

Fanwood Post NJ

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FANWOOD FAMILY LIGHTS UP HOME FOR WORTHY CAUSE

Borough of Fanwood

The Roser home on Paterson Road is a beacon of holiday light during the Christmas season as both a local attraction and a fundraising venue. Greg Roser begins setting up the thousands of lights in early fall, then flips on the switch Thanksgiving weekend. It's uncertain whether the display is visible from space but it's certainly visible to the community and attracts thousands of visitors who are asked to make a donation to the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities' Lakeview School, a cost-free school for children with special needs.

"It's to have special wheelchairs made and everything," said June Roser, Greg's wife. "It's only state-funded, so every penny goes to the school and everyone who goes to the school, they don't pay anything."

The highlight of the season is Santa's appearance in early December, this year on Saturday, December 10, when families line up around the block for a visit with the big guy. Every child receives a gift, all of which are donated, and a good dose of holiday cheer. Donations to the NJID are gratefully accepted through the entire holiday season.

The entire Roser family gets involved in Santa's visit including the Rosers' daughters Victoria and Christine, Greg's brother, Doug, and sister-in-law, Lisa, and other volunteers from the Antique Automobile Club of America of which Greg is the local chapter president.



(above) Officers Tyler Flowers, Mike Rusin and Dan Hudspith present a check from the PBA to Santa.

Photos by Tom Kranz

Police officers from the Fanwood PBA Local 123 were on hand with free coffee and presented a check to Santa for \$250.

An estimated 250-300 children visited Santa. Total donations are usually in the thousands of dollars. The final tally is announced later in the season.



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LIBRARY NOW OPEN AT THE HISTORIC TRAIN STATION ON NORTH AVENUE

The Fanwood Memorial Public Library has reopened at the historic train station on North Avenue with most services available and a new, expanded catalog. Pictured is Library Director

Dan Weiss, his staff and Library Board President Carol Campbell (front right) on their first day in their new digs. For more information visit fanwoodlibrary.org.



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(above, l-r) Serina Agosta and Joe Schiavo were sworn in by the Chapter's Past President Geri Samuel.

Courtesy photo

COLLEGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains 2023-2024 scholarship application forms can be obtained from the SPFHS Counseling Office, at spfk12.org, or at fspcollegeclub.org.

This will be the 87th 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 College Club has awarded approximately \$750,000.00 in scholarships to approximately 574 local women. In 2022-23 the club awarded \$30,500 to 12 recipients.

In the words of one of the 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 enable 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."

Application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2023, to be considered.

The F-SP College Club Scholarship Committee will be ready to begin reviewing applications the first week of March. The decision to select the 2023-24 scholarship recipients will be finalized in mid-April.

SP-F UNICO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently welcomed two new members into its organization. Serina Agosta and Joe Schiavo were sworn in by past president Geri Samuel at the chapter's November meeting.

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. The chapter raises and donates thousands of dollars annually to support scholarship programs,

organizations, and individuals in the New Jersey area. Since 1974, they 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. The local chapter also has been recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" and has earned its place in the community for service to others and charitable contributions.

You are invited to learn more about the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO at spfunico.com and anyone interested in membership is encouraged to email the chapter at spfunico@gmail.com.

THE GRINCH JOINS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



(above, l-r) At the Scotch Plains Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting on December 4, Santa arrived on a firetruck and the Grinch also made an appearance. Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO members were present with giveaways for those in attendance. Pictured here are UNICO member with The Grinch: Jeff Blanck, Daniela Sellinger, The Grinch, and Luciana Rodak.



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POPULAR AUTHOR VISITS INSPIRE STUDENTS

Submitted by the Coles PTA
Coles staff and students enjoyed two author visits this December.
Karen Rostoker-Gruber met virtually with Pre-K students and shared her book, A Crowded Farmhouse Folktale. Students enjoyed listening to the story and making animal noises along with the author.
The next day, Coles hosted Lesa Cline-Ransome for its first in-person author visit since

2019. Students enjoyed learning about Ms. Ransome's life by seeing photographs of her family and home office.
Coles student J.J. said, "I was surprised to see so many books in her home office. It looked like a library!"
Ms. Ransome told students as a child her favorite thing to do was go to the library and read and how that inspired her to become an author. Many of her books are about important

people in history and she shared how she researches them by reading and visiting historic sites before writing. Ms. Ransome shared excerpts from some of her books and her book making process including sketches and final illustrations created by her husband and illustrator James Ransome.
Third grader Mia commented that she thought the visit was "excellent and she did not want it to end."

