

## Fanwood Council Hears Report On Community House Restoration

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Reporting on the proposed restoration project for the Fanwood Community House, Michael DeBiasse, of DeBiasse & Seminara, gave a brief breakdown of what was needed to restore the building at Monday evening's borough council meeting.

According to Mr. DeBiasse, the existing wood structure at the base of the community building at the Fanwood train station is deteriorating because of years of salting and moisture that has been absorbed by the wood. He noted, "The wet salt has been eating away at the water table around the building." He also noted that the trim is rotting at the base of the building where it meets

the concrete. He stated that the concrete gets wet and the "wood soaks it up."

He also stated that some new drainage needed to be installed and some stainless steel flashing needed to be incorporated to protect from future damage.

The plan also called for repointing some of the ductwork and adding some Polywood at the base and painting it to look like wood. The Polywood was described as an all-weather resistant material.

Mr. DeBiasse also stated that the apron trim and corners would need to be replaced, as well as the handicapped-accessible wood ramp.

This he gave an estimate of costing approximately \$165,000.

It was noted that there was some

matching fund grant money set aside for the project.

The next step was described as setting up all the project specifications to be able to receive bids on the project.

In other business, members of the council then unanimously passed upon second reading an ordinance to adopt the Old South Avenue Redevelopment Plan. The plan is to develop the vacant commercial properties that run along South Avenue between the train station and Terrill Road. This includes the old A & P site and the old Young's Paint site.

The plan additionally will bring new sidewalks, street furniture, such as benches, and new lighting to the area. It was reported that the lighting and street furniture would be funded through grants.

The plan did feature some recommendations from the borough's planning board that were adopted into the ordinance. These include adding green infrastructure, which includes using pervious materials; incorporating a streetscape design that is defined in the borough's existing land use ordinance and zoning rules; and clarifying the sidewalk areas of the project.

In other business, it was noted that the borough's annual Fanny Wood Day street fair has been scheduled for Sunday, September 15, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. It also was noted that this will be the festival's 24th year.

The next Fanwood Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19, at 7 p.m., at Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue.



Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
MEET AND GREET...At Scotch Plains' National Night Out event on Tuesday evening, police officers got to meet and talk with residents as part of the department's outreach efforts.

## National Night Out Enhances Police-Community Relations

By **FRED T. ROSSI**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Thirty-five years after its inception, the annual

National Night Out program that has strived to promote police-community partnerships continues to be popular, judging from how well-attended this week's events were in our area.

Hundreds were on hand on Tuesday evening in downtown Scotch Plains, where members of the police department and other first-responders got better acquainted with township residents and children. Besides fun and games for the youngsters, representatives from the police and fire departments as well as the rescue squad and the Union County Prosecutor's Office manned tables in Alan Augustine Village Green that were filled with informational brochures, free giveaways and police weaponry for the kids to inspect.

Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley led the three-hour celebra-

tion, which was also attended by Mayor Alexander Smith, members of the township council and Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-22nd, Plainfield). Chief Conley told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that his department "has a good relationship" with township residents. "We're a community-oriented police department," pointing to such programs as the Police Athletic League and the Cops and Kids after-school events.

Gesturing to the crowd on Tuesday night, he said, "This is where we build the bond" between residents and police. He also said the annual event is important because it gets people out of their homes and leads to "neighbors talking to neighbors." The chief also praised Sergeant Jerry Brown, who he said should get the credit for putting

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Tom Kranz for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
FIRST-HAND VIEW...EMT Shreya Kachroo hosts young visitors in the Fanwood Rescue Squad ambulance 578 at Fanwood's National Night Out event Tuesday at LaGrande Park.

## Mountainside Announces Borough's Next Police Chief

By **JESSE WINTER**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Borough officials announced that Lieutenant Joseph Giannuzzi will become the municipality's next police chief during Tuesday's work session meeting of the mayor and council.

"The time has come to appoint Lt. Joseph Giannuzzi as our police chief," said Council President Keith Turner. "And we will do that at the next public meeting."

Lt. Giannuzzi will be formally appointed during the Tuesday, August 20, meeting inside the Municipal Court Room.

