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POSTAL PATRON
FANWOOD, NJ 07023

VENDOR POP-UP FESTIVAL – APRIL 28



Renna Media LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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The Spring Vendor Pop-Up Festival will return to the Fanwood Train Station on Sunday, April 28th. You will be pleasantly surprised when you see the array of top-notch exhibitors selling quality items, arts and crafts, and collectibles. All exhibitors are hand-picked and chosen for their unique items, hand-made creations, start-ups, and well-groomed businesses, and together they create this posh marketplace.

Stop by...shop a little, relax, and enjoy the good food, great music, and 60+ exhibitors.

Held in the south side Fanwood Train Station Parking Lot, this event is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will feature gourmet food trucks, and live music throughout the day.

Parking is available at the North side train station then just walk over the bridge. Use this address for your GPS: 238 North Avenue, Fanwood, NJ.

This event is hosted by the Borough of Fanwood NJ. For more info visit: JCpromotions.Info

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BEGINNING THE WEEK OF MAY 6TH

Duration: 6 weeks (1 hr/week)

STEM Python & R Coding for Beginners: 5:30–6:30PM

- Group 1 (Grades 3-6) : Wednesdays, May 8–June 12, at Forest Road Park building
- Group 2 (Grades 7-12) : Mondays, May 6–June 17, at La Grande Park building

STEM Python Coding for Intermediates: 6:30–7:30PM

- Group 1 (Grades 3-6) : Wednesdays, May 8–June 12, at Forest Road Park
- Group 2 (Grades 7-12) : Mondays, May 6–June 17, at La Grande Park building

*No class Memorial Day Monday May 27th

We provide laptops

For more information and to register, go to
fanwoodrecreation.org/stem-python-coding.htm



SPRING, SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation

Registration is now open for the following Fanwood Recreation programs:

Spring programs for Children: CreateArt Workshop, Parent & Me Multi Sports Squirts, Squirts Multi Sports, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Soccer Squirts, Senior Soccer Squirts, T-Ball Squirts, Basketball Senior Squirts, Foundation Basketball, TGA Premier Junior Golf, SAT Boot Camp, NASA: Academy of Future Space Explorers, Junior Hip Hop Dance Class, STEM Python Coding Classes, Spring into Tennis for Children, Fashion Sewing Classes, Skateboarding Lessons, Babysitting Certification Class.

Spring programs for Adults: Every Now and Zen - Yoga and Meditation, Spring Into Tennis - Intermediates, Spring into Pickleball - Beginners, Spring into Pickleball - Intermediates, Bridge for Adults.

Summer programs for Children: TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp, Applause Musical Theater Camp, CreateArt Junior, CreateArt Workshop, Summer Park Program, Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders Program, Junior Tennis Lessons, SAT Boot Camp, Summer Art Workshop, STEM Python Coding Bootcamp, Daring Detectives Camp, Crazy Chem Works Camp, Secret Agent Lab, Rockin' Rockets Camp, Jr. Reactors Camp, NASA: Academy of Future Space Explorers Camp, Hip Hop Experience Dance Camp, Fashion Design Camp: Caribbean Week, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Parent & Me Multi Sports Squirts, Soccer Squirts, Squirts Multi Sports, T-Ball Squirts, Senior T-Ball Squirts, Multi Sports Camp, Basketball Camp, Golf Camp, NFL Football Camp, Skateboarding Camp.

Summer programs for Adults:
Beginner & Intermediate Pickleball for Adults, Tennis Lessons.

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

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COLLEGE CLUB'S APRIL IN PARIS FUNDRAISER

April in Paris is the theme of the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains' spring luncheon fundraiser which will take place on April 28th at the Westwood at 438 North Avenue, Garwood, NJ from 12 noon -4:00 p.m.

The gala event will include entertainment by the Harmonics Quartet which is an a capella singing group based in Fanwood. The group is comprised of four female vocalists who are dedicated to delivering musical excellence and artistic performances. The vocalists in the group are: Georgette Carter Chrystal, Sarah Gill Coffin, Karen L. Kumpf and Susan Schuman.

The fundraising event will also include a

three-course lunch, a Silent Auction, a Basket Raffle, 50/50 Raffle with three monetary prizes and a raffle for a \$500 Shop Rite gift card. Winners need not be present for the 50/50 raffle or the Shop Rite gift card raffle. All proceeds from the spring event will fund scholarships for local young women. The College Club Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 scholarship recipients. The spring luncheon is the final fundraiser before scholarships will be awarded in May and the success of the event will determine the amount of money that will be available for the scholarships. To date, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains has awarded approximately \$780,000.00 in scholarships to approximately 582 young women.

