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HOWARD DREWES, FORMER OEM COORD., POLICE OFFICER, FIREMAN, RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER REMEMBERED

Borough of Fanwood

Howard Drewes, who has a legacy of public service to Fanwood as a retired police officer, fireman, and Office of Emergency Management Coordinator during, passed away Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the Center for Hope Hospice. He was 68.

In his role as OEM coordinator, Howard played a critical role in helping to manage the Borough's response to Hurricane Sandy in 2012 by coordinating police, fire, EMS, utilities, Red Cross, and Public Works responses before and after the storm.

He was the father of Fanwood Rescue Squad and Fire Department member Jim Drewes and the son-in-law of Rescue Squad life member Jim Russell. Jim Drewes is also a police officer, rescue squad and fire department member.

Howard, Jim Russell and Jim Drewes were all in service during the 2004 President's Day house fire that destroyed a home on North Avenue with Howard coordinating the efforts of the fire department with the police and rescue squad. It took firefighters from Fanwood and three other communities five hours to contain the fire.

"Being Emergency Management Coordinator in Fanwood is easy because everyone knows what to do," Howard said at the time. "It's not like some bigger towns where there can be a lot of confusion among the various responders."

"On behalf of the borough and its residents, I want to

extend a heartfelt sincere condolence in the passing of a true public servant, Howard Drewes. Howard and I worked so closely to get our town through Superstorm Sandy and from that a true appreciation of his skills and dedication to the public was seen. By all accounts, he lived a life where family was first, and I will remember him always with a smile and the ability to have an easy conversation no matter what the topic," Mayor Colleen Mahr said.

"(Howard) wore many hats. Police officer, rising to the rank of Detective Sergeant; volunteer firefighter, rising to the rank of Lieutenant and after all that, took over as OEM Coordinator," OEM Coordinator and Fire Chief John Piccola said.

"Even after Howard retired from the police department and stepped back from the fire department, he was always part of any big emergency operation in the Borough. From chasing resources to getting water for the fire members, nothing was more important to Howard than helping others! Except for his family! He was a true gentleman and will be missed," Chief Piccola said.

Howard was one of the driving forces of the Fanwood Fire Company's 100th anniversary celebration in 1990.

Howard is survived by his wife, Sally; his son, James, a Sergeant with the Union County Sheriff's Office, Daughter-in-Law Melissa and grandsons Russell and Peter; his daughter, Amy DeCicco, and Son-In-Law Chris. Howard's children live in Fanwood.

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(above) Howard and Sally Drewes at the Rescue Squad/Fire Department annual dinner, Jan. 17, 2015.



(above) Howard Drewes receiving the Volunteer of the Month award from Mayor Mahr, December 18, 2012.



(above) Howard with Mayor Colleen Mahr surveying damage from Hurricane Sandy on November 3, 2012.

Courtesy photos

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The Fanwood Borough Council recognized National Police Week (May 10-16)/National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15) during a monthly regular meeting. Fanwood Police Officer-In-Charge Dan Kranz said the borough's retired officers' "decades of service to the borough have paved the way for those of us who remain."

"In a world where safety and security are paramount these officers stand as guardians of the community working to ensure the streets are safe, families are protected, and that rights are upheld. They serve not only as enforcers of the law, but also as pillars of support and compassion within our community," Kranz said.



(above) The Borough Council recognized National Police Week/National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Pictured are Council President Katherine Mitchell, Officer-In-Charge Dan Kranz, Councilwoman Patricia Walsh and borough police officers.

Courtesy photo



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UNICO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

COLE SCHOOL SHOWS "ALL TO HERE BELONG"

Scotch Plains Fanwood Public Schools

Cole's Elementary School held its First Annual Multicultural night on April 18th, and it was filled with smiling faces and full bellies. The night consisted of an Indian tabla drum performance, a performance from the Montclair State University West African Drumming and Dance Ensemble under the direction of Robert Levin, savory to sweet selections of homemade bites, and information about our diverse student background.

As you walked through the Coles Multipurpose room, it felt as though you were visiting the favorite parts of our families' heritage. Tables were set with indigenous decor, fun facts creatively displayed about each country, small snacks made with love, families dressed in clothing that represents their culture, and most importantly our students and caregivers coming together to share their culture.

