AND BUSINESS IN FANWOOD diwon(

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS AS A TREE CITY USA

The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission announced the borough has received Tree City USA designation for a 30th year, a tribute to the town's care and feeding of historic trees and conservation.

The Commission unfurled the official Tree City USA banner at this year's Arbor Day event held, for the first time in many years, indoors due to inclement weather. Tree City USA is a national program recognizing municipalities' efforts to preserve and plant trees, have a tree commission and spend a certain amount of money on forestry.

Assisting with the Arbor Day event, once again, was the Nettingham Middle School Environmental Club. Students engaged in a discussion of the Dr. Suess story The Lorax, which chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, the title character, who "speaks for the trees." There was also a reading of original poems about trees by Dean Talcott, Fanwood's Master Tree Steward and former member of the Shade Tree Commission.



(above) Nettingham students, Shade Tree Commissioners, Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell

Photo by Tom Kranz

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

9:00 a.m. Official ceremony to be held this year at the historic train station on North Avenue. Approx. 10:45 a.m. Parade begins in downtown Scotch Plains, travels south on Park Avenue into downtown Fanwood along, Martine Avenue to LaGrande Avenue.



(above) Fanwood Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall this year is Air Force First Sgt. Oshanda Erb, Fanwood resident, reservist and advocate for our local veterans. She is the first woman of color and member of the LGBTQ community to be parade grand marshall.

COLLEGE CLUB DAY

During a recent council meeting of the Borough of Fanwood, Mayor, Colleen Mahr and Council Members recognized the 90th Anniversary of the College Club of F-SP and presented the club with a proclamation that proclaimed March 13, 2023, The College Club of Fanwood Scotch Plains Day in the Borough of Fanwood. The Mayor's proclamation further stated: "I ask all residents of Fanwood to recognize this organization as a gift to Fanwood and welcome them in raising funds to continue their worthwhile efforts to provide a needed source of funding to qualified students. Congratulations!"



(above, l-r) College Club Co-President Jean Naugle, and Co-President Joan Skubish

Courtesy photo

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GARDEN OF THE MONTH CONTEST

Scotch Plains Garden club

Do you love your neighbor's garden? If so, please let us know!

We are pleased to share that this year's spring blossoms are the kickoff to the 'Garden of the Month' contest for all Scotch Plains and Fanwood homes.

The contest will run from May through October and is sponsored by the Scotch Plains Garden Club. We are looking for standout landscape gardens that feature flowers, trees and any other foliage or hard scape that enhances the beauty of the home, neighborhood and our town.

Winners will be presented with an award display for their lawn and acknowledged through our town communication platforms. Names and addresses will only be shared if approved by the homeowner.

All gardens that can be viewed from the street are eligible. For safety and privacy, fence entry to see the garden will not be permitted. Professionally landscaped gardens are also ineligible.

The Garden Club will have 2 roaming assessors looking for pretty gardens. We welcome nominations too. Nominations can be sent to scotchplainsgc@gmail.com.

Any questions about the program can be directed to Sarah Seeney or Michele Gardella through the Scotch Plains Garden club website: scotchplainsgardenclub.com.

FANWOOD RECREATION JUNE EVENTS

TRAINING WHEEL TOSS

Haven't been able to teach your child how to ride a two-wheel bicycle yet? Then come to the Training Wheel Toss and let the Fanwood Recreation Commission have a try!

Fanwood Recreation will be hosting this event on Sunday, June 4th, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the VoTech parking lot, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains.

The Training Wheel Toss is FREE for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents, but you must register in advance in order to participate. Space is limited! Unregistered walk-ups will not be instructed.

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

FANWOOD RECREATION ANNOUNCES SUMMER PARTY IN THE PARK, FREE SUMMER MOVIE SERIES

Fanwood kicks off its summer season with its annual Party in the Park on Tuesday, June 27th, 6–8:30 p.m. in La Grande Park! Join us for food, music, rides, contests and more! Immediately following the party will be the screening of the first film in Fanwood's free 8-week summer movie series on La Grande Park's baseball field. The movie selections are still being worked out at the time of this writing, but be assured that the first in the series will be a family-friendly, funfilled favorite, as will all those that follow! Please check fanwoodrecreation.org for more details about the Party in the Park and the movie series.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR FANWOOD RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS

Registration is still open for these Fanwood Recreation summer programs for children:

