



RESCUE 9-1-1...Westfield firefighters gather in front of HomeCare America on South Avenue in Westfield on July 11 as a Union County HazMat team enters and later exits the building. Three contractors suffered carbon monoxide poisoning after working a gasoline-driven power washer to remove mold in the building. For full story see page one.

FW Honors Late NJ Transit Worker Clark with Plaque

By GEORGIA MIERSWA
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — A crowd of devoted friends and family members gathered in front of the Fanwood train station on the morning of July 12 to celebrate the unveiling of a memorial plaque dedicated to 22-year Fanwood resident Steven A. Clark, 52, late Manager of Operations for NJ Transit.

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, who knew Mr. Clark as a NJ Transit worker

remarks, the crowd was ushered inside to witness the speakers' revealing of the plaque. The presentation was received with a round of applause.

Because of the large number of people in attendance, many were forced to double-park in the parking lot.

"In a way, I'm not surprised at the turnout we had because Steve had such a large network of family and



A FAMILY AFFAIR...Family members of the late NJ Transit Manager of Operations, Steven Clark, pose in front of his memorial plaque, mounted on the wall of the Fanwood Train Station at a ceremony last Thursday.

and a close friend of 20 years, commenced the ceremony with a few opening remarks. She verbalized the communal wish for him to be there and emphasized all that Mr. Clark had achieved, especially in his work from 1992-2001 with the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees, of which he was president for five years.

Richard Sarles, executive director for NJ Transit, spoke of Mr. Clark's strong sense of citizenship as shown in his political donations and his work for the Governor's Office.

Mr. Sarles cited Mr. Clark's "strong focus on the customer" and his commitment to constantly modernizing and updating the station for the community.

"His actions were not done for fame and fortune, but to improve the public good," Mr. Sarles said.

Mr. Clark's wife, Janet Clark, expressed her gratitude and told amusing anecdotes about her husband to the audience. Following Ms. Clark's

friends," Mayor Mahr said.

The memorial provides an engraved image of Mr. Clark, as well as a list of his accomplishments, and concludes with the line, "Steve was a dedicated husband, son, brother and friend, whose commitment and contributions to NJ transit and to the citizens of New Jersey will not be forgotten."

Mr. Clark spent 27 years of life working in public service. In 1978, he worked with the Department of Transportation on legislation to create the NJ Transit Corporation, and in 1998 he led a program entitled "The Year of the Raritan Valley Line."

Mr. Clark was also honored in 2006 when the Fanwood Memorial Library created the Fanwood Rain Garden in his memory.

According to their website, the library board echoed the sentiments of those attending the ceremony by stating, "he is deeply missed by all who knew and loved him."



CHANGE IS ON THE WAY...The Fanwood Carriage House will be receiving renovations in August, with hopes to attract more cultural groups to utilize the facilities. Planned renovations would allow performing arts productions and art galleries to take place in the House. These changes, however, will not take away from the historical authenticity of the House.

FW Historical Commission Plans Renovations, Caboose

By MARTIN SWEENEY
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Historical Preservation Commission met on Tuesday to discuss renovations to the Fanwood Carriage House, as well as plans to bring an old caboose to the Fanwood train station as part of the new Fanwood Museum.

The commission received two grants from the State of New Jersey — one for \$50,000 and one for \$100,000 — in order to complete the renovation and caboose projects, respectively.

The Carriage House renovations, designed by architect and commission member Kevin Mason, will give the historic barn a facelift without destroying its authenticity, officials said. The plans include a new paint scheme, new flooring and the installation of new light fixtures. The commission voted unanimously in favor of the project.

The Fanwood Carriage House currently serves as the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center. It regularly hosts poetry readings, and commission members expressed desire to host art displays and performing arts productions after the renovations.

The commission discussed the possibility of acquiring retractable risers and a fold-out stage for productions

and poetry readings, in addition to display panels with lighting for artwork.

