

Fanwood Council Announces Aid To Workers Affected by Shutdown

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

FANWOOD — Prompted by the month-long federal shutdown, the Borough of Fanwood, the Township of Scotch Plains and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium have come together to help all local federal employees affected by the hardship.

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr announced at the regular council meeting, held Tuesday evening, that this program has been put in place to give assistance to families of federal employees from the local community. She noted that assistance was available and that gift cards to

all local stores and markets would be distributed to those in need and that confidential applications could be found on the borough's website, fanwoodnj.org. She stated that applications can be handed in either at Fanwood Borough Hall on Martine Avenue or the clerk's office at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue.

In addition, the mayor stated that community members could help by donating gift cards to grocery stores in addition to Target and Walmart. It was stated that these donations can be given to St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church on Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains.

It also was announced that if a local business would like to donate services to these families, the business can contact Elaine at St. Bartholomew Parish at (908) 322-5192, extension no. 141.

In other business, it was announced that more than 200 community members were in attendance at the 10th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service held at various locations throughout the community on Monday. The opening program was held at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains at 9:30 a.m. on January 21. Some of the volunteer opportunities included food-drive collections and sandwich making for the homeless.

It was announced that there were over 25 volunteer opportunities for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents. Multiple council members were in attendance during the MLK day of volunteering and governing body members noted that it was especially "uplifting" to see so many children volunteering.

It was revealed that the borough will be "going red" during February in honor of "Go Red for Women," the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative for women's heart health. Mayor Mahr noted that women have a tendency to put everyone else's needs in front of their own, and that it is a good time for women to take time to take care of themselves.

The next Fanwood Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, at 7 p.m., at Fanwood Borough Hall.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
A TEAM EFFORT...Girls Scouts make sandwiches for local soup kitchens and food pantries as part of Monday's 10th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service program held at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
COMMUNITY IN SONG...The community choir is led by Cantor Matt Axelrod during Monday's Scotch Plains-Fanwood Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service opening program at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

Indoor Youth Basketball Facility Proposed for Route 22 in Borough

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

MOUNTAINSIDE — John McGuire, principal with the company Hoops There It Is! Youth Basketball and Educational Programs, last Thursday agreed with planning board officials to further review his application

for an indoor basketball facility on Route 22 in Mountainside.

The applicant, 1235 Mountainside Associates LLC/Peak Sports Academy, proposes to construct an indoor sports and recreation facility at 1235 Route 22. The recreation facility would include three to four basketball courts for basketball skill clinics, basketball tournaments, basketball summer camps, travel team competition and private training or practice. Mr. McGuire told the board at Thursday's meeting.

Planning Board Chairman Theodore Zawislak said Mountainside Associates' planning review with planning board officials and professionals would allow for a possible "variance reduction" before the application is continued at February's planning board meeting.

"I want to create a really healthy sports experience, an experience about developing athletes (character and athletic-technical skills) versus purely winning," said Mr. McGuire in describing his vision for the facility.

Mr. McGuire said Hoops There It Is! has rented gym space in various towns throughout Union County, collaborating with recreation directors and school officials. Mr.

McGuire said he began coaching basketball in 1999 while running a summer camp beginning with only 60 participants.

"Those who are less privileged will have a place to play regardless of skill or financial background," said Mr. McGuire, describing his organization's commitment to inclusiveness and character building.

The Mountainside P.A.L. basketball league will be guaranteed court time, stated Mr. McGuire.

The applicant's attorney, Jim Foerst, and Mountainside's consulting planner, John Chadwick, will review alternatives to reduce a parking variance request for parking. A total of 124 parking spaces is required, with the applicant proposing 123 spaces. Mr. Chadwick said the applicant's architect and planner, Edward M. Weinstein, will discuss building positioning changes that could result in the applicant no longer needing numerous variance requests.

Mr. Zawislak said the applicant's goal should be to consider the best application possible with the least variance requests needed, compared to an application considering an easement for "neighboring properties' concerns."

Mr. Zawislak was discussing a

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Rec. Commission Discusses Fence, Revenue Numbers

By **LAUREN A. SILVA**
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — There was much discussion about events planned for this year at Tuesday night's recreation commission meeting, during which the commission also devoted considerable attention to a review of profits and losses related to the borough's 2018 recreation programs.

Recreation Director Bob Budiansky spoke about the outfield netting at La Grande Park. Mr. Budiansky received a message from Statewide Fencing stating that the netting was fixed, but that was not the case. Mr. Budiansky said he would follow up on the repair.

He also mentioned the Forest Road Park master plan. CME Associates gave the commission a lengthy environmental impact report a few months ago. Mr. Budiansky recently received word from CME Associates that it is in the process of finalizing its Sight Investigation Scope with the mayor's office. The company will let the recreation commission know when the soil sample is scheduled to be taken.

