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PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STAFF CELEBRATED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above) Newly tenured teachers and staff, as well as principals, were recognized at the Oct. 17 Board of Education meeting. Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

LANCANSTER, PA U.S. POSTAGE PRSRT STD

recognized 23 teachers and support staff for achieving tenure said. at the Oct. 17, 2024 Board of Education meeting. The board also recognized and thanked the district's eight principals for National Principal's Month.

"Achieving tenure is a special moment for our teachers and staff in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools," said Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast. "This accomplishment recognizes the hard work and dedication that our teachers and staff show to SPF students every day."

Among the 23 newly tenured teachers and staff were district leaders, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert McGarry and Business Administrator Christopher Jones. "I especially want to congratulate Dr. McGarry and Mr. Jones whose contributions to the district's leadership team are valued and appreciated," Mast said.

In honor of National Principal's Month, the board honored the district's eight principals: Dr. Warren Hynes (SPFHS), Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq (Nettingham), Dr. Kevin Holloway (Terrill), Sandy Fehte (Coles), Erin Mullman (Evergreen), Dr. Sasha Slocum (McGinn), Scott Bortnick (Brunner), and Justin Fiory (School One). Erin Mullman was also one of the tenure recipients.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education this month, but every day, to make our schools thrive," Mast

The tenure recipients are:

Dr. Robert McGarry, Christopher Jones, Samantha Mascari, Rahama Alvi, Kristen Majaros, Jenna Pellegrino, Erin Mullman, Neelambari Save, Sara Durand, Susan Kobylarz, Megan Maddalena, Ashley Overeem, Brandon Rickert, Melissa McGahan, Cathy Truncale, Kristine Iarussi, Karolina Bishop, Alex Passucci, Reginald Dinson, Lisa Wilber, Caraline Smith, Nicole Muraski, and Kelvin Stradford.

CELEBRATION & TREE LIGHTING RETURNS!

Come down to the North Avenue Train Station on Sunday, December 4th, 3–5 p.m. as Fanwood welcomes in the holiday season with an afternoon of holiday music, free refreshments, a petting zoo, contests, prizes, gifts and... Santa Claus! (To schedule a visit with Santa, you will need to preregister. Go to fanwoodrecreation.org for more information. Space is limited.) Bring the whole family! The celebration concludes with the lighting of the Fanwood Tree, across from the train



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TINY TIM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

The Tiny Tim Fund is launching its 2024 fundraising campaign with Carol Night on December 5th from 4 – 8 p.m. Carol groups will spread holiday cheer while requesting donations for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue its mission of providing financial support to help local families pay for children's medical expenses.

Since it is not possible for carol groups to reach all neighborhoods in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, letters requesting donations will also be distributed to local homes during the month of December. Carol Night in combination with the letter campaign as well as donations made in response to publicity will be the organization's sole fundraiser.

There is still time to form a carol group to participate on Carol Night or to volunteer to help distribute letters to homes in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. To obtain more information, to volunteer and/or to request a referral application, please contact Barbara at 732-259-6348 or Mari at 908-917-5979.

The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer board of trustees which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community. There are no administrative fees. All collected contributions are dispersed for children's needs.

Contributions can be mailed directly to The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Donations from local citizens as well as from civic and service organizations will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continuing supporting local families. The trustees are hopeful that members of the community who have supported the Fund in the past will make it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to provide financial assistance for current cases as well as to be able to accept new requests for financial assistance during the coming year.



famfaith.org · 908-464-5177 · The Rev. Jane McCready, Pastor

Midweek Advent Services with Eucharist Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18 at 12 noon Organ Recitals After Services on December 4 and 18

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Mornings

Services with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, Youth & Adult Forum at 8:45 a.m.

Livestream available Visit our website at www.famfaith.org Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence

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VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 8TH

Come join The Historical Society of Scotch Plains/Fanwood as we celebrate a Victorian Christmas on Sunday, December 8th, 2024. All are invited to the Osborn Cannonball House Museum, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains. The open house is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and will feature opulent and authentic holiday clothing as well Victorian Christmas decor. Hot mulled cider will be served along with other tasty treats. Stop in and see this festive display!

