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NATURE CENTER CLEAN-UP BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

Borough of Fanwood

Fifty years ago, 16-year-old Robert Schott was looking to complete his Eagle Scout project and was told that work was needed on a nature center being constructed in Fanwood.

Schott decided he wanted to construct a bench for a rest area for visitors at the new center, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

“There were a few of us (Scouts) that contributed to the park development including Bob Luisi and Stephen Wilson,” who cut the trails at the Nature Center, Schott said, noting that the trails are named after them. Schott, Luisi and Wilson were all Fanwood residents and members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Class of 1976. Schott now lives in Cranford.

“Everything that we did (at the Nature Center) was brand new as that was when the park was being developed,” Schott said. “It was a good opportunity to contribute and get our projects done.”

He said his father, Joe Schott, a World War II veteran who celebrated his 102nd birthday earlier this year, helped design the bench.

“We worked together to construct the forms to cut and lay the rebar (and) to mix and pour the cement,” Robert Schott said, noting that his father “probably did half the work.”

“It wasn’t just the bench. I carved out about a 20 by 20 what I called the Robert Schott’s Rest Area. We framed it with railroad ties. I cleared out all the brush and I may have planted flowers,” he recalled.

He carved the year 1974 into the bench when he constructed it, which he said is barely legible today, along with his name underneath the bench.

Robert Schott said he had only been back to the Nature Center a few times over the past 50 years but returned for a trail clean-up day on May 4th, 2024.

“I raked out all the weeds and I cleared out a few fallen branches and I cut a few things up just to freshen it up,” he said.

He noted the trails are “really well manicured now and stoned and lined. It’s beautiful.”

Schott said his bench was painted over the years and is “solid as cement can be.”



(above) Joe and Bob Schott on the bench he made for the Nature Center back in 1974.



Courtesy photos

(above) Bob Schott pouring cement in 1974 for Nature Center bench.

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THE HISTORIC CHAPEL AT WILLOW GROVE CHURCH

Submitted by August Ruggiero



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After the completion of extensive renovations, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo recently visited Willow Grove Church for a tour of the historic Chapel. Built in 1887 with large stones donated by local farmers, on land given by John Lambert, this Chapel served as a Sunday School until 1951, when it became the original building of Willow Grove Church. The church recently renamed it the "Lambert Stone Chapel" after restoring the interior in its original style, with air-conditioning added. A sign with this new name has been erected on the front lawn outside the

Chapel, located at 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains.

Willow Grove Church's hope is that the Scotch Plains community will become more aware of its availability as a wonderful venue for many joyous or solemn events, including small weddings, funerals, memorial services, meetings of community groups and clubs, small concerts, and spiritual gatherings. This Chapel has seating for 50 people. If anyone would like to inquire or reserve the room, please contact August Ruggiero, by emailing augustar@verizon.net or



(above) Pastor Rev. Se Hyuk Park, Mayor Josh Losardo, and church member Wilma Sinnock in the Lambert Stone Chapel.



(above) Mayor Josh Losardo, church member Wilma Sinnock, and Pastor Rev. Se Hyuk Park outside the Lambert Stone Chapel.

Courtesy photos

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VOTER APPROVAL ON SEPT. 17 MEANS:

Q1: LA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ▶ Purchase, renovation, and addition to 330 South Avenue in Fanwood to serve students in grades pre-K through 5
- ▶ A neighborhood schools' model to help ease overcrowding in SPF's other elementary and middle schools

Q2: AIR CONDITIONING & MORE

- ▶ Air conditioning across the entire district, as well as upgrades to heating and ventilation, electrical systems, and fire alarms

QUESTION 1 MUST PASS FOR QUESTION 2 TO PASS.

If both questions pass, an owner of a home assessed at the average in Scotch Plains would pay an estimated \$47 per month and the owner of a home assessed at the average in Fanwood would pay an estimated \$40 per month in school debt taxes.

VOTE SEPT. 17 POLLS OPEN 2-8 PM



LEARN: spfk12.org/future **QUESTIONS:** Future@spfk12.org

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CURRENT: 330 South Avenue Property



PROPOSED: La Grande Elementary School

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“I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP”



STEVE - My results were both amazing and motivating! It's such a welcoming space. I was worried about not being able to keep up. But that's never been an issue at all. I've never felt rushed even if my pace was slower than those around me. I really love this aspect of the experience. I'm so glad to be part of this community.

“LIFE CHANGING FOR ME.”