At Coles, we're so lucky to have not just an enthusiastic community, but an extremely diverse one, always willing to jump-in and come together for experiences like this. The evening was a wonderful way to kick-off a night we look forward to celebrating in future years. We truly strive to encompass our "All to Here Belong" motto in the Scotch Plains - Fanwood School District.

The night would not have been possible without the dedicated Multicultural Committee who spent endless hours working together to create a meaningful, inclusive and memorable night, as well as our participating families who spent time and care in creating a table that represented their heritage. Lastly, a huge thank you to Mrs. Fehte and the wonderful Custodial Staff for supporting our endeavors to bring the Coles community together.

Submitted by Angelo Ucciferri

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO chapter recently awarded its annual scholarships to seven exceptional local high school students.

Alexander Allegra, Thomas Barnes, Julia Flowers, Heather Sherman, and Grace Sweeney received UNICO Memorial Scholarships, which are awarded based on a combination of academic excellence, participation in extracurricular activities, civic engagement, and financial need. Students attending a four-year college or university received a \$2,500 scholarship, and those attending a two-year post-secondary school received a \$1,500 scholarship.

All of this year's scholarship winners attend Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and were selected through an anonymous voting process conducted by the members of Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO. The students and their families were recently honored at the chapter's monthly dinner meeting held at Cafe Gallo in Edison on May 28, 2024.

Amanda Baylock (Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School) and Gabriella Prati (Union Catholic

High School) were recipients of the UNICO Brian Piccolo Award, which recognizes exceptional student-athletes for their outstanding achievements both on and off the field. Selected by their respective high school's Athletic Director, Amanda and Gabriella distinguished themselves with their commitment to athletic and academic excellence. Recipients were awarded a \$500 scholarship and honored at a celebratory brunch held at The Gran Centurions in Clark on April 14. Brian Piccolo was an NFL player who tragically passed away in 1970 at age 26 from cancer, and the award carries on his legacy.

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. By becoming a part of Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, you can actively contribute to making a difference in the lives of students within the community.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Fanwood Mayor and Council recently recognized National Jewish American Heritage during the month of month of May.

Elliot Karp of Fanwood, Rabbi Howard

Tilman of Congregation Beth Israel, Beth Mitchell of the JCC of Central NJ, and Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Shalom were presented with proclamations.



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NATIONAL EMS WEEK

JOIN THE FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD

The Fanwood Rescue Squad is seeking members of the community to join its volunteer ranks. Nurses, who have a goal of becoming EMTs, are encouraged to join the Squad as this will enable you to take a shortened version of the EMT course and challenge the state exam to become certified EMTs. Training is free and included for members.

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The Fanwood Mayor and Council recently recognized the Fanwood Rescue Squad and National EMS Week (May 19-25) with EMT's Nam-June Joe, Spencer Doran, and Nita Yusuf representing the Rescue Squad. Proclamations also recognized National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and National Historic Preservation Month.

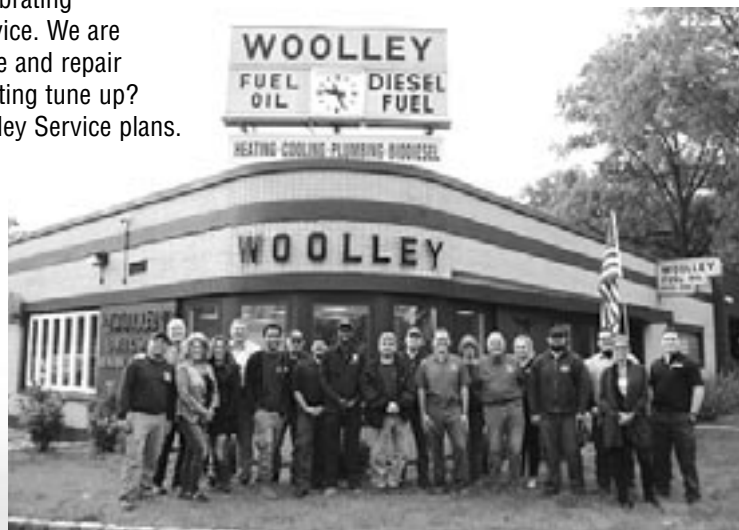


(above) The Council recognized the Fanwood Rescue Squad and National EMS Week. Pictured are Councilwoman Gina Berry reading the proclamation, and EMT's Nam-June Joe, Spencer Doran, and Nita Yusuf of the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

Courtesy photo

ARE YOU READY TO BEAT THE HEAT? DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO HOT.

