

Fanwood Post NJ

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SHIELD AWARDS FIRST RESPONDERS

Submitted by Tom Kranz

After an absence of two years due to the Covid pandemic, the Father John S. Nelligan Council of the Knights of Columbus presented its Shield Awards to police, fire and EMS responders from Fanwood and Scotch Plains, a recognition of selfless community service performed by the men and women of these emergency services, paid and volunteer. The ceremony was held at the Italian-American Club on Valley Road.

Each recipient was selected by his/her Chief or Captain for outstanding service to the community and to their respective agency. The recipients were:

Fanwood Police Officer Michael Rusin, presented by Lt. Daniel Kranz, who cited Rusin's reliability and called him the most "well rounded" of his officers because of the many duties he takes on and excels at.

Fanwood Rescue Squad EMT Nita Yusuf, presented by Capt. Ian Lewis, who cited Yusuf's tireless volunteer ethic, taking on getting night crews filled and her many call responses. FRS is an all-volunteer organization.

Fanwood Fire Department firefighters Kris Piccola, Brian Piccola, Ken Gorman, Dante Clausen, Nick Tripodi and Bruce Padulsky for their work at a motor vehicle accident in which a civilian was freed after being

trapped between two cars that collided. All are volunteers.

Scotch Plains Police Lt. David Smith, presented by Chief Ted Conley, who cited Smith's good humor, excellent management skills and humility as he goes about the important administrative work that allows the SPPD to function smoothly, have a robust social media presence and have good relationships with with other Township departments.

Scotch Plains Rescue Squad EMT Thomas "TJ" Walsh, presented by Chief Dan Sullivan who cited his enthusiasm and his many call responses. Walsh is a volunteer as are all members of SPRS.

Scotch Plains Fire Capt. Tyler Bowman, presented by Battalion Chief Dennis Hercel who said Bowman surpassed all expectations, is a great leader and role model to fellow firefighters. SP firefighters are also volunteers.

Mayor Colleen Mahr was in attendance and called the first responders "the backbone of both of our communities. As the granddaughter of a fire chief and a first cousin of a police officer, I understand the sacrifices made when you choose to serve your community in this way."

Emceeding the event was Grand Knight Michael Romanyshyn who was joined by awards co-chairman Patrick Harrington and Deputy Grand Knight James Vari.



(above) Group photo of all honorees and their chiefs

Photos by Tom Kranz

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BOY SCOUT MICHAEL MAHAFFEY HONORS LOST MARINE

Borough of Fanwood

Marine Corporal Robert Wood, a casualty of the Vietnam War, was memorialized on May 28, 2022, with a sign naming a portion of Paterson Road in his honor. Wood was born in Fanwood, a fact that was lost following the war until just recently, thanks to a local Boy Scout.

Michael Mahaffey, a junior at Union Catholic High School, researched Corporal Wood's background for his Eagle Scout project. It turned out that Wood was never acknowledged as a Fanwood native because his place of birth was mistakenly listed as Georgia where he moved to live with his brother many years ago. Mahaffey followed the trail of historic

information until confirming that Wood was born in Fanwood and spent his childhood here. The project culminated with the unveiling of a street sign honoring Cpl. Wood at the intersection of Paterson Road and Martine Avenue.

Mahaffey was joined at the ceremony by Mr. Wood's brother Richard, 91, who drove up from Virginia, fellow scouts from Troop 203, a U.S. Air Force honor guard and the entire Fanwood-Scotch Plains Memorial Day Committee. Mayor Colleen Mahr made remarks.

Fanwood Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell and Scotch Plains Councilman Matt Adams attended, along with many local residents.



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Fanwood Post



(above) Mahaffey presents flag to Richard Wood



Photos by Tom Kranz



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UNICO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently announced the winners of its two annual scholarship competitions.

Seniors Ashley DeFrancesco (Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School) and Michael Minniti (Union Catholic High School) received the SP-F UNICO Brian Piccolo Scholarship - named after former NFL player Brian Piccolo, who in 1970 died of cancer at the age of 26 - in the amount of \$500. In addition, four SP-F UNICO Memorial Scholarships of \$2,500 each were awarded to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors

Marlaina Martucci, Vincent Augello, Gianna Riefler, and Benjamin Root.

