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13TH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE HONORS MLK

On Monday, January 17th, 2022, the Scotch Plains/Fanwood community came together for a day of service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The opening program was held virtually from the JCC of Central NJ. The Day of Service Co-Chairs were Michelle Shapiro Abraham, Amanda Barnett, and Courtney Agnello.

Noted as being a “Day On” rather than a day off for the national holiday, hundreds of volunteers assisted at local donation drives, as well as participated in educational and service opportunities.

Some of the events planned for the day were a hats & gloves collection for children benefitting the Boys & Girls Club of Union County. Girl Scout Troop 40393 collected yarn donations to use for their Magic Yarn Project. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA was the drop off location for diapers, food, and household items for refugees. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was also a drop off location for donations.



(above) Andrew Abrantes, Owen, and his team from BSA Troop 33 worked hard at Immaculate Heart of Mary church, keeping up with the super amount of pet food, treats, blankets and towels that were donated during the town-wide SP-F MLK Day of service.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

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(above) Volunteers preparing food at Immaculate Heart of Mary church



(above) YMCA child care students made “kindness rocks”.

Photos by Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA

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Fanwood Post

Tina Renna: 908-418-5586

tinarennam@rennamedia.com

Joe Renna: 908-447-1295

joerennam@rennamedia.com

DENNIS DAGOUNIS 2021 -2022 COUNTY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dennis Dagounis, a Fanwood resident, and a Science Teacher at Roselle Park High School, has been named 2021-2022 Union County Educator of the Year.

Mr. Dagounis has earned degrees in Nutritional Science/Education and Educational Administration. In his 21-year educational career, he has taught all levels of biology, environmental and earth science, and last year, 100% of his Advanced Placement (AP) Biology students passed the AP exam.

Dennis Dagounis had this to say “My goal is to design learning experiences that are student-centered and exploratory using real-life scenarios that enable students to think critically and collaborate to solve problems. One of my biggest accomplishments as an educator is integrating student choice into my lessons. I have found that as students interact with the content in ways that appeal to their interests and abilities, they are able to develop a stronger understanding of the concepts. As a strong advocate for allowing student voice and choice in problem-based science classrooms, I have shared this teaching style with colleagues and when presenting professional development and engaging in departmental and school-wide discussions.

Furthermore, having access to up-to-date technology and addressing instructional needs are critical as educators support their students as they move towards developing student-driven and engaging learning experiences. My overarching

goal is to provide my students a safe space where they can share their opinions and encourage conversations using claim, evidence and reasoning.”

For the past few years Mr. Dagounis has overseen a cancer research student experience with Kean University, and served as the Chess Club Advisor and the Girls Volleyball Head Coach. He has also served as a member of the US Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Delegation to China in 2019.



(above) Dennis Dagounis
2021 -2022 Union County Educator of the Year
HS Science Teacher | Varsity Volleyball Coach
| Roselle Park High School

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Fanwood Recreation is accepting job applications for Junior and Senior Counselor positions for its 8-week Summer Park Program. For more information on how to apply, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org/job-applications.

WINTER KIDS PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation announces two programs for kids: Create the Raglan Sweat Top Fashion Design classes, beginning February 25th, for grades 2–5 and grades 5 and up; and Babysitting Certification class, beginning March 1st, for ages 11–15. Classes will be in-person and follow COVID safety guidelines. For more information and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

FANWOOD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Community Foundation delivered a matching donation of \$2,021 to the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary food pantry in Scotch Plains just in time for the holidays. Thanks to our generous neighbors for helping us reach our goal! This virtual food

drive with the Community Food Bank of NJ was the third since the pandemic began in 2020. To date, the Foundation raised more than \$15,564 for local families, with \$6,062 of that given directly to IHM.

Their drive remains open; to donate on-line visit: give.cfbnj.org/fundraiser/3584764



TRANSITIONS - MAKING THE MOST OF CHOICES

On February 21st, the F-SP College Club will present a program via zoom, Transitions - Making the Most of Your Choices, presented by Dr. Melissa Tice.

The program is free and open to the public. To obtain a zoom link to attend this informative program, send an email request to tishisack17@gmail.com.

Dr. Melissa Tice earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania with her mind set on pursuing an academic career of scientific research and teaching. However, her choice to attend a medical school lecture one night while at Penn on Alzheimer's disease (AD) inspired her to learn more and to explore the possibility to work on therapies to treat AD. This led to a three-year post-doctoral appointment at the National Institute of Health to learn molecular biology and explore the brain receptors associated with AD. At the end of her post-doc she was faced with two choices- accept a position at Marymount University or set up a lab at Schering-Plough Research Institute to specifically conduct research in AD. Fast forward 30 years after a career in

Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology from the lab bench to the corporate side of drug development via a career in regulatory affairs at Schering/Plough, Merck and Immunomedics, she has come full circle to academics.