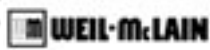
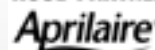
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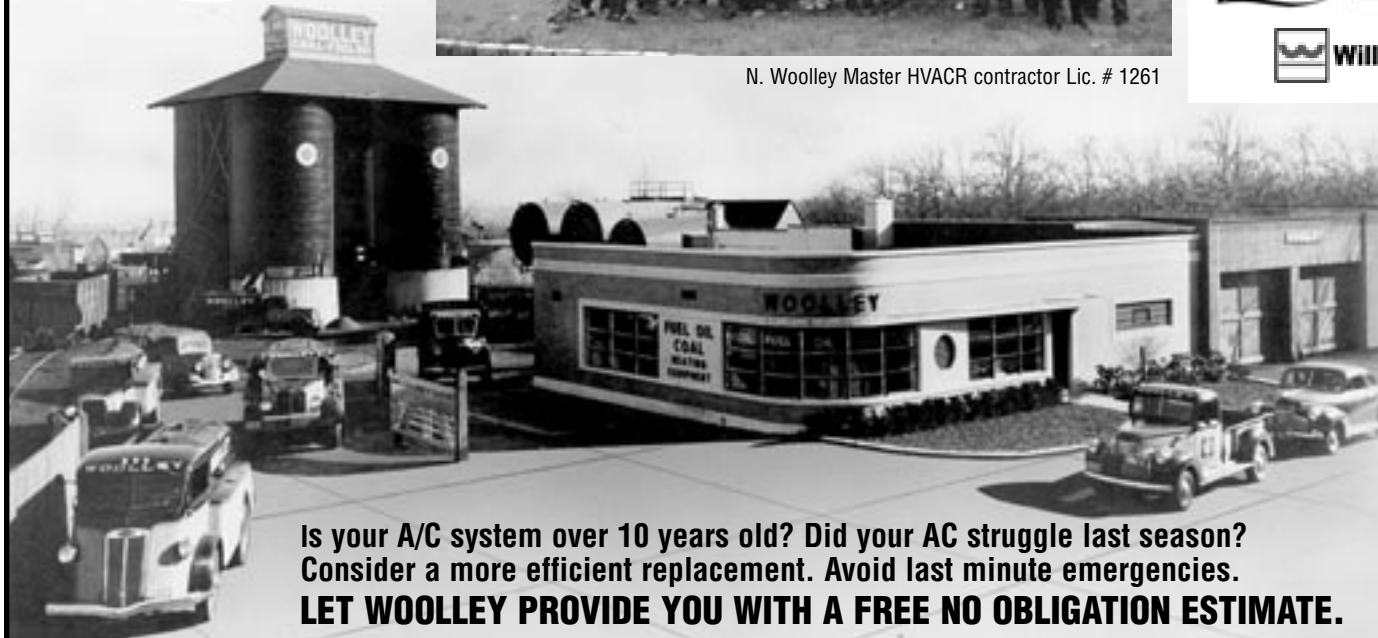
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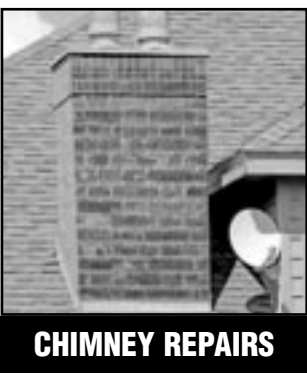
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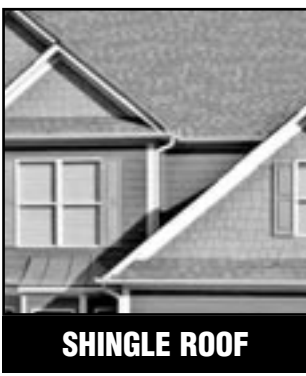
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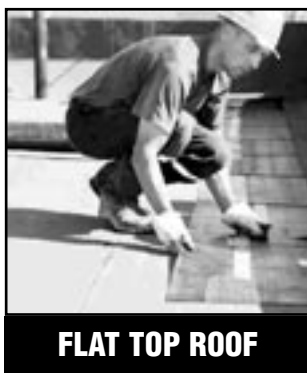
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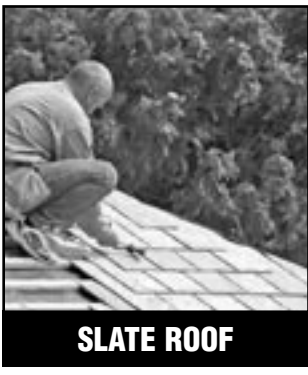
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SEEKING GARDENERS & WOULD-BE-GARDENERS

