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Susan M. Dougherty for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**BISHOP AT ST. BART'S FESTIVAL...**At the Saturday night festivities at the St. Bart's/UNICO Festival in Scotch Plains, a service replete with clergy and school children was followed by a procession led by a band.

## New Super. Excited About Joining Mountainside

By KATE BROWNE  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

MOUNTAINSIDE — Janet Walling, the new superintendent of the Mountainside School District, is looking forward to beginning the school year and is grateful for the warm welcome and support that the board, staff and parents have provided over the past two months.

During a recent interview, Mrs. Walling explained that she was attracted to Mountainside because of its reputation as a close-knit community, which supports and values its public schools. She noted it is a district with an effective board of education, strong parental involvement and a highly engaged staff. Mrs. Walling expressed her appreciation for the administrators, staff, and custodians who have worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare for the start of the school year at Beechwood and Deerfield Elementary Schools and is looking forward to working with Berkeley Heights and other local districts as the school year begins.

Mrs. Walling comes to Mountainside from the Atlantic Highlands School District in Monmouth County, where she worked for 31 years. She began as a special-education teacher, worked in regular education and gained extensive experience in management and administration by serv-

ing as interim supervisor for both curriculum and special education. Mrs. Walling also served as principal of the Atlantic Highlands Elementary School, which served students from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, for more than a decade.

Mrs. Walling's goals align with Mountainside's mission of providing students with the opportunities, experiences, and support needed in order to become strong independent learners. She envisions broadening professional development opportunities for staff; continuing the use of solid instructional practices; and extending the implementation of social and emotional learning strategies, as well as data driven insights to support the needs of what she termed the "whole learner." She said the district promotes a collaborative learning environment, infusing critical thinking, technology and collaboration skills that are critical for 21st century learners.

Despite the media's widespread focus on standardized test scores as the sole metric of performance, Mrs. Walling explained that the district's focus is to evaluate a variety of student achievement data in order to better target student learning needs so that every student is provided with the support necessary to be challenged and succeed at his/her appropriate level.

## Leader/Times Thanks Our 2019 Summer Interns

*The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* would like to thank our summer interns Jill Burke and Greta Frontero, both of Westfield, for all their hard work this past summer.

Miss Burke is entering the final semester of her senior year at the University of Southern California where she is an economics major and a sports media industries minor with a strong interest in sports journalism. She is a beat sports writer for the *Daily Trojan*. She is a 2015 graduate of Morristown-Beard School.

As a reporter for our newspapers, Miss Burke covered a visit by Governor Phil Murphy to Westfield, the Westfield High School, Cranford High School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School graduations, as well as a feature story on the removal of finials from the roof of the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. She also reported on National Night Out events in our area,

the Westfield Neighborhood Council anniversary and on meetings of the Westfield and Cranford zoning boards.

Miss Burke also helped launch our newspaper's Instagram page.

Miss Frontero is a 2019 Westfield High School graduate. She is entering her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying journalism. As a freshman, she worked for the student-run publication, the *Badger Herald*.

Miss Frontero wrote a number of articles for our Arts & Entertainment Section over the summer including a feature on the Ghost Funk Orchestra, a review of *The Wake*, a profile of author Joshua Suri for his book, "A Book of Dreams," and a preview of The Westfield High School (WHS) Runway of Dreams Club's first-ever "WHS Rocks the Runway of Dreams" fashion show. She also wrote a feature on the late Fanwood Police Chief Anthony Parenti.

## Joan Mast Welcomed

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ciation of School Administrators, the National Science Teachers Association, and the Public School Education Foundation.

When asked about the upcoming school year, Superintendent Mast noted that she was proud of the efforts that the administrators and teachers have made for the upcoming year. She noted that there was a three-day Administrative Retreat to help pre-

pare for a successful year.

"We are all here to support each other in the important work that we do," she told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

She also stated that the teachers had been hard at work preparing for the opening of school and that a Convocation for staff was scheduled for September 4. School for students begins on today, September 5.



