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**ECRWSS**

## 14TH ANNUAL MLK DAY OF SERVICE

The 2023 Scotch Plains/Fanwood Martin Luther King Day of Service took place on Monday, January 16th, 2023.

Participants had the option to volunteer throughout Fanwood and Scotch Plains either virtually or in-person, or by making donations.

The JCC of Central New Jersey hosted the opening program which began their day of volunteering. Activities at this location included high school students and older adults had the opportunity to participate in a Racial Healing Circle. The event's goal was to create a safe and structured space to dialogue with a diverse group of neighbors by sharing lived experiences.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA hosted many community activities. Some of the scheduled events included making Valentine cards to be given to veterans. Collections included towels to be donated to Plainfield Animal Humane Society and Home for Good Dogs; and a winter hats& gloves to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County.

The Borough of Fanwood collected baby items, diapers, and feminine products for Moms Helping Moms.

More community events are highlighted in the photo captions corresponding to this article.



(above) Immaculate Heart of Marcy Church in Scotch Plains hosted a Bingo luncheon for approximately 95 senior citizens.



(above) Volunteers made sandwiches at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains.



(above) A 'Dignity Drive' was sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Fanwood Post page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/fanwoodpost) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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## TINY TIM FUND EXTENDS THANKS FOR FUNDRAISING SUPPORT



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### SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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Once again, the participation and generous donations from citizens of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains communities have helped the Tiny Tim Fund to have a successful fundraiser. The trustees look forward to being able to continue the organization's mission of providing financial assistance to local families to pay for the medical needs of their children during the coming year.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Girl Scout Troops and individual members of the community who shared holiday spirit and collected donations on Tiny Tim Carol Night in December. Special thanks is extended to Dustin



(above, l-r) Carolers: Stephanie Licata, Whitney Bernard and Jocelyn Hoyos spread holiday cheer on Tiny Tim Carol Night and collected donations.

Noel, the Manager of the Stage House restaurant in Scotch Plains, for graciously providing a warm room in The Stage House which served as a collection site on Carol Night as well as a place for the carolers to enjoy refreshments provided by the Tiny Tim Board members and The Stage house.

Carol Night was followed by the distribution of solicitation letters to homes throughout Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The trustees are grateful to the volunteers from the community who helped to deliver the letters which included SGA, the Interact Club and SCN groups from SPF High School.

The Tiny Tim Fund actively seeks donations once each year during the holiday season. Donations are accepted and appreciated at any time during the year.

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

The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered New Jersey non-profit corporation 501(c)(3) that raises funds to provide financial assistance to help families pay for the medical needs of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains including doctors, dentists and mental health needs. The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees and there are no administrative fees. The organization has been assisting local families since 1983.

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## UNICO SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO, a local Italian-American service organization, is dedicated to helping local students maximize their talent and potential through educational pursuits. In the 49 years since our Chapter began, our organization has offered scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

This year, our chapter will be offering four \$2,500 scholarships. All graduating high school seniors of verifiable Italian heritage who plan to attend a post-secondary vocational, technical, or trade school, a 2-year community college, or a 4-year college/university are encouraged to apply! Applicants must reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood to be considered for an award. (Exception: Children of SP-F UNICO members in good standing have no residency requirements.) Awards are based on a combination of financial need, extracurricular activity and civic involvement, and academic excellence.

Please visit our Scholarship Program page at [unicospf.org](http://unicospf.org) for full requirements and to apply. Applications are due March 1, 2023.

Questions may be directed to our scholarship chairpersons at [spfunicoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:spfunicoscholarship@gmail.com).

## COLLEGE CLUB WILL HOST SPF STUDENT SCIENTISTS ON FEB. 27TH

Sanveei Suresh, Madeline Marcovecchio, Sophia Seith and Audrey Ricks, the winning team in NASA's TechRise Student Challenge, will present their experiment, the current status of their project and what they have learned working with NASA researchers, at a meeting hosted by the Fanwood/Scotch Plains College Club on Feb. 27th.

The team's vision was to create a futuristic, hydroponic farming technique that could possibly be used to explore food production in a non-gravitational environment and could become a possible food source for astronauts.

NASA's (National Aeronautic & Space Administration) TechRise Student Challenge invited teams of sixth to twelfth grade students to design, build and launch science and

technology experiments on high altitude balloon flights during 2022-2023. The challenge offers hands-on insight into the design and test process used by NASA-supported researches.