DENNIS - Life changing for me. Great and entertaining trainers. Can't say enough positive things about GFP. Even now, in 2024, the experience at GFP continues to get better. The trainers do a great job helping each and everyone achieve their goals and consistently improve. The gym members support each other. I look forward to every session.

“I AM STRONGER THAN I HAVE BEEN IN 30 YEARS.”



DEBBIE - Been working out at Gabriele for a few years and absolutely LOVE the training. Coaches are extremely knowledgeable and correct any form issues and continuously challenge us. If I experience any pain, they will alter exercise to keep me safe. I am stronger than I have been in 30 years. They are fun, motivating and have built a great community at GFP.

GET BACK TO A FITNESS ROUTINE STARTING SEPT. 23RD! (ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE)

Here is what you get in this Challenge:

- **Personal Training:** 20 small group personal training sessions so you can work out with a coach to guide you every step of the way, which means you're essentially guaranteed to feel fit, strong and healthy.
- **Extreme Accountability:** Get helicopter-like attention from your GFP Coaches so you can never fall off track, which means you'll finally get the energy and health you've been missing.
- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast' Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- **Free Nutrition Guide:** We are going to give you a ton of references and guides including recipes and guidelines to help you along the way which means you'll get lean and love your food at the same time!

TO INQUIRE ABOUT COST & AVAILABILITY SCAN HERE!



ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS: Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people lose weight, gain energy, and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body. They've helped thousands of men and women in the Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 17 years. As leaders in the fitness industry they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the world.

OVER \$229,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DISTRIBUTED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has continued to fulfill its mission of helping local students achieve their goals of a higher education by distributing over \$229,000 in scholarship aid to 126 deserving students at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Throughout the year, members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community generously contributed to the Foundation's "Dollars for Students Campaign," which distributed \$22,500

to various high school and college students who are residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood and have demonstrated both impressive academic achievement and financial need.

"The dedication of our community and donors to supporting our mission is so inspiring," said Michelle Wyrwa, Foundation President. "The annual awards night is one of my favorite nights of the year and I am so impressed by the graduating seniors and college students who receive awards."

For a full list of recipients, please visit our website at:

SPFScholarshipFoundation.org/Recipients

Congratulations to these outstanding scholars and our deepest thanks to all of our partners who have stood by us for over a half a century.

For further information, please visit our website SPFScholarshipFoundation.org or contact the Foundation's president, Michelle Wyrwa at spfscholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.

BOOK SALE

Friends of the Fanwood Public Library

Get your donations ready! Donations will be accepted from Sept. 20-23 at the Forest Road Park building. The sale starts with "Friends Night" on Thursday, Sept. 26, when Friends members get first choice of thousands of adult and children's books, CDs, DVDs and more. The sale will be open to all on Sept. 27, 28 and 29, with Sunday the 29th being "Bag Day," when shoppers can fill up a bag for one low price. If you're not yet a Friends member, you can sign up online fanwoodlibrary.org/join-the-friends/join or join at the door on Sept. 26. The book sale is the Friends' biggest annual fundraiser, with proceeds used to support popular library events. If you have any questions, please email the Friends at FMLBooksales@gmail.com.

REGISTER BY SEPT. 6TH FOR BULK WASTE PICKUP

Fanwood's annual residential bulk waste pickup program begins September 23rd. Larger items including rugs, mattresses, furniture, window air conditioners and more may be picked up at your curb. The collection dates are September 23rd for the Northeast and Northwest Quadrants and September 30th for the Southeast and Southwest Quadrants. Bulk waste pickup requires a permit for a one-time pickup of material not to exceed 750 lbs. The deadline to submit an application is Sept. 6th. You must display your permit in a window or door facing the street. Materials shall not obstruct roadways or sidewalks. Hazardous waste is unacceptable for this program. Visit fanwoodnj.org for permit application.

FOUNDATION NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Fanwood Community Foundation is accepting grant applications through September 30th. Grant recipients are announced before the end of each year. The FCF's preference is to provide grant money to 501(c)3 organizations that serve the Fanwood community. If the applicant or project is not part of such organization, you will be asked to provide additional substantiating information. If you do not have a Google account, you will need to create a free account in order to apply.

If you have any issues with the application process, please email us at fanwoodcommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

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ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

The NJ Elks East Central District is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on September 28, 2024 from noon to 6pm at the Stirling Elks Lodge at 1138 Valley Road in Stirling. This event aims to bring the community together for a day of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages to help support a crucial cause.