ABOUT UNICO

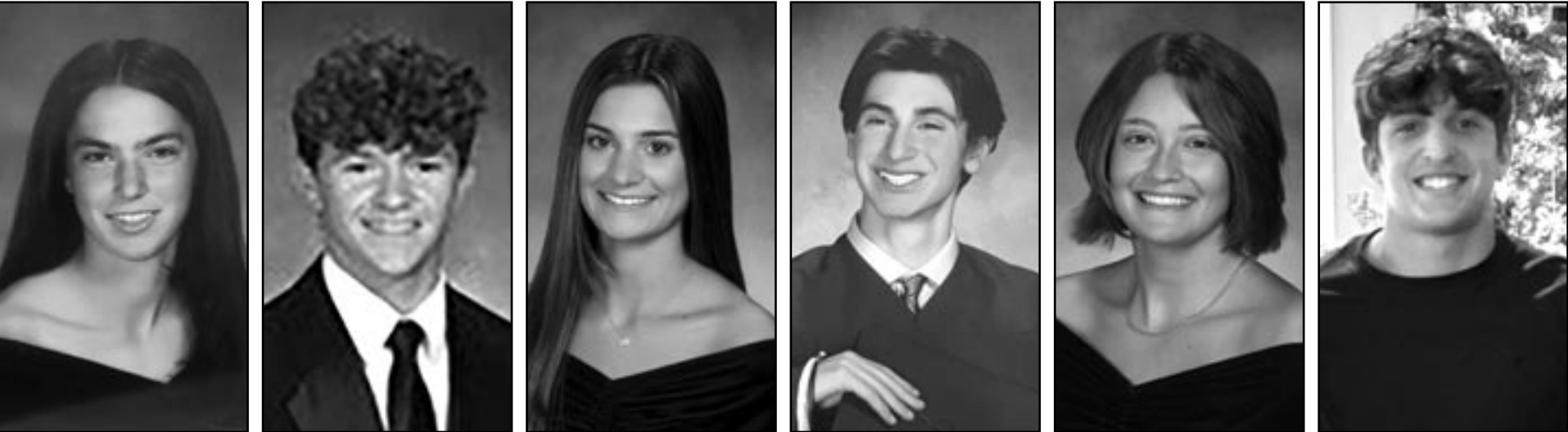
UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States. The organization's objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects.

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 takes 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.

For more information on UNICO, please visit unicospf.org



(above, l-r) SP-F UNICO Brian Piccolo Scholarship Recipients: Ashley DeFrancesco and Michael Minniti

(above, l-r) SP-F UNICO Memorial Scholarship Recipients: Marlaina Martucci, Vincent Augello, Gianna Riefler, Benjamin Root



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(above) SPFHS student Maya Handler sings the national anthem

SOLEMN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Borough of Fanwood

Bright sunshine greeted about a hundred spectators at the Fanwood Memorial Library for the annual observance of Memorial Day, hosted by Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council.

Keynote speaker was Ralph Checchio, Vietnam veteran and longtime chairman of the Memorial Day Committee. Other participants included County Commissioner Al Mirabella,

Assemblywoman Linda Carter, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo and several members of the SP Council.

In attendance were a number of local veterans including WWII vets Joe Schott and Dante Mariani. The ceremony included the laying of wreaths by local veterans groups and first responders, the reading of the names of Gold Star veterans by Boy Scout troops 33 and 204, a gun salute and taps.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Boy Scouts read the names of Gold Star veterans




(above) WWII veterans Joe Schott and Dante Mariani with their families

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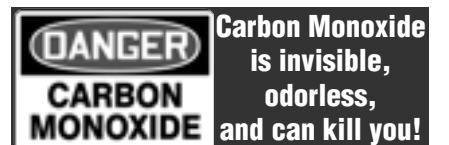
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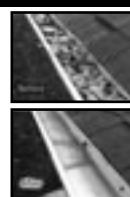
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SERVICE LEAGUE 2022 DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY



(above) Carol Marquardt (center), Chairman of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Scholarship Committee, poses with two of the seven 2022 scholarship winners: Evelyn Liang (left) and Jazlyn Navarro-Jimenez (right).

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, operators of The Thrift Shop at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, donated \$50,000 to local community organizations and student scholarship winners as part of their ongoing commitment to give back to our local community.

Of the total money disbursed for 2022, \$18,000 was allocated for college scholarships to six Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors and one current college student. Recipients include Jazlyn Navarro-Jimenez (Harvard), Gianna Riefler (Stockton University), Victoria Solsky (Carnegie Mellon), Molly Sullivan (LaSalle), Kaitlyn Mohabir (Rutgers University), Isaiah Nathaniel (MIT), and Evelyn Liang (a sophomore at Rutgers University).

Grants were distributed to 19 worthy organizations who applied for consideration, with a full listing of those who benefited from these grants available for viewing in The Thrift Shop. Including these 2022 donations, the Fanwood-

Scotch Plains Service League has donated nearly \$1.5 million to organizations in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and other Union County communities—and to scholarships for local students—since the organization's inception in July 1973.