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains holds monthly meetings that include informative and entertaining programs that are free and open to the public. The club also offers its members interest groups, community outreach activities and fundraising projects to generate funds for annual scholarships that are awarded to young women in our community.

Additional information about

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be obtained by sending an email to: [collegeclubfsp@gmail.com](mailto:collegeclubfsp@gmail.com).

## APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2023 DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP

The time to apply is now! High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 8th, 2023.

To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has provided over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a twenty-seven year period. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Eligible students are those who attend public, parochial or private high

schools in Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison. Applicants must major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering, and must also be accepted to an accredited college or university. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest in the area of study and prove financial need.

Interested high school students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Rotary Club of the Plainfields website at [rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php](http://rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php). Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.

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# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH TO HOST “ALPHA” SESSIONS

Is There More to Life Than This? In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Alpha fosters honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), watch a short video on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share thoughts and questions with the group.

“I was invited to participate in the Alpha pilot. From the initial meeting, I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of,” explains Nancy Schreck. “After completing the pilot, I joined the Alpha team to help plan for the future of Alpha at IHM. It's a wonderful opportunity for people at any level of faith to meet new people and explore new ideas.”

Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, February 13, 2022 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Good food and conversation will be offered to all in attendance. Most meetings after that will be hosted on Zoom. Links and directions will be

provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people.

“When I offered tech support for the pilot program at IHM, I had no idea what I was in for. I'm not very religious. But Alpha was an unexpected surprise!” offers Gabe Lamberty. “The program is interesting and entertaining. And it's nice to meet new folks from the community. Overall an unforgettable experience.”

“I'm looking forward to the Alpha experience,” says Lou Zappo. “It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself.”

Registration is required, please go to our website at [ihmparish.net/alpha](http://ihmparish.net/alpha) or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please email [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net).

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NJ 211?

The 211 system is found throughout the United States and is devoted to connecting people in need to the resources that can help. While each 211 operates independently, all of the more than 200 organizations provide a network of local support that people can call on with confidence when they need help and simply don't know where to turn. In New Jersey, our motto has been: Need Help? Start Here.

NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our services are

free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach us: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email ([info@nj211.org](mailto:info@nj211.org)); or chat on-line: [nj211.org/contact-us](http://nj211.org/contact-us). Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help people who are struggling.

NJ 211 also serves as the State Homeless Hotline and New Jersey's Utility Assistance Hotline.

## FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness? Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness. The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com) with your name, town, and phone number.

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## IMPROVED LAGRANDE PARK COMING SOON!

The renovation of the playground at LaGrande Park is underway. All new climbing and riding elements will be installed along with an expanded footprint, new substrate and new trees. It is a \$215,000 project financed partially by a Union County grant. The equipment arrived in early January. Installation will take a couple of weeks. All should be complete by the time spring arrives!



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## FANWOOD LIBRARY BUILDING DEMOLISHED

### Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Memorial Library, a center of community activity for more than 70 years, was reduced to rubble in early January, the most visible sign yet of the planned construction of a modern new facility.

Library Director Dan Weiss stood under an umbrella in a driving rain, watching his home away from home be demolished.

"It's bittersweet, for sure," he said as an excavator operated by Messercola Company reached into the roof and walls of the building and tore it apart. It took a full day to reduce the building to piles of steel beams, dry-wall and

concrete, all of which will be cleared in the days that follow. Tree stumps were removed earlier in the day.

Construction on the new library is expected to begin in the spring of this year. Completion of the new \$8.2 million dollar facility is expected in early 2024. In the meantime, library operations have moved to Fanwood's historic train station and museum on North Avenue. Most services offered at the old building still available to the public including an expanded catalog, free WiFi and computer use and many reading programs. The library is open six days a week. More info at [fanwoodlibrary.org](http://fanwoodlibrary.org).



(above) Library Director Dan Weiss watches in the rain  
Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Forest Road facade partially demolished

## SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR NEW FANWOOD LIBRARY FOUNDATION

*Come join us and be a part of our future!*

The Fanwood Memorial Library is looking for a few enthusiastic people to help establish and participate in the creation of The Fanwood Memorial Library Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that will develop philanthropic support for our new facility.

In 2024, an ADA-compliant, state-of-the-art library will rise in the footprint of the building that has served our community for more than 70 years. It will have the capacity to provide expanded programs and meeting spaces for people of all ages with a diversity of interests

and talents.

The Foundation will be seeking corporate and individual contributions through a variety of fundraising endeavors to support needs such as state-of-the-art technology; furnishings for general purpose areas, meeting, and conference rooms; and special events.