The Environmental Commission, put in a lot of work to make these gardens around the Municipal Building front lawn and walkway. The gardens are a demonstration of a native plant perennial garden. The Environmental Commission is seeking volunteers (gardeners and would-be-gardeners), to participate in improvements in the Nature Center and the Municipal Building gardens. Please email Fanwood.EC.1895@gmail.com to learn more.



(above, l-r) Sandy Redder, Carol Chimento and Denise Rowbotham

ROTARY'S STIGMA-FREE PLEDGE

The Fanwood Mayor and Council recently passed a resolution in support of a stigma-free community. Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary President Al Smith explained that Rotary International has made mental health a top focus for the year. He said the Rotary is asking members of the community to sign a Stigma-Free Pledge to help educate themselves and others on mental health disorders and to make it a point not to use discriminatory language when discussing mental health. The pledge can be found here: fsprotary.org/stigma-free



HISTORY CLUB SUPPORTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday, May 22nd, the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School History Club presented a check for more than \$1,000 which they raised at an event at the Osborn Cannonball House



(above, l-r) Historical Society President Dave Bierman receives check from History Club Co-President Spencer Martin

Museum on Saturday, May 11th. The Historical Society officers, directors, and members wish to thank the member of the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School History Club for their work.



(above) Members of the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School History Club at the fund raising event on May 11th at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum.

Courtesy photo

A WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN FANWOOD

Submitted by Monica Kostrzewa

Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library's "Footsteps Through Time: A Walking Tour of Downtown Fanwood" was held on Sunday, June 9th. Joan Skubish, Chair of the Fanwood Historical Preservation Commission, led the tour through our great downtown while telling stories and explaining some of Fanwood's amazing and interesting history. The event had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed the stroll through town and learning about some of its previous residents, businesses, and industries. This event was sponsored by the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library through Friends Connect.



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ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Township of Scotch Plains

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women on the campus of Howard University in 1908, is marking the 25th anniversary of a local chapter in Scotch Plains.

Phi Eta Omega, the Scotch Plains Chapter of

AKA, has carried out the international programs of the sorority in Scotch Plains and Greater Union County, NJ since its chartering on June 6, 1999.

The sorority has many programs of service including an annual Dignity Drive as part of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood MLK Day of Service; hosting a Teen Voter Town Hall in partnership

the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Black Student Union and the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Central Jersey; offering mindfulness education programs offered in conjunction with the Scotch Plains Mayor's Wellness Campaign and replacing the headstone of a Revolutionary War freed slave at Scotch Plains Baptist Church.



(above) Members of Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® pose with members of the Township Council to mark their 25th anniversary.

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\$60,000 IN GRANTS, STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League awarded a total of \$60,000 in student scholarships and grants to 19 Union County community organizations, including such well-known groups as the local Scotch Plains and Fanwood rescue squads and libraries. That brings

the Service League's total giving to \$1.587 million since inception in 1973.

Included in the 2024 awards was \$24,000 in student scholarships presented to eight deserving high school seniors at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Scholarship Awards Night on May 29. Students were selected for each of the \$3,000

scholarships based on a combination of their academic records and service to the community.

Scholarship recipients and the schools they will be attending in the fall are Justin Abadir – Liberty University; Hannah Baik – Seton Hall University; Hayley Blacker – University of Wisconsin; Kelly Stewart – University of Connecticut; Grace Sweeney – College of New Jersey; Sairah Llano – College of New Jersey; Katelyn Lester – University of Texas; and Alyssa Sapienza – University of South Carolina.

All proceeds for the grants and scholarships come from the generous giving of new and/or gently used items donated to the Thrift Shop at 1741 East Second Street and run by the all-volunteer Service League. The store has been a staple in downtown Scotch Plains for decades, offering good quality, reasonably priced merchandise to customers in need of household goods, toys, clothing for all ages and in all sizes, and much more.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners and to everyone in the community who helps the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League fulfill its mission to "Help Us Help Others" by volunteering, donating and/or purchasing merchandise at the Thrift Shop. New volunteers are particularly needed to keep the Thrift Shop running smoothly.

