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MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOLDS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Submitted by Tom Kranz

The new Fanwood Memorial Library opened to the public and a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, September 14th, 2024, attracted more than 100 residents, local VIPs and elected officials.

The opening of the new building is the culmination of a decade of planning that began seeing daylight with the demolition of the 70-year-old original library in January 2023 followed by groundbreaking for the new facility in February 2023. The \$9-million project was funded by the Borough of Fanwood, a state library grant and an appropriation from the state legislature.

The new, two-story building includes large, bright spaces, a family room, living room area, an enlarged children's section, a special room for teenagers including a large TV for gaming and extensive stacks of books and DVDs on the second floor. Just off the entrance on the first floor is a gallery featuring local artists, the first of whom is Joe Schott who, at age 102, is believed to be Fanwood's oldest citizen. There is also a community room that can accommodate 100 people for various town events. The entire building is ADA compliant and contains an



(above) Mayor Mahr opens the Carlo Bravo Business Center with Bravo/Sanguiliano family



(above) Library exterior

elevator, easy ingress and egress, modern climate controls and automatic lighting.

A special feature is the Carlo Bravo Business Center, a room populated with multiple computers, copy machine and printer, named in honor of Fanwood native Carlo Bravo, who died in 2023 and whose family donated \$20,000 to the Fanwood Memorial Library Foundation. In presenting the donation in May, Mr. Bravo's brother Gino cited his brother's love of the library having spent countless hours reading and borrowing books about the Vietnam war.

The library's hours, programs and benefits for card holders can be found at fanwoodlibrary.org. The Fanwood Memorial Library Foundation is looking for new members to assist in its mission of supporting the new library. Interested parties may contact Foundation President Sam Rogers at samuellangstonrogers@gmail.com.



(above) Ribbon cutting featuring Mayor Mahr, local officials and children who "assisted"

Photos by Tom Kranz

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Fanwood postNJ

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IMMACULATE HEART PARISHIONERS HELP OUT NEWARK SOUP KITCHEN

Parishioners from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, volunteered at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ in Septemeber, where they cooked and served meals for hungry folks in the area. The parisheners were grateful to all that joined together to serve and found it to be a humbling experience which they hope to do often.



Courtesy photos

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FANNY WOOD DAY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS TO DOWNTOWN

Borough of Fanwood

Fanny Wood Day was held under sunny skies Sunday with temperatures in the 70s, attracting thousands to Downtown Fanwood. The event featured over 200 vendors including 20 food trucks, kids' activities, a petting zoo and live music throughout the day.

The opening ceremony included the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Boys Scouts Troop 33 Color Guard, Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of God Bless America. Borough Council members Anthony Carter, Jeff Banks and Trish Walsh were on hand along with Bruce Zakarin of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, now in his 16th year as the event's organizer.



(above) A Petting Zoo was a new feature.

The event, held along South and Martine Avenues, included a County Stage where bands played throughout the day, and a kids stage for children's acts. Members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad, Fire and Police Departments were also on hand to give tours of their vehicles. A children's Play Land featuring rides was located at South Avenue Train Station Lot.

WrestlePro returned for a second straight year and attracted large crowds as wrestlers held a Meet and Greet and four winners of the Fanny Wood Day Raffle received autographed photos

of each of the featured wrestlers. Three wrestling matches were featured to the delight of the crowd, especially children, as wrestlers went airborne and crashed down their opponents or the wrestling ring floor.

A scavenger hunt, water balloon toss, bubble gum blowing contest and spaghetti and meatball eating contest were also featured.

Fanny Wood Day sponsors included Unity Bank, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Dental Care, Lightbridge Academy, Carano Square, Provident Bank, and Fabio's Bistro.



(above) Singing of God Bless America during the opening ceremony.

Photos by Paul J. Peyton

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FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND AT THE OSBORN CANNONBALL HOUSE

In the center of the Township of Scotch Plains is a small yellow house with burgundy shutters, the c.1750 Osborn Cannonball House Museum. You might be surprised to learn that this little house has a big story to tell!

