



**FROYO + SMOOTHIE + SHAKE + SALAD + WRAP**

# GRAND OPENING

116 Elm St. Westfield, NJ, 07090  
(908) 232 8800  
www.evergreen.cool

**August Summer Event**

Get a salad or a wrap and get  
50% discount on a smoothie  
or a shake

*\*Bring this coupon to the  
store to redeem\**



Tom Kranz for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**COMMUNITY POLICING...**Fanwood Police Officer Kathy Case assists at a soccer game during Fanwood's National Night Out event Tuesday at LaGrande Park.

## Former Fanwood Police Chief Parenti Dies at 87



Anthony J. Parenti

By GRETA FRONTERO  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Former Fanwood Police Chief and borough councilman Anthony J. Parenti passed away last Thursday at Overlook Medical Center surrounded by his family.

Born on May 29, 1932, the 87-year-old's life was dedicated to public service, including 43 years with the Fanwood Police Department.

Mr. Parenti was born in Plainfield, and attended Plainfield High School. Following graduation, Mr. Parenti served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict from 1951 to 1955. He joined his brother, George, at the Plainfield Police Department after being honorably discharged from the military, and then moved to Fanwood in 1957, where he and his wife lived for over 60 years. He quickly rose through the ranks of the Fanwood Police Department to become the youngest police chief in New Jersey.

During his time on the police force, Mr. Parenti also founded and served as president of the New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association for over 30 years, where he drafted legislation for traffic safety regulations at the state and federal level. Numerous New Jersey legislative bills were passed with the help of Mr. Parenti, including the infamous Right Turn on Red Law and the legislation that increased the drinking age to 21 in the state.

According to current Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo, Mr.

Parenti "lived a life of dedication to his country, his town, and his community at large." He said, "His contributions are felt every day throughout the state, from his role on the Traffic Officers Association, and his death leaves a void in the Fanwood police community."

While president of the Traffic Officers Association, Mr. Parenti also served as chair of the State Commission on Drunk Driving. He later retired from the Fanwood Police Department and became the director of Union County's John H. Stampler Police Academy from 1998 to 2007.

"He affected the lives of hundreds of police officers in his role at the Union County Police Academy," Chief Trigo said. "He will be greatly missed, but he will certainly never be forgotten."

Chief Parenti also was president of both the Union County Police Chiefs Association and the New Jersey State Police Chiefs Association, and was a member of the New Jersey Police Honor Legion, which recognizes the "Finest of the Finest" for their acts of heroism and valor.

Further continuing his life of public service, Mr. Parenti also served two terms as a Fanwood councilman from 2008 to 2013.

"Tony Parenti served the community in so many different ways—in the military, as a longtime member of the Fanwood police, and later as a councilman," Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr said in a statement. "He always saw the person, not the party. He was fair, smart, and honorable. I loved serving with him, and he loved Fanwood to the core."

Mr. Parenti was born to parents Peter and Anna, and was the youngest brother of six siblings: Albert, George, John, Armando, Laura and Josephine. He was predeceased by his parents and siblings and is survived by his wife, Sally, as well as three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His children include Nancy Fela Parenti, North Plainfield Police Chief William Parenti and Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor Anthony J. Parenti, Jr.

Services were held Monday from Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

## Finials Removed At FUMC Over Safety Concern

By JILL BURKE  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — It was a sight that could not be missed by anyone driving down East Broad Street. After 109 years, the finials atop the tower of the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Westfield were recently removed due to safety concerns.

To understand the significance of those finials, it also is important to understand what exactly a finial is. The word comes from the English root of final and finish. It can be a decorative end on top of a lamp, umbrella, flagpole, etc. Most commonly, though, finials are found on churches. Christian churches, both Protestant and Catholic, have bell towers and steeples, sometimes with finials, to add to the building's height, symbolizing that the church reaches upwards toward God and the heavens.

When members of the church began noticing cracks in the finials from the ground level, they went up to the roof of the tower to assess the situation with structural engineer Allan Klein and two church members who also are structural engineers.

The structural engineers determined that because the base of the finials was cracking, too, they would not be able to be restored from on top of the building. If they were to be restored, the finials would need to be removed, restored on the ground, and replaced.

Since properly restoring the finials would cost almost twice as much as just removing them, and the finials served only as an aesthetic, not a structural purpose, trustees of the church decided that it would better fit the mission of the church to use that money in a different way, Church Trustee Kirk Huber said. "The cost of taking them down, however, was a safety issue because they were crumbling," Mr.

Huber continued.

Although the finials did not need to be removed immediately, it needed to be done in the near future.

The church decided to move forward with the process this summer to avoid another winter of the finials freezing and thawing, the weathering damage that has been slowly weakening the concrete for more than a century.

