



Happy Mother's Day!

Serving the Community Since 1959



THE SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD

www.timesnj.com

TIMES

OUR 48TH YEAR - ISSUE NO. 19-2007

USPS 485200 Periodical - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Published Every Thursday Since 1959 www.timesnj.com

(908) 232-4407 press@goleader.com

SIXTY CENTS

## FW Cop Pleads Guilty To Harassment Charges

FANWOOD - A suspended Fanwood police officer pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of harassment by offensive touching and has agreed to resign from the borough's police force, authorities said.

Thirty-three-year-old Brian Bartiromo of Long Valley is banned for life from holding any position in public office in the State of New Jersey, authorities said.

Bartiromo pled guilty as his trial was about to begin in Superior Court Judge Marianne Espinosa's courtroom. Besides resigning his position and being banned from public office, he will also be on probation for a period of time to be decided when he is sentenced on Friday, June 15.

According to the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Bartiromo had admitted to two instances of offensive touching involving two different victims. He told Judge Espinosa that on August 24, 2004, at about 8:30 a.m. he responded in uniform to an alarm at a home in Fanwood. The 59-year-old female resident of the house was home alone and Bartiromo ad-

mitted to touching her in an offensive manner. The victim did not alert Fanwood police to the August 2004 incident until almost a year later, authorities said.

While the first incident was under investigation, a second occurred, authorities said. The investigation showed that on September 10, 2005, Bartiromo approached a 20-year-old woman who was standing outside a bank at 10 a.m. on South Avenue in Scotch Plains, struck up a conversation, grabbed her around the waist and touched her in an offensive way, authorities said.

Fanwood Police Chief Donald Domanoski said as soon as his department was notified of the first incident involving Bartiromo, he began a thorough investigation. "Bartiromo has been suspended from the Fanwood Police Department without pay since September 2005," he said. "In light of today's guilty plea, he won't be coming back."

Bartiromo has been with the department since 2002 after being with the Irvington Police Department for six years.



COMING SOON...This photograph, circa 1950s, shows the Jersey Central Lines Caboose as it will appear after restoration. The caboose will be moved to Fanwood for restoration in September and installed near the new Fanwood Museum.

## Jersey Central Caboose to Join FW Museum in September

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - Officials expect the caboose slated for installation as part of the Fanwood Museum to arrive in September. Fanwood Borough Council President Katherine Mitchell said the attendees at a hearing last week "thought it was a great idea."

Fanwood Police Sergeant Tom Jedic has spearheaded the caboose project. Ms. Mitchell said that the caboose had been purchased for \$1 from the United Railroad Historical Society and the tracks on which it will sit have been donated.

The borough obtained a heritage grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation and expects funds to be available for spending in September. The freeing up of these funds represents the biggest delay to getting the caboose to Fanwood, officials said.

Once the funds are made available, the caboose will move to Fanwood from Bergen County. Sgt. Jedic said the move would be made in two stages; the first will be to bring the caboose to Fanwood for renovation and the second will be to locate it at its permanent site.

Sgt. Jedic said the location is "in the grass area between Sheelan's Crossing and the [Fanwood train] station."

Ms. Mitchell said the blue paint currently protecting the caboose

would need to be stripped. This process must be professionally done, as the paint is lead based. Once completed, the caboose will be repainted in red and restored to its original Jersey Central Lines appearance with the train line's Statue of Liberty logo and other accents in white.

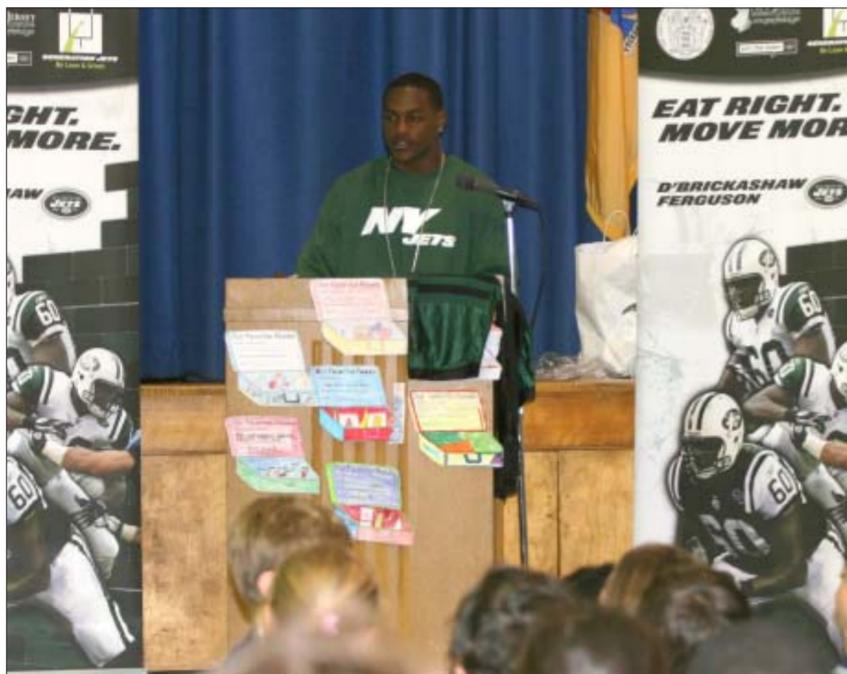
A non-profit foundation has been established to manage the museum. Designated as the "91544 Foundation," the name comes from the car number of the caboose. Sgt. Jedic said many area people, along with railroad buffs from outside the immediate area, had expressed interest in donating items to the museum.