Experience with foundations is not necessary, nor is Fanwood residency.

If you are interested, please contact [foundation@fanwoodlibrary.org](mailto:foundation@fanwoodlibrary.org), or call or text 908-347-0377.

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# SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS – DEADLINE FEB. 7

*For Graduating High School Seniors and current college students in Scotch Plains and Fanwood.*

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applications for high school seniors graduating in 2023 who reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood, and residents currently attending college or other post high school institutions for scholarships. Booklets and applications are now available at the guidance office at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School or by downloading an electronic version from the Foundation website at [spfscholarshipfoundation.org](http://spfscholarshipfoundation.org).

The numerous scholarships offered by the Foundation range in criteria; some awards are need-based, while others have criteria such as the intent to pursue an education in a particular field or participation in certain activities in high school. The major criterion for eligibility is that the applicant resides in Scotch Plains or Fanwood; an applicant need not be a graduate of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal essay from the applicant, a letter of reference, and an official high school or college transcript.

The deadline for the Foundation to receive applications - and any supporting documents as indicated - is February 7, 2023. Applicants may submit their completed applications to the designated drop box located in the guidance office at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School through February 7th at 3 pm or mail them to:

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, Attn: Screening Committee, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, NJ, 07023. Late applications will be returned; if submitting via the U.S. postal service, please allow ample time for delivery.

Since 1966, the Foundation has been able to award thousands of scholarships worth over \$4 million to students in Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

“The Foundation is proud to uphold the commitment to support the educational endeavors of the students in our communities,” says Michelle Wywra, President of the Foundation. “We could not accomplish this without the kindness and generosity of our donors, and the participation and support from the community via our fundraising efforts.”

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation’s Board of Trustees is a 100% volunteer-run 501c3 non-profit organization. To learn more about this year’s scholarship offerings, visit [spfscholarshipfoundation.org](http://spfscholarshipfoundation.org).

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION:

Since 1966, The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has been awarding scholarship assistance to graduating seniors and current college students residing in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$4 million to thousands local students. Scholarships are made possible by the Foundation’s efforts during its annual Dollars for

Students campaign. In addition to the Dollars for Students awards, the Foundation administers over 50 separate honorary and memorial scholarships, funded via individuals or groups from the local community and beyond. Scholarship assistance is made possible by Scotch Plains and Fanwood businesses, organizations, community members, and other contributions. For more information visit [spfscholarshipfoundation.org](http://spfscholarshipfoundation.org).



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## QUILTING CLUB MEETS AT THE ROSELLE PARK LIBRARY

The Quilting Club meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at the Roselle Park Memorial Library from 1 – 3 p.m. No registration or membership is required.



Participants are from Roselle Park and surrounding towns. Newcomers are always welcomed. You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy the company of other crafters and creative exploration. Feel free to bring a project to work on, and / or a finished item to show others.



(above) Diane Fleming of Westfield & Nancy Bassman of Scotch Plains



(above) Kris Adams of Fanwood

## SECRET SERVICE AGENT SPEAKS TO SENIORS ABOUT IDENTITY FRAUD

The first meeting of the Fanwood Seniors Club for 2023 launched Monday, January 9, 2023, with a strong message about identity fraud from the U.S. Secret Service.

Special Agent Scott Keenan, invited by Fanwood Police Director Mike Bramhall, provided a detailed presentation on the many hats worn by Secret Service agents. In addition to protecting the President, Vice President, and various VIPs, the Secret Service also investigates scams against senior citizens - the theft of personal and financial information

through email, texts, phone calls, regular mail, and in-person visits.

"Eighty percent of losses through these types of fraud occur among those 65 and older," Keenan told a very attentive audience. Seniors are easy targets, he explained, because many live alone or are lonely, they have savings, they have good credit, and are often unlikely to report the incident out of fear of embarrassment.

His message to prevent being victimized apply not only to seniors but to anyone:

- Never click on email links, even if the email looks legitimate (phishing)
- Never give passwords, usernames, social security numbers or other personal info to anyone over the phone, via text or email
- Anyone claiming to be from your bank should

raise suspicions; call the bank yourself at a number you know and trust to confirm

- Requests for you to act "urgently" should be regarded suspiciously

The Fanwood Police Department urges vigilance against identity theft and will respond to any complaint of identity theft or fraud. They also have an extensive list of guidelines to prevent identity theft and fraud here: [fanwoodnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Identity-Theft-Fanwood-PD.pdf](http://fanwoodnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Identity-Theft-Fanwood-PD.pdf)

The Fanwood Seniors Club meets three Mondays a month at Forest Road Park. For information or to join, show up at a meeting or contact Kathleen Holmes, Fanwood Senior Coordinator, at 908-322-8236, ext. 123, or [kholmes@fanwoodnj.org](mailto:kholmes@fanwoodnj.org).