To learn more about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, the types of donations accepted and volunteer opportunities, please call the store at 908-322-5420.

You can also visit the Scotch Plains Thrift Shop web site scotchplains thriftshop.weebly.com or "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" on Facebook.



(above, l-r) Recipients of The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League 2024 scholarships hold their award letters at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Scholarship Awards Night on May 31. Scholars are Kelly Stewart, Hannah Baik, Sairah Llano, Hayley Blacker, Justin Abadir, Alyssa Sapienza, Katelyn Lester and Grace Sweeney.

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Kool and the Gang: Remember the marathon dance party with these chart-toppers as our house band? Get ready for a round two of musical magic!

Wolfman Jack Howls Again! Channel your inner Wolfman Jack and unleash your inner rock star with a night of unforgettable tunes.

Charlie Newman Fund Toast: Let's raise a glass to the Charlie Newman Fund and the incredible impact it's had on our community.

Wrestle Your Way Down Memory Lane: Didn't make the Wrestling Team (10-2, by the way!)? No problem! We'll have plenty of friendly competition (and reminiscing) for everyone.

Senior Work Day Rewind: Remember ditching class for a good cause? Relive the

(slightly rebellious) spirit of Senior Work Day! "It's About Time" for a Reunion Play Revival: Dust off your lines and relive the magic of our original Senior Class Play!

We also have pre and post events, including Friday evening at the Stage House Inn with musical entertainment by classmates, a Saturday afternoon tour of the high school, and breakfast together on Sunday. This reunion is more than just a party; it's a chance to reconnect with the people who shaped your high school years. Don't miss out on this chance to relive the glory days and create new memories!

We can't wait to see you there!

For more information and to RSVP, visit: sites.google.com/view/spfhs74reunion/home

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La Grande Park becomes our theater under the stars as our free summer movie series begins on Tuesday, June 25th and continues every Tuesday evening for 8 consecutive weeks. Movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 PM at the beginning of the series, 8 PM at the end). Be sure to bring a blanket or a low beach chair.

SCHEDULE *

Tuesday, June 25	8:30 PM	Wonka (2023)
Tuesday, July 2	8:30 PM	Migration (2023)
Tuesday, July 9	8:30 PM	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (2023)
Tuesday, July 16	8:30 PM	The Little Mermaid (2023)
Tuesday, July 23	8:15 PM	Barbie (2023) PG-13
Tuesday, July 30	8:15 PM	Babe (1995)
Tuesday, August 6	8:15 PM	Elemental (2023)
Tuesday, August 13	8:00 PM	Trolls Band Together (2023)

Movies are subject to change. *In case of rain, rain-day is the following evening.

For more information, go to www.fanwoodrecreation.org or call 370-7092.

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PRESENTS:

2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

- ⚡ JULY 11 - BEERO & FRIENDS (BLUES)
- ⚡ JULY 18 - SOUL SEDUCTION (R&B)
- ⚡ JULY 25 - WOLF CREEK (CLASSIC ROCK)
- ⚡ AUGUST 1 - THE GARDEN STATE JAZZ ORCHESTRA (JAZZ)

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HALL OF FAME HONORS DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was pleased to induct 13 impressive alumni, including an Emmy Award-winning director/producer, the nation's first Muslim-American judge, a former NFL player, and a former Scotch Plains mayor, into the school's Hall of Fame on May 9, 2024.

The inductees were honored at a special ceremony in the SPFHS Auditorium, led by former Governor Donald DiFrancesco, also a SPFHS Hall of Fame member.

"We are lucky here at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to have successful and engaged alumni who our students can emulate and learn from," said Principal Dr. David Heisey. "It was my privilege and honor to welcome these 13 alumni into the Hall of Fame and to celebrate the contributions they have made to our school community and as leaders in every area of society."

Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast said it was especially heart-warming to hear from many inductees about the teachers and community

members who helped guide and shape their career and life paths. Each inductee is honored with a plaque hung in the hallway at SPFHS.

"The Hall of Fame provides an opportunity to celebrate the unique and valuable contributions of SPFHS alumni, while also inspiring current and future generations to dream and strive for excellence," Mast said. "You could feel the legacy and pride of SPF as we welcomed home these inductees."

