



Memorial Day — Monday, May 27



# THE SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD

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ONE DOLLAR

## Council OKs New Zones For Possible Housing Developments

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

SCOTCH PLAINS — After hearing some residents express concerns about the effects on their own neighborhoods and property values, the township council on Tuesday voted to adopt, on second reading, two zoning ordinances that will create overlay zone districts along several streets that have been designated for potential housing developments.

The new overlay zones are for properties along the southern part of Jerusalem Road and on Waldheim Avenue and Beryllium Road off Plainfield Avenue. The overlay is, in effect, placed on top of the existing zones. If a developer were to put forth a proposal and met the requirements of the overlay

ordinance, they then could build a multi-family housing development. The new zones are being created as part of the township's efforts to spur potential building of affordable-housing units as part of the settlement reached last year with builders.

Mayor Alexander Smith told residents at the council's meeting on Tuesday that nothing is being built or planned to be built. "It's just a zoning change" that allows qualified builders who meet the zone's requirements to submit plans to the planning board. Planner Michael Mistretta of Harbor Consultants, which is advising the township on redevelopment matters, emphasized that no builders have yet proposed any developments and also

pointed out that the current zoning on the affected streets will remain.

Eighteen properties along Jerusalem Road, encompassing about 15 acres, will be included in one overlay zone. The density for that area will be 12 units per acre, meaning that if the zone were built out to the maximum, there would be 182 housing units, with between 27 and 36 of them being tabbed as affordable units as part of the township's obligations in that regard. Along Waldheim Avenue and Beryllium Road, 23 properties totaling 7.2 acres will be included. Nine units per acre will be permitted, meaning 65 units could be built, with 10 to 13 being set aside as affordable.

Several residents of Redwood Road, which is adjacent to Beryllium Road, expressed concerns about potentially having multi-story apartment buildings next to their back yards along with the potential for increased stormwater runoff onto their properties. One resident also complained that existing zoning regulations needed to be better enforced so that equipment owned by some of the light-industrial companies that abut her yard does not encroach on her property.

Several residents living near Jerusalem Road were worried about the effects of the possible new development on traffic in the area, with one noting that traffic is heavy in the mornings, making it unsafe for children to cross Jerusalem Road. Another homeowner questioned whether apartment renters would "have the same love for their property" as homeowners and worried that "our quaint little town" would end up becoming too urbanized.

Council members expressed sympathy with residents, with Deputy Mayor Josh Losardo complaining that the present court-imposed housing mandates do not take into account impacts on schools, infrastructure, etc. "That is not fair," he said. Councilman

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Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
OUR HOMETOWN HEROES...Workers put up flags and Hometown Heroes banners in downtown Scotch Plains in preparation for this weekend's Memorial Day concert on Sunday and parade on Monday.

## Fanwood Animal Hospital Granted Variances by Pl. Bd.

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

FANWOOD — The planning board last Wednesday unanimously passed plans for renovating and upgrading the Fanwood Animal Hospital, located at 137 South Avenue.

The approval does have a contingency, however, that the drainage plan must be approved by Fanwood Borough Engineer Antonios Panagopoulos. It was noted that the renovated animal hospital will have 75-percent impervious coverage.

Professional planner James Watson of DKA Associates in Scotch Plains testified that the variances needed for the project included relief from the front-yard setback, which will be just under the 10-foot setback requirement, and parking relief.

The owner of the Fanwood Animal Hospital, Dr. David Franz, testified that the basic structure of the hospital will remain the same, but that the entryway will be larger and that a front porch will be added.

During his testimony, Dr. Franz noted that animals do not stay overnight at the facility. He further noted that sometimes animals might need

boarding areas for the duration of a day following a particular surgery, but that all animals are picked up by closing time in the evening.

The hours of operation are daily from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. except for Friday, when the facility closes at 5 p.m. Saturday hours are from 9 a.m. until noon and Sunday the facility is closed.

Also testifying on behalf of the applicant was architect Michael Burns. His testimony noted that the new structure would include a black shingle roof, olive-colored siding and indirect lighting on the main sign for the building and for the sign on the street.

He further noted that there would be concealed recessed lights over the new porch and that the property would add eight more parking spaces to the property.

Planning board members were in favor of the project because they felt that it was good to repurpose an existing site and would have a quick turn-over.

Other members noted that it keeps yet another business within the borough and shows opportunity for a business to grow within the borough.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
BEHIND THE WHEEL...This youngster sits in the drivers' seat of a cement mixer at Sunday's Jewish Community Center's Touch-A-Truck event. The annual event saw over 2,500 attendees, who enjoyed face painting, balloon art, bounce houses, a rock-climbing pole and food trucks.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
UP CLOSE TO THE TRUCKS... At the Jewish Community Center's Touch-A-Truck event on Sunday afternoon, children and parents alike blast horns, sit in the drivers' seats and more. The annual event saw over 2,500 attendees, who enjoyed face painting, balloon art, bounce houses, a rock-climbing pole and food trucks. The first hour of the afternoon was a "no horn" time period for children who are sensitive to loud noises.