Tickets for the luncheon fundraiser are \$60 each and can be obtained by contacting Dorothy at 908-230-4917 or at dorothyculleylusk@gmail.com. The deadline for requesting luncheon tickets is April 10th. Tickets for the \$500 Shop Rite gift card are \$5 each. 750 tickets are available and can be obtained by contacting Dorothy.

50/50 raffle tickets are \$2 each and can be obtained by contacting Sue at 908-472-8515 or at sskt@verizon.net.

Tickets for the luncheon and the raffles are also available from any College Club member. Cash and checks will be needed to make purchases at the event.

There are college bound women in our community who depend on the College Club and the members are motivated to make the Spring Luncheon a fundraising success and an enjoyable event for all who attend.



(above, l-r) College Club Co-Presidents Jean Naugle and Joan Skubish are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable Spring Luncheon Fundraiser. All are invited to attend the "April in Paris" themed even on April 28th.



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ALEXA SCOLAVINO RECOGNIZED

Borough of Fanwood

At a recent borough meeting Mayor Colleen Mahr presented McGinn Elementary School Fourth-Grade Student Alexa Scolavino with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts to raise funds for the borough's volunteer fire department. Mayor Mahr said the certificate was "in honor of all the hard work and your outstanding commitment to Fanwood."

Fire Chief John Piccola said Alexa raised \$400 this year, doubling the amount she raised last year selling hot chocolate. Piccola said the money was used to buy winter hats for the firefighters.

Piccola also presented a plaque to Russ Hamil for 50 years of service to the fire department. Hamil's son Matt and grandson stood by his side during the presentation.



(above) Fire Chief John Piccola, Alexa Scolavino, and Mayor Colleen Mahr

RUSS HAMIL 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Borough of Fanwood

During a recent borough meeting, Fire Chief John Piccola presented a plaque to Russ Hamil for 50 years of service to the fire department. Hamil's son Matt and grandson stood by his side during the presentation.





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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR UNION COUNTY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Five-year-old Jennifer is diagnosed with autism and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Jennifer was placed in foster care. The two phrases Jennifer can say graphically depict violence witnessed at home and confirm trauma she's endured. Since entering care and being enrolled in school, it's evident Jennifer has also experienced educational neglect. At age three, she was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to provide such intervention services as in-home speech and behavioral therapies, both helpful for future enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Jennifer's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now more than two years behind her peers.

Jennifer is just one of the more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and neglect. These children are separated from all they've ever known: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and their belongings. For Jennifer, the road ahead is long, and she needs a caring, consistent adult in her corner to protect her best interests while in foster care. That's where Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers come in.

A CASA volunteer is trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims and fully supported by CASA staff for the duration of the case. No special background in child welfare is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences who believe abuse and neglect are non-negotiable. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and even placements



(above) There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer!

can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class.

To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

ABOUT CASA OF PASSAIC AND UNION COUNTIES:

The nonprofit is court-empowered to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates to speak up for the best interests of children in foster care. Assigned by a court order that grants access to the child and all those in their lives, the CASA volunteer gathers information and makes informed recommendations to the judge deciding the child's future. Often, the CASA volunteer is the only consistent person in the child's life. For more information about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org or log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.



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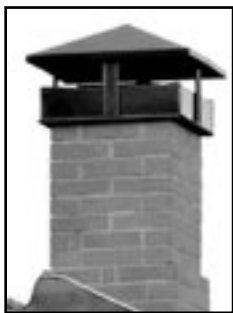


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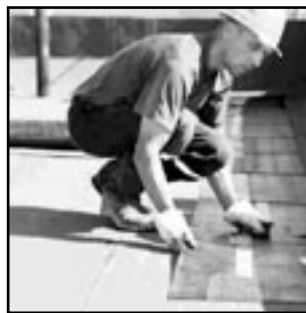
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MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA-FREE CAMPAIGN

JOIN MUSEUM IN CELEBRATION OF SPRING

"All are invited to attend the 2024 opening of the Osborn Cannonball House Museum on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

As part of a springtime celebration, the museum display will feature antique Edwardian clothing from the museum's vast antique clothing collection.

Costumed docents will be available to give tours of the c.1750 house and will share with you the story of the Osborn Family, the two Revolutionary War Soldiers who grew up in the house, and other stories of this important, early Scotch Plains family. You will also hear how the house became known to the community as the "Cannonball House."

There will be a spring-themed craft for kids in our backyard tent and a special treat for children who visit.

The museum is located at 1840 Front Street, Scotch Plains. Admission to the museum is free, but donations are always welcome.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is emphasizing Mental Health awareness as part of this year's Rotary theme "Create Hope in the World". The club is raising awareness concerning mental health issues in multiple ways. They've begun to schedule meetings focusing on the topic, and are offering Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training to help identify and assist individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The club is also asking Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents and businesses to take the mental health Stigma-Free Community Pledge.