For more information email Info@HistoricalSocietySPFNJ.org or call 908-322-6700 Extension 230.



ROTARY CLUB LUMINARY SALES

During the month of December, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club will sell Luminaries at the Fanwood Department of Public Works on Manfra Way, off of North Avenue. The sale dates are December 7-8, December 14-15 and 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 24 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The luminary kits cost \$1 per kit in all quantities and include paper bags, candles and sand. Customers are encouraged to bring buckets, boxes or plastic bags to transport the sand. Payments can be made by cash, check or Venmo.

Pre-orders placed prior to December 7th will be discounted. See the Rotary website for regarding online additional information purchases: fsprotary.org.

Luminaries are traditionally used to illuminate the streets on Christmas Eve. A candle is nestled in sand at the bottom of a paper bag and placed

along sidewalks to create a beautiful walkway. The candles are then lit at dusk on Christmas Eve. Some neighborhoods in the area get together and buy hundreds of kits to create an amazing display.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the various charitable and humanitarian projects that Rotary supports, both locally and internationally.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. The club meets at 12:15 p.m. on the second and third Wednesdays of every month at the Stage House Restaurant. On the fourth Wednesday of the month, the club meets at Darby Road at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide.

For further information about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary club, go to fsprotary.org or visit their Facebook page:

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

CHRISTMAS AT PRESBYTERIAN THRIFT SHOP

Christmas is still weeks away, but the shelves bargain price of 10 ¢ each. All fall decor items at the Thrift Shop are filled with holiday decorations, gift items and stocking stuffers. In addition, you will find a large selection of new and nearly new men's and ladies' coats and Church. winter accessories.

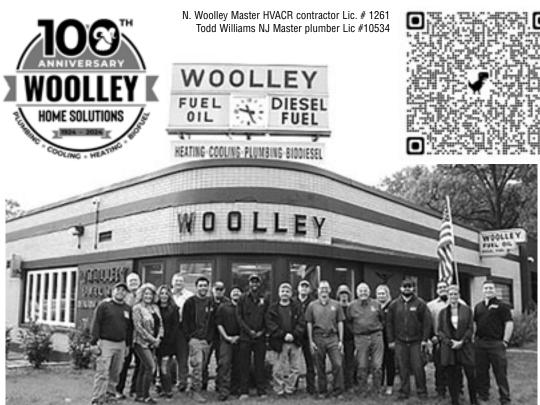
are now half price. Come and browse the shop. The entrance is located on Maclellan Avenue in Fanwood, behind the Fanwood Presbyterian

The shop is open for shopping and to receive Christmas and note cards are available at the donations on Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm.

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FOSTER CARE KIDS WISH LIST DRIVE

Child Focus

As the holiday season approaches, Child Focus, the nonprofit child advocacy organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, is thrilled to announce the launch of its annual Holiday Wish List Drive. This initiative aims to bring joy and personalized gifts to more than 400 children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, honoring their unique interests and wishes this holiday season. The holidays can be especially difficult for those involved in the child welfare system, and this drive seeks to ensure each child feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Child Focus invites community members, organizations, and businesses to support the drive by purchasing items directly from its Amazon Wish List, donating gift cards to popular retailers such as Target, Amazon, Walmart, Macy's, Old Navy, and Sephora, or contacting Child Focus directly to learn what specific items are needed this year. All gifts must be new, unwrapped, and delivered to the Child Focus offices in Wayne or Elizabeth by Monday, December 9.

"The holiday wish list drive is always a bright spot in our programming, as our community comes together to make wishes come true for these children who have experienced so much turmoil in their young lives," stated Child Focus Executive Director, Erica Fischer-Kaslander. "It is an important reminder that a small act of kindness can have an incredible impact in a young person's life. We are grateful for our community partners who have stepped up year after year, including those who have been willing to scour the internet and pound the pavement to locate some of those special gifts, injecting some much-needed holiday magic into the lives of these deserving children."