Walter Grosselinger of the Union Railroad Historical Society told the borough council in June of 2005 that the caboose "is only one of two or three left in the state" and that "it won't take too much work to restore."

Sgt. Jedic said the new museum would be named the Fanwood Caboose Museum. The museum will be set apart from the new Fanwood Museum (a grand opening for the museum is scheduled for Sunday, May 20), located in the community center at the historic Fanwood Train Station, and will operate separately. It will be dedicated to the history of the railroad and railroading. Ms. Mitchell said that many people "can't wait for it to be here."



LOVING TREES...Members of the Park Middle School Environmental Club plant 50 eastern redbud seedlings at Fanwood's Arbor Day program held at Carriage House Park in Fanwood on May 2.



JETTING INTO COLES...New York Jets cornerback Drew Coleman pays a visit to Scotch Plains' J. Ackerman Coles School last Wednesday. His visit was a reward for progress in the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's "Eat Right, Move More" program.

## FW Dedicates LaGrande Field In Memory of Dorris Terry

By MARIA WOEHR  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - The borough celebrated the opening of the newly rebuilt LaGrande Park baseball fields this past Saturday. Borough officials dedicated the larger of the two fields in memory of Dorris Terry, a longtime resident of Fanwood and former member of the recreation commission who passed away in February.

"She used to bring me out here when I was little," said Doug Terry,

Mrs. Terry's son. "She was responsible for forming the Girls Athletic League. She watched my dad play on the team, and was always around this field. To me it's very fitting and this is something that my mother would have loved."

Mrs. Terry was a Fanwood resident for more than 25 years, according to her son. She also was active in the recreation commission she dressed as Mrs. Fanny Wood for Fanny Wood

Day, the Easter Bunny, Mrs. Claus and the witch at Halloween," said Jim Grover, a close friend of Mrs. Terry. "We chose to do this to say 'thank you' to someone who has done so much work for our community," Mayor Colleen Mahr said.

The LaGrande field renovations include moving the field, new bleachers and new cages. Grant money funded all the upgrades, according to Mayor Mahr.

"The main difference between this field and the older field was that this one is closer to the street so that the adults' baseballs don't go into the playground," Bob Budiansky, recreation director, said.

Fanwood Youth Organization baseball teams the Athletics and the Orioles played games following the ceremony.



DEDICATING NEW FIELD...Borough, recreation commission and county officials attended last Saturday's grand opening of the new baseball field at LaGrande Park in Fanwood, dedicated in memory of Dorris Terry.

## SPF BOE Reorganizes, Says Farewell to Retiring Members

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS - At the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education reorganization meeting last Wednesday night, members elected Trip Whitehouse to the office of board president and Linda Nelson to that of vice president.

In addition, district Business Administrator Anthony DelSordi swore in re-elected member Robert O'Connor and newly elected members Nancy Barnes and Jane Costello.

The board heard the final votes of last month's school board election. The budget received 2,547 "yes" votes and 1,670 "no" votes. In addition, the \$2 million bond referendum for improving Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's athletic fields won by 62 votes, 2,140 to 2,078.

The board said formal goodbyes to Thomas Russo, its former president, and Craig Nowlin. Both men chose not to run for re-election to the board.

Each received a crystal plaque for his service, and their wives each received flowers. Mr. Russo served 10 years and Mr. Nowlin served seven years on the board.

Board members applauded Mr. Nowlin's ability to stand his ground when others disagreed with him and his work on the district curriculum committee.