Included with entry, all attendees will enjoy a delicious pig roast, grilled burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, sides, desserts, water, soda, beer, wine, sangria, and more. Kids' activities will include DJ Mr. Socks, contests, games, a bounce house, magic performances, a fire truck, and more. Adults and teens can participate in a professionally run cornhole tournament, a golf pitching contest, volleyball, and bocce ball. Additionally, the event will feature a special rendition of the National Anthem, a NJ State Police helicopter, World War II vehicles, bagpipers, a dunk tank, 50/50s, a Silent Auction, and a paratrooper parachuting the American Flag into the event.

Admission is \$25 (donation) for adults. Children under 12 are free.

There are thousands of homeless veterans in New Jersey which is a tragic reality that the NJ Elks are determined to change. Over the past five years, the New Jersey Elks have successfully helped to move over 2,400 homeless veterans into homes, providing them with a fresh start and

a sense of stability.

The Elks National Veterans Service Committee operates on a 100% volunteer basis, ensuring that all proceeds from this event will go directly towards improving the lives of our American heroes who have fallen on tough times. In addition, they are actively seeking sponsors and donors to support their efforts and their public relations committee will work hard to acknowledge them through several sponsorship packages.

Donations and advanced ticket purchases can be made at: <http://donate.njelks-eed.org> or mailed to Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Checks should be made payable to: ECD Veterans Committee, with 'homeless vets' in the memo. (If a 501(c)(3) receipt is needed, please make checks payable to: NJSEA, with 'homeless vets' in the memo).

For sponsorship interest or more information about this event, please contact Apollo Hrehorovich at funday@njelks-eed.org, call or text 732-540-0062, or visit <http://funday.njelks-eed.org>.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit <http://elks.org> today.



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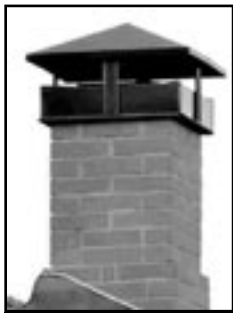
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop at The Presbyterian Church in Fanwood will reopen for the Fall season on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Freshly stocked with many new and gently used items, the shop offers lots of bargains. Opening day sales include a large assortment of sleeveless ladies' tops and shorts, and men's walking shorts for \$1.00 each. We also have seasonal accessories to decorate your home.

Please come by and check out our merchandise. The shop is located in the building behind the church, with our entrance on

Macdermott Place. Shop hours are Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds from the shop are given to local service and volunteer organizations. Donations are accepted during shop hours. Clean, new and gently used clothing, shoes, linens, small appliances in working condition, books and decorative items are accepted.

Please no textbooks, technical manuals, cookbooks or medical books, broken items, or items with missing parts. We can't sell them, and we have to dispose of them.

RECREATION ANNOUNCES FALL PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for a variety of Fall programs for kids, including Mad Science's STEM Odyssey, Fashion Design, Hip Hop Dance, Junior Tennis Lessons, Foundation Basketball, Soccer Squirts, Senior Soccer Squirts, Squirts Multi Sports, Parent & Me T-Ball Squirts, T-Ball Squirts, Parent & Me Soccer, NFL Football Camp, Parent & Me Multi Sports, SAT

Boot Camp and more!

For adults, Fanwood Recreation offers Pickleball Lessons and Women's Chorus.

For Seniors, Fanwood Recreation offers Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga and Aerobics.

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

Be Kind to Fanwood

Pick up trash and recyclables from in front of your home, on your street and around town.

Do not forget those circulars and newspapers at the end of your driveway. The paper is recyclable. The plastic bags can be used to make TREX benches, decking and boardwalks. Bring them to Fanwood Recycling Center, Fanwood DPW or Westfield Conservation Center.

While enjoying our parks, playgrounds, or at a sporting event, remember to pick up and dispose of your trash and drink bottles in the correct containers.

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CALLING ALL SPFHS CLASS OF 1974

Dust Off Your Dancin' Shoes and Relive the Glory Days!

Mark your calendars, Raiders! Our legendary 50th Reunion is just around the corner, and it's going to be a blast from the past that you won't want to miss.

- **When:** Saturday, October 26th, 2024
- **Where:** Embassy Suites Berkeley Heights, NJ
- **Cost:** Believe it or not, thanks to the generosity of some angelic classmates, it's only \$19.74 for YOU (+\$125 for your guest)!

Get ready for a night of reminiscing, reconnecting, and reliving those unforgettable moments:

Footloose and Fancy-Free: We may not be teenagers anymore, but we can still bust a move! Dance the night away to live music and reminisce about that epic 8-1 Football season (remember #3 in the State?!)

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

PERFORMANCE SERIES FALL SEASON

The fall season of the Fanwood Performance Series opens on Sept. 14 with a double bill of singer-songwriters blending country, folk and contemporary styles.

