

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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SCOUT TROOPS TAKE A TOUR OF TOWN HALL

Scotch Plains Township

DAISY TROOP 40089 AND JR. GIRL SCOUT GROUP 40907

Daisy Troop 40089 and Jr. Girl Scout Group 40907 recently took a fun and informative tour through Scotch Plains Town Hall.

Mayor Losardo and Deputy Mayor Ellen Zimmerman served as tour guides for the scouts, giving them a glimpse of a "day in the life" of municipal government. Police Sgt. Rites and Officer White were on hand for the popular police department tour.

"One of my favorite parts of the tour is showing the Girl Scouts a piece of Scotch Plains history with our wall of mayors pictured in our council chambers," Deputy Mayor Zimmerman said. "Together we discover that it took from 1789 until 1981 before we had our first female mayor in Scotch Plains. Being a part of Girl Scouts, they are developing skills to be future leaders in our community and the world at-large. I can certainly say with confidence that our future is bright with these many girls I have met."

Courtesy photos



CUB SCOUT PACK 277

Cub Scout Pack 277 recently visited Town Hall to speak with Mayor Josh Losardo about the democratic process. Mayor Losardo taught the pack about elections at all levels of government, which local positions are elected, such as mayor and council, and the importance of voting. Scotch Plains was pleased to host this group of young men and we were delighted to see their deep interest in the election process.



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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 continue 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.

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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.

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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 additional information regarding online 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 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 winter accessories.

Christmas and note cards are available at the

bargain price of 10 ¢ each. All fall decor items are now half price. Come and browse the shop. The entrance is located on Maclellan Avenue in Fanwood, behind the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

The shop is open for shopping and to receive donations on Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm.

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STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Four Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are Everett Boris, Sophie Gingold, Saman Zeb and Shaheryar Zeb.

“Congratulations to Everett, Sophie, Saman, and Shaheryar for showing what it means to pursue academic excellence,” said Superintendent Joan Mast, Ed.D. “This recognition reflects the dedication and hard work

they have invested into their educations. We are proud to call them Scotch Plains-Fanwood students and excited to see what the future holds for each of them.”

Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards, by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 34,000 of the highest scoring students were designated Commended Students.

Although these students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, they were recognized for placing among the nation’s top scorers and could still be candidates for special scholarships offered by National Merit’s corporate sponsors.

Congratulations to our SPFHS Commended Students!



(above, l-r) Everett Boris, Sophie Gingold, Shaheryar Zeb, Saman Zeb

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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.

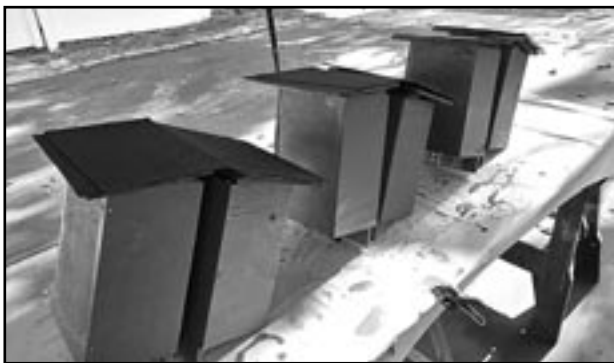
Matthew is the son of Peter and Ruth Lee-Mui of Scotch Plains.

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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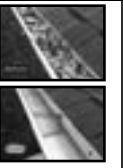
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This ‘tale as old as time’ is based on Disney’s Academy Award-winning film and features the timeless story you love, along with all your

favorite characters and songs. The romantic and beloved fairytale recounts the story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end, and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

With music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolverton, the show has all the wonderful songs made famous in the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, along with new ones written for the stage adaptation. The enchantment never ends! The magic will unfold in front of your eyes as the talented cast, dancing dishes, gorgeous costumes, and spectacular settings bring this Disney classic to life on stage.

Celebrate your holidays with the most beautiful love story ever told!

For more information and the best ticket selection and prices, visit cdctheatre.org today. Disney’s Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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EMILY LITZ RECEIVES A 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 history and joins the national Milken Educator 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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HOW THE “THRIFT” STOLE CHRISTMAS



(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

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

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.

