

Law Enforcement Series

Chief Carboy Has Focused on Community Policing, Building Relationships With Fanwood Residents

By STEPHEN CHIGER
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

FANWOOD — According to Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy, the best thing about working in a small town is the personal relationships that you make.

Having been a member of the Fanwood Police Department for 37 years, you can bet he's formed more than a few.

"I think we're more service oriented" than a squad in a larger city, said Chief Carboy, noting that officers in larger areas simply don't have the time or ability to interact on a close level with the community.

But, like Police Chief Thomas O'Brien in neighboring Scotch Plains, Chief Carboy, now 65, will

have to give up some of that interaction next year, having reached the mandatory retirement age.

Becoming Fanwood's fourth police chief in 1998, Mr. Carboy has focused on a set of initiatives similar to those of his Scotch Plains counterpart. In the past few years, the Fanwood police have upgraded their computer network, placed laptops in their police cars and installed software to make their dispatch system more efficient.

They plan to install mobile video cameras in squad cars around the end of this month.

Meanwhile, Chief Carboy said the department's officers have continued efforts toward creating a tighter bond between local residents and the

police, a trend known as "community policing."

This summer, for example, police have tried to make appearances at local block parties. Two months ago, the department put up a Web page (www.fanwoodpolice.com).

Similar to many officials in his position, the Fanwood Chief said he would like his department to have more officers. "In a small department, what happens is that people tend to wear more than one hat," he said.

Chief Carboy said that if his department had additional employees, police officers could focus more specifically on their jobs. The Fanwood department has remained at 21 officers and one civilian for over 25 years.

He said he hopes that the relationships his officers can form with residents will help quell the sometimes negative stigma with which police officers have to contend.

Where Chief Carboy's career is concerned, however, it was a bond he made on the squad, and not in the community, that changed his life.

In 1969, he found himself with a young family. Working at the police department meant late nights and relatively low pay, he said, so he decided to leave his job to work in manufacturing.

Four years later, a changing economy left him in need of a job, he said, and a conversation with his original partner alerted him to an opening in the department. The problem was that he was then past age 35 and therefore no longer eligible for the department pension.

However, because of the efforts of

his former partner, the borough allowed Mr. Carboy to work for the force, ultimately changing its laws.

That partner was Anthony Parenti, who was to become Fanwood's third Chief of Police and is the current Director of the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

"If it was not for his efforts, I wouldn't be here today," said Chief Carboy, who has remained close with his colleague.

Reflecting on his upcoming retirement, Chief Carboy remarked that "the challenge (of being chief) is trying to make sure that when you do retire, that the department will continue on without missing a beat."

He thinks it will. "I live in town and I sleep every night," said the Chief, expecting to enjoy the same comfort in the future.



REWARDING CAREER...Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy will retire next year. Though he does not have any current plans for retirement, he said he will miss the daily interaction that his job provided.

News Highlights

Schundler Plans To Attend Picnic

FANWOOD — A kick-off fundraiser family picnic for the Fanwood Republican Borough Council candidates, Dave Trumpp and Ellen Cagnassola, will be held on Sunday, August 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of John and Nancy Gurley, 83 Glenwood Road, Fanwood.

The Fanwood Republican Campaign Committee 2001 invites the community to attend to meet Republican gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler, who will be attending.

Other invited guests are Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, State Senate Candidate Milt Campbell, State District 22 Assembly candidates Patricia Walsh of Green Brook and Gabe Spera of Scotch Plains and Union County Freeholder candidates Robert Schundler of Westfield, Andrew MacDonald of Fanwood and Ricky Badillo of Roselle Park.

Individuals interested in meeting and discussing issues with Mr. Schundler or any other local candidates are invited to attend. Prices are \$25 per person, \$40 per couple and kids are free.

For more information, please contact Christine Taylor at (908) 347-8104.

Manahan Releases Guide to Internet

ELIZABETH — Copies of pamphlets to help parents protect their children when using the Internet has been released by Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan.

The pamphlet, "A Parent's Guide to the Internet," is packed with safety tips for parents including suggestions that computers be placed in family areas of the house rather than a child's bedroom, monitoring of time spent and the time of day that children are online and restricting the release of any personal information about anyone in the family.

Campbell Calls For Term Limits

PLAINFIELD — Republican Dis-

trict 21 State Senate candidate Milt Campbell of Plainfield has said, if elected, he would sponsor legislation calling for a constitutional amendment establishing term limits for members of the New Jersey State Legislature as one of his first acts as a State Senator.

"It is too easy for some politicians to lose sight of the fact that they are elected to represent their fellow citizens," he said. "Term limits would provide the people with new candidates with fresh ideas for solving New Jersey's problems."

Mr. Campbell is a professional motivational speaker and an Olympic Gold Medal recipient.

History Grant Established

ELIZABETH — Historical societies and organizations are encouraged to submit proposals for a new history grant recently created by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Other non-profit groups and schools providing history programs may apply for what has been deemed "Special Project Support."

"The purpose of the grant program is to enrich the quality of life in Union County by strengthening and further developing existing history programs as well as initiating new projects," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

History programs and activities taking place between September 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002 are eligible for funding consideration. The deadline for proposals is Monday, September 10.

The program is being administered by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth. For more information, please call (908) 558-2550.

Mothers & More Set Aug. 15 Game Night

CRANFORD — On Wednesday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m., the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More will host a game night, for which attendees are invited to bring their favorite games.

The program will take place at Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. A variety of summer smoothie drinks will be served.

Mothers & More is an international, not-for-profit organization supporting women who have altered their career paths in order to care for their children at home. The Union County chapter offers a variety of activities including evening discussion groups, guest speakers, mom's night out, a craft club, book discussion, movie night and weekly daytime play gatherings.

The chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Hanson House. Activities continue throughout the summer and new members are always welcome.

For additional information, please call Jan at (732) 381-3199 or Mary at (908) 272-8982.



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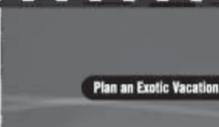
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