SANTA'S HELPERS

Over the last four years, a small group of Santa's elves has helped fill Christmas stockings for Family Promise of Union County. The organization serves low income families and families experiencing homelessness.
Students and staff at the Academy for Performing Arts at the Magnet School in Scotch Plains participated this year also. Kaitlyn Landaverde, a Junior from Clark, organized the drive at the high school.
Patricia Novy of Clark, who started the project four years ago, shared the fact that the group filled 36 stockings the first year, 67 stockings last year and 91 Christmas Stockings for children ages 4 to 12 this year.
"The need is greater than ever," Novy said. "In speaking with Family Promise, the children often receive donated gifts, but stockings are not considered. Our little group of friends, family and former colleagues help fill that void."
We are inspired each year by this quote from a nine-year-old boy, "When you give something; someone else gets."



Courtesy photo
(above) Patricia Novy with Christmas stockings waiting for delivery to Family Promise of Union County.

THRIFT SHOP

Tuesday, January 3 marks the re-opening of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop after a week-long closure for the holiday season. Featured for January is a wide variety of new and gently used household goods, including small appliances, cooking and bakeware, bowls, glasses and dish sets.
A trip to the Thrift Shop in January is the perfect time to:
• Replenish or supplement items in your own kitchen cabinets.
• Help set up a new living space for first-time home buyers.
• Gather goods for a college student who will soon be moving from a dorm room to a shared apartment.
• Purchase items at a very reasonable cost to re-donate. There are many charities helping adults and families in need set up homes of their own.

Customers of the Thrift Shop will also find regularly replenished clothing in sizes from infants to plus-size adults; shoes; all types of accessories from scarves to pocketbooks; bric-a-brac; linens; and toys, games, books and DVDs, all at very reasonable prices that simply cannot be beat at any local store. Goods sold at the store come from very generous donors within our communities, and all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are donated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships.

The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children are welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

To learn more about the Service League, our donation policy and volunteer opportunities please call the store during Thrift Shop business hours at 908-322-5420
or visit the Scotch Plains Thrift Shop website, scotchplains thriftshop.weebly.com.

FANWOOD RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for Fanwood's Winter 2023 after-school programs, which begin in January. Programs include Mindfulness & Yoga for Children, Red Hot Robotics, Babysitting Certification Class, Fashion Design, Youth Hip Hop Experience Dance Class, Elementary Drawing by Young Rembrandts, Squirts Multi

Sports, and Parent & Me Soccer Squirts.
Registration for programs for Seniors is also open. Programs include Aerobics, Gentle Yoga, Zumba Gold, and Meditation.
For more information about all these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

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(above) Fanwood FD on standby



(above) Wide train station/library, site of the event



(above) Petting zoo on site

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FANWOOD WELCOMES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH TREE LIGHTING, SANTA & MORE

Borough of Fanwood
Fanwood's holiday tree lighting is always a big event the first weekend of December. Good weather, Santa, hot coffee, carolers and new lights on the giant tree made for a wonderful

event held on Sunday, December 4th. Mayor Mahr and Council members Trisha Walsh, Anthony Carter, Francine Glaser and Councilwoman-elect Gina Berry were also on hand.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) SPF high school choir



(above) Rescue Squad on standby



(above) High School carolers at the base of the tree

2022 TREE LIGHTING



(above) Sisters posing with Santa



(above) Mayor Mahr, Councilwoman Trisha Walsh and Councilwoman-elect Gina Berry



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Rahway is your winter destination in 2023! Looking for something to do to fight off those winter blues? Bundle up and take the train, rideshare, or drive to Rahway to experience all that the city has to offer. Rahway is home to a diverse small business community with unique retail shops and dining experiences. You can start your day in Rahway with a hot cup of coffee and some shopping, get the kids out of the house for lunch and some family game time at the arcade, and plan a date night with drinks and dinner at any one of our many delicious restaurants. No matter what cuisine you are craving, you will find it in Rahway! Watch a show at the Union County Performing Arts Center, view an exhibit at one of our art galleries, or listen to local musicians who can help you rock and sway your way through the winter months.

Looking to warm up this winter? Our annual Soup Stroll, presented by our Special Improvement District (SID), will return every Saturday in January (Jan 7, 14, 21, 28) from 1-4 p.m. Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council encourage everyone to attend this free event as a great way to get together with friends, get out of the house, and sample some delicious soups while strolling through the City.

Restaurants will be stirring up their finest soups for you to try, so be sure to follow @Rahwayishappening on Facebook and Instagram or visit RahwayisHappening.com/soupstroll for participating eateries and more information. Snap a photo of you and your Soup Stroll Squad enjoying your samples and share it with @rahwayishappening on Instagram to enter our Soup Stroll Selfie contest for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Card to your favorite participating restaurant.

Visit Rahwayishappening.com for information on parking, lists of shops and restaurants and details about all of our upcoming events!

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Scan the QR code for a full list of participating restaurants or visit RahwayisHappening.com/soupstroll

Please note: While supplies last. Establishments will not be able to accommodate food allergies or restrictions. Not all restaurants are open the entire 1-4pm. Please check individual hours of operation.

