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MOCK ACCIDENT DRIVES HOME MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

Borough of Fanwood

There was an awful drunk driving accident at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School the morning of November 16, 2023, but it was all staged to simulate the damage, grief and death that result from poor decisions behind the wheel. First responders raced to the scene on Happle Court where a car hit a student riding her bike, then crashed into a tree. Lights and sirens filled the air as groups of students took turns watching the fake accident scene that was quite real looking. It featured an unresponsive victim, a distraught passenger and a driver placed under arrest. The scene was repeated a number of times so that multiple groups of students could see.

“We’re trying to promote making the right decisions when it comes to being responsible behind the wheel,” said Sgt. Mike Baltazar of the Scotch Plains Police Department.”

“Put down the cell phones. Ignore the radio, the GPS, whatever it may be,” said Sgt. Gerard Rites, Scotch Plains Police Department to the group of students watching. “Ignore your friends telling you to go faster.”

In the end everyone walked away with smiles and a new appreciation for the damage drunk or distracted driving can do. Students and teachers played the victims, driver and grieving parents.

Police from Fanwood and Scotch Plains, EMTs from the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, paramedics from JFK Medical Center and firefighters from the Scotch Plains Fire Department did everything they would actually do at such



(above) SADD group featuring chapter president Nikhil Desai, far left, and teacher/advisor Alison Weigel, far right

Photos by Tom Kranz

a scene including stabilizing the car, transporting the surviving victim and pronouncing the unresponsive young woman dead at the scene.

The SPF High chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) teamed with local responders to make the scene as real as possible.



(above) Student actors: Grace Bottomly, Sonya Shah and Chance Perez



(above) SP firefighters Dave Mullin, Raymond Lestarchick and Joe Flammia



(above) Scotch Plains EMTs assess “victim”

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DRIZZLE DIDN'T DAMPEN HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Borough of Fanwood

A cold, light drizzle didn't stop many Fanwoodians from attending this year's holiday celebration and tree lighting on the North Avenue lawn of the old train station.

Mayor Colleen Mahr and members of the Borough Council hosted several hundred visitors who stood in line to see Santa, enjoy coffee and cookies, a petting zoo, Christmas carols and the lighting of the old Norway Spruce.

The annual event, organized by the Fanwood Recreation Commission, featured Santa under the

awning and out of the rain hearing children's Christmas wishes. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chorus serenaded guests with holiday carols under a tent. The petting zoo, a recent addition to this event, was also held under a tent.

Mayor Mahr was on hand to countdown to the tree lighting along with Council members Jeff Banks, Gina Berry, Erin McElroy Barker and Trisha Walsh. Recreation Director Bob Budiansky checked in those who had registered to see Santa making for a very organized event.



(above) One of many families visiting Santa



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LOCAL MUSIC EVENT SUPPORTS RARE CANCER RESEARCH

Submitted by Angelo Ucciferri

The Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter of UNICO was honored to be a sponsor for the 8th annual "Pig Gig", a pig roast and live music event that benefits the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation. Organized by Scotch Plains resident Glenn Alexander, guitarist for the legendary NJ band Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, Pig Gig is an annual benefit held in honor of Glenn's nephew, Jay, who lost his battle to fibrolamellar cancer in 2011.

The event took place on October 22 at the Scotch Plains Italian American Club and members of UNICO were there to present a \$500 donation to the foundation. In addition to

Southside Johnny, the event also featured musical performances by The Weeklings, James Maddock, The Lonesome Pines, Blue Americana, and Glenn Alexander & Shadowland.

Fibrolamellar Cancer is a rare liver cancer that primarily occurs in adolescents and young adults who have no history of liver disease. The Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation supports research efforts that can lead to the development of more effective therapies. UNICO encourages SPF residents interested in helping support this cause to consider donating to the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation at fibrofoundation.org.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the USA, and the Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter is celebrating its 50th year. To learn more about becoming a UNICO member or obtain additional information on UNICO events, please visit their official website at unicospf.org or email them at spfunico@gmail.com.



(above) UNICO members Luciana Rodak and Daniela Sellinger present Glenn Alexander with a donation to the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation. Courtesy photo

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ZOOM WITH JUDITH FLEMING, PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER - JAN. 22ND

College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains

Judith Fleming will share her experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, Africa, focusing on the importance of empowering girls and women. The program which is being hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will be presented via zoom and will begin at 7:30 p.m. on January 22nd. The program is free, and the public is invited to attend. The link required to access the program can be obtained by sending an email request to Jean at jgnog29@verizon.net.