Almost right at its front door, this little house witnessed a skirmish of The Battle of the Short Hills, which took place on June 26, 1777. This battle may not be one of the most successful of Washington's battles, but it was pivotal in ensuring that the majority of Washington's troops were able to retreat back to the safety of the Watchung Mountains after being tricked by the British into coming down the mountain while the British feigned a retreat into Staten Island.

Legend tells us that It was during a skirmish of that Battle that the Osborn house was hit by an errant cannonball, thus getting its name from the local townspeople.

In the 18th century, the house was the home of the Osborn Family, who were among the first families of Scotch Plains. The father, Jonathan Osborn, was a tailor and an innkeeper. He was a respected elder who often held community meetings in his home. His oldest son, John Baldwin Osborn, was a Revolutionary War soldier and preacher. He married Mary Darby, whose father donated land to build both The Baptist Church on Park Avenue and one of the first schools in Scotch Plains. Mary, herself, is famous for helping the colonial troops who passed by her home by giving them many items

from her own home when she noticed they were in dire need of supplies. Jonathan's second son, Jonathan Hand Osborn, was also a Revolutionary War soldier. He had an illustrious career as a gravestone carver and was well-renowned. Many of his stones still stand in NJ cemeteries today and are admired for their artistry and design. Jonathan's third son, David Osborn, was the first town clerk of Westfield and the first postmaster of Scotch Plains. Jonathan's fourth son Henry Osborn also became a well-respected gravestone carver.

The Cannonball House is now a museum and the little house has many more stories to tell. Come visit to hear all about its amazing history. Costumed docents will be available to give tours of the museum. The museum will be open on Sunday, October 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. and for Four Centuries in a Weekend on Saturday, October 19, and Sunday, October 20 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For Four Centuries in a Weekend, there will be a children's craft in our craft tent along with an early Halloween treat! Admission is always free.

As a special event for Four Centuries, the museum will feature a visually stunning display of bridal gowns through the decades from as early as 1860 through the 2010s. The Museum's impressive collection of antique bridal dresses is magnificent to behold and reflects the changing styles of women's fashion through the years. It is truly a unique and breathtaking display which should not be missed.

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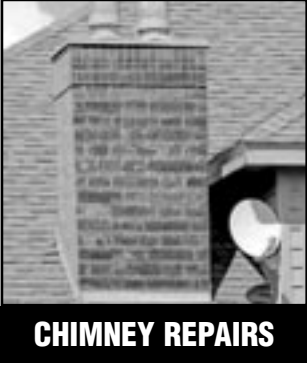
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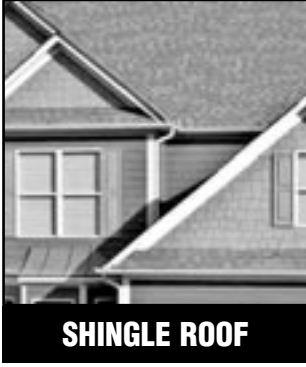
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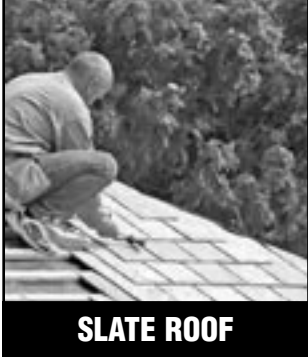
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A celebration of Italian Heritage in Scotch Plains.

COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

The Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter of UNICO cordially invites the community to their annual Columbus Day Italian Heritage Ceremony. The event will take place on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Alan M. Augustine Park, adjacent to the Scotch Plains municipal building at 430 Park Avenue. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors. Refreshments and light fare will be served following the event.

UNICO's Columbus Day Italian Heritage Ceremony is an annual tradition that pays tribute to the Italian-American history and culture that

has deeply enriched the community. The event will feature speeches from distinguished guests, including local government officials, representatives from religious and service organizations, and local and national UNICO members.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the USA, and the SPF 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.