Dr. Tice played a key role in regulatory approval for a variety of therapeutics, and hopes to share her knowledge and experience educating the next generation of regulatory professionals. She is currently an Assistant Professor and the Program director of the Regulatory Affairs Graduate School program at George Washington University. She has also established her own regulatory affairs consulting business to assist smaller biotech and non-profit companies in their drug development efforts and to stay current in the ever-evolving field of regulatory affairs. Her key take aways are to always be open to opportunities, to learn and grow with each new experience, both good and bad...and it is never too late to try something new!

Dr. Tice was an active member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club before moving to VA. and she continues to support the club as a Sustaining Member.



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MOBILE MEALS OF WESTFIELD

“On behalf of our clients, thank you!” declared Ruth Maloney, President of Mobile Meals of Westfield, in accepting donations from the Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22, \$350 Shop Rite food card; and the Optimist Club of Westfield gift of \$50 food cards in support of Mobile Meals’ clients.

Each year, Optimist Club of Westfield distributes food baskets to families and individuals in need. The program spans 31 years. Because of Covid, this year food cards were donated in place of the food baskets. In presenting the donation, Darielle Walsh of Optimist Club of Westfield said, “We are always

looking for deserving families and individuals who can benefit from our food program.”

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides prepared meals for those individuals unable to provide meals for themselves. Mobile Meals serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, food services or those wishing to donate can visit the Mobile Meals website at mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.

Photos by Mobile Meals of Westfield



(above) Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22 presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$350 Shop Rite food card donation on November 10. Representing the union was and Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.



(above, l-r) Row 1: Gene Jannotti, Mike Walsh, Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Darielle Walsh (all of Optimist Club); Ruth Maloney, Josephine Walsh, Cherie Parker (of Mobile Meals). Row 2: Jayson Astel, Ray Kostyack Tony LaPorta (of Optimist Club). For more information about Optimist Club of Westfield, visit westfieldnj.com/optimist/index.htm.

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BLOOD DONATIONS ARE CRITICALLY NEEDED

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Dangerously low blood supply levels are posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments, and donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to donate.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met.

The Red Cross continues to confront relentless challenges due to COVID-19, including about a 10% overall decline in the number of people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges.

“Winter weather across the country and the recent surge of COVID-19 cases are compounding the already-dire situation facing the blood supply,” said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross. “Please, if you are eligible, make an appointment to give blood or platelets in the days and weeks ahead to ensure no patient is forced to wait for critical care.”

The Red Cross urges donors to support patient care by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now for the weeks ahead. To schedule an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross also needs the help of volunteers to support critical blood collections across the country. Blood transportation specialists – another volunteer opportunity – provide a critical link between blood donors and blood recipients by delivering blood to hospitals in communities across the country. To volunteer to support Red Cross blood collections, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

FEBRUARY 14 IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR DAY

NJ Sharing Network

February 14 is all about sharing some love in New Jersey - and not just because it’s Valentine’s Day! NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state are working together to register as many organ and tissue donors as possible in celebration of National Organ Donor Day.

“National Organ Donor Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation,” said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. “One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people. I am confident that everyone’s efforts on National Organ Donor Day will go a long way toward bringing hope to those currently waiting for a transplant.”

Currently, there are over 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey’s organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is easy for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at NJSharingNetwork.org; Through the iPhone Health App; In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

Observed every year on February 14, National Organ Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ and tissue donation. It is also a day to recognize loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a transplant, are currently waiting or did not receive an organ in time. National Organ Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn

Corporation and its United Auto Workers partner with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many non-profit health organizations.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network



(above) The late Caitlin Nelson, 20, of Clark, gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and liver. She also donated over 200 bone and tissue grafts. Her gifts have already helped 50 people.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS, OTHER OFFICIALS SWORN IN DURING ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING

Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Borough Council and Mayor Colleen Mahr ushered in the new year with the annual Reorganization Meeting, held virtually this year on Monday, January 3, 2022. The meeting is required by law to set the local government and its associated contracts and contractors in motion for the coming year.

Mayor Colleen Mahr swore-in a number of Borough officials, starting with Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker to her third term and Councilwoman Patricia Walsh to her second (both also sworn-in earlier in an outdoor ceremony to include families). Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi was on hand to officially certify the election results. Mayor Mahr also swore-in Councilman Anthony Carter as Council President, Daniel Antonelli as Borough Prosecutor and Jill LaZare as Public Defender. Several officers of the Fanwood Rescue Squad, including Captain Ian Lewis and President Jamie Pedinoff, were also sworn in.