The first stage of the project will be purely cosmetic touch-ups to the building, followed by a second stage that will renovate the building's structure.

"I think it will do an immense amount to make people want to come in," said commission member Joe Nagy, regarding the project.

Renovations are scheduled to begin in August, but no approximate date of completion has been set at this time.

The other item on the meeting's agenda involved plans for the transportation and interior work of an old caboose, which was secured through the \$100,000 grant. The caboose will be handed over to the Borough of Fanwood for \$1 for insurance purposes.

The caboose, named CNJ No. 91544, used to run through the Fanwood station on a regular basis. It will be transported to the Fanwood Recycling Center, most likely by a flatbed, in September. There, the caboose will be revitalized with a new red paint coat and a redesigned interior. The caboose will be opened as an exhibit of the Fanwood Museum around October of this year, officials said.

POLICE BLOTTER

Fanwood

Tuesday, July 10, Ghassan Tadros, 44, of Plainfield was arrested for numerous outstanding Jersey City warrants after a motor vehicle stop in the 300 block of LaGrande Avenue.

Thursday, July 12, Rodney L. Harris, 58, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Plainfield after a field investigation.

Friday, July 13, Andre R. Newborn, 32, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Elizabeth warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Saturday, July 14, Arielle Y. Chandler, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding Greenbrook warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, she was also charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and hindering apprehension after providing police with a false identity. She was processed and released, police said.

Sunday, July 15, Quinten L. Kithcart, 39, of Atlanta, GA was arrested on outstanding warrants out of East Orange and Woodbridge after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Monday, July 9, a resident of Myrtle Avenue reported that someone had made several harassing phone calls to her over the past few weeks at all hours of the day and night.

Thursday, July 12, a resident of Sky Top Drive reported that someone removed a set of golf clubs valued at \$1,400 from the inside of his vehicle.

Saturday, July 14, Jasper McIntosh, 36, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Sunday, July 15, Jeff Bergo, 20, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after being stopped for suspicious activity.

Sunday, July 15, Kenneth Jones, 46, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation.

Sunday, July 15, a patron of Martine Avenue reported that someone stole his briefcase containing several personal items from the inside of his vehicle.

Tuesday, July 10, Christine Campoverde, 42, of Carlstadt was arrested at East Broad and Prospect Streets during the investigation of a motor vehicle accident and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). No injuries were reported as a result of the accident. Campoverde was released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, July 12, Morgan Stellwagen, 20, and William O'Sullivan, 19, both of Mountainside, and Logan Streit, 18, of Westfield were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana after being stopped for motor vehicle violations at South and Central Avenues. Each of the men was released with a summons.

Thursday, July 12, a resident of the 100 block of Harrison Avenue reported that three of the four tires on his motor vehicle were cut with an unknown sharp instrument while the vehicle was parked in front of his house.

Thursday, July 12, Bryan Dewitt, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested at Westfield police headquarters pursuant to a Westfield criminal warrant. He was processed and released after posting \$500 bail.

Thursday, July 12, Walter Saxon, 51, of Plainfield was arrested at the Union County jail in Elizabeth pursuant to a Westfield traffic warrant with \$200 bail. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and held pending a court appearance later that day.

Thursday, July 12, Jason Sporer, 30, of North Plainfield was arrested on a no-bail Irvington warrant at an East Broad Street business. The arrest occurred after police responded to a report of a dispute.

Friday, July 13, Jason Crutchfield, 27, of Roselle was arrested at North Avenue and Charles Street on outstanding traffic warrants from Elizabeth and Roselle, with bail amounts of \$150 and \$335, respectively. He was released on his own recognizance by authorities in both those communities.

Friday, July 13, the owner of a business located on the 400 block of North Avenue, East, reported the theft of \$400 worth of scrap metal from the exterior of the premises. The scrap metal consisted of radiators and tire rims, police said.