- Summer Park Program
- TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp
- Junior Tennis Lessons
- Skateboarding Camp
- Mad Robotics
- Eureka! The Inventor's Camp
- Crazy Chem Works
- Squirts Multi Sports Camp
- Multi Sports Camp
- Parent & Me Multi Sports Squirts
- Golf Camp
- T-Ball, Soccer Squirts
- Parent & Me Soccer Squirts
- · Basketball Camp
- Babysitting Certification
- Junior First Responders
- Hip Hop Experience Summer Dance Camp
- Fashion Design
- SAT Boot Camp
- Musical Theater Camp
- Summer Art Workshop
- •Youth Cross Country/Track & Field Camp.
- Registration is also open for Pickleball Lessons for Adults. For more information about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

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SPF UNICO RECOGNIZES LOCAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Submitted by Angelo Ucciferri

The Scotch Plains Fanwood UNICO chapter recently recognized two exceptional studentathletes for their outstanding achievements both on and off the field. Andrew Benvenuto from Union Catholic High School and Matt Nervi from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School were named



(above) Matt Nervi

Award, a prestigious honor reserved for top performers in sports and academics.

Selected by their respective high school's Athletic Director, Andrew and Matt distinguished themselves from their peers with their commitment to excellence and tireless work ethic. In recognition of their achievements, each recipient was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

To celebrate their accomplishments, Andrew, Matt, and other deserving award recipients from local UNICO chapters attended a special brunch held on April 23rd at The Gran Centurions in Clark. The event featured keynote speaker

recipients of the 48th Annual Brian Piccolo Johanna L. Wright, a decorated figure in both the worlds of athletics and education.

The Brian Piccolo Award represents a fitting tribute to both Piccolo, a former NFL player who passed away tragically in 1970, and the recipients who carry on his legacy. Andrew and Matt have distinguished themselves as role models for their peers and embody the values of dedication, hard work, and excellence in both athletics and academics.

To learn more about the Scotch Plains Fanwood UNICO chapter or to become a member visit unicospf.org email spfunico@gmail.com.

Courtesy photos



(above) Andrew Benvenuto and members of the SPF Unico Chapter

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FANWOOD PERFORMANCE SERIES

The concert series at Fanwood's Carriage House continues on June 10. The powerful voice and equally powerful songs of Danielia Cotton will fill the listening room. Drawing from genres including rock, soul, gospel and country, with lyrics both deeply personal and broadly relevant, Cotton captivates her audiences with the passion and intensity of her performances.

The show starts at 7 p.m. at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center (a.k.a. the Carriage House), on Watson Road alongside Fanwood



(above) Danielia Cotton Courtesy photo

Borough Hall. The series is presented by Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Fanwood Borough Council, with support from the Union County Board of Commissioners' HEART grant program and the donations of attendees. The suggested donation for admission is \$15, or \$10 for students and seniors, cash at the door.

fall with concerts on Sept. 9, Oct. 14 and Nov. 4.

The September show will bring Toronto's Shawna Caspi back to the Fanwood stage, along with Harrisburg native Meaghan Farrell. Nashville-based Kate Klim and Fanwood's own Golden Dimes will share the bill in October. The November lineup will be announced soon.

For information, more Looking ahead, the series will continue in the fanwoodperformanceseries.org or find Fanwood Performance Series on Facebook.

VENDOR POP-UP JUNE 5

A Vendor Pop-Up event will be held in the Fanwood Train Station parking lot on Sunday, June 25th. It will feature approximately 40 exhibitors selling very cool items.

You will find arts & crafts, candles, jewelry, fashion & accessories, health & beauty, home decor, sports collectibles, and many other new

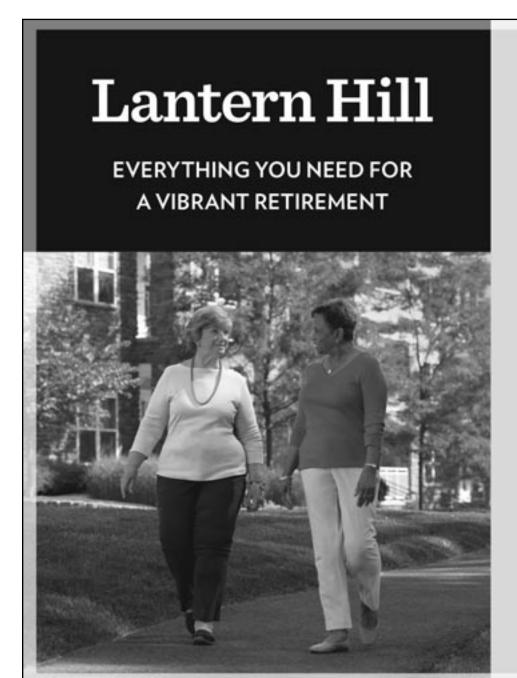
Stay awhile to enjoy the shopping, live entertainment, and selection of food vendors.