(above) Lt. Dan Kranz, Officer Tyler Flowers, Police Director Mike Bramhall, and Senior Coordinator Kathleen Holmes listen.

Photos by Tom Kranz

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# HEROES WHO SAVED ACCIDENT VICTIM’S LIFE RECOGNIZED

## Fanwood Borough

At its final regular December meeting of 2022, the Fanwood Borough Council and Mayor Colleen Mahr honored the people they called true heroes for intervening during an October automobile accident in which the driver suffered cardiac arrest.

Bridget Keyes, a nurse from Berkeley Heights, went unconscious on October 25, 2022, and crashed her car into a fire hydrant on Martine Avenue. Rose Budka, a radiology technician who happened to be driving by, stopped to assist, assessed that Keyes had no pulse, and began CPR. Another passerby, Scotch Plains Fire Battalion Chief Dennis Hercel, also stopped and joined the life-saving effort by taking over CPR. Additional Scotch Plains Fire and Fanwood Fire

units responded. Ultimately, Ms. Keyes was transported to a hospital with a pulse. She recovered and had a defibrillator implanted and made a full recovery.

“It was determined by hospital staff that the quick reaction by Ms. Budka and Battalion Chief Hercel, along with other responders, is the sole reason the victim survived the incident,” read Mayor Mahr from the proclamation.

Keyes, Budka and Hercel were reunited at the Council meeting, each receiving a copy of the proclamation. Ms. Keyes had hugs for Ms. Budka and Mr. Hercel and expressed gratitude during brief remarks. She told the Council that doctors are still unsure why her heart stopped as she had no apparent underlying condition or previous history of heart problems.



(above) Bridget Keyes, a nurse from Berkeley Heights, attended a Fanwood Borough Council meeting to thank first responders who saved her life.

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NJ 211?

The 211 system is found throughout the United States and is devoted to connecting people in need to the resources that can help. While each 211 operates independently, all of the more than 200 organizations provide a network of local support that people can call on with confidence when they need help and simply don't know where to turn. In New Jersey, our motto has been: Need Help? Start Here.

NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our services are free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach us: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email (info@nj211.org); or chat on-line: nj211.org/contact-us. Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help people who are struggling.

NJ 211 also serves as the State Homeless Hotline and New Jersey's Utility Assistance Hotline.



(above) Fanwood Borough Mayor Mahr, Bridget Keyes, Rose Budka and Fanwood Battalion Chief Hercel

Photos by Tom Kranz

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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
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
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A talented cast is preparing to present one of the Bard's finest comedies at CDC Theatre in Cranford for seven shows running from February 10th to the 25th and is being directed by Susan Speidel. Ms., Speidel currently serves on the faculty of the Kean University Theatre Conservatory and is a lecturer for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. Holding a range of academic degrees, she has studied acting and directing at HB Studios in New York City and at the Globe Theater in London. She served for 20 years as Director of Education for the Tony-Award winning Paper Mill Playhouse and has directed more than 50 plays and musicals.

"A woman, disguised as a man, falls in love

with her boss, only to be pursued by the woman her boss is determined to marry. Confused?" asked Ms. Speidel recently, "You're not alone, but Twelfth Night, Shakespeare's witty look at gender confusion, invites us to put convention aside, stretch the boundaries of "acceptable" attraction, and that, in the end, love is love is love. The play is filled with relatable characters contending with mistaken identities, unrelenting desire, hilarious pranks, and unrequited love – not to mention cross-dressing, duels, and deception – all offered up with a generous dash of merriment!"

Twelfth Night combines love, confusion, mistaken identities and joyful discovery all while telling a story of fickle fortune, mourning, love and reunion. Set in the free-wheeling, mirror-ball world of the 1970s, the celebratory nature of Shakespeare's play is heightened with a series of Top-Ten hits that enhance the production and move the action forward with a disco beat. Shipwrecked twins, gender-bending

romance and a bumper crop of fools, from the wise to the ridiculous, guarantee a full-blown evening's entertainment.

CDC Theatre is celebrating its 104th season in Cranford, NJ at 78 Winans Ave.

For best ticket selection and prices, visit [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org) for additional information.



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