Friday, July 13, after being stopped for motor vehicle violations, Virgilio Angeles Mendoza, 52, of Monmouth Junction was arrested at Central and Lenox Avenues on an Edison criminal

warrant with bail set at \$5,000. He was turned over to Edison authorities.

Saturday, July 14, David Rudnicki, 29, of Plainfield was arrested at North Plainfield police headquarters on two Westfield criminal warrants. He was held in lieu of a total of \$600 bail.

Saturday, July 14, Acsani Odio, Jr., 19, of North Plainfield was arrested on a no-bail warrant out of North Plainfield. He had been stopped for a motor vehicle violation on the 600 block of North Avenue, West. Following his arrest, he was turned over to North Plainfield police.

Saturday, July 14, two local residents, one from Westfield and the other from Mountainside, reported that someone keyed the paint on their respective motor vehicles. The incidents occurred in the parking lot of a business on the 400 block of North Avenue, West.

Saturday, July 14, David Silverman, 22, of Randallstown, Md. was arrested during a traffic stop on North Avenue near St. Paul Street on a Montville traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$444 bail.

Friday, July 13, Arnetta M. Reed, 27, of Monmouth Junction, was arrested and charged with possession of prescription medication, as well as being under the influence of the prescription drug Xanax. Police responded to a call from Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) with a report of a disorderly female, police said.

The arrest followed a motor vehicle stop in Westfield, in which the woman's driver was pulled over for a traffic violation and arrested for an outstanding warrant. Westfield police took Reed, who was a passenger in the vehicle, to the CSH, where her child was staying overnight. Police said she was belligerent over her husband's arrest and became verbally abusive to the staff of the hospital. While being processed, police said Reed became unconscious and was transported to Overlook Hospital, where she was admitted into the intensive care unit.

Friday, July 13, a resident of Fox Trail reported that someone entered her car while it was parked in her garage and rummaged through the car taking a cell phone valued at \$80. According to police, a neighbor reported seeing a white, male approximately 20 years of age wearing a white t-shirt, gray sweat pants and no shoes running from the driveway.

The man entered a gray sedan driven by an unidentified suspect, police said. The Scotch Plains Police Department reported two similar burglaries in their town occurring on the same day.

Friday, July 13, Bruce D. Terpe, 39, of Mountainside was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop.

Sunday, July 15, Jaime F. Aguirre, 35, of Newark was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license after being stopped for an equipment violation.

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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Emergency

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a representative did confirm that the hospital has a hyperbaric chamber, often used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning.

The other two workers, Roberto Seel, 33, and David Morales, 27, were transported to Muhlenberg Hospital, according to a copy of the police report obtained by *The Times*. All three reside in Trenton.

Rachel Weinstein, manager at HomeCare America, was also treated for carbon monoxide poisoning, as were Rick Kieth and Adrain Perez, employees at Sherwin-Williams.

Mr. Donovan was one of the first on the scene. He said a man in a white t-shirt approached him and told him in broken English about the two men in the basement. After seeing what had happened, Mr. Donovan ran outside and called headquarters.

Jayson Tyree, 22, of Garwood and Benito Tapia, 46, of Roselle Park, also assisted in the rescue as they were getting lunch at the nearby Subway.

"We stopped in Subway, and when we came outside, I saw Benito pointing inside the basement entrance," Mr. Tyree said.

"Our eyes burned while we were down there," said Mr. Tapia.

It was after Mr. Donovan returned that Mr. Tyree and Mr. Tapia also began to help, he said, attempting to lift one of the men and carry him out.

"I went down the conveyor belt, grabbed the guy's arm and shirt, (and) began dragging him out. I believe Jayson might have had his leg at the time, I don't recall," Mr. Donovan said.

Once outside, one victim began foaming at the mouth and Mr. Donovan placed him on his side before going back downstairs.

The other victim was being brought

up the steps. That man, he said, was also carried out by his arm and shirt and not over his shoulder.