## Fanwood Council Honors Grand Marshals, Police Officers

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

FANWOOD — Many awards and recognitions were given Monday evening at the Fanwood Borough Council's monthly regular meeting. The first to be recognized was veteran Joseph Schott, 97, who has lived in Fanwood for 65 years and will be one of two grand marshals for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade to be held this Monday, May 27, starting at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Schott and Joseph Murano, 95, also of Fanwood, both served in World War II and will lead the parade on Memorial Day. It was noted that Mr. Murano served in the South Pacific during the war and Mr. Schott was stationed in England. These two men were reported as being long-time friends, both moving to Fanwood in 1954, and both raising five children.

In addition, it was noted that there will be a Memorial Day Concert this Sunday, May 26, starting at 6:30 p.m., on the Alan Augustine Village Green in Scotch Plains where both men will also be honored.

In other business, Police Chief Richard Trigo honored many of his officers for their diligence on the force.

Officers Michael Rusin and Elliott Bernard were honored for bringing many programs to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, including "Raiders Don't Risk It" about drinking and driving, and the "Ask A Cop" program teaching youth how to talk to a police officer if they are pulled over. These officers were honored for their work and using their own time to do it.

In addition, Sergeant Marc Gottlick was honored for supplying information to Fanwood residents on such issues as elder abuse, drugs, identity theft and Internet safety.

Police Officer Dan Kranz was hon-

ored for his work helping 83 out of 100 people who were cited for drug problems and received detox help. He and other officers were part of the Union County program targeted to bring help to chronic drug users in the system.

Chief Trigo thanked the officers for their work and thanked council members for recognizing National Police Week from May 12 to May 18.

In addition, many members of the Fanwood Emergency Medical Service (EMS) were honored in recognition of National EMS week. The Fanwood Rescue Squad was founded in 1948.

In addition, Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern was honored as part of Municipal Clerks Week.

Proclamations were also read for Historic Preservation Month, National Nurses Week, National Cancer Research Month and National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

The next Fanwood Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. at Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue. A public hearing for the adoption of the 2019 municipal budget is scheduled for that meeting. The public hearing was originally scheduled for May 20, but had to be amended for recently received grants. The governing body noted that the 2019 budget includes "a small tax decrease for Fanwood residents."

## Freeholders Back Residents Opposing PSE&G Proposal

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

COUNTY — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a resolution last Thursday supporting municipalities and residents affected by a proposal by Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) to run high-voltage 69kV power lines through various residential and business areas throughout the municipalities of Westfield, Cranford and Garwood.

The resolution received a yes vote from all present Freeholders and supports "the efforts by the County of Union's municipal officials to relocate PSE&G's high-voltage power lines to areas outside of residential areas; and further recommending a period of public comment and investigation before increasing the voltage in the lines through Union County."

Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski communicated the Freeholders' support during her comments before impassioned public comment would begin from residents of Cranford, Westfield and Garwood.

"Union County has limited authority in this matter. The courts have allowed the state's Board of Public Utilities to supersede local control when a project is deemed necessary for service, convenience and welfare of the public," said Freeholder Kowalski. "In this case, PSE&G has failed to make the case that the project will improve the health and safety of our residents and the environment in which we all live.

"And therefore, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders stands strong with our municipal leaders and concerned residents," she added.

Freeholder Kowalski would then go on to state that the Freeholders' expectations from PSE&G include justifying "its reasons for not running its power lines more safely and effectively underground and in different locations, such

as along existing rail lines, and to explore any other options to keep the lines away from residences and businesses."

Additionally, Ms. Kowalski and the other Freeholders expect PSE&G to "maintain an open dialogue with the body and its municipal partners," along with considering other preservatives for the power poles. She also implored PSE&G to inform citizens of any potential hazard posed by the project and said a copy of this resolution would be distributed to the Board of Public Utilities, their state Senate and Assembly delegation, their municipal partners and PSE&G.

The utility or power line at the center of the issue is the high-voltage 69kV. According to PSE&G's website, the high-voltage power line in question is a part of the "69kV Statewide Initiative" and has the purpose of delivering "safe, reliable electric service to its customers." The webpage continues, "New Jersey has experienced tremendous commercial and residential growth. As businesses and residents use more electricity, it is our responsibility to reinforce, upgrade, and in many cases replace, our electric transmission infrastructure to keep up with that demand."

In addition to the Freeholder support communicated by Ms. Kowalski, Thursday's meeting included an outpouring of concern from residents who do not want these high-voltage power lines running through their neighborhoods and business areas.

Richard Hurley of Cranford was among those in attendance who addressed the Freeholders and the public Thursday night.

"PSE&G expects us to accept significantly-reduced safety and property values so they can provide cheap electricity and enhance their own profits. In reality, we are the ones who are going to be bearing the costs of cheaper electric-

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Courtesy of Borough of Fanwood  
SERVING FANWOOD SINCE 1948...The Fanwood Rescue Squad was recognized by the Borough Council Monday night as part of National Emergency Medical Service Week for their volunteer work since 1948.

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