After a successful career working as a staff assistant for the City of Worcester and then for Allmerica Financial/Hanover Insurance, where she rose to the position of Vice-President, Corporate and Human Services and Vice-President, Class Action Administrator at Allmerica Financial/Hanover Insurances, joined the Peace Corps at age seventy and was assigned to serve in Uganda.

After twelve weeks of extensive training, learning the language, culture, economic and community development, Fleming left with a group of approximately fifty others to serve a two-year commitment in southwest Uganda.

During the course of her service in Uganda, Fleming used her extensive business skills to oversee projects focused on empowering girls

and women. Her presentation will focus on her experiences in the Peace Corps and two of the important projects that she was instrumental in developing. The projects create a model for sustainability and income opportunity which has

helped to empower the girls and women of Uganda.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be obtained by sending an email to Collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com.



(above) Judith Fleming, a Peace Corps volunteer, will speak via Zoom on Jan. 22nd. Register via email to jgnog29@verizon.net.

FOSTER YOUTH JOIN FOREVER FAMILIES AT ADOPTION DAY

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

On a recent fall morning, five youth ranging from three to 10 years old entered the courtrooms of Superior Court Judges Gavin Handwerker, Paul Nieves and Chanel Hudson as foster youth and, shortly after, emerged as official members of their new families.

Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by many at Union County's Family Court, as ample smiles fill the courthouse – a juxtaposition to the daily navigation of complex issues fraught with loss or discord. This year, county dignitaries presented families with proclamations and certificates, and festivities included performances by 30 high school students from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir; a former foster youth sharing her personal journey and adoption story; a roaming balloon artist; sheriff's officers dressed as superheroes and a Batmobile outside for visiting; furry greetings from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle High School mascot bear; personalized cupcakes; and ice cream, face painting, and friendship-bracelet making stations.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties presented family fun-themed gift baskets made possible in part from donations by David Brearley Bears That Care program and the Union County Bar Association. Baskets were given to all those finalizing on Adoption Day, as well as several families who adopted earlier in the year.

Cynthia Evans of Scotch Plains was among the CASA volunteers to attend the ceremonies for their assigned children. "The day was a long time coming for these sisters, and it was amazing," she said. "I've been their advocate since 2020. Between their adoptive families and all involved,

embraces and cheers were aplenty. My time as their CASA volunteer was both rewarding and challenging. I'm thankful I could help ensure their needs were met and services were provided while in care."

Adoption Day is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care. Since its inception 23 years ago, nearly 60,000 children have found permanency. More than 437,000 youth in the United States are currently in the

child welfare system awaiting a permanent home, and the average wait is four years. For more than 23,000 youth, that doesn't happen, and they age out of the system, facing life on their own.

For details on CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, becoming an advocate for foster children or other opportunities to support the organization's work, log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.



(above) Sheriff's officers dressed as superheroes, and also maned a Batmobile outside the courthouse.

ATLANTIC FEDERAL GIVES RECOVERY GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union (“The Atlantic”) distributed \$50,000 in grant funding to five local nonprofit organizations through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York Small Business Recovery Grant Program (“SBRG”). The SBRG is designed to support the financial security and health of organizations that have faced economic challenges due to the rate

environment, inflation, supply-chain constraints, and/or rising energy costs. The SBRG began in 2017 in response to hurricanes in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Program relaunched in 2020 and was made available again in 2021 to aid small businesses and nonprofit organizations facing challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. By

participating in the SBRG this year, The Atlantic was able to grant \$10,000 each to Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S. Inc. in Plainfield, Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, Mobile Meals of Westfield, St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, and The SHARE Alliance in Springfield.

“Thank you to the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for their partnership and the opportunity to extend recovery grants within the communities we serve,” shared The Atlantic Federal Credit Union Chief Executive Officer Anthony Mero. “The SBRG funding will help our deserving recipients continue their selfless work throughout Essex and Union counties – ensuring community members in need have access to food, clothing, social services and other crucial resources through the holiday season and beyond.”



(above, l-r) Check presentation Mobile Meals of Westfield - Adam Cadmus, Chief Experience Officer at The Atlantic; Josephine Walsh, Operations Manager at Mobile Meals of Westfield; Carla White-Garrett, Community Engagement Representative at The Atlantic; and Anthony Mero, Chief Executive Officer at The Atlantic.