Mayor Mahr's remarks for the new year acknowledged the tremendous challenges faced by everyone caused by COVID. She thanked

Public Health Officer Megan Avallone and the Westfield Regional Health Department for its daily monitoring of the pandemic in our town and thanked the Fanwood Board of Health for its attention to the issue. The Mayor said she is looking forward to the construction of the new Fanwood Library, which will follow the current library's temporary relocation this year. She also said discussions will continue on the proposed construction of a new public works headquarters. The Council will continue its debate over whether to open Fanwood parks to dogs as advocated by a group of dog owners. The Mayor also encouraged residents to get involved in local government, either by volunteering for one of the town's many boards and commissions or simply by attending regular Council meetings.

The continued threat of infection by the COVID-19 virus necessitated the meeting be held virtually via ZOOM. However, Fanwood Borough Hall remains open during its posted regular hours. Visitors must wear masks. Those with business at Borough Hall are encouraged to conduct it via email, regular mail or telephone whenever possible.



(above) Earlier swearing-in photo of Councilwoman Patricia Walsh with husband Neil Pierce holding the Bible.

Photo by Tom Kranz



(above, l-r) Prosecutor Antonelli, Council President Carter, President Jamie Pedinoff



(above, l-r) Public Defender LaZare, Mayor Mahr, Rescue Squad Captain Ian Lewis

Photos from Borough ZOOM feed or by Tom Kranz as noted.



(above) Earlier swearing-in photo of Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker with husband Doug Barker holding bible and sons Kieran and Connor.

Photo by Tom Kranz

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TROOP 104 COMPLETES 72-MILE TREK AT PHILMONT RANCH

Submitted by Maximus Mercurio

Nine Scouts from Troop 104 of Scotch Plains successfully completed a 10-day, 72-mile trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch this past July. This unforgettable hiking adventure up rocky vertical trails and through grassy meadows at elevations often 9,000-10,000 feet above sea level was a life-changing experience the crew is proud to have endured.

The trip began with a two-day stay in Colorado so the scouts could acclimate to the high altitudes. While in Colorado, the troop visited the Garden of the Gods, a national Natural Landmark located in Colorado Springs. The Garden contains rocks of red and pink sandstone which were formed millions of years ago, creating a gorgeous scenic area with breathtaking views. Later, the crew went to the top of Pikes Peak, which is one of Colorado's many mountains and tops 14,000 feet. It's known for its easy accessibility, having a single road that takes roughly 2 hours to drive up.

After going white-water rafting on the Arkansas River, the troop headed to Cimarron, New Mexico where the Philmont Ranch is located.

Philmont Scout Ranch is operated by The Boy Scouts of America and is located in the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains in northeastern New Mexico.

Philmont is known for its high-adventure backpacking treks and programs that include activities highlighting the history of the Old West. Although the troop had many programs, some highlights included: fly tying and fishing, 3D archery, exploring Cimarron's abandoned gold mine, and a chuck wagon dinner with live music played by cowboys.

The crew's biggest challenge was climbing up Mount Phillips, which is an 11,721 foot peak. It's the second highest mountain that Philmont has to offer after Baldy Mountain.

The experience for the Scouts was no walk in the park. They had to adapt and learn how to survive in the wilderness without the many

luxuries we have in our modern life. Through all 10 nights in the backcountry, they had to carry their own food, sanitize their water, string up bear bags to keep animals out of their campsite and much more. For the boys, perhaps the most difficult task of all was to go this long without cell phone service!

The last climb of the trek was to the top of the Tooth of Time which rises 9,003 feet above sea level. It's a mountain that has a tooth-shaped rock outcropping at the top, and it's considered to be the official icon of the Philmont Scout Ranch. During the days of wagon trains, the Tooth served as a major landmark for guides, who used it to determine the cut-off for heading to Santa Fe or the Oregon Trail. It's visibility from base camp and the incredible 360-degree view it has to offer over a large area of the ranch was perfect for ending the trek there.

Troop 104 is sponsored by All Saints Church in Scotch Plains and meets every Monday night when SPF schools are in session. Their website is <http://t104.us>.



(above) Scouts from Troop 104 of Scotch Plains successfully completed a 10-day, 72-mile trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY MARILYN KLINGBEIL

Borough of Fanwood

Marilyn Klingbeil, a longtime resident of Glenwood Road, will never forget her 100th birthday. She was visited on her front lawn by Fanwood police officers, firefighters and EMT's with a noisy and flashy drive by, flowers and a proclamation from Mayor Colleen Mahr.

"Today is Marilyn Klingbeil day," announced Dianne Howarth, administrative assistant for the police department. As she did so, Lyn, as her friends and family know her, received a bouquet of flowers donated by the Apple Blossom Flower Shop in Scotch Plains. Suddenly, her lawn was populated by police officers including Police Director Mike Bramhall, firefighters and EMTs, joining Lyn and her family.

"It is a rare thing for someone to reach 100 years of age," said the proclamation by Mayor

Colleen Mahr, read by Sgt. Dan Piccola. "And from what I've gathered, you've made the most of every day. From one native New Jerseyan to another, I want to thank you for your career of public service to the residents of Union County."