This monetary support is due entirely to members of the community who have consistently donated goods that they no longer need or want to be re-sold at the Thrift Shop, and to a tireless group of volunteers who run the shop and keep it one of the cleanest, best-stocked and reasonably priced resale stores in the area. The Thrift Shop helps the environment and the community by recycling merchandise that still has a useful life, plowing all monetary proceeds outside of operating expenses back in support of our community.

For more information on the non-profit Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League and how you can help support its mission please call the Thrift Shop during operating hours, Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL -AIR FORCE-AUXILIARY

Submitted by Capt. Jose Vergara, C.A.P.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) NJ-102 Squadron participated in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Memorial Day Parade. Thirty cadets marched in the parade (students from middle school and high school) along with their mentors (Senior Members).

Civil Air Patrol was proud to honor those who had given their lives for our nation. Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the US Air Force and, as such, is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 555 single-engine aircraft and 2,250 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and other missions at the request of federal, state, and

local agencies.

CAP also has a "Cadet Program" designed for youth who want to serve the community. The cadet program challenges the youth to excel in leadership, character, physical training, and discipline. Also, the cadet program provides education in: aerospace, STEM education, military traditions, emergency service, educational camps, orientation flights, and many more activities.

Students 12 to 18 years old can join CAP with the understanding to follow Air Force-style traditions and discipline and provide community service. The Cadet Program meets after school hours. In addition, adults can join CAP to serve the public and mentor the cadets. Adults could take training and duties to support the Air Force-Auxiliary.

For more information, visit CAP.News or GoCivilAirPatrol.com.



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(above) Civil Air Patrol (CAP) NJ-102 Squadron participated in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.



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LADIES NIGHT OUT IN FANWOOD



(above) Young shoppers and a future shopper at Fanwood Eye Care

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Borough of Fanwood

Several hundred residents, mostly women, turned out for Ladies Night Out in downtown Fanwood the evening of June 2nd. The threat of rain didn't keep the folks away, and then it didn't rain. Local and regional vendors setup shop under a tent in the plaza between Fanwood Crossing I and II. Local businesses including the Fanwood Larder, Fanwood Optical and Monk's hosted

giveaways, food and wine offerings. There was a food crawl featuring local restaurants Sheelen's Crossing, Fabio's and Savory Selections Catering which gave free samples. The event was sponsored by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Borough. Mayor Colleen Mahr, Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell, Redevelopment Director Liz Jeffery and Police Director Mike Bramhall were all in attendance.



(above) Bernadette Hoyer, right, and her mom, are regular visitors to downtown.



(above) Satisfied customers with their goody bags

Photos by Tom Kranz

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MADDY JOE SELECTED FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Borough of Fanwood

Maddy Joe, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was given a rousing sendoff on Thursday, June 2nd after her swim practice at the Jewish Community Center on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. She departed the following weekend for Orlando, FL, and the Special Olympics 2022 USA Games.

Maddy walked out of the JCC to a reception of fellow swimmers, friends, family and first responders from Fanwood and Scotch Plains including both police departments, the Fanwood Rescue Squad and the Fanwood Fire Department. Maddy's father, Nam-June, is an EMT with the Fanwood squad. The 100 or so well-wishers threw confetti and hugs Maddy's way. Her dad, mom Terrine and sister Carolyn led the pack.

Maddy, 18, has been swimming since she was a little girl. She's swum for the JCC the past six years, three of them as a volunteer coach. She

has competed in the Special Olympics for five consecutive years. She will attend Ramapo College in the fall.



(above) Family picture, Maddy with dad Nam-June, mom Terrine and sister Carolyn, 16

Photos by Tom Kranz

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(above) Senior Coordinator Kathleen Holmes serves guests



(above) Lt. Dan Kranz, Fanwood PD, serves Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation

There are still some spots left for many summer programs for children and adults, including Summer Park Program, TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp, Tennis Lessons, Pickleball Lessons, Elementary Drawing, Girls Xtra Edge Lacrosse Camp, Skateboarding Camp, Squirts Multi Sports Camp, Multi Sports Camp, Senior Squirts Multi Sports, SNAG Squirts Golf Camp, Squirts Golf Camp, T-Ball Squirts, Parent & Me T-Ball Squirts, Senior Squirts Soccer, Squirts Soccer, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Basketball Camp, Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders, Hip Hop Experience Summer Dance Camp, Fashion Design and Youth Cross Country/Track & Field Camp.

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

FANWOOD SENIORS ENJOY ANNUAL PICNIC

Borough of Fanwood

We'll call it a picnic, even though it was held inside the Forest Road Park building where more than 70 seniors from the community had a free lunch courtesy of the Borough of Fanwood. The annual luncheon heralds the last of the Fanwood Seniors Club meetings for the summer. They resume again in September.