"Craig will stand by his position, and he can really think outside the box," said Mrs. Nelson. She added that she never heard him say an unkind word about anyone.

Mr. Whitehouse said of Mr. Nowlin, "Sometimes when there are seven or eight voices going in one direction, it's not easy to be the lone voice of sanity." His comment drew laughter from listeners.

He said it takes "courage to be able to do that and to stand up for what you believe in the face of multiple voices on the other side." Mr. Whitehouse also said that he admires Mr. Nowlin's integrity.

In particular, board members applauded Mr. Nowlin's foresight in pushing the district to address childhood obesity.

The board received nationwide attention last year when it banned cupcakes and other sweets from schools. Mr. Whitehouse said that Mr. Nowlin

## Officials Laud Rescue Squad

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

SCOTCH PLAINS - The township council on Tuesday night saluted the Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad, which is marking the 70th anniversary of its founding this year.

Following the council's approval of a resolution extolling the rescue squad's services and achievements since its founding in March 1937, squad President Dan Sullivan said township residents would receive a fundraising appeal in the mail later this month. Last year, the squad received donations from 10 percent of township households, a figure that Mayor Martin Marks called "very disappointing." Reminding residents that the rescue squad relies entirely on donations, the mayor said, "We can do much better."

Squad Captain Ed Fiedler made a pitch for additional volunteers, especially during daytime hours. The squad answers about 1,300 calls per year, he said, and anyone interested in joining the squad can visit its headquarters on Bartle Avenue.

In other business at the council's regular meeting, Mayor Marks said any residents who experienced a loss resulting from the April 15 nor'easter that dumped as much as 10 inches of rain on the area could contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance. A toll-free telephone number - 1(800) 621-FEMA - has been set up. Any resident calling will need to provide his or her Social Security number, private insurance information, address and directions and a daytime telephone number.

The council awarded a \$173,801 bid to Zenith Construction Services for the expansion and renovation of Jerseyland Park. The project, expected to begin later this week, will entail the demolition of a home on adjacent Richmond Avenue and the conversion of that property into additional parkland that will be used for a full-sized soccer field.

The council approved a bid from Midco Waste Systems for the annual residential spring clean-up that will get underway in early June. Mayor Marks reminded residents that permits, available at the municipal building on Park Avenue, cost \$65 and asked neighbors to share the cost of a permit, which entitles permit-holders to place up to 750 pounds of

## FW Council Moves to Block McMansion Construction

By TED RITTER  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council on Tuesday night approved an amendment to the local land-use ordinance pertaining to the prevention of "McMansions."

Borough Attorney Dennis Estis said that while the amendment makes changes "across the board" and "cleans up" certain sections of the ordinance that needed updating, one section of the measure is designed to prevent the construction of "oversized" homes, sometimes known as "McMansions."

Prior to the governing body's approval, Councilman Bruce Walsh said that the amendment "is the culmination of more than six months of work" by the local planning board and other borough officials.

Mr. Walsh said the measure is "aimed at actively preventing oversized houses on undersized lots." He added, "Time will tell if [the amended

ordinance] achieves its purpose, but we hope it will."

Mayor Mahr said, "Good job to the planning board and good job to the [borough] council in approving something...that will be good for the whole community."

The governing body formally approved two resolutions related to the proposed budget. The first of these resolutions authorizes a "temporary emergency appropriation" to keep the borough running until its budget is formally adopted.

Council President Katherine Mitchell said since the borough has applied for "extraordinary municipal aid" from the state, it will not be able to adopt its budget until the state budget and municipal aid figures are finalized.

Ms. Mitchell said the second resolution authorizes the borough to send out estimated tax bills for the third quarter.

"It's a cash-flow issue," said Mayor



EVENING OF FUN...The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association held its annual Spring Fling dinner dance May 4, which serves as the major fundraiser for its Scholarship Fund. Held at The Westwood in Garwood, the event featured a buffet dinner, disk jockey and dancing and a silent auction. Honorees this year were Dick and Rita Hooker from the Stone House Coin Shop and local attorney John Appezato.

### PAGE INDEX

|                 |          |                 |       |                  |       |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Regional .....  | 2, 6-7   | Obituary .....  | 12    | Real Estate .... | 15-23 |
| Editorial ..... | 4, 6, 13 | Education ..... | 10-11 | Classifieds .... | 23    |
| Community ...   | 8-9      | Sports .....    | 15-21 | A&E .....        | 24-26 |

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14