Craig Bickhardt brings his guitar and the "eloquent, often bittersweet songs that have become his trademark" to Fanwood's historic Carriage House. Bickhardt's music reflects a life lived as a rock-band lead singer, a solo troubadour, a dedicated songwriter, a husband and father. Longtime series fans will remember his 2014 appearance on the same stage.

Lynne Hanson performs her "porch music with a little red dirt," which has earned her the nickname "Canada's own Queen of Americana." Her poetic lyrics are delivered in a bluesy croon that has drawn comparisons to Lucinda Williams and Gillian Welch. Hanson's 10th album, "Just a Poet," was released in May.

Showtime is 7 p.m. at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center, a.k.a. the Carriage House, at 135 Watson Road, just west of Martine Avenue. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors – cash at the door. Reservations are strongly suggested, as seating is limited. Music fans are urged to RSVP by

emailing fanwoodperformance@gmail.com.

Coming later this fall, Canadian folk artists Scott Cook and Pamela Mae will perform on Oct. 19, along with Marc Douglas Berardo from Rhode Island. The season will conclude Nov. 9 with performances by Danni Nichols, from the U.K. via Nashville, and New Jersey's own Matt Cook & The Heard.

More information and updates are available at the series website

fanwoodperformanceseries.org and on Facebook page FanwoodPerformanceSeries.



(above, -r) Lynne Hanson, Craig Bickhardt

Courtesy photos

MOUNTAINSIDE TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE

SAT SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
9:00-2:00 Rain or Shine

Maps available 8:00 am at Mountainside Library

Mountainside residents register to sell by Sept. 9:
MountainsideGarageSale@gmail.com

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Come to the 7-part Zoom series, "Beta: The Search," hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish of Scotch Plains, NJ.

This series is free to all. It runs 7 consecutive Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from Wednesday October 2, 2024, until November 13, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. You will gather with other seekers, watch a 30-minute video on life's big questions, and then engage in small group discussion. This series is for all seekers; young, old, single, married, faithful, atheist, and agnostic.

There is no cost to participate but spots are limited so please register early. Just bring

yourself and a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

To register go onto IHMparish.net, scan the QR code or call Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish at 908-889-2100 with any questions you may have.



Beta: The Search returns on
Wednesday October 2, 2024.

7 Episode Series on
Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM
on ZOOM from
October 2 until November 13.

Please sign-up at
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or call the office if you need
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DESIGNER HANDBAG EVENT SHOWCASED – SEPT. 3

Thrift Shop Fall Re-Opening

After a two-week end-of-summer closing, the non-profit Thrift Shop operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League (FSPSL) re-opens on Tuesday, September 3, with the annual, always exceptional, designer handbag event.

Featured are gently-used handbags generously donated throughout the year and purposely kept “off the shelf” until this occasion. Devotees of Coach, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Dooney & Bourke and other famous brands can choose from a great selection of handbags to round out their wardrobes. Wallets for men and women and a variety of evening bags will be part of the event.

Upon the shop’s reopening customers will also find store shelves re-stocked with fall merchandise, including cool-weather clothing and autumn-themed décor. Drop by the store early in the month for the best selection of handbags and to shop a wide selection of constantly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, and books. Children are always welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

The all-volunteer Service League is proud of its record of giving back to the community, as all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are plowed back to the community. Due to our donors and customer sales, \$60,000 in grants to

local organizations and student scholarships were made in 2024. A huge thank you to all community members who consistently donate goods they no longer need, providing those items with a second, useful life rather than landing in a landfill.

The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Please call 908-322-5420 during business hours for more information about store donations and how to join our volunteer ranks. You can also find us at <https://scotchplainsthiftshop.weebly.com/directions.html> or follow us on Facebook.



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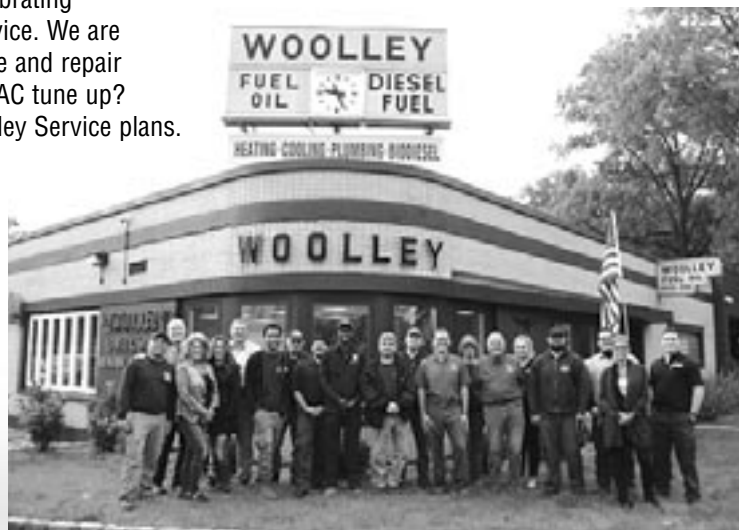
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(above) Look for high-end handbags at low-end prices offered during the annual Designer Handbag Event at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop.