The Fanwood Seniors Club normally meets three times a month to talk about common interests, trips, hear speakers and have breakfast. Club President Suzanne Jaeger says

membership has been down the past couple years due to the Covid pandemic, though people are starting to come back. She hopes to resume a schedule of bus trips and other activities after Labor Day.

The lunch was made possible by the Borough of Fanwood, Fanwood Senior Coordinator Kathleen Holmes, Club President Suzanne Jaeger, the Fanwood Department of Public Works which set up the room and made other amenities possible and members of the Fanwood Police Department who assisted in serving.



(above) The Public Works team: Andy, Jim, Austin, Donovan, John and Clint



(above) Diners enjoying lunch

Photos by Tom Kranz

It's Summer in Fanwood Again!

PARTY IN THE PARK

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FANWOOD SUMMER FAN JAM – JULY 10

On Sunday, July 10th from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., music lovers, foodies and car enthusiasts will come together in Fanwood's LaGrande Park for the 5th Annual Fanwood Summer Fan Jam, Presented by Dentalcare Associates.

Gene Jannotti, CEO of Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, stated, "It is a great pleasure for the GWACC to once again bring Summer Fan Jam to Fanwood for a fun-filled family event complete with classic cars, food trucks, kids zone and music all day long."

"We have an exciting lineup this year, with music spanning 6 decades. Kicking us off is Jim Barone, the best Elvis Tribute Artist in the United States and also my former classmate from Westfield High," said Aimee Nuzzo, event director and Fanwood resident. "We have four spectacular acts, culminating in a tribute to The Eagles."

Fan Jam is a combination Music Festival, Food Truck Festival and Car Show that's geared toward adult music tastes but features attractions for kids as well. This marks a return to the festival's traditional time of year. Last year's event was held in September following the lifting of NJ Covid restrictions.

This year's music lineup will feature double headliners:

Winslow (5:30 pm) featuring four male tenor leads recreating the halcyon era of Live Eagles music! The Funktion Band (3:30 pm) mixes Funk, Soul, Pop & R&B to play favorites from

Motown to today. They return to Fan Jam by popular demand! Mushroom (1:30 pm) will get you in the party mood with fun favorite rock and pop songs from 70's to now. And Jim Barone (12 noon) is the best Elvis Tribute you'll ever hear. You'll swear you're listening to the King himself. All of the acts are New Jersey based.

For those adults 21 & over with ID, you can enjoy a front-seat view of the show from the Sheelen's Crossing Beer and Wine Garden. For the kids, we have a centrally located Kids' Zone which will feature children's rides and attractions within the park, with the purchase of tickets.

For the Car Enthusiasts, the festival will draw more than 100 vintage and classic cars as part of a car show hosted by Hot Rod Mike. Portions of Helen Street, 2nd Street and LaGrande Avenue will be closed to traffic for the car show, which is open to all. Cars register upon arrival on a first-come basis for a fee of \$10.

FanJam goers can sample a diverse cuisine from food trucks and local restaurants. So, bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and the whole family.

There is Free Parking available at the South Side lot of the Fanwood train station. Please note that pets, skateboarding and roller blading are prohibited in the festival area. For further information, please contact the GWACC, 908-233-3021, or visit the website gwaccnj.com and look for Street Fairs.



FREE SUMMER MOVIE SERIES UNDER THE STARS

Fanwood Recreation

**Free Summer Movie Series
Under the Stars at La Grande Park.**

Jun 28	8:30	Encanto
July 5	8:30	Ghostbusters; Afterlife
July 12	8:30	Cruella
July 19	8:30	The Mitchells vs. The Machines
July 26	8:15	Mama Mia
Aug. 2	8:15	Guardians of the Galaxy
Aug. 9	8:15	Luca
Aug. 16	8:00	Paddington

All movies are scheduled for Tuesday evenings at La Grande Park. The rain date for each movie is the following day.

Moviegoers should bring blankets or low beach chairs to sit on.

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NEWSPAPER AD RATES

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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GARDEN CLUB SPREADING JOY AT JARDINE ACADEMY

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield joined some students and staff members at the Jardine Academy of the Cerebral Palsy League in Cranford, NJ to make Mother's Day planters that the students could give to their families. Seventy-five colorful pots were planted with a variety of popular garden plants and decorated with the brightly colored bows that members of the Club had made.

The Jardine Academy is operated by the Cerebral Palsy League, and is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. They provide a comprehensive educational program designed to meet the cognitive and physical

needs of children and young adults ages 3-21 with multiple disabilities.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Meetings feature speakers on horticulture, floral design, floral crafts, and environmental topics. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Sharon Shiraga (908) 228-2865, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoegc.org or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield members Adah Levine, Susan Feldman, Mary Lou Nolas, Mary Fran Annese, Irene Greenstein, Betty Clark, and Betty Gulino.

Courtesy photo

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