

Concert and Parade Among SP-F Memorial Day Events

SCOTCH PLAINS – Area towns will hold traditional Memorial Day parades on Monday, among them Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Westfield and Cranford, as well as Mountainside, which will hold its first parade to honor fallen veterans. Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day observances will kick off with a special free concert by the Westfield Community Band, entitled “A Tribute to Fallen Heroes.” It will take place this Sunday, May 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the north side of the

Fanwood railroad station. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Memorial Day observances will begin on Monday, May 28, with a memorial service at 8 a.m. at American Legion Post No. 209 at Park Avenue and Sunset Place in Scotch Plains, followed by a 9 a.m. laying of wreaths at the Fanwood Memorial Library at Tillotson Road and North Avenue. Wreaths will then be presented at the Veterans Monument at Park Avenue and Front Street in Scotch Plains at 10 a.m. The Scotch

Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) Chamber Choir, led by Jan Allen, will perform its renditions of “The National Anthem” and “God Bless America” during that ceremony.

The parade will kick off at 10:45 a.m., with Vietnam veteran Robert LaCosta, acting township administrator and long-time zoning officer in Scotch Plains, serving as grand marshal. Led by the color guards of the parade honorees (Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10122, American Legion Post No. 209 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 688), the parade will begin at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 430 Park Avenue. It will proceed along Park Avenue, moving down Martine Avenue into the center of Fanwood and end at LaGrande Park.

Scotch Plains parade announcers will be Vinnie and Nick Losavio, while Donna Dolce and Dale Flowers will provide Fanwood commentaries.

The SPFHS Marching Band, under the direction of Durand Thomas, will again lead the line of march. Following the band will be representatives from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, YMCA activities, youth athletic organizations, multiple other bands, including SPFHS Rhythm Sense, and various civic groups.

The annual Westfield Memorial Day Parade will start at 9 a.m. with services at the World War I Veterans Memorial Monument at the North Avenue and East Broad Street Plaza. After opening ceremonies, the parade route will be north on East Broad Street, straight up to Fairview Cemetery, where the Veterans of Foreign Wars will have closing ceremonies.

The Westfield Memorial Day Parade Committee has selected Korean War veteran William Albert Kessinger of Scotch Plains as this year’s grand marshal. He currently is commander of Westfield American Legion Martin Wallberg Post No. 3.

Mountainside’s first-ever Memorial Day Parade will commence on Monday at noon at the Veterans flagpole monument on Constitution Plaza, between the firehouse on New Provi-

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CenCom Closing June 1 As MONOC Takes Over 9-1-1

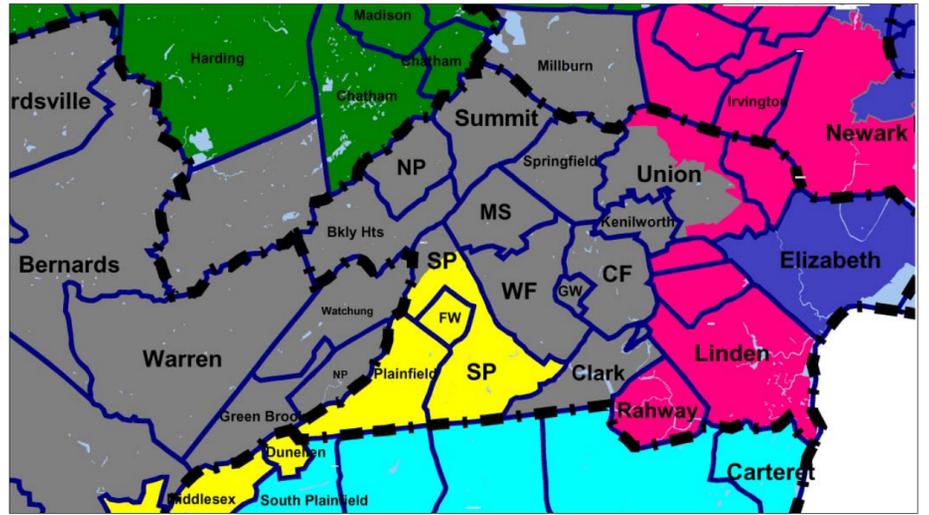
SUMMIT – Atlantic Ambulance Corp., a subsidiary of Atlantic Health System, has announced that it will officially transfer operations for its regional 9-1-1 emergency dispatch center, known as CenCom, to the Monmouth Ocean Hospital Service Corporation, better known as MONOC, as of June 1 under a seven-year agreement. MONOC’s 9-1-1 dispatch center is based out of Wall Township.

As previously reported by *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, word first spread of the closing of CenCom in February, when letters were mailed by MONOC and CenCom to member towns. CenCom has operated out of Overlook Medical Center in Summit for 30 years.

According to a press release from Atlantic Health Corp., under the agreement MONOC’s medevac helicopter will operate cooperatively with Atlantic Ambulance’s medevac fleet, which will be dispatched for emergency flights by MONOC.

CenCom, which was founded in 1982, handled 9-1-1, fire, paramedic and air dispatch for 18 paramedic units in 22 towns in Union, Essex and Morris Counties, as well as all of Atlantic Ambulance’s air and ground emergency units.