LEADER IN STOCKHOLM...Richard Sherman and Lorraine Davis enjoy reading *The Westfield Leader* while in Stockholm, Sweden.

## Alpine Ridge Developer Files Suit to Allow Rentals

By KATE BROWNE  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

MOUNTAINSIDE — Borough Attorney John Post advised the public at Tuesday night's borough council meeting that the developer of Alpine Ridge, a 55-and-older community located on Route 22, last week filed a lawsuit against the borough in state Superior Court in Union County seeking to overturn the prohibitions on renting the units, which were imposed as part of the building approval process.

Several residents who attended Tuesday's meeting expressed concerns regarding the rentals, which can be found online at sites such as Apartments.com and stated that several young children may be living at the complex despite its age restrictions. Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli promised an investigation would be conducted.

Council members also discussed the possibility of investigating passing an ordinance to ban single-use plastic items. Mayor Mirabelli noted that Belmar, Maplewood, and Cranford have all recently passed laws. While several council members including Councilmen Glenn Mortimer and Rene Dierkes expressed concerns regarding enforcement and the impact on local businesses all agreed additional research and input from residents was needed.

On August 13, 2019, Cranford became the 17th town in New Jersey to enact a prohibition on plastic bags. The Cranford ordinance, which passed by a 4-to-1 vote, gives businesses until July 2020, to halt distributing certain items, "unless first requested by the customer." Those items include single-use plastic carry-out bags, single-use plastic utensils, plastic straws and stirrers, and plastic cups, including lids. The exceptions include if a customer requests a plastic hot or cold lid, certain types of recyclable containers, such as plastics No. 1 and 2, and wide straws.

The exceptions were required due

to the nature of some of the items, such as thick milk shakes and ice cream products that would not be consumable with a regular width straw. While the ordinance does not carry a fine, businesses could face up to \$1,000 for violations, the maximum allowed under the current recycling ordinance.

Mayor Mirabelli reported that the September edition of *New Jersey Monthly* magazine has ranked Mountainside No. 9 in its list of "Top 100 Towns in New Jersey." The research firm hired by the magazine considered five categories: home values, property taxes, crime rate, school performance and a "lifestyle factor. In 2017, the magazine ranked Mountainside 12th. In 2015, it was ranked 70th.

The Mayor also noted that for the 10th year in a row there have been no comments by the auditors on the borough's operations, which he noted was a testament to the responsible stewardship and hard work of Chief Financial Officer Jill Goode and her staff. The Mayor also urged all homeowner and business owners that there will be a public meeting regarding the property tax reassessment program at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 12 at the gymnasium at the Deerfield Elementary School. The meeting will include a presentation by the appraisal company and will provide detailed information to homeowners on the timetable and process.

In other business, the council members unanimously voted to participate in the Union County Leaf Disposal Program at the same rates as last year and to investigate applying for a New Jersey Department of Transportation state aid grant for Bristol Road. Councilman Robert W. Messler indicated that he is continuing to work with Union County and the state to see what options might be available to alleviate traffic congestion on New Providence Road.

The council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17.

## FannyWood Day Detailed at Fanwood Council Meeting

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tive assistant in the Fanwood Police Department.

In other business, in a second reading, a public hearing was held regarding a \$25 fee to replace lost parking permits. It was unanimously passed with no public comment.

The borough's annual Fanny Wood Day festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 15, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., in downtown Fanwood. It was reported that many street vendors will be at the event, including such food vendors as Coastal Flavors Crab Cakes, Mamma's on the Go, Dani's Kettle Corn and Mr. Softee.

Food-eating contests will be held at establishments in the downtown area, among them Railside Cafe, Nick's Pizza and Rocko's Ice Cream. A scavenger hunt will take place as well.

In the south-side train station parking lot at the Kids Zone, free activities will be provided, such as "Make Your Own 'Y' T-shirt,"

"Make Your Own "Slime," corn hole games and a soccer goal kick's obstacle course.

The stage area will feature different bands and musicians throughout the day and there also will be a car show.