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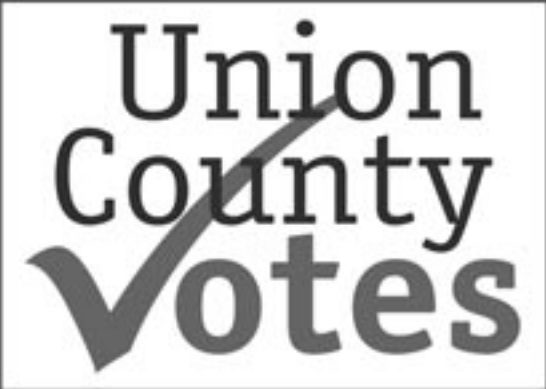
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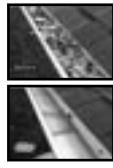
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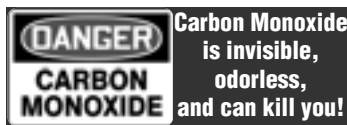


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FRAZEE HOUSE FALL ACTIVITIES AND PUMPKIN PATCH

Fanwood/Scotch Plains Rotary Club

The Rotary Frazee House committee will host activities at the Frazee house during weekends in October. The site will be decorated for Halloween and pumpkin patch sales will occur throughout the month of October. During the weekends of October 12th, 19th and 26th, there will be activities for children including a pumpkin toss, a Big Bake sale and many photo opportunities.

Children are encouraged to wear their

THRIFT SHOP OPENS FOR FALL SEASON

The Thrift Shop of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church has opened for the fall season. Customers will find fall decorative items, Halloween costumes and lots of clothing items. Sweatshirts and hoodies will be available beginning in October. Specials for October include men's T-shirts for \$1.00 and ladies' dresses for \$3.00.

The shop is located behind the church, with the entrance on MacDermott Place. Shop hours are on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds from the shop are donated to local service and volunteer organizations. Donations of new and gently used clothing, shoes, linens, small appliances, books and decorative items are accepted during shop hours.

Please stop by for a visit and see what's new.

Halloween costumes! All proceeds will go toward completing the renovation of the historic Frazee house. "We continue to make progress on the Frazee renovation. This year we will complete the construction of the bathroom cottage adjacent to the house and it will include two bathrooms and a utility area where the meters for the gas, electric and water will be located. An ADA accessible ramp will allow access to the bathrooms and to the house. The two rooms in the West wing of the house have also been renovated, including power, data ports, heat and air conditioning," said Andy Calamaras, President of the Frazee House Board. The October activities are a great opportunity for the community to visit the site and see for themselves.

Additionally, the Frazee House will participate in Union County's annual "Four Centuries in a

Weekend," on October 19 and 20. Representatives will be at the Frazee site between 12 – 5 p.m. on both days with brochures, bookmarks, and an internal tour of the renovated areas of the house. History buffs can note that the Frazee House is one of the stops on the Battle of Short Hills Historic Trail as well as being renowned for the legendary confrontation between General Cornwallis and Aunt Betty Frazee.

The Great Pumpkin Patch, is ongoing from October 1st through 31st. There will be hundreds of pumpkins in various sizes and colors, and they'll be sold every day from 11am to dusk. More information about the Frazee House and a complete schedule of events can be found at www.frazeehouse.org. More information about the Frazee House and a complete schedule of events can be found at frazeehouse.org.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND CONTEST - OCT. 31

Fanwood Recreation Commission

On Thursday evening, October 31st, the annual Fanwood Halloween Parade and Costume Contest will begin with the traditional Halloween Parade down Martine Avenue. The Parade will begin at the Fanwood Memorial Library and is expected to begin at 6:15 PM.

Once the parade arrives at its end point, La Grande Park, at approximately 6:30 PM, the

Costume Contest will begin for children of all ages. Anyone who wants to enter a pumpkin in the Jack-o-Lantern Contest should bring his or her carved creation to the park and fill out an entry form by 6:30 PM. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and the best jack-o-lanterns!