The following SPFHS alumni were inducted May 9:

- Barbara Adams Austin '57 - Founder of the Fanwood Nature Preserve & professional artist, gardener and writer
- George Falkowski '78 - NY Emmy Award winner in sports and TV news
- Daniel Catullo III '90 - Emmy Award-winning director and producer
- Peter Kuran '74 - Academy Award winner for developing a process to restore color film
- Michael Richard Jackson '65 - Medical innovator, entrepreneur and inventor of PureWick

- Nate Jones '00 - Rhodes Scholar nominee and former NFL player
- Gene Schiller '50 - Former athletic director at SPFHS and Scotch Plains Township Director of Recreation
- Hon. Zahid N. Quraishi '93 - First Muslim-American judge in U.S. history
- Richard Wetherald '54 - Research associate in the field of greenhouse warming; named Meteorologist Professional in 2007
- Erroll Southers '74 - Professor of the Practice in National Home Security, Director of the Safe Communities Institute and Homegrown Violent Extremism Studies at the University of Southern California
- Mike Marino '81 - Actor and comedian inducted into the NJ Comedy Hall of Fame; USO Bob Hope Comedy Award winner
- Mauro Checchio '42 - Former Mayor of Scotch Plains, instrumental in founding a Kean University Campus in China
- Rich Feinberg '79 - Long and decorated career in the television industry

The SPFHS Hall of Fame will continue to accept nominations for future classes. If you know an alum who has demonstrated noteworthy personal or professional achievements, please contact the school for the nomination form.

If you are interested in being part of the Hall of Fame Committee that recruits nominees and selects future hall of famers, please express your interest by contacting Robin Broadbent, assistant to the superintendent, at rbroadbent@spfk12.org or 908-232-6161, Ext. 41103.



(above) Hall of Fame inductees present for May 9, 2024, ceremony.

Courtesy photo

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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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URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Child Focus

The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024.

Union County Superior Court Judge Rosalba Comas presided over the swearing-in of the newly trained volunteers, and each can now be assigned to work with children living in foster care through no fault of their own, advocating for their best interests and ensuring their needs are met while in the child welfare system.

The nonprofit organization Child Focus operates CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, and its goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each of the more than 250 child-victims in Union County foster care. Currently, just 30 percent of these vulnerable infants, children, and teens have the continuity and support of a CASA volunteer serving as extra eyes and ears for judges hearing their cases. The need is critical for additional volunteers to step up and serve waiting children.

“We are proud to welcome this new group of volunteers to the CASA family,” said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus. “These individuals have taken concrete action to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced immense trauma, having been removed from home through no fault of their own, often due to abuse or neglect. We look forward to working with our new advocates as they serve these vulnerable youth and urge more community members to follow their example by volunteering to support children in need.”

Judge Comas expressed her gratitude for the CASA program and the volunteers’ commitment to the children they serve. “If I really want to know what’s happening with a child I listen to the CASA worker, because they are 100% in tune with everything that the child needs, and everything that’s happening in the child’s life,” she shared. “Their job is to look out for the kids,

represent the children’s interest, and make sure that all of their needs are being addressed. It’s not just whether they need clothes or whether they need toys, it’s the bond. It’s what they need emotionally, it’s someone they can count on.”

Since caseworkers, attorneys, and foster homes are ever-changing, the CASA volunteer – or advocate – is a much-needed constant in a child’s life, committing to work with the child until they reach permanency in a stable home and the case closes. Children assigned a CASA volunteer are more likely to receive services, spend less time in the foster system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those without an advocate.

BECOMING A CASA - TRAINING SCHEDULED IN JULY

Becoming a CASA requires no special skills or background in child welfare. Child Focus provides thorough training on the ins and outs of advocating for abused and neglected children, and volunteers are fully supported by CASA program staff. Volunteers visit the children at least monthly and get to know the people in the child’s life, such as foster parents, biological parents, teachers, therapists, and attorneys in order to make unbiased recommendations to the family court judge that support the child’s best interests.

The first step to becoming an advocate is to attend an information session. Upcoming sessions will be held Monday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library (Elmora Branch), 740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza in Rahway; Thursday July 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue E. in Westfield; or Monday July 1 at 10 a.m., Monday July 15 at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday July 24 at 12 p.m., and Wednesday July 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wayne Child Focus office, 415 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite D2. Register: casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, visit childfocusnj.org.

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(above) The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024. To learn more about becoming an advocate, info sessions are scheduled for July.

For more information visit: casapassaicunion.org/info-session

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