The club kicked off the mental health awareness campaign at its February 28, 2024 evening meeting. The featured speakers were Ray Freaney of the Mental Health Associates Rotary Club and Mary Clair Givelber of Caring Contact. Mary spoke about services her organization

provides for those experiencing a mental crisis, including the 988 Suicide Hot Line and Crisis Lifeline. Further information about the hotline can be found at caringcontact.org.

The month of May is National Mental Health Awareness Month and the Rotary Club will be working with various organizations to set up mental health programs. This will include three different presentations by mental health experts and those who deal with mental health issues. They will also be partnering with the Scotch Plains Township to support the May 4th Mental Health Fair and race.

To learn more about the Mental Health awareness initiative and to take the Stigma-Free pledge, go to fsprotary.org/stigma-free.

You can also send an email to fsprotarystigmfree@gmail.com.

SPRING INTO ACTION

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop shelves continue to be stocked with items perfect for refreshing your spring décor and wardrobe.

Warmer weather clothing is now available in sizes ranging from infants to adults for males and females. Find tops and bottoms, dresses, jackets, shoes, accessories and more, some brand-new and ALL in good condition. Household items, toys and home décor that will perk up your porch or enliven your living space are consistently being re-stocked.

You can also find beautiful evening wear just displayed and suitable for proms, weddings and other special occasions—including a few stunning bridal gowns that just might be the perfect fit for a bride-to-be. And mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13, when the shop will host during regular hours one of our periodic jewelry events—the perfect way to complement your special occasion dress with just the right touch of bling!

Also in the spirit of the season, remember that Earth Day is right around the corner on April 22. Earth Day provides a powerful way to make a positive impact on our environment, whether it's

taking part in local clean-up campaigns, planting trees, reducing our carbon footprint, AND/OR bringing items you no longer need or want to the Thrift Shop for resale. Now is the time to "spring clean" your closets, home and yard and give those items a new lease on life by donating them for future use by someone who needs and will treasure them.

Donations to the Thrift Shop at 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains are accepted during our normal store operating hours: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 the Scotch Plains Thrift Shop web site scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com, or search the "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" on Facebook.



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10:00 a.m. Festival Liturgy with Eucharist

Holy Thursday - March 28
12 noon Spoken Liturgy with Eucharist
7:30 p.m. Liturgy with Rite of First Holy Communion

Good Friday - March 29
12 noon Ecumenical Community Service
7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday - March 30
A Day of Silence, Prayer & Reflection

Easter Celebration - March 31
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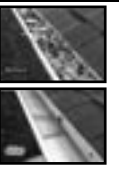
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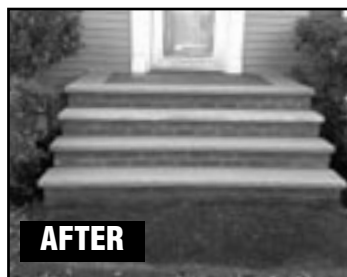
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EASTER BASKET COLLECTION



Here is a sample of this year's Easter Basket Collection hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains. Members of the parish and neighbors in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community gathered Easter baskets for families in need. These baskets were given away during IHM's Food Pantry Distribution days throughout the Lenten season. "We wanted to provide a special treat for kids around town who may have otherwise missed out on the joy of the Easter season." As told by Families of Faith Coordinator John McGuire, who helped organize this collection of Easter Baskets. We want to thank Kathy Mitchell and the generous folks of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood community for this act of kindness. Happy Easter from IHM! For more information about Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's events and activities, please visit ihmparish.net.



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2024 DOLLARS FOR STUDENTS CAMPAIGN

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation kicks off its annual fundraising campaign with Dollars for Students Weekend Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, 2024. Since the founding of the Scholarship Foundation, local students have volunteered their time to support fundraising efforts for the annual campaign.

"Our annual Dollars for Students campaign is the longest-standing fundraising effort since the Foundation's inception," said Cathy Hirschhorn, Foundation Trustee and lead organizer of this community-wide fundraising effort. "We are grateful for the community support from the dollars and cents collected in our tin cans and the businesses that will be hosting us this year."

Student volunteers will be stationed at locations throughout the community on Saturday and Sunday, so don't forget an extra dollar or two

when heading out to the soccer fields or for your morning coffee. You can plan your stops and see this year's schedule and list of supporting businesses by visiting the Foundation website.

"We are excited to introduce an alternative way to make an instant donation at our stationary locations," said Michelle Wywra, Foundation President. "QR codes will be provided on each donation canister that will connect you to our PayPal to make a direct donation."