"This is not possible in that basement. It's too small," he said.

Mr. Donovan said he was later sent to the hospital and treated. After blood work and an EKG, he was sent home in good health.

Anthony Sarnatora, manager of the Sherwin Williams on South Avenue, said the three men who suffered carbon monoxide poisoning had done the same job for him a week and a half before.

"He [the foreman] gave me his card. He runs his own business on the side," Mr. Sarnatora said, believing the name on the card was Roberto Rivera.

Mr. Sarnatora also said that the two other workers, beside the foreman, could not speak English.

Mr. Sarnatora said he did not get the sense that any of the workers were unskilled in what they were doing. "Not at all. They were great guys," he said.

Ms. Weinstein said she heard of the contractors from the landlord of the property, Robert Berenson. He recommended Mr. Mold, out of Tom's River.

Mr. Berenson, when asked how he heard of Mr. Mold, how many times he had used the company or if he plans to use the company in the future, said, "I'm not going to answer that."

When contacted at the Madison store, Tom Kriek, owner of HomeCare America, said the company did not hire Mr. Mold to clean the Westfield store.

"We didn't hire anybody. That was the landlord," Mr. Kriek said.

When contacted, a representative for Mr. Mold said they were "aware" of the incident. She also said that the men doing the job were sub-contractors.



OUT FOR A CRUISE...Mannequins of Elvis and Marilyn Monroe enjoy Tuesday's Fanwood Cruise Night.

Scotch Plains Municipal Building Renovations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

slanted roof and a change in the building's facade to better blend it in with other downtown buildings is nearing completion.

With the air conditioning system still inoperable, several functions have been moved out of the building. The police department has operated from a large trailer in the parking lot since earlier this year, while the municipal court has been moved to Clark through the end of August.

Mr. Atkins said the township library has provided "a lot of cooperation" in making space available for meetings, such as the township council's conference sessions. Other meetings normally held in the building's conference rooms, which Mr. Atkins called "brutal" due to the heat, have also been moved elsewhere.

The township manager complimented township employees working in the building, saying "they have been very patient" and "are persevering quite well" in what he admitted were "uncomfortable" working conditions. The building's operating hours have been altered, with several shorter workdays during the summer months.

Emphasizing that "the next few weeks are critical" to completing the project before Labor Day, Mr. Atkins said the mayor and township council, which have been provided with periodic updates throughout the past eight months, "are waiting for the next few weeks to go by" before considering whether any changes or additional meetings with the architect and contractor might be necessary.

Fanwood Planning Board TDR Withdrawal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We had about 50 participants in the visioning meetings out of our roughly two thousand households," she said. "The professional planners were very impressed with the turnout."

Ms. Mahr said that during these visioning sessions, residents expressed interest in redeveloping the downtown area, and seemed willing to accept some rise in density.

Mr. Cummings also informed the public of a sign-up sheet for those residents who would like to be notified when the board would be discussing development of the South Avenue corridor in the future.

Additionally, Mayor Mahr has asked the borough's Historic Preservation Commission to look into other alternatives to the TDR program. The

commission could recommend enforcing the current local ordinance, which does have specific design requirements. This would put the commission in a more regulatory role.

"A lot of time, effort, and money were put into [TDR]," the mayor said. "We won't want to abandon these goals completely."

Elizabeth Weich-Kolts of Fourth Street, who voiced her opposition to TDR at the June 18 hearing, thanked Mayor Mahr and the board for their work on this initiative.

"I did some research since the last meeting, and it's very clear how much work went into this," she said. "I want to thank all of you for your efforts."

The next regular meeting of the planning board will be held on Wednesday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m.



SHATTERED GLASS...According to Scotch Plains Lieutenant Brian Donnelly, around 10:15 p.m. on July 11, a car smashed through the Park Avenue 7-Eleven storefront glass. Two customers were struck by the vehicle and received minor injuries. Pictured, Scotch Plains residents and employees examine the damage.