Customer parking is available at the train station on the north side.

The next vendor pop-up held here will be on Sunday, November 5, 2023.

This event is hosted by the Borough of Fanwood and is promoted by JC Promotions.





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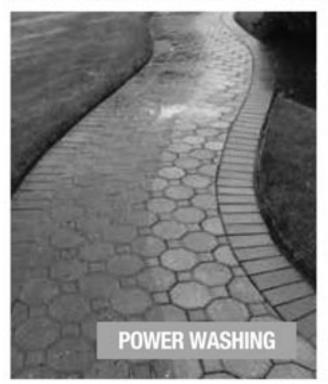
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officials of the Greater Westfield Regional Chamber of Commerce recently helped cut the ribbon today welcoming Gracious Services into the space once occupied by CKO Kickboxing at 25 South Avenue.

Owned and operated by Bayo and Grace

Fanwood Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell and Badmus, Gracious Services is a day program for adults with developmental disabilities. The newly renovated facility includes several multi-purpose rooms offering various activities for its residents. Services include behavioral and individual supports, a music program, transportation to and from the facility, community inclusion and career

planning. There are currently about 30 residents receiving services.

On hand to help the Badmuses cut the ribbon were Councilwoman Mitchell, and Gene Jannotti, Steve Flood and Jim Mooney of the Greater Westfield Chamber which includes Fanwood among its members.

Photo by Tom Kranz







(above) Ribbon cutting including Bayo and Grace Badmus, 4th and 5th from right, and Councilwoman Mitchell, center.(above) Ribbon cutting including Bayo and Grace Badmus, 4th and 5th from right, and Councilwoman Mitchell, center.





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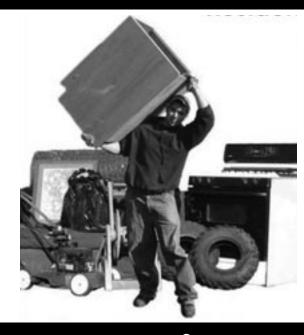
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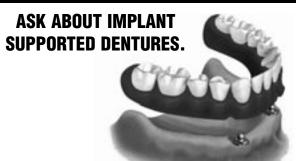
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FANWOOD INTRODUCES WELLNESS FRIDGE

Hayley Blacker and Katelyn Lester, Nutrition Club co-presidents at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Mayor Colleen Mahr. It is community friendly and stocked with fresh, nutritious food that is available for anyone in need to take and enjoy.

It was donated by Fanwood Library trustee Jane Frost-Guzzo in memory of her father, former peace activist and U.S. Senate candidate Dr. David Frost. It stands on the front porch of Fanwood Borough Hall.

The main objective of the Wellness Fridge is

The Wellness Fridge is a project founded by to promote healthy eating habits and to provide people with easy access to healthy food options. People are encouraged to take food out and put food in as they please, promoting a sense of community and shared responsibility for healthy eating. With the Wellness Fridge, healthy eating has never been easier or more accessible. Examples of health food donations include vegetables, fruits, dairy products, or fresh meats.

> Residents are welcome to put food in or take food out, 24/7. Questions may be addressed to fanwoodwellnessfridge@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) SPF High School Colin Mahr, Hayley Blacker, Katelyn Lester and Mayor Colleen Mahr

Photo by Borough of Fanwood



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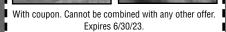


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BRIGHTWOOD PARK DAY SHINES LIGHT ON A HIDDEN GEM

Submitted by Denise Fontana Ricci, Director Friends of Brightwood Park

There was a celebration of Brightwood Park with people of all ages enjoying nature on a sunny Saturday, May 6. Friends of Brightwood Park in collaboration with the Westfield Recreation Department and Green Team welcomed hundreds to the nature preserve for a day of activities.

FOBP Director, Jim Lewis, conceived of the day to showcase all that the park offers to people of all ages and varied interests.

