Erin McElroy Barker, and other

VIP'. Duke's, located at 42B S. Martine Ave., sells a full line of pet food, toys and health items.



TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

It's time to put away the presents and pack up the holiday décor, making room for new items by sorting through the old. That makes this a perfect time to clean out closets and weed out underused possessions, from clothing to household goods to Christmas decorations.

Whether it is a sweater that no longer fits or a new gift that just doesn't fit your style, unneeded items in good condition could be treasured by another person. Bring those goods to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop! The store offers a large collection of clothing for both sexes of all ages, along with shoes, jewelry, bric-a-brac, linens, household items, toys, games, books, DVDs and décor for every season.

All store goods are generously donated by members of the general public and all store

proceeds outside of operating expenses are provided to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. Service League members would like to thank all of the donors who generously provide the store with merchandise, as well as all the shoppers who regularly visit and purchase there. You are keeping the shop in business and "helping us help others," allowing the Service League to serve the community for 48 years—and counting.

After a short closing during the Christmas holidays, the Thrift Shop re-opens on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. To learn more about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League and types of donations accepted please call the store at 908-322-5420 during Thrift Shop business hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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FANWOOD SENIOR'S HOLIDAY PARTY 2021

Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Seniors Club's holiday luncheon held at The Westwood in Garwood, NJ on December 11, 2021 was highlighted by live music by the SPF High School Moonglowers, and a presentation on holiday safety from Fanwood Police Officer, Kathy Case.

"The future of police work is community policing," said Officer Case. "And seniors are a big part of our community."

Case's remarks centered on seniors being vigilant for holiday scammers and keeping their cars locked. The Fanwood Police Department is

urging all citizens not to leave cars idling unlocked in convenience store parking lots since this is a prime target for car thieves. They also urge everyone to always lock their car, even if parked in their own driveway.

The luncheon was attended by about 60 members of the Seniors Club, along with Fanwood Councilwoman Trisha Walsh, Senior Coordinator Dianne Howarth, Borough Administrator Rayna Harris, Borough Clerk Kathleen Holmes, and Tax Collector Colleen Huehn.

Photos by Dianne Howarth



(above, l-r) Senior Club members Pat Slein and Suzanne Yaeger

WINTER PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Fanwood Recreation

Registration is now open for the following online programs for Seniors: Gentle Yoga, Aerobics for Seniors, Meditation and Zumba Gold. For more information and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Each program costs \$15 for approximately 13 classes. (Meditation is free.) Classes start the week of January 3rd, so don't delay!

TINY TIM FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit corporation that provides financial assistance to help families pay for the medical needs of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The organization has been providing financial assistance to local families since 1983.

The Fund is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees, which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community. There are no administrative costs.

Traditionally, the Tiny Tim Carol Night held annually in December has been the organization's sole fundraiser. This year due to current COVID concerns, in an effort to keep carolers and residents safe, the Tiny Tim Fund is requesting financial support through publicity and a letter distribution campaign.

Donations from civic and service clubs, as well as from local citizens will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continue supporting children in our community. The trustees are confident that members of the community who have generously supported the Fund in the past, will make it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to provide assistance for current cases as well as be able to accept referrals of new requests for assistance during the coming year. This campaign will be the organization's only fundraiser and will continue throughout the month of January.

Checks made out to The Tiny Tim Fund can be mailed to: The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181 Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Tiny Tim Board at TINYTIMSPF@gmail.com or follow The Tiny Tim Fund on Facebook @TinyTimFund.



(above) Officer Kathy Case visits one of the tables

SANTA'S HELPERS DELIVER DOOR-TO-DOOR

Borough of Fanwood

Volunteers began accepting presents November 30, 2021 for Santa Claus to deliver to Fanwood children during his cross-town trek on December 18th, 2021.

The Santa Parade, interrupted in 2020 due to the pandemic but was back in full force in 2021, is a production of the Fanwood Fire Department. Firefighters and volunteers from their families collected the presents dropped off at the

firehouse by parents. The presents were then organized into a route for Santa to deliver door-to-door on a fire truck, accompanied by the Fanwood Rescue Squad and police officers from PBA Local 123.

On Saturday, December 18th, Santa embarked on his daylong journey through town, delivering gifts to the children's homes. Residents listened for the sirens signaling Santa's motorcade approaching.



(above, front, l-r) Santa's helpers: Grace Germinder, Marianna Clausen, Carol Zawodniak, and Rita Routé; (Back) Assistant Chief Dave Zawodniak, Firefighters, Dante Clausen and Bruce Padulsky.

