

Regina Botsford Is Named Interim Assistant Superintendent

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

SCOTCH PLAINS — During the board of education's Thursday meeting, Regina Botsford was named as the interim assistant superintendent after Joan Mast, Ed.D., was recently promoted to the district's superintendent of schools following the retirement of Margaret Hayes, Ed.D. As part of her responsibilities as the assistant superintendent, Ms. Botsford also will oversee the Curriculum and Instruction and Technology Departments of the district. Ms. Botsford addressed the audience, stating that it was a privilege to serve the district, and thanked board members for their ongoing commitment to improving education in

Scotch Plains and Fanwood. It was then noted that Tuesday was a staff developmental day that addressed the social-emotional learning programs within the district. Additionally, it was noted that 72 new staff members were hired within the district for the new school year and that 45 of these hires were members of the teaching staff. In other business, September was designated as Arts in Education Week and Youth Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Resolutions were unanimously passed for both. According to the resolution, Arts in Education Week spans September 8 to September 14 and encompasses "a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theater,

media arts, literature, design and visual arts and is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students." Regarding Youth Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, according to statistics reported at the meeting, suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24 in New Jersey and the second leading cause of death for those in that age group in the United States. It also was revealed that, according to the American Association of Suicidology, one young person under the age of 24 dies of suicide every hour and 43 minutes, and in addition, for every suicide death it is estimated that approximately 200 teens and young adults attempt to take their own lives. The resolution also highlighted warning signs to help educate those close to students in aiding future prevention. These warning signs include previous suicide attempts, current talk of suicide, a preoccupation with death, giving away prized possessions, moodiness, increased use of alcohol or drugs and saying goodbye to family and/or friends. At the conclusion of the meeting a moment of silence was observed for longtime Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School history teacher David Multer and classroom aide Laurie Prusik, who both passed away over the summer. According to her obituary, Ms. Prusik was a classroom aide at Coles Elementary School and was a former PTA president at Coles. The next Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. The board will then meet again on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the administrative building located at 512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
FOODIES...Italian pastries and candies were plentiful at St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival over the Labor Day weekend. The annual event featured ethnic food, music, a 50/50 raffle and rides.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
ELVIS IN THE HOUSE...At the St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival over the Labor Day weekend, Elvis (Mark Reno), backed up by Bill Turner and Blue Smoke Band, serenades the crowds on Saturday night. The pleasant weather contributed to the fun.

Fanny Wood Day Among Council Topics

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

FANWOOD — Topping the bi-monthly borough council meeting held Tuesday evening, it was announced that Michele Moore has been selected as the borough's Volunteer-of-the-Month for her work and dedication on the Fanwood Planning Board. Ms. Moore also has been active in the borough's annual 5K Run. She has been a resident of the borough since 2009 and has been an executive sales professional for 17 years. She presently works for Sanofi. She will be presented with a print of the historic Fanwood Train Station at the next council meeting on Monday, September 16, for her volunteer efforts. It also was announced that a proclamation will be made at the next

council meeting honoring September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. According to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, an estimated one woman in 78 will develop ovarian cancer in her lifetime, and an estimated 14,000 will die of ovarian cancer this year. In other business, a presentation was made to the council in an executive session by Michael Markulec of the Harbor Technology Group in Pennington. No other information was available regarding the presentation. Separately, a resolution was read regarding the hiring of new Director for Senior Programming Dianne Howarth. Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell noted that Ms. Howarth will provide more recreational programming for borough seniors. Ms. Howarth has been an administrative



Christina M. Hinke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
CRANFORD RETURNS TO 40's...HBO has chosen Downtown Cranford for a filming location for their upcoming miniseries, "The Plot Against America." It is based on a Phillip Roth novel and is set in the 1940s. Storefronts, traffic signs and meters were made to look from the period. The traffic lines on the roads were blacked out and old-time cars were lining the streets. Lots of people came out Thursday night to take pictures. Filming was to take place Thursday and Friday overnight.