For birders, 113 different species visit or call Brightwood home over the course of a year. On an early morning walk, birders were thrilled to learn that a great horned owl has settled into a tree cavity for the summer. Nature photographers were treated to an extended session with two of FOBP's photographers who shared their favorite spots and subjects. In a guided meditative walk, "forest bathers" found their zen in the sounds, scents, and sights of the woods.

A history walk highlighted stories of families from the "Big Woods" neighborhood that existed at the turn of the 20th century. Ecology minded visitors learned about native and non-native plant species in guided tours. Young children listened to stories about very hungry caterpillars and other such pollinators while sitting under the tree canopy.

In a special, one-day only event, families went on a quest to find fairies in the park. Children

AC I SI (HO)

(above) Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School Ecology Club members discussed bat houses in the park and how to make traps for spotted lanternflies.



sought out the 23 houses and hangouts that appeared in the park like magic overnight, as they walked the pond loop trail. Some fairy favorites included a café, ski resort, school and playground, lake-view houses with gardens and "smoke" coming from one house's chimney.

The day also included opportunities to learn about environmental issues such as recycling and clean water initiatives. The Green Team shared information on the pollinator pathway project and was on hand to distribute native plants purchased by local residents from the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Memorial Library handed out seeds to highlight its new native seed project. The Westfield Tree Commission gave out

free trees. Edison School Girl Scouts promoted pollinator gardening. Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School Ecology Club members discussed bat houses in the park and how to make traps for lanternflies.

Friends of Brightwood Park thanks the town administration for its support of this day of celebration. Plans for the 2nd annual Brightwood Day for May 2024 are already underway. FOBP welcomes all who would like to help.

Brightwood Park is a 44-acre nature preserve located on Madison Ave., on the north side of Westfield, NJ, featuring 1.6 miles of trails through forest and around a pond loop. The park also offers birding opportunities and picnic areas.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Fanwood Post page on facebook.com.

Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."







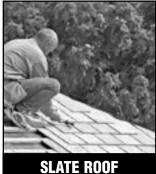
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NET NET AM

(above) Rescue Squad EMT Nita Yusuf and her sons ready to clean up



(above) Girl Scout Troop 4088 from McGinn School

EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS HELP CLEAN UP FANWOOD

Borough of Fanwood

For the 34th year, Fanwood residents donned gloves and grabbed trash bags to take part in the annual Clean Community Day, a celebration of Earth Day and our Borough's commitment to the ecology.

Organized by the Clean Community Committee and the Public Works Department, volunteers gathered at the south side train station parking lot on South Avenue Saturday morning, April 22nd to have breakfast, pick up giveaways and then divide into groups to pick up trash in various parts of town.

Council President Jeff Banks read a proclamation by the Mayor and Council launching the event. Public Works Director Clint Dicksen then invited volunteers to break off into groups to begin the cleanup.

Giveaways included insulated snack bags, reusable straws, shopping bags and t-shirts. Breakfast was provided by Fanwood Bagel. Volunteers included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, members of the Environmental Commission and citizens interested in a clean town.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 33 from Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Photos by Tom Kranz





(above) Fanwood DPW crew

FANWOOD PLANTS SEEDLING FROM 500 YEAR OLD OAK TREE

Borough of Fanwood

Members of the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission, the Borough Council and students from Nettingham Middle School recently planted a seedling from the legendary Salem Oak, a tree that stood for more than 500 years in Salem, New Jersey and was part of the state's early history.

Before the tree fell in 2019, acorns were recovered by the NJ Forestry Service and planted. They germinated into seedlings which were then given to interested municipalities throughout the

state. Fanwood Shade Tree Commissioner Steve Falco took possession of the seedling and cared for it over the past year until bringing it to Borough Hall this afternoon for planting.

Students from the Nettingham Middle School Environmental Club assisted in planting the seedling and mulching it.

Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell read from the tree's certificate of authenticity, issued by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in 2022. Councilwoman Trisha Walsh was also

present, along with Shade Tree Commission Chair Joanne Muoio and Master Tree Steward Dean Talcott.

The Salem Oak was believed to be one of the oldest white oaks in New Jersey standing when John Fenwick arrived in 1675 and signed a treaty with the native Lenni Lenape people under its branches. Fenwick was the leader of a group of Quakers who emigrated from England and established Fenwick's Colony, the first English settlement in Western New Jersey.