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RAI COMPLETES WEST POINT BASIC TRAINING

Cadet Sohem Jayant Rai, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manjul Rai of Fanwood, N.J., completed Cadet Basic Training at the U.S. Military Academy.

Rai entered West Point on July 1 and has successfully completed six weeks of CBT. CBT is one of the most challenging events a cadet will encounter over the course of their four years at the academy.

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training.

Rai began classes August 19. The West Point curriculum offers 36 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and

social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

Rai graduated from Union County Acad Info Tech. He plans to graduate from West Point in 2028 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as the world's premier leader-development institution, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant--to build, educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army Values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and Nation. For more information, go to westpoint.edu.

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THRIFT SHOP'S ANNUAL BOOT BONANZA

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is once again kicking off a great deal on boots at its non-profit Thrift Shop, 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains.

Tuesday, October 15, marks the start of the Thrift Shop's annual Boot Bonanza. Here, a wide assortment of both warm and fashion-minded boots for men, women and children will be showcased, with many items brand-new. The Shop's reasonably priced boots include such famous brand names as Hunter, Sorel, Timberline, Michael Kors and UGG, as well as Disney-branded footwear for kids. Outsmart the cold by keeping your feet warm and dry as we head into rainy, snowy weather! Be sure to shop early for the best selection.

The store also boasts a variety of Halloween costumes for children, adults and pets, along with related holiday accessories. Find spook-tacular costumes in all sizes for trick-or-treating and ghostly parties. And, while you are in the holiday mood, pick up some autumn-themed bric-a-brac and décor to turn your home into a haunted mansion or a colorful fall festival.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is a local, volunteer organization, with all store proceeds outside of the shop's operating expenses provided to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. In each of the past two years, \$60,000 in grants and scholarships were awarded. All items for sale are provided by generous donors who supply the store with good-

quality merchandise they no longer need. Clothing in all sizes, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, books, and more are constantly replenished, so shoppers can always find something "new to them!"

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. 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 website scotchplains thriftshop.weebly.com or search and follow the "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" on Facebook.



SERVICE LEAGUE MAKES DONATION TO MOBILE MEALS

Fanwood Scotch Plains Service League, for more than five decades, has provided a helping hand to the community! The most recent receipt of their generosity was Mobile Meals of Westfield. The non-profit organization expressed their sincere appreciation for the donation!

Mobile Meals of Westfield provides affordable, hot, prepared and delivered meals to those individuals unable to shop or provide meals for themselves.