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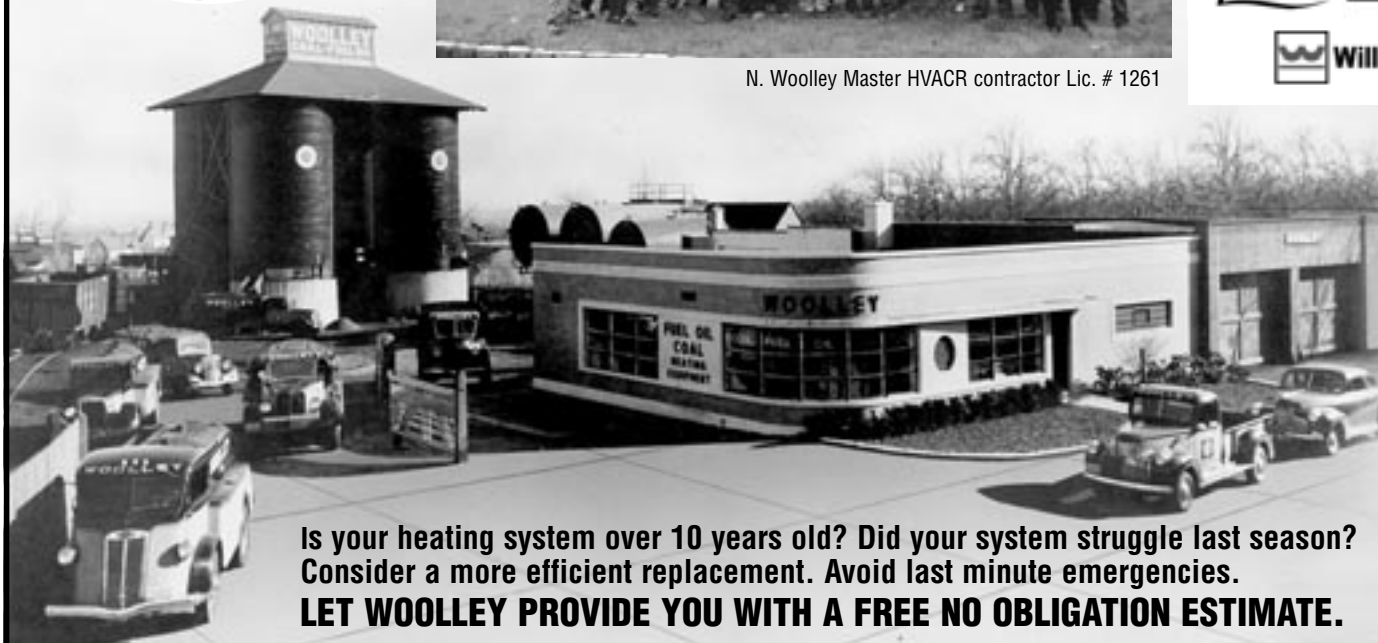
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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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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								

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The houses should be made with bird friendly materials, should be able to withstand weather conditions for at least one year and include a suitable sturdy mounting mechanism. The bird houses will become the property of the Fanwood Environmental Commission and will be used in the Fanwood Nature Center or other borough open spaces.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Drop off for contest submissions will be at the Fanwood Library M-F 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. from August 15 - September 7



Fanwood
NEW JERSEY

Questions? Email: Fanwood.EC.1895@gmail.com

Westfield, NJ 
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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 GALLOWS HILL ROAD, WESTFIELD

September 27, 28, 29

Friday 3 pm - 11pm	Saturday 11 am - 11 pm	Sunday noon - 5 pm
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Greek Food & Pastries - Music & Dancing
Marketplace - Kids Zone - Mega 50/50



www.njgreekfest.com



Admission \$2. Children under 12 free!
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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 6PM-10PM	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 5PM-12AM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 12PM-12AM	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 12PM-7PM

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SEPTEMBER 1st - 30th



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