For more information on the Holiday Wish List Drive, including a link to the Amazon Wish List, or to learn how you can become a CASA volunteer, please visit childfocusnj.org or call (973) 832-4002.

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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EMILY LITZ RECEIVES 2024-25 NEW JERSEY MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

Fanwood Scotch Plains Public Schools

At a surprise assembly held on November 14th, Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Dr. Jane Foley presented fifth grade teacher Emily Litz with the honor of a 2024-25 New Jersey Milken Educator Award and an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. New Jersey Acting Commissioner of Education Kevin Dehmer joined the celebration to honor Emily as an outstanding educator in front of students, colleagues, dignitaries.

Emily is the first-ever Milken Award recipient in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

At a surprise assembly held on November history and joins the national Milken Educator th, Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice Network on the path to the announcement of the 3,000th Milken Educator this Award season.

The Milken Family Foundation was founded by Michael and Lowell Milken in 1982, the Milken Family Foundation strives to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The means most conducive to achieving these goals is through education.

For more information visit mff.org.



(above) Fifth grade teacher Emily Litz's reaction to being told she is the winner of a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award. Emily is New Jersey's sole 2024-25 recipient and the first-ever Milken Award recipient in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.

Photo by Milken Family Foundation





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ILLUSTRATING THE DANGERS OF DRINKING AND DRIVING

Scotch Plains Township

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School recently hosted a powerful simulation to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving.

School officials and student actors played roles in the simulation, and the Scotch Plains Police, Fire Department, and Rescue Squad all participated to make the event feel as real as possible. Mayor Losardo was on hand to witness the simulation as well as to reiterate the message to students from the team of first responders.

This annual event has been very effective in showing Scotch Plains students the dangers of drunk driving and continues to ensure Scotch Plains roads are as safe as possible for all drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.





Courtesy photos

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The Borough of Fanwood held its annual have sacrificed. So thank you." Veterans Day ceremony in front of the Fanwood Memorial Library on Forest Road. A small crowd gathered along with members of the Fanwood Fire Department and Fanwood Police Department. Long-time World War II Army veteran Joe Schott also attended with his daughter Mary and several other veterans.

The event was sponsored by the American Legion Post 209 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122. Army veteran Joe McCourt hosted the event.

Dennis Mayer of American Legion Post 209 said the love of our country is "the common thread that binds all of our veterans to those serving today." He said it is up to family, friends and the neighbors of veterans to ensure that the service of every veteran is respected by their fellow Americans by thanking veterans for their service our country.

Mayor Colleen Mahr said the community owes our veterans "a great debt for everything you have done for us." "You (veterans) have enriched our lives, you have served out Nation, and you

"We are here today to celebrate the strength, the courage, the dedication of our veterans who shaped the world from lasting peace. And we will never forget those who died service to our country, and the POWs and the MIAs that are yet to be accounted for," she said.

McCourt, recalling his own military service, said "we (his fellow service members) all enjoyed being an important part of something larger than ourselves." He said veterans look back on their service days with both pride and sadness.

He closed by saying all veterans "understand that freedom is not free."

"We (veterans' groups) will never cease to sing the praises of America's veterans and the wonderful nation we call home," McCourt said.

Memorial Wreaths were presented by Frank Chupko, senior vice commander of VFW Post 10122, and by Kevin Burns, past commander of American Legion Post 209.

The ceremony closed with a rifle salute and the playing of Taps.



(above) Frank Chupko, senior vice commander of VFW Post, 10122, lays a memorial wreath.

Photo by Paul Peyton





COLLEEN HUEHN THANKED FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Borough of Fanwood

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council thanked Colleen Huehn for her 35 years as a dedicated borough employee during a council meeting held on Nov. 5th. Huehn is retiring at the end of November.

Huehn serves as Tax and Sewer Utility Collector, Payroll Supervisor, Board of Health Secretary, and Registrar of Vital Statistics.