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PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF CELEBRATED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized 23 teachers and support staff for achieving tenure 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.

"Thank you to our SPF principals for all you do, not just this month, but every day, to make our schools thrive," Mast said.

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



(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

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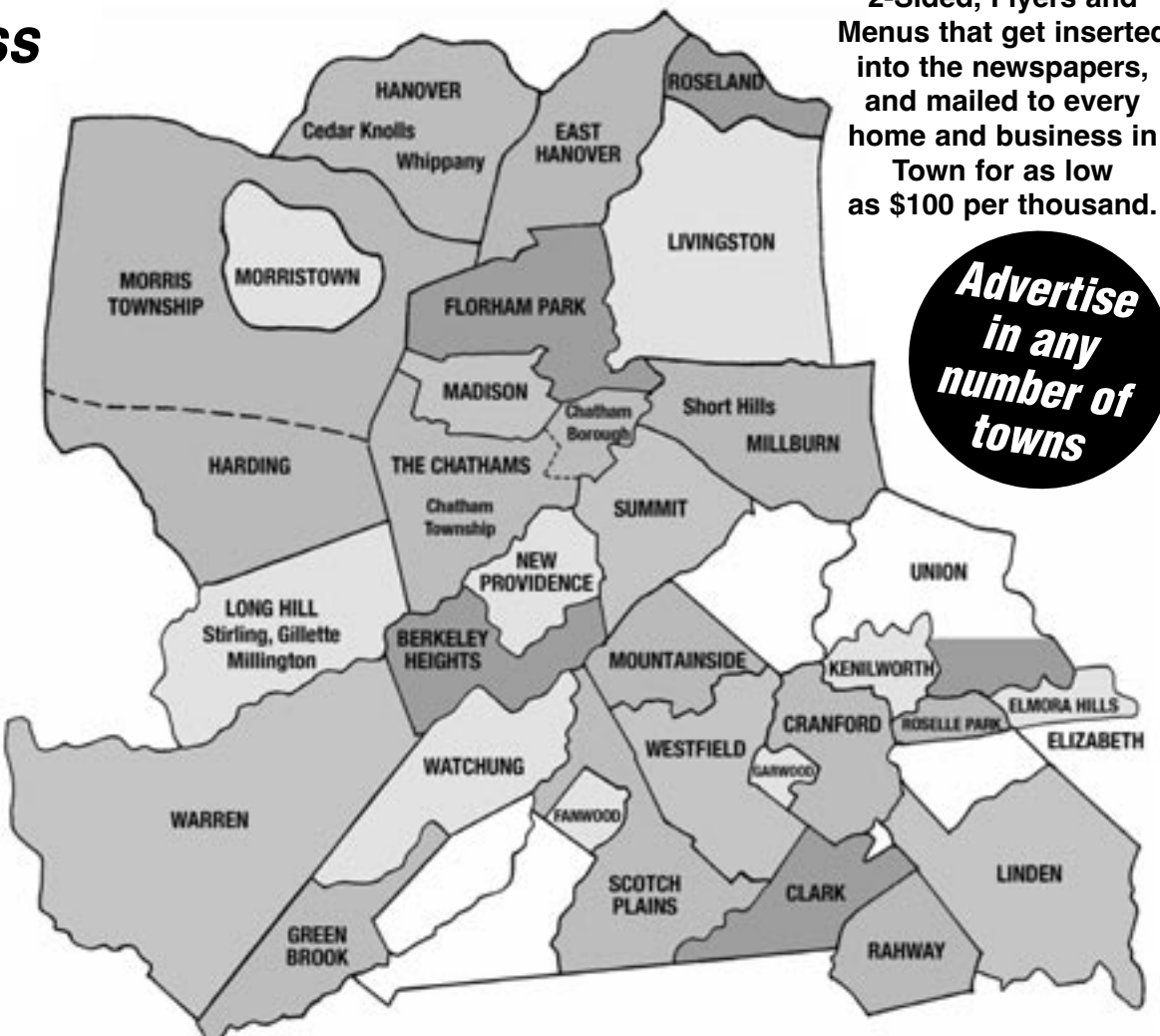
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Scotch Plains Township

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



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