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CENTER FOR HOPE'S YEAR-END DONATION

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, a community-based non-profit hospice organization in Union County, New Jersey, celebrated the season with their Auxiliary on Monday, December 5. At the party, the Center received a very generous gift: a check for \$100,000 representing the funds raised from the Auxiliary over the past year.

Marge Hussey, the Auxiliary's president, was pleased to be able to present the check to the Center. "Each year," she said, "with our many events and the Hope Chest Thrift Store, we work tirelessly to not only educate the community about the Center, but to help the Center in its mission: providing only the finest in hospice care to all those who need it regardless of an inability to pay. As I present the fruits of that work to the Center tonight, I hope you all can share the pride I feel in knowing that we're making a difference in the lives of so many each and every year."

Tom Kasper, the Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees, was on hand to accept the gracious donation. "This is incredible," he said. "While each and every one of us, alone, do what we can, it pales in comparison to the work that can be done when we come together as a group and work toward a goal. You all have shown that here tonight. There's simply no way the Center can properly state the gratitude we feel for the Auxiliary throughout the year."

Marge concluded by saying, "As we come together this holiday season, I want to again thank everyone for their hard work...and remind

everyone that our work is not done! Next year, those in need in our community will still remain and will still need our support." She reminded the group that "we still need new members to help us do even more next year."

The Center for Hope offers hospice and palliative care in its two residences in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth, and provides hospice care to patients in the wider community where they live. For more information on the Center or the Auxiliary, visit cfhh.org.

ABOUT CENTER FOR HOPE HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE, INC.

Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care (Center for Hope) is a non-profit, community-based organization that provides terminally ill patients with hospice care, and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional, and spiritual support during their time of need. The Center actively supports the individual's right to live out the remainder of their life with dignity and in comfort, surrounded by the love of family and friends, and eased from the burdens of physical, emotional, spiritual, financial or social distress. Center for Hope welcomes all terminally ill patients, their families and loved ones without concern for race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or ability to pay. It also offers pain and symptom management for chronically ill and seriously ill patients through its palliative care program. Center for Hope operates two facilities in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth; the latter provides nearly \$3.5 million a year in charity care. For more information, visit cfhh.org.



(above, l-r) The officers of the Center for Hope Auxiliary present a \$100,000 check to the Center for Hope's Board of Trustees Chairman. Pictured are Marge Hussey, Dolores Paruta, Ginny Comer, Thomas Kasper, Dolores Hynes, and Rosemary Burke.

Courtesy photo



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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
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CRAIG CLARK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF HEART TRANSPLANT

Craig Clark, 61, is taking time to reflect on the gift of life and the miracle of organ and tissue donation and transplantation as he recently celebrated four years since his life-saving heart transplant. With his health and strength now restored, Craig is living each day to its fullest by enjoying life's precious moments and spending time on his favorite hobbies, including home improvement projects, day trips and travel.

"Each day that I get to travel and spend time with extended family and friends or special events like our children's weddings or the birth of a grandchild, I remember that it was made possible thanks to my organ donor and the care of Susan Pardi, NP, and the amazing transplant team at NYU Langone who kept me alive through heart failure," said Craig.

Now four years post-transplant, Craig is filled with energy and spends as much time as possible with his grandchild. He is also forever mindful of his organ donor who gave him the gift of life. "The only thing that I know about my donor is that he was 51 years old when he passed," said Craig. "My donor or his family's decision to be a donor has essentially given me a new lease on life."

Craig has also made it a priority to advocate for NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. By sharing his story with others, Craig hopes to encourage more people to register

as organ and tissue donors. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others," said Craig.

At the age of 17, Craig enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He earned bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Art History from Seton Hall University before returning to active military duty as an Artillery Officer. At that time, doctors detected that Craig had a heart murmur, and he was soon diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Despite his critical health challenges, Craig and his wife, Anna, raised their three children, Adam, Rachel and Nathan, and he enjoyed a successful career in transportation and supply chain management.

As years passed, Craig's heart disease grew progressively worse. He suffered a stroke and his heart stopped beating twice in a two-week period. Craig had a defibrillator implanted, but he was later diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF) in 2017. He was added to the heart transplant waiting list. On August 25, 2018, while admitted at NYU Langone, Craig's prayers were answered when he received "the call" from NYU Langone cardiologist Alex Reyentovich, MD that a heart was available for transplant.

"I remember answering the phone was basically the only thing that I had enough strength to do at the time," said Craig. "The next day, I had my transplant. I recovered quickly in the immediate days and weeks after transplant. I was out of the hospital in just seven days!"

Currently, there are over 100,000 Americans –

nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant, according to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future.

To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.



(above) Heart transplant recipient Craig Clark of Scotch Plains recently celebrated the four-year anniversary of his life-saving transplant.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

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