ABOUT THE ATLANTIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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FOOTBALL PROGRAM BRINGS HOME THREE SUPER BOWL VICTORIES

Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL

November 19, 2023 is a day that will be recorded as one of the finest in the history of the Scotch Plains Fanwood (SPF) PAL football program.

It was on this cool and sunny Sunday at Foley Field in Bloomfield when the SPF Raiders completed a hat trick by winning three Super Bowl trophies in the New Jersey Suburban Youth Football League (NJSYFL) division playoffs.

The A (8th grade), B (7th grade) and D (5th grade) SPF Raiders each won the Super Bowl in its grade level in the National Division Super Bowl title games.

The day began when the Raider D team defeated Clark, 24-12, in the championship game. The SPF B team held off Clark to win 6-0 and the Raider A team capped this monumental day with a 30-19 victory over Kenilworth.

The fourth SPF Raider team that competed in the Super Bowl title games on November 20, the Raider C team (6th grade), fell in a heartbreaker, 7-6 in overtime, to Bloomfield.

The NJSYFL American Division Super Bowls were played on Saturday, November 18, in Old Bridge.

The Super Bowl trophies are the first since 2019 when the Raider D team won the championship in its division final.

The previous Super Bowl title for SPF came in 2011 when just one Super Bowl was contested per grade level and not two Super Bowls such as the present playoff format. In 2011, that legendary SPF Raider D team capped an 11-0 season with its Super Bowl championship.

In the opening game on Super Bowl Sunday, the Raider D team were sparked on offense by touchdowns delivered by shifty and gifted

runners MJ Podell and RJ Robinson. Jackson Spieler and Elliot Sobo also contributed to strong play on the offense.

Podell and Robinson also both shined on the defensive side of the ball with Luca Barretta, Darius Lewis and Luca Kresge as they helped long-time coach Shawn Johnson, who is the President of the SPF PAL, win his first Super Bowl trophy.

The Raider B team drove down the field and scored on the first series of the game when Julian Monroy plowed into the end zone from five yards.

That was all the scoring in the Super Bowl for an SPF team that completed an incredible turnaround.

Just one year ago, these Raider 7th graders went winless on the C level.

But coach James Monroy (Julian's father) and the SPF PAL rebuilt the coaching staff and they teamed up to guide these players to a Super Bowl title one season later.

"It's pretty incredible," said Coach Monroy. "The boys played their hearts out."

On Super Bowl Sunday, those boys included Joey Reaves, Kayden Vazquez and Julian Monroy who all delivered key performances on offense against Clark and a sturdy defense that was anchored by Joe Kelly, Brendan Wilson and Daren Louis.

The Super Bowl for the A level did not go off too well at first for the Raiders.

Kenilworth jumped to an early 13-0 lead in the first quarter, but the Raiders rallied.

Sebastian Assuncao plowed into the end zone with a short run after quarterback Marcus Schomberg set up the TD with a key 30-yard pass completion to Ryan McCann. Schomberg and McCann hooked up again later for a 10-yard

TD pass when the Raiders took the lead in the third period.

Gabriel Gutierrez burst nine yards to the end zone for a touchdown later in the third quarter when the Raiders began to pull away.

On defense, Jayden Johnson, who called the crucial shifts to the offensive front line and made his way to apply the hits, spearheaded a defense that was also led by Sam Schinestul, who came up with a critical interception that he returned 51 yards to set up another scoring burst by Assuncao that helped ice the game—and the Super Bowl for the Raiders.

Noah Brown, Tommy Anico, Tyler Doyle and Henry Jacobsen all contributed to the Raider defense that shut off Kenilworth after the first period. And Colby Martin connected on three PAT kicks to assist in the victory.

"The boys showed great resilience and battled back," said A team Coach Plato Schomberg, the father of the quarterback.

In the Super Bowl on the C level, SPF and Bloomfield played to a scoreless tie that forced overtime.

The Raiders struck first and scored on a short run by Ethan Klaskow but Bloomfield tied the game at 6-6 before it won when the QB avoided numerous tackles and hit his receiver in the back of the end zone for the winning PAT point.

Raider Coach Darion Gonzales cited that his entire offense and defense were the stars of the game in which SPF played their hearts out in a losing effort.

"This was a memorable day for our program," said Bruce Moran, the Vice President of the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL. "These players and coaches have now set the tone for what may be many more memorable days and Super Bowl championships."