Currently, the finials sit on the front lawn of FUMC, each weighing about 1,100 pounds, including its base and pier. One of the finials was able to be removed all in one piece, and will be displayed respectfully, although no longer prominently, in a garden behind the church. The church plans to cap off the edges where the finials were removed, to be in keeping with the appearance of the rest of the tower.

Lifelong Westfield resident and FUMC member Jack Panosh personally restored the town clock that dates back to 1886, which is enscathed in the tower at the church and rings the massive church bell every hour. He, like many church members, was very disappointed that the finials had to be removed, especially when the FUMC has a legacy of restoring and preserving things, like the town clock. Removing the finials is, unfortunately, also removing a piece of the church's history and a strong example of tradition, Mr. Panosh said.

Although a difficult decision to make, it speaks to the longevity of the church. The FUMC had humble beginnings, its founders first meeting outdoors under a pair of walnut trees in Westfield in 1849. This is the third physical building in which the church has existed. It was built with mule power and was once level with the street, before East Broad was lowered to accommodate the existing railroad overpass.



Jill Burke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**HISTORIC CHANGE...**The finials that stood atop of the First United Methodist Church in Westfield for the past 109 years were recently removed due to safety concerns.

## Board of Health To Ban Sale of Vaporizers

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — The board of health has agreed to pass a policy disallowing vaporizers, better known as e-cigarettes, or nicotine "pods" and "juices," in any store where food or gasoline is sold.

Westfield Regional Health Department Director Megan Avallone said the ordinance will essentially disallow vaporizers or associated service products to be sold in Westfield convenience stores or at gas stations. Mayor Shelley Brindle informed Ms. Avallone that the board of health can independently enforce the policy without mayor or council approval, according to Ms. Avallone.

The policy change is meant to create businesses where patrons are immediately "carded" upon entering the store when vaporizers are sold in the vicinity, stated Ms. Avallone. Often underage individuals will access vaporizers through faulty identification-checking methods at establishments such as convenience stores or gas stations.

At previous board of health meetings, Ms. Avallone cited employee turnover, employee inconsistency, and blatant disregard for state law as having contributed to minors accessing such devices.

Ms. Avallone said the board of health will often enact "sting operations" on local businesses to make sure businesses are, in fact, properly identifying patrons. Ms. Avallone said one time a business owner, not realizing, suggested the intended purchaser was part of a "sting operation" or "informant."

"He was right," said Ms. Avallone, stating that even the board of health's undercover efforts are subject to unforeseen shortcomings at times.

She said designating specific establishments which can sell vaporizers emphasizes the professionalism required in the transaction process.

Westfield Tobacco and News will remain permitted to sell vaporizers, vape accessories and nicotine-infused (flavored and unflavored) pods, stated Ms. Avallone. The vaporizer restriction will "possibly" be proposed to begin January 1, 2020, she said.

Ms. Avallone said the policy's enactment could also be discussed at the January meeting to go in effect into February.

"We're not taking away the right to sell. We're just reinstating the licenses," said Board of Health President Dr. Lawrence Budnick.

Ms. Avallone said businesses that are selling vaporizers currently will not be told to abruptly stop as of tomorrow. Setting a date in the future allows the businesses time to adjust to the policy change, Ms. Avallone explained.

Dr. Budnick said businesses will be able to apply for licenses depending on their business line separate of vaporizer.

ers, meaning stores which specialize in vaporizer products or nicotine products will not be banned from downtown Westfield.

In other business, board of health member Thomas K. O'Neill resigned after having served as a board member for 20 years, Dr. Budnick announced. Mr. O'Neill served the board of health as president and vice-president.

Ms. Avallone said Mr. O'Neill moved out of Westfield, making him ineligible to finish his term on the board.

## Suspects Sought In Robbery of Amoco

WESTFIELD — Police are looking for two suspects wanted in the robbery Monday at 9:37 p.m. at the Westfield Amoco at 421 Central Avenue.

Chief Battiloro stated that the alleged suspect, described as a black male, approximately 18 to 20 years of age wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, approached the outside station attendant, made an apparent firearm tucked in his waistband visible, and demanded money.

Police said the suspect was accompanied by another young black male. Both subjects subsequently fled the area on foot, traveling east on East South Avenue. Patrol officers conducted an exhaustive search of the area, but were unable to locate them.

The Westfield Police Department was assisted by the Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, as well as patrol officers from the Union County, Garwood, Cranford, Kenilworth and New Jersey Transit Police Departments.

No one was injured during the incident and the investigation remains ongoing, police said.

Anyone with information relating to this investigation is asked to please contact Detective Dennis DaSilva of the Westfield Police Department by telephone at (908) 789-6085 or by e-mail at ddsilva@wpdnj.org.

## Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tables and chairs" in the current building, she said, nor are there enough meeting rooms that can be used by community groups.

She is hopeful that, as the redevelopment process goes forward, funding from the \$125-million library bond ordinance approved by voters two years ago will be available to finance part of the construction of any new library. She said she has heard that regulations have been formulated by the state and that a public comment period currently is underway for interested parties to provide input on those rules. But "it looks promising," she said, that funding could become available just about the time any new construction might be ready to get underway.

## Mountainside Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing it out of the operating budget and spreading it out over two years, but if we were to do that it would wipe out the operating budget for the rest of the year, which wouldn't make a lot of sense," said Mayor Mirabelli. "We do have some capital money available, and this is certainly a capital improvement. These computers are going to be around for some time."

Borough officials do not anticipate a disruption to the computer system and expect installation to occur in September, taking two to three weeks, with the new computers being installed throughout the building.

Moreover, the "computer system," not to be confused with the incoming new computers, also will receive a battery upgrade. This, like the purchase of the borough's new police vehicle, is a New Jersey state contract.

Along with a state contract upgrading the computer system, the borough also will purchase a new police vehicle. A current vehicle from the fleet will be retired due to excess mileage and it is hoped some of the existing equipment can be transferred, but borough officials anticipate additional upgrades that could potentially total approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 on top of the cost of the new vehicle, which was not disclosed during the meeting. The additional cost was an estimate, according to Lt. Giannuzzi.

The borough also announced that Nancy Probst will function as interim planning board secretary as the borough interviews candidates to fill the position permanently. Additionally, Mountainside will receive a \$50,000 infrastructure grant from Union County for the purpose of road maintenance.

ing it out of the operating budget and spreading it out over two years, but if we were to do that it would wipe out the operating budget for the rest of the year, which wouldn't make a lot of sense," said Mayor Mirabelli. "We do have some capital money available, and this is certainly a capital improvement. These computers are going to be around for some time."

Borough officials do not anticipate a disruption to the computer system and expect installation to occur in September, taking two to three weeks, with the new computers being installed throughout the building.

Moreover, the "computer system," not to be confused with the incoming new computers, also will receive a battery upgrade. This, like the purchase of the borough's new police vehicle, is a New Jersey state contract.

Along with a state contract upgrading the computer system, the borough also will purchase a new police vehicle. A current vehicle from the fleet will be retired due to excess mileage and it is hoped some of the existing equipment can be transferred, but borough officials anticipate additional upgrades that could potentially total approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 on top of the cost of the new vehicle, which was not disclosed during the meeting. The additional cost was an estimate, according to Lt. Giannuzzi.

The borough also announced that Nancy Probst will function as interim planning board secretary as the borough interviews candidates to fill the position permanently. Additionally, Mountainside will receive a \$50,000 infrastructure grant from Union County for the purpose of road maintenance.

ing it out of the operating budget and spreading it out over two years, but if we were to do that it would wipe out the operating budget for the rest of the year, which wouldn't make a lot of sense," said Mayor Mirabelli. "We do have some capital money available, and this is certainly a capital improvement. These computers are going to be around for some time."

Borough officials do not anticipate a disruption to the computer system and expect installation to occur in September, taking two to three weeks, with the new computers being installed throughout the building.

## Ntl. Night Out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

together the evening's events.

Down the road at LaGrande Park in Fanwood, Police Chief Richard Trigo was joined by Mayor Colleen Mahr, borough council members and other first-responders in greeting several dozen residents and children who were engaged in games, free giveaways, face-painting and tours of some of the equipment on display, including an ambulance, police cars and a ladder truck.

Chief Trigo told *The Times* that his officers "look forward to being here" because it helps the department "bond with the community" and "break down barriers." With two of his officers engaged in a game of cornhole nearby, he said residents "get to see a different side — the fun side — of the police." He said that "any time we get together with the residents, it's beneficial to the community."



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**PERFECT PITCH...**This boy aims at the target to dunk a Westfield police officer during Westfield's National Night Out Tuesday on Quimby Street.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**CLOSE UP VIEW...**Cranford firefighters show this family the township's fire engines up close.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**TALKING POLITICS...**Cranford Township Committee member Mary O'Connor, pictured left, talks with Mountainside Borough Council Republican candidate Donna Pacifico at the Union County Republican Committee annual barbecue held at the home of Union County GOP Chairman Glenn Mortimer in Mountainside on July 30.



Christina M. Hinkle for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**REMEMBERING LT. KOSHNEY...**Chaplain Father Tom Quinn blesses the new fire truck, Engine 2 Pierce Pumper on an Enforcer Chassis. Engine 2 is dedicated to Lt. Brian Koshney, who passed away last August from cancer. He served the department for 23 years as a volunteer.