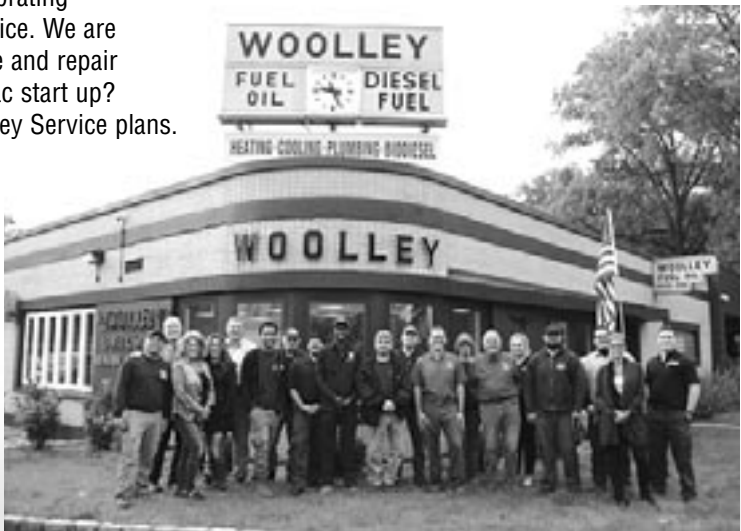


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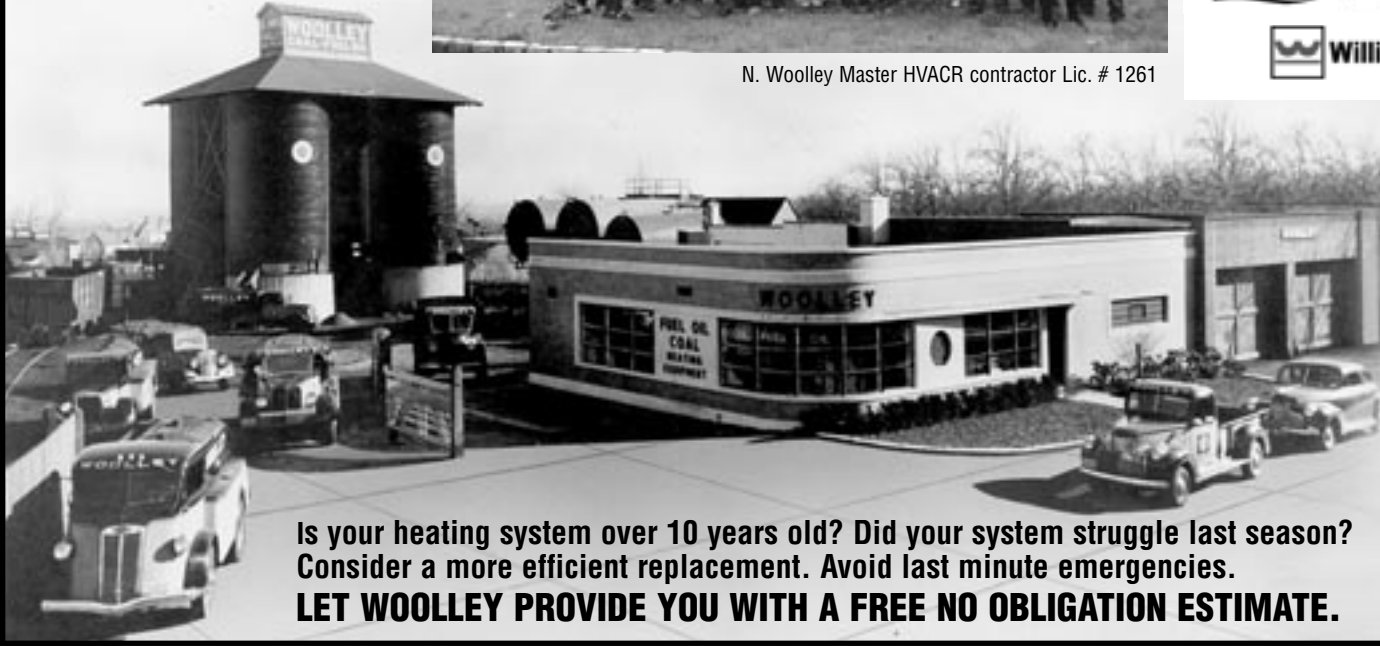
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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$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
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AUTHOR PRESENTATION - OCTOBER 23

Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Just before Halloween the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood is thrilled to present New Jersey's second most notorious crime as its program at its October 23rd meeting. The story of John List killing his family is past spooky. It is scary. And it happened around Halloween.

JD Solomon, the presenter, is a Westfield resident and retired journalist who gives presentations about historical true crime at senior centers and community organizations in Union County. He is the author of two historical novels.

His first, The Tinen Killings, is a thriller about aging Civil War veterans in Philadelphia in 1898. His second, Home News, is a thriller about bootlegging set in his home town of Bay Shore, NY, in 1928.

This frightening and enlightening program is free and open to all. It occurs on Wednesday, October 23rd beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is held in the historic Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Road (at the Corner of Plainfield Avenue) in Scotch Plains. Fellowship and refreshments follow the meeting.

CHILL MAMAS DANCERS TO PERFORM OCT 21

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is hosting the Chill Mamas Dance Group on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Mira Vie, 295 South Avenue in Fanwood. The event is free and open to the public. The Chill Mamas are a nonprofit group that performs native Chinese dances and seeks to empower communities through the power of dance. The group aims to foster creativity, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation.

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