SP-F Schools Welcome Joan Mast As New Superintendent

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

SCOTCH PLAINS — As the new school year quickly approaches, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School district welcomes their new Superintendent of Schools Joan Mast, Ed.D. Superintendent Mast is no stranger to the district as she has served for the last nine years as the assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum and information and technology. Prior to that she served the district as the mathematics supervisor since 2001. She also served the district as the supervisor of instruction and technology for a year in the 2009-2010 School year. During her time in the district, Ms. Mast has been instrumental in the recent technology updates for students and also worked not so long ago on updates for the district's strategic plan, which also included many technology updates. These efforts have helped to bring updated computer systems, Chrome

K9 Resorts to Expand on South; Dental Practice Seeks Parking

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — K9 Resorts is to see an expansion of its doggie day care and boarding flagship site on South Avenue. The planning board approved unanimously on August 28 to allow the variances needed to make way for the expansion of the building. The current operation has about 12 employees on the clock at any given time, and the expansion will trigger the need for about 18 to 20 employees on hand at any given time, the co-owner and Chief Executive Officer

Steven Parker said. Currently, the boarding facility has eight luxury suites, 30 cages, and 39 executive suites. The new addition will add 24 new cages, and 48 new executive rooms, which are five-foot by seven-foot in size, for overnight. The addition will also increase the capacity for 50 dogs in its daycare option, Mr. Parker said. Also, two new exercise areas for the dogs will be included, as well as a second-story addition that will have an outdoor area, Mr. Parker said. Also, for daycare there will be three designated play areas for dogs that are small, medium and large in size, and dogs who prefer to be alone will have designated time for outdoor play alone and four separate times with a staffer. Shade can be provided for dogs, Mr. Parker said at the question of board member Anthony Carter. Variances approved included a shortfall of parking by 27 spaces, no rear yard setback, and a side-yard setback on the easterly side of five feet where eight feet is required. K9

Resorts is combining an adjacent lot where a construction yard operates into one lot. In 2015, K9 resorts moved from a nearby location on South Avenue and built a new boarding facility at 57 South Avenue. The company started in Fanwood in 2005, and now has 40 state-of-the-art K9 Resorts across the country, Mr. Parker said. Two new exercise areas include one on the second-story addition, measuring 35 feet by 20 feet, to the westerly side of the building, as well as a new, ground-level exercise area for the dogs, measuring 65 by 50 feet, at the rear of the property, planner for the applicant, James Watson, said. It will have a permeable turf ground that filters the dog urine and rain to a stone base, which then collects into a basin. A third exercise area already in place to the easterly side will remain, Mr. Watson said. Residents whose homes are situated behind the rear yard of the facility, which is separated by the Conrail line, had concerns about added

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SPORTS -- Scotch Plains-Fanwood Football Preseason with scrimmage game; Westfield/Cranford Football scrimmage; Westfield Devilfish Season Wrapup.

Town News -- Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle's Opening Remarks from the September 3 Town Council meeting. ~see goleader.com~



Christina M. Hinke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
EXPANDING IN FANWOOD...K-9 Resorts co-owner and Chief Executive Officer Steven Parker explains the expansion of the business at last Wednesday's Fanwood Planning Board meeting. The board approved the project.

9/11 Memorial Events

Ceremonies and remembrance programs will take place next Wednesday, September 11, the 18th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93. Scotch Plains — The annual memorial service will begin at 6 p.m. at the 9/11 Memorial Monument on the Alan M. Augustine Village Green, adjacent to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue. Cranford — The Cranford World Trade Center Memorial Committee and the Cranford Clergy Council will host a 9/11 Memorial Service, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at WTC Park, located at Springfield and

North Union Avenues in Cranford. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church across from the park. Westfield — A remembrance ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. at the 9/11 memorial, located at North Avenue and East Broad Street. The program will include clergy remarks, presentation of a ceremonial wreath and time for silent reflection. Union County September 11th Memorial — Echo Lake Park, Mountaintide. The memorial will be open to visitors from the morning hours until 9 p.m. Visitors may bring and light candles.

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