Mr. Budiansky said a postcard was

recently sent to Fanwood residents about upcoming events for the year. Among the planned events are an Easter Egg Hunt, Party in the Park, movie night series, Fanwood 5K and Fun Run, Halloween Parade and Costume Contest, a holiday celebration and tree lighting. A training wheel toss may be added to the schedule.

In his director's report, Mr. Budiansky presented an itemized list of 2018 programs and their revenue as compared to 2017.

Mike Kelly, the commission's treasurer, said, "In 2018, we made \$20,181 in building rentals." The Easter Egg Hunt made \$81 more than in 2017, while the Party in the Park made \$259 more in 2017 than 2018. The summer park program made approximately \$400 more than in 2017, while the movies in the park made \$60 more than in 2017. The 5K race made \$2,023 more in 2017 than 2018, while the borough's travel camp made \$1,073 more than in 2017. The Halloween festivities made \$14 more than in 2017, while the holiday celebration made \$123 more in 2017

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Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
MAKING VALENTINES...Girls Scouts of Troop 40590 from Terrill Middle School make valentines for local children's hospitals at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Scotch Plains.

Freeholders to Vote on Summer Concerts Contracts

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

COUNTY — The Union County Freeholder Board is expected to approve management and production contracts tonight for its Summer Arts Festival and Rhythm and Blues By The Brook concerts, as well as other entertainment events.

UltraArtists of Morristown is set to receive a \$29,400 contract for parks and recreation special events. This Is It! Productions of Hoboken is set to again receive contracts for the management and production of the Summer Arts Festival in July and August, in the amount of \$78,000, and for the Rhythm and Blues concert to be held Saturday, June 1, at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield, in the amount of \$134,100.

At Thursday's agenda-setting meeting, Ron Zuber, parks and recreation director, said last year the county had the Summer Arts Festival and special events covered under one contract and that this year the combined costs of both contracts is going up \$9,000. He said last year's This Is It! contract was \$63,000 for the Summer Arts Festival, while the special events portion was \$33,000.

In addition, an agreement is to be entered into once again with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) for \$35,000 to perform a concert on Friday, June 21, at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield. The contract is the same amount as last year. Freeholder Angel Estrada asked if the county has looked for a donor to offset the cost of the NJSO concert.

"We've worked with New Jersey Symphony the last couple of years in trying to raise dollars for this," Mr. Zuber said, noting the concert has been paid for out of an existing trust fund the past three years, including 2019.

The board also will vote tonight to allow the county to enter into an agreement with Fanwood for the installation of an illuminated pedestrian warning sign at the intersection of Midway Avenue and Willow Avenue. Joseph

Graziano, director of engineering, public works and facilities management, explained that towns like Fanwood pay for all costs for the installation of the illuminated signs, which are solar powered, and the county just approves the placement of the sign.

He said a municipal traffic officer determines if an intersection is unsafe and a candidate for an illuminated pedestrian sign.

Per a question on the Fiscal Year 2019 State Aid to Counties grant for street paving in 2020, Mr. Graziano said the \$6,990,563 is the amount set per a state formula. He said the funding will enable the county to pave between 17 and 18 miles of county roads.

The county will apply for a \$537,450 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Recycling Enhancement Grant, an increase of \$100,000 over last year, Mr. Graziano said. The grant funds recycling events and programs, advertising and education costs and programs, as well as a new recycling display at the Trailside Nature and Science Center.

The grant also pays for the Recycling Coach app that includes recycling schedules of all Union County towns as well as towns around New Jersey, Mr. Graziano said, noting that residents can use it if they are vacationing in New Jersey and want to know about local recycling information. He said Union County is the first New Jersey county to have the app on the websites of all of its 21 municipalities.

In appointments for the new year, Scott Jaffee will represent Westfield as an alternate on the Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board. Former Fanwood councilman Jack Molenaar will represent the borough as a delegate on the Union County Transportation Advisory Board. Also serving on the panel will be David Judd and Marvin Gersten of Westfield, who will be delegates.

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Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
LOVE FOR LITERACY...The Need 2 Read Literacy organization was represented at the volunteer fair as part of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service held at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA on Monday. The organization helps children of low-income families in the community learn to read through book drives, fundraisers, and help with school work.

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Congratulations to the Top Producers for the Month of December!

Sharon Steele
Overall Production
908.518.5287

Sharon Steele
Sales Associate
908.518.5287

Cathy Splinter
Listing Associate
908.233.5508

Deborah Citarella Team
Top Team
908.233.6607

Westfield West

600 North Avenue West
Westfield, NJ 07090
908.233.0065
ColdwellBankerHomes.com