(above) SPF PAL D Team

POLICE COMPETE IN HIP HOP DANCE BATTLE

Township of Scotch Plains

The third-annual Police Dance Battle between Scotch Plains and Fanwood was a huge success! This year was a tie breaker because Sgt. Baltazar (Scotch Plains) won the first battle (2021) and Officer Hudspith (Fanwood) won the second battle (2022). The winner this year? Fanwood.

The Hip Hop Experience Dance Class, created by Maria Daniel of iDance Ministry, implements social emotional learning and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. This annual event brings the community together through Hip Hop dance taught through the lenses of context, culture, and community connections.



(above) Sgt. Baltazar (Scotch Plains PD) and Officer Hudspith (Fanwood PD) competed during the third-annual Police Dance Battle.



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Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), hear a short talk on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share their own questions with the group. We'd love to hear your perspective!

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There is no cost to participate. The series runs for 12 weeks on Monday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. It will begin February 5th, 2024, and end May 6th, 2024. Three of the sessions are live in person and the remainder are on Zoom. You will need a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will also need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

The live in person sessions will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 1571 S. Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. If you have any questions, please call (908) 889-2100. To register go onto IHMParish.net/alpha.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Holiday Event Schedule 2023

- ▼ **Saturday December 9: Memorial Tree Lighting** following 5PM Mass
- ▼ **Sunday December 10: Living Nativity + Hot Chocolate with Santa** and Holiday Gift Market (SPF PAL) starting at 11AM
- ▼ **Friday December 15: Christmas Concert** featuring Choirs from St. Helen's & IHM at 7pm @ St. Helen's Church, Westfield
- ▼ **Saturday December 16: Confessions** at 10AM
Mass of Anointing at 11AM
- ▼ **Monday December 18: Confessions** at 7PM
- ▼ **Sunday December 24: Children's Christmas Pageant** at 3:30PM

Mass Schedule
Mon-Fri: 7am + 8:30am
Sat: 7am, 8:30am, 5pm
Sun: 8am, 10am, 12 noon
Christmas Mass
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FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

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Online at RennaMedia.com
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Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood NJ Times Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAIN SIDE VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041 07078	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
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
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

HOME AFTER THE HOLIDAYS SALE

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop

You can't beat being home for the holidays but shopping the "home" event at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift shop is a pretty sweet deal, too. After closing for the Christmas holidays, the shop re-opens on Tuesday, January 2, displaying a wide array of new and gently used home goods that are sure to perk up your home décor or update your serving dishes, all at very reasonable prices.

Here you can find kitchen tools and table goods, cookware and cookie jars, pots, potholders, small appliances and more. The January event is a great opportunity to replenish or supplement items in your kitchen, to set up a new living space for first-time home buyers or apartment dwellers, or to purchase items to donate to charities helping families in need.

And, while putting away this year's holiday presents, make room for your new items by sorting through the old. Clean out closets and weed out underused possessions, from clothing to jewelry to purses and toys. Whether it is a garment that no longer fits or a new gift that just doesn't fit your style, unneeded items in good condition can be treasured by another person. Donate them to the Thrift Shop at 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Note that 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. To learn more about the Service League, volunteer opportunities and types of donations accepted call the store during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420. You can also visit our web site scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com, or find the "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" on Facebook.

THRIFT SHOP SEEKING VOLS

The Fanwood Presbyterian Church Thrift Shop is looking for a person or two who think it would be fun to be a shopkeeper for four hours on the third Saturday of each month. No previous experience is necessary. Enjoy all of benefits of being a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office at 908-889-8891.

If you haven't found this hidden treasure of a shop, come look behind the church's education building. Our entrance is on McDermott Place. The shop is currently open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for shopping and donations. Fanwood Presbyterian Church is located at 74 South Martine Avenue, Fanwood with side streets Marion Avenue, LaGrande Avenue and McDermott Place. All proceeds from the shop are donated to local charities and non-profit service organizations.



(above) From vintage Corning Ware to modern Crate & Barrel, you can have your coffee and put cream in it, too.



(above) Find everything from appliances for gourmet cooks to day-to-day kitchen tools and vintage service and tableware at the Thrift Shop's After-the-Holidays Home event.

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11"x17" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850
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\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)
Minimum order \$400

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**FLYERS
\$45
PER 1,000**

**MENUS
\$85
PER 1,000**

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- **STARTER WEBSITE: \$500**
Basic static site that can be developed further
 - **WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400**
Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design
 - **WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR**
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
 - **SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH**
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**Each month 3,000 newspapers are printed and
mailed free to every home and business in Fanwood.**

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