The Foundation has awarded over \$4 million to deserving students since 1967. These scholarship awards are made possible by the generosity of local businesses and members of the community and beyond.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION:

For more information about Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation visit spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD UNICO NEWS

Submitted by Angelo Ucciferri

The Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter of UNICO recently participated in a local service project to benefit the food pantry at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains. UNICO gathered over 12 bags of food and non-perishable items for the church, which will be distributed to local families in need as part of their Easter service project. We also welcomed 2 new

members to our chapter, Sierra Pasquarella, and Jackie Stasenko.

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, l-r) UNICO National Membership and Retention Director, Geri Samuel swore in new members Sierra Pasquarella and Jackie Stasenko.



(above) Fr. Andy Prachar (center), pastor of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, along with UNICO members Daniela Sellinger (left) and Jeff Blanck (right).

Courtesy photos

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SEEKING DONATIONS

As the Fanwood Community Foundation is asking the community to consider donating to their "For the Love of Fanwood" Annual Appeal. FCF grants help nonprofits improve all aspects of local life. Last year's grant recipients were Caring Contact, Jam Kancer in the Kan Foundation, Fanwood Rescue Squad, Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, Tiny Tim Fund, and Wolves Basketball Academy. In addition, FCF continued its commitment to stock our local food pantries by sponsoring a virtual food drive and also donating \$2,023 directly to the local Immaculate Heart Mary Food Pantry in Scotch Plains.

Donating is easy and tax-deductible.

Scan the QR code or visit fanwoodcommunityfoundation.org and click the "donate" button. FCF can also help meet charitable goals for those considering planned giving. Please contact Peter Chemidlin, financial professional, at (908) 322-1800.



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ORIGINAL JAZZ APRIL 13

The Fanwood Performance Series presents an evening of jazz with the Ted Brancato Trio and Alejandro Ataucusi on April 13 at the newly refurbished Kuran Cultural Arts Center (a.k.a. the Carriage House), next to Fanwood Borough Hall.

Brancato is a pianist with four decades of experience composing, arranging, performing and recording music, and has worked with such artists as Ron Carter, Paquito D'Rivera and the late Milt Jackson. Ataucusi, a member of Afro-Peruvian jazz band Forbidden Tropics, will open the show performing his original compositions and arrangements on guitar, charango and hatun charango.

Showtime is 7 p.m. at the Carriage House, on Watson Road just west of Martine Avenue. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors – cash at the door. Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by emailing fanwoodperformance@gmail.com.

Coming up May 11 is an evening with The Empty Pockets. The band will be taking a break from a national tour backing Al Stewart to bring its own special mixture of Americana, folk, rock and soul to the Carriage House stage. The spring season will conclude June 8 with an evening of singer-songwriter-guitarists - Ryan Harris Brown and Nicola Vazquez.

Music fans can find more information and updates at the series website fanwoodperformanceseries.org, and on its Facebook page [FanwoodPerformanceSeries](https://www.facebook.com/FanwoodPerformanceSeries).



(above, l-r) Ted Brancato Trio,
Alejandro Ataucusi

Courtesy photos

APRIL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AT THE SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bring Your Own Book

Monday, April 1 at 10am

an informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed. Registration is required.

Virtual decluttering program

Monday, April 1 at 7pm

Jamie Novak will present a virtual decluttering program: How to Catch Up (when you feel hopelessly behind). Registration is required.

Wednesday Movies

Wednesdays at Noon

We'll show Wednesday Movies in our downstairs meeting room.

Connecting Beyond Distance

Thursday, April 4 at 7pm

The Resolve Community Counseling Center will present Connecting Beyond Distance, with strategies for social anxiety/isolation.

Registration is recommended.

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek

Fridays at 10am

A gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan. Registration is required for this virtual class.

Hypertension Clinic

Friday, April 5, 10am to Noon

In the Adult Room with a public health nurse from Union County. Walk-ins welcome.

Friends of the Library membership meeting

Monday, April 8 at 7:15pm

Drawing with Sandra Cerchio

Tuesday, April 9 at 10am

Registration is required.

Drop In Crafting

Tuesday, April 9 at 1pm

bring your work-in-progress and craft with company.

Poetry Night

Thursday, April 11 at 7pm

presented by Friends of the Library.

Going Native without Feeding Bambi

Monday, April 15 at 7pm

Going Native without Feeding Bambi with Master Gardener Lourdes Osorio, co-sponsored by the Scotch Plains Garden Club. Registration is required.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, April 16 at 1pm

will discuss Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann.

Evening Book Club

Thursday, April 18 at 7pm

will discuss Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin.

Great American Songbook

Saturday, April 20 at 2pm

Carol Erickson will sing pieces from the Great American Songbook. Space is limited; registration is required.

Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesday, April 24 at 7pm

Drop In Crafting

Thursday, April 25 at 7pm

bring your work-in-progress and craft with company.

More information about library news and events can be found at scotlib.org.

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