Photos by Tom Kranz

DONATE VITAL ITEMS FOR DISPLACED ANIMALS

Submitted by Larry and Amy Cohen

Larry and Amy Cohen, residents of Fanwood, New Jersey, recently have registered with Jersey Cares, one of New Jersey's largest non-profit volunteer organizations, as a collection site to provide no-kill rescue shelters with vital items for displaced animals during their stay prior to adoption. They are asking for generous donations for the following acceptable items for the Animal Shelter Helpers Program:

Unopened Dog Food — dry or canned; Unopened Dog Treats; New Dog Toys; Pet Bed Cots; New or gently used collars and leashes; 3-quart Stainless Steel Dog Bowls; Unopened Cat Food — dry or canned; Unopened Cat Treats; New Cat toys; Unopened Kitty Litter; New or gently used Cat Beds; KMR Milk Replacement

Formula for Kittens & Puppies; Dust Pans; Nail Clippers for Cats; Turbo Scratcher Replacement Pads; New Blankets & Towels for bedding; Paper Towels; Spray Bottles; Scrubber Sponges; Disinfecting Wipes; Bleach; Laundry Detergent; Dish Detergent; Hand Soap

Donations may be dropped off at their house, located at 24 MacLennan Place, Fanwood, NJ, or they will come and pick up the items if you contact Larry either by phone, at 908-477-0030, or email, at nehocral@yahoo.com. They will be bringing everything to the Jersey Cares offices in Livingston roughly once every two weeks through the middle of February.

They have always viewed Fanwood as one of the most animal friendly towns around. Prove them right!



(above) Larry and Amy Cohen's dogs, Ty and Shea

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD UNICO

At its November general meeting, Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO swore in three new board members and welcomed 2 new members.

For more information about Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, please visit unicospf.org, or contact spfunico@gmail.com.



(above, l-r): Board members Matt Marino, Jeff Blanck, and President Geri Samuel



(above) New board members Tony Isolda and Robert Sorge were sworn in by President Geri Samuel.

Photos by SPF UNICO

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains 2022-2023 scholarship application forms can be obtained from the SPFHSC Counseling Office, at <http://www.spfk12.org> or at fspcollegeclub.org.

This will be the 86th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been helped by the College Club's fundraising efforts. To date, the F-SP College Club has awarded approximately \$720,000 in scholarships to approximately 562 young women.

Application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2022 to be considered.

The Scholarship Committee will be ready to begin reviewing applications the first week of March and the selection of scholarship recipients will be finalized in mid-April.

In the words of one of the College Club's scholarship recipients:

"From the bottom of my heart I thank the College Club for investing in my education. It means the world to me that I have a team of female supporters who saw something in me and spent their precious time and energy to raise the scholarship money that will allow me to further my education and pursue my dreams. I hope that one day I can return the favor and share the same generosity with future candidates."

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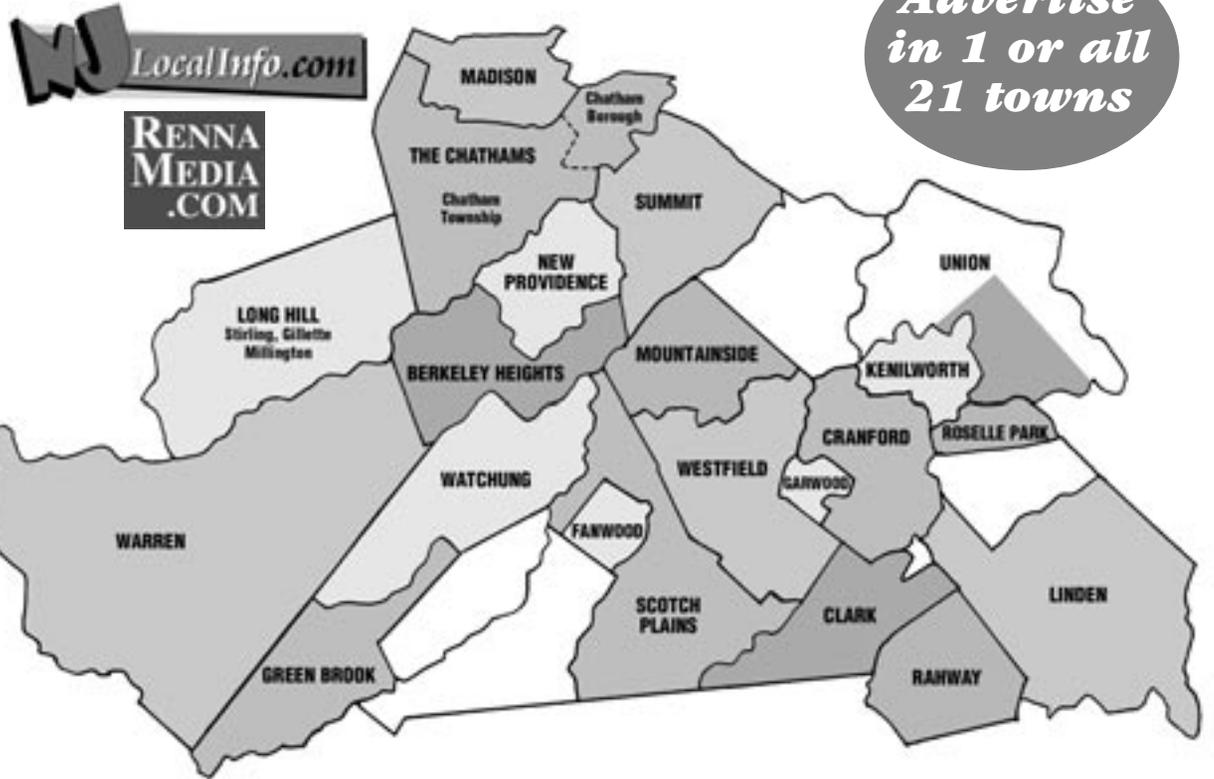
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KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 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 Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.



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