In addition, the rescue squad and fire department will offer kids an opportunity to see some of the equipment used in emergency situations. A petting zoo also will be part of the festivities.

The event will be hosted by the Fanny Wood Day Committee in conjunction with JC Promotions.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, at 7 p.m., at Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue.

See [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com) for more



Susan M. Dougherty for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**FUN FOR ALL...**Kids of all ages had fun on the rides at the St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival over the Labor Day weekend in Scotch Plains.

## Fanwood Planning Bd.

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stormwater and noise.

Amy Buchney of 66 North Avenue said she can hear the dogs barking throughout the day, as well as the employees yelling to control the dogs. She asked for a sound study to be performed.

Also, Ms. Buchney said she already has groundwater seeping into her basement and asked how this addition might further add to that problem. The applicant's planner James Watson said the stormwater system would take the stormwater to South Avenue and away from the rear property line.

Mr. Parker is to add a special fence that has a sound-blocking technology along the southern portion of the property. Also, the second story exercise area will have a concrete wall surrounding it, which will block the sound.

Resident Russ Hamill also said the noise from the dogs can be heard at his house, which is a block and half further away from Ms. Buchney's home. He said the barking can be heard all day, for 20 minutes on, and 20 minutes off, during 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Mr. Carter asked to have the applicant speak with the police department about how the vehicles will exit the property, saying he had concerns with cars backing out onto South Avenue. Other conditions of approval included employees park offsite, illuminating four additional parking spaces, a landscaping plan, an ADA sign, a sound study that had been conducted by the county be provided, and a sound mitigation plan.

The board continued an application for Fanwood Family Dentistry located at 225 Martine Avenue to its Wednesday, September 25 meeting. It heard testimony from the owner, and the owner's planner, engineer and a traffic engineer, however concerns from the neighbors and revisions requested to the layout of the parking lot prompted the board to have the applicant come back with the revised plans.

Owner Dr. Ankit Parikh is asking to build a driveway and a parking lot, as well as a handicapped ramp, at the rear of his practice. Dr. Parikh bought the practice from another dentist less than a year ago, he said, and is seeking to add parking for his employees and patients to make it safer, so they don't have to cross a busy road without crosswalks, and said vehicular accidents have occurred. The practice lies in a residential zone, and so the parking lot coverage prompts a variance. The applicant said the dental practice had been operating for 40 years.

Neighbors who live behind the practice said the parking lot would add to additional groundwater saturation, and be an eyesore. The applicant also is asking to add a monument sign that would measure two-and-a-half feet high and four feet wide, which would replace a smaller sign that hangs from a pole. The sign is also not allowed in the residential zone.

Resident Arjuna Darmarajah said currently patients park on Madison Avenue and felt that situation was fine. "We have nice new sidewalks now on Madison Avenue," he said.

Dr. Parikh had said there have been three vehicular accidents out front of his property on Martine Avenue. However, Mr. Darmarajah said that "no one parks on Martine Avenue" because it is too busy of a road and there is not enough space for cars to park so people park on Madison Avenue and walk over to Martine.

"I don't know how Fanwood can put this big driveway, striped parking lot, and lights here...it's going to be in our bedrooms," Gina Friedman said. "I'm going to feel like I am living next to QuickChek." Two other residents also complained of the parking lot aesthetics in a residential neighborhood.

Board member Jack Molenaar said he did not feel that lights were needed in the parking lot.

Michael Lysicatos, board president, said, "For me six spots, and a handicapped space is too much for me."



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EAGLESCOUT PROJECT...Spencer Linenberg of Boy Scout Troop 77 recently built an entrance to the Dunham Avenue Bird Sanctuary as part of his Eagle Scout project. With the help of friends, family and volunteers from Troop 77, he laid a gravel path and patio and installed a bench, entrance sign and information board. As a result, it is now much easier for visitors to find and enjoy the bird sanctuary. It is located at the end of the shared driveway between 870 and 902 Summit Avenue in Westfield.