"For decades, Colleen has served as the welcoming face of Borough Hall, greeting residents with kindness and patience, ensuring that every individual feels valued and heard," according to a proclamation read by Mayor Mahr

that was presented to Huehn.

Mayor Mahr noted that Huehn has dealt with a number of challenges including the sewer rate, tax sales, and COVID in her Board of Health role. She also stepped up to serve as borough clerk for a short time during a gap in administration in that office.

To fill the roles that Huehn has held, the council awarded contracts to Jersey Professional Management to conduct a search for a temporary tax collector and Laracy Associates for temporary payroll services.

Mayor Mahr said Deserie Foster, an administrative assistant with the borough, will

assume the duties of Board of Health and Chief Financial Officer Patricia Celardo will take over the responsibilities of registrar of vital statistics with Deputy Clerk Courtney Agnello serving as deputy registrar.

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(above) Colleen Huehn lower right, with Mayor Mahr and the Borough Council.

Photo by Paul Peyton



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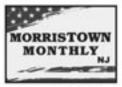
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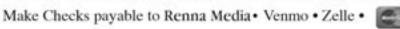
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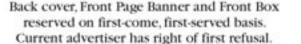
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HOW THE "THRIFT" STOLE CHRISTMAS

Savvy shoppers looking for brand-new items at reasonable prices to satisfy their holiday gift giving should mark Saturday, November 30 for the start of the annual Holiday Boutique at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop. Shelves will be stocked with brand-new items (many in their original wrapping), all generously donated to the shop throughout the year and set aside as perfect for just "Who"-ever is on your list this season.

Find new clothing, accessories, crafts, candles, holiday-themed hostess gifts and more, beginning on this "Small Business Saturday." The Holiday Boutique is a great opportunity to find presents for under the tree, to stuff in stockings, to mark Hanukkah or Kwanza, or even to re-donate to your favorite charities. Bring your child to pick out presents for their family and friends. It is a great way to teach kids the value of money and have them take pride in picking out presents on their own.

Also note that a gift bought at the Thrift Shop has twice the impact: One to your recipient and

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another to our community. 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. Hearts can grow three sizes larger in knowing that this kind of holiday giving is more than just presents and decorations—it's about giving back to the community.

The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. In addition to gift items, you can also find a wide assortment of new and gently-used holiday décor along with regularly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games and books.

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

Local**Info.com**



(above, l-r) Elaine Junguenet and Betty Seery co-chair the Holiday Boutique at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop. The annual event begins on Small Business Saturday, November 30, and showcases brand-new items perfect for holiday gifting.

Courtesy photo

MATHEW MUI'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Borough of Fanwood

Matthew Mui, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from Boy Scouts Troop 33, recently build a series of bat boxes at the Fanwood Nature Center as part of his Eagle Scout project. The Fanwood Environmental Commission oversaw and approved the project.

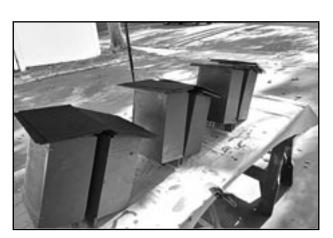
Matthew is the son of Peter and Ruth Lee-Mui of Scotch Plains.

Matthew's brother is an Eagle Scout who recently completed a project for the Fanwood Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

"To get the idea (for his Eagle Scout project), I talked to our advancement chair in Boy Scouts, Mrs. Suzanne Sanschagrin, and she suggested the project to repair the six existing bat boxes in the Fanwood Nature Center," Matthew explained.

"I decided to see the conditions of the six bat boxes and saw that they were more damaged than I expected. This led me to rebuild the bat boxes and also create two larger bat boxes. One of the larger bat boxes was donated from the Fanwood Nature Center and the other one I made," he said.

Matthew said he has completed his Eagle board of review.



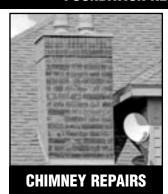
(above) Bat boxes for the Fanwood Nature Center.





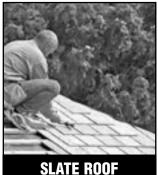


















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