(above) Group shot around the planted seedling

Photo by Tom Kranz

RESIDENT TO WALK FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the nation's largest suicide prevention organization, is thrilled to announce that its flagship fundraising event, the 28th Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk will take place on June 3, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

Suicide is a leading cause of death, but it is preventable. The Overnight is the largest annual fundraising event held by AFSP and a powerful opportunity for suicide prevention advocates to raise both funds and awareness to change the conversation about mental health and suicide, save lives, connect with a community that understands and bring hope to those affected by suicide.

Walkers come together from across the country for The Overnight and there is also an option to participate virtually. Each Walker raises a minimum of \$1,000 to participate, and students and military families raise \$700.

Proceeds fund the creation of evidenceinformed programs, advocacy efforts and ground-breaking research. AFSP is the largest private funder of suicide prevention in the country. Last year's event raised 3 million

dollars and brought over 1,500 people together with the shared goal to #StopSuicide.

Fanwood resident, Karen R., will be joining in the walk and is asking for help in her fundraising goal. If you would like to donate, you can make an online donation at her fundraising page:

theovernight.org/participant/43699

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, including those who have experienced a loss. AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health through public education and community programs, develops suicide prevention through research and advocacy, and provides support for those affected by suicide. Led by CEO Robert Gebbia and headquartered in New York, with a public policy office in Washington, DC, AFSP has local chapters in all 50 states including Puerto Rico, with programs and events nationwide. Learn more about AFSP in its latest Annual Report, and join the conversation on suicide prevention by following AFSP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

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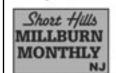


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KNIGHTS HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Submitted by Tom Kranz

Police, fire and EMS responders were honored on April 19, 2023, by the Knights of Columbus, Father Nelligan Council #5730, at the annual Shield Awards presentation at the Italian-American Club in Scotch Plains. The Knights present these awards based on recommendations by the chiefs and captains of the various agencies of members who perform extraordinary service to their organizations and the citizens of their towns.

Fanwood's honorees were Rescue Squad EMT Nam-June Joe, Fire Department 50-year member Russ Hamill and Police Sargent Dan Piccola. EMT Joe is the squad's treasurer and a frequent responder. Firefighter Hamill has held various

positions during his decades of service including chief. Sgt. Piccola is involved in many community policing initiatives.

Scotch Plains' honorees were:

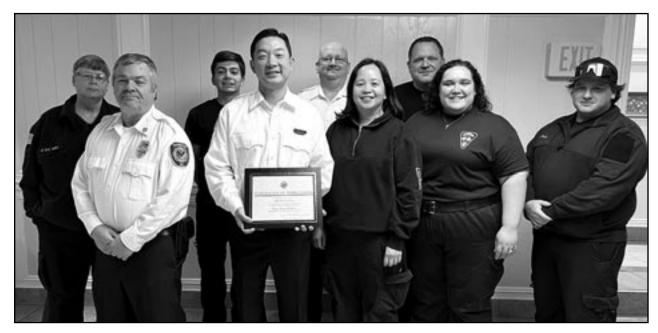
- Police Dept: Detective Sergeant Stanley Pearson
- Fire Dept: Fire Chief John Lestarchik, Deputy Chief Skip Paal, Battalion Chief Dennis Hercel, Captain Brendon Canavan
- Rescue Squad: Sara Paolella

Fanwood Borough Council President Jeff Banks and Councilwoman Gina Berry were on hand along with Police Director Mike Bramhall, Fire Chief John Piccola, Rescue Squad president Karolyn Buckridee and members of all agencies and their families.



(above) Group photo of all honorees

Photo by Karolyn Buckridee



(above) Fanwood Rescue Squad group with honoree Nam-June Joe holding certificate

Courtesy photo



(above) Sgt. Piccola, Council members Jeff
Banks and Gina Berry and Police Director
Mike Bramhall
Photo by Jeff Banks



(above) Firefighter Russ Hamill receiving certificate from Chief John Piccola

Photo by Fanwood Fire Dept.

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MADISON

Thursdays - 1 pm to 6 pm MAPLEWOOD

Jana 2 to 40 7

Mondays - 2 pm to 7 pm
METUCHEN

Saturdays - 9 am to 2 pm

MONTGOMERY

Saturdays - 9 am to 1 pm

MORRISTOWN
Sundays - 8:30 am to 2 pm

RIVERDALE

Tuesdays - 2:30 pm to 7 pm

ROSELLE PARKWednesdays - 1 pm to 6 pm

SOUTH ORANGE

Wednesdays - 2 pm to 7 pm

Mondays - 11 am to 6 pm



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