“Combining the services handled previously by CenCom with those currently handled by MONOC, will make response to medical emergencies far more efficient,” said Richard Donovan, director of Atlantic Ambulance Corp. “This will be a huge step towards meeting the changing needs



Courtesy Office of N.J. Sec. Of State

REALIGNED... Under the newly realigned New Jersey Congressional Districts map, all but a small section of Scotch Plains and all of Fanwood have been moved from the 7th Congressional District to the 12th District. The 12th District stretches from Ewing Township in Mercer County through Middlesex County and into Union County. A small section of Scotch Plains, mostly along Route 22 and consisting of around 1,000 residents, will remain in District 7. Please see statewide Congressional District map on Page 10.

Freeholders’ Budget Vote Moved As Trenton Delays Refinancing

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

COUNTY – Union County Freeholder Fiscal Affairs Committee Chairman Dan Sullivan announced Thursday that the board’s adoption vote on the county’s \$483-million budget, originally scheduled for Thursday, May 31, has been moved to Thursday, June 14. He said the move was needed due to postponement of the county’s application before the state’s Local Finance Board to refinance \$83 million of long-term debt. That hearing was originally set for May 9 in Trenton, but has been moved to Friday, May 25.

“This effectively pushes back the date of anticipation of any revenue the county would realize if the financing plan is approved by the DCA (Department of Community Affairs),” Mr. Sullivan said in a statement read at the start of the meeting.

He said an amendment to the 2012

county budget per the Local Finance Board action would be introduced at the May 31 freeholders meeting, with a public hearing scheduled at the start of the June 14 meeting prior to the board’s adoption vote on the budget.

The Local Finance Board approved the refinancing of \$24.7 million in bonds from the Union County Juvenile Detention Center facility project and another \$5 million in revenue refunding bonds for the correctional facility project at its April 11 meet-

ing. The board was to have heard the refinancing of \$24.9 million in bonds for the City of Plainfield/Park Madison Redevelopment and \$28 million in outstanding debt for the juvenile detention center projects on May 9. Those applications will now be heard on May 25.

As the county continues to move ahead with privatization for operations at Runnells Specialized Hospital, the freeholders on Thursday ap-

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The Pointe vs. Garwood Litigation Concluded

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

GARWOOD – Litigation between The Pointe and the borough concerning snow and garbage removal was concluded as of last Friday, after a hearing that lasted about eight months, Borough Attorney Joseph Triarsi said Tuesday at the Garwood Borough Council meeting. Mr. Triarsi said he expects to hear the judge’s written decision in about two weeks.

Lou Petruzzelli, committee representative for the \$2.1-million Athletic Field Complex, which will replace the Little League field off of South Avenue, between Oak Street and Rankin Avenue, with a large and diverse field for an array of

athletics, said addendums were added after the pre-bid meeting took place. The addendums included clarifying the extent of the environmental work that needs to be undertaken at the site and to set a new date of Thursday, June 7, to receive bids.

During public comment, Richard King asked if it was true that the Athletic Field Complex was being “squashed.”

“No, it’s not true,” Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said. “Since there was adequate monies to handle construction... the project is going forward.”

Albert DeConti, who inquired at the last council meeting about the

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Paul Lachenauer for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

FLOWER POWER... Gardeners shop for flowers at the Union County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale held Sunday at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. The annual sale is a fund-raising event that helps support the community projects of the Master Gardeners. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the event, which has been chaired by Scotch Plains Master Gardener Joanne Kreuger since 1991.

Choir Festival Raises Money For SP, FW Rescue Squads

By SARA MAGNOLA-TANER
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

FANWOOD – The first annual Fanwood Choir Festival, which was held Sunday evening at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, featured musicians and directors from Scotch Plains, Fanwood and surrounding communities performing instrumental anthems. A free-will offering was collected to raise money for the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Rescue Squads.

“It takes many facets to make a community,” said Fanwood Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell, who was attending in place of Mayor Colleen Mahr. “We don’t think about our public safety people until we need them, so it’s fitting for community choir(s) to be helping to raise money.”

The 60-person choir opened with a powerful and uplifting version of “Let There Be Light,” conducted by Andrew Moore, chairman of the music department at The Pingry School, filling the vaulted church ceilings with the beautiful harmony of voices and organ notes.

Other musical highlights from the

evening included a jovial and upbeat rendition of “Psalm of Deliverance,” during which children from the audience joined the choirs in singing, and a performance of “Here I am Lord,” which was punctuated by the reverberations of the violin and cello, played by Christina and Daniel Ragonese, respectively.

Tom Kranz of the Fanwood Rescue Squad and Deacon Robert Gurske of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, who were both in attendance, thanked the audience prior to the free-will offering.

“Thanks, everyone, for coming and especially (to the) choir,” Mr. Kranz said. “The rescue squad is all volunteers. We do it because we want to, and really appreciate the support of the community.”

“This is a place of great friendship here tonight. We members of the rescue squad are your friends and neighbors, and we are here for you in your time of need,” Mr. Gurske added.

Fanwood Presbyterian Church Choir Director Tom Berdos said the event drew an attendance of 230 and helped raise \$2,100 in funds for the

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Paul Lachenauer for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

WOOF WALK... Canines and their human companions get some exercise and enjoy the beautiful weather at the Rotary Club Woof Walk held Sunday in Scotch Plains.



Photo courtesy of Lu Ann Kaldor

DEDICATION... On Earth Day, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr dedicated a bench in the Fanwood Nature Center to one of its founders, Donald Schnable. What started as a project between two neighbors is now considered to be “the best kept secret in town.” For more information, visit fanwoodec.org/nature-center.

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