Mrs. Klingbeil was a long time Union County employee, working as the Matrimonial Assignment Clerk. She is a native of Newark but moved to Fanwood in 1956 shortly after marrying her late husband, Lawrence. They honeymooned in Cuba and traveled the world together.

"You're all so wonderful," Mrs. Klingbeil remarked, and thanked Sgt. Piccola for his recent plumbing repair to her toilet.

"We're a full service police department," remarked Police Director Bramhall.



(above) Mrs. Klingbeil with First Responders.

Photos by Tom Kranz

LIBRARY HOSTS WINTER KIDS' EVENT

The Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library brought winter fun to the front lawn of the library Saturday, January 22, 2022 with a kid-centered collection of activities. The Friends and other volunteers set up mini igloos, an "ice tunnel", giant building blocks and a ring toss. Hot chocolate and donuts were available. There was live music by Matt Levine, a student at SPF High School.

It was also an opportunity to raise funds and attract new members for the Friends, the main non-profit support group for the library. Friends President Carol Campbell was on hand, along with Library Director Dan Weiss.

The library is set for demolition later this year to make way for a totally new, modern facility, funding for which was finalized in 2021. During the construction, the current plan is to move library operations to a temporary facility still to be determined.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Young Fanwoodians Tyler, Ben, Sydney and Kaylee enjoy hot chocolate and donuts



(above, l-r) Musician Matt Levine, Giant erector set



(above) Library Director Dan Weiss with Friends of the Fanwood Library President Carol Campbell

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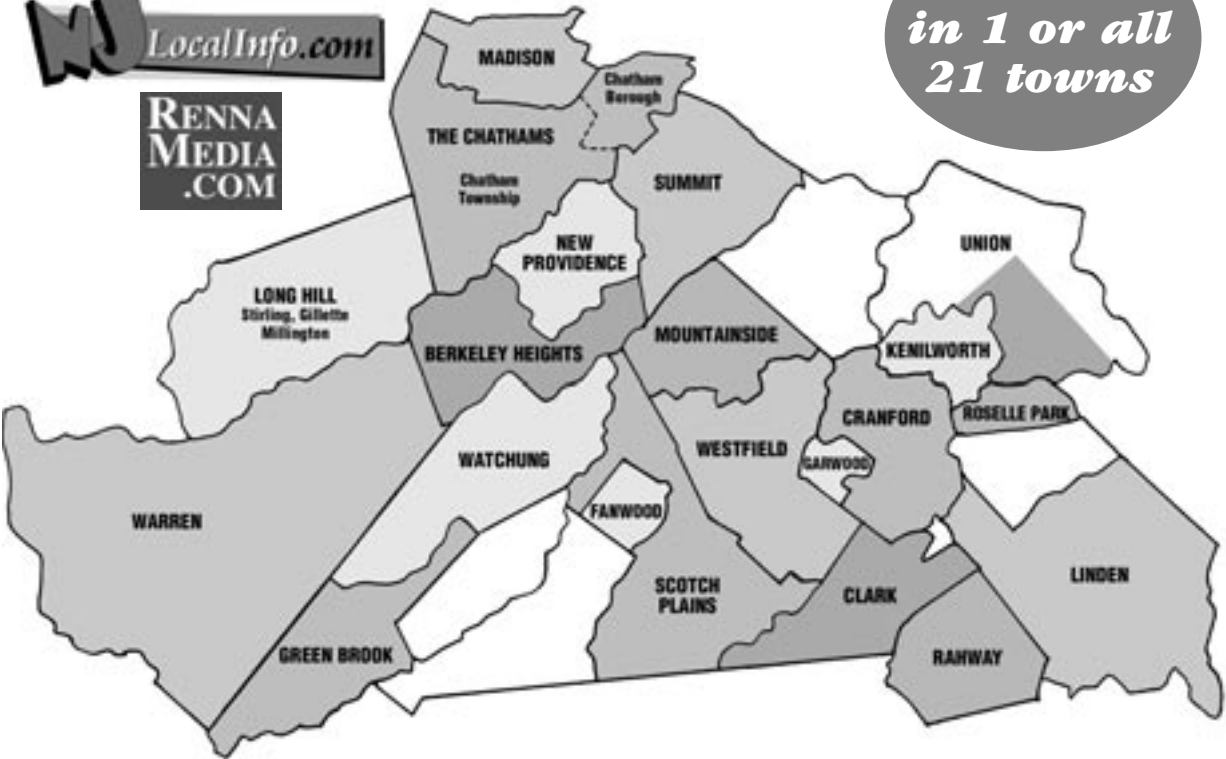
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The deadline for the Foundation to receive applications - and any supporting documents as indicated - is February 8, 2022. In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal essay from the applicant, a letter of reference, and

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