The next police chief was met with congratulations from the governing body and other borough officials attending the meeting. Lt. Giannuzzi also updated the council regarding the next wave of volunteer firefighters set to join the ranks

of the Mountainside Fire Department by announcing a background check had been finalized approving the new firefighters.

The borough's first responders will be bolstered by the addition of Jorge Aparicio, Joseph Fiorenza, Brandon Fontaines and Francis Whitley, according to the meeting's agenda.

"Our fire company is growing and growing, which is great," said Mayor Paul Mirabelli.

In additional borough news, the mayor and council Tuesday night discussed capital budget expenditures featuring the purchase of new computers for Borough Hall totaling approximately \$24,000, with another \$10,000 allocated for the electrical system supporting the computers.

"There was some talk about taker-

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Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
END GUN VIOLENCE...Following the two mass shootings this past weekend in Texas and Ohio, a solemn crowd gathers for a vigil in Mindowaskin Park on Monday night. During the vigil, townspeople honored those who lost their lives in the tragic events and showed solidarity with the victims' families. Those in attendance were handed cards with the names of the deceased.

## Library Is Modernizing; Planning Fall Programs

By **FRED T. ROSSI**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — While she waits to find out what the coming downtown redevelopment will mean for the township library, Director Michelle Willis said, "We're busier than we've ever been."

And it has been busy even during the typically slower summer months, she told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. Last week, she said, she noticed all the chairs in the adult section were in use. And numbers from last year back up her point about the library on Bartle Avenue continuing to be a popular spot. More than 120,500 visits to the library were recorded in 2018, with 170,256 items being borrowed by the nearly 22,000 cardholders.

Currently, she and her staff have been working on "trying to modernize the library" by attaching electronic tagging to all items, a process that, once it is completed and the proper equipment is installed in the fall, will enable patrons to self-check-out items and also allow for better inventory control.

Meanwhile, Ms. Willis is striving to expand the library's non-physical book collection with more e-books and audiobooks, plus streaming video and music, as well as online learning. Even if cardholders rarely come into the library itself, these services give them 24-hours-a-day options that can be accessed on a computer, a smart phone or a tablet.

Ms. Willis said the library will have an open house on Thursday, October 10, so that residents, educators and others can meet the library staff, explore some of the online resources and other new materials and learn about some of the programs and special events being planned. Last year, the library featured 888 different programs, and more are planned for this fall and early winter. "We've always got something going on," she said.

With state elections coming up in three months, the library on Tuesday, September 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

will host a voter registration drive, and on Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., voters will get to try out one of Union County's new voting machines. The once-a-month "Sunday Sounds" concerts will resume on September 8, with the October program taking place on Saturday, October 5, followed by Sunday afternoon performances on November 3, December 1 and January 12.

The library also will host several speakers to talk about their most recent works. On Thursday, October 24, Michael Gabriele will speak about his new and updated book on New Jersey diners, while Jon Gerner on Thursday, November 7, will talk about his books "The Ice at the End of the World," which is about Greenland, and "The Idea Factory," which is about Bell Labs and some of the important inventions that came out of that facility. Mallory Mortillaro, a curator with the Hartley Dodge Foundation, will talk on Thursday, November 14, about her discovery of a marble bust of Napoleon that was carved by Rodin and was long considered to have been lost.

A host of children's programs also is planned, including weekly activities starting on Thursday, September 19, that are designed for the kindergarten-through-second grade age group and include sessions on making paper airplanes, sun dials, catapults and zip lines.

It is expected that more concrete plans for redevelopment of the downtown business district will be made public next month and where a new library will be situated will be part of that process. Ms. Willis told *The Times* she does not know much more than the public about where a new facility will be located, but she emphasized the importance of having a larger and more modern facility, "to serve the community better" and "to accommodate all the people who use it every day," including students and their tutors after school along with the everyday visitors. "There are not enough

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Westfield. Sports -- St. Anthony/St. Wolfgang; Darby Brainard/Diva's; St. Francis/St. George; Charlie Brown's/Darby Brainard.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
POLITICS AND BURGERS...Union County Republicans gather for their annual barbecue on July 30 at the home of GOP Chairman Glenn Mortimer.

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