

FW Hosts Fanny Wood Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think we're going to have a really good program," said Councilwoman Donna Dolce, who chairs the Fanny Wood Day Committee. She said a large number of vendors are expected this year and added she believes the various contests at the event give it a hometown "Mayberry" feeling that enhances its popularity.

An opening ceremony will kick off at noon, at which time the children's amusement area also will open. Youngsters may participate in these special amusements for an all-day cost of \$10.

At 12:05 p.m., the second annual "Parade on Wheels" will get underway. Participants are invited to decorate their bicycles, wagons, strollers or other non-motorized means of travel and proceed down Martine Avenue. Those wishing to take part should assemble by 11:45 a.m.; officials will announce winners at 12:35 p.m.

In between, at 12:20 p.m., will be the introduction of Mr. and Mrs. Fanwood 2007. Bob and Grace Kruthers, who have lived in the borough for more than 50 years, will portray Fanwood's first couple.

Other events will include the judging of a pie-baking contest at the South Street Café on South Avenue at 12:30 p.m., an ice-cream eating contest at 1:15 p.m. and a 3 p.m. pie auction to benefit the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Additionally, the Fanwood Arts Committee will sponsor a 2:15 p.m. performance by the jazz band Full Count Band.

Entry forms are still being accepted for the pie-baking contest, the "Parade on Wheels" and the ice cream-eating contest. Forms are available at the South Street Café, at Double Dipper on Martine Avenue, at Borough Hall or at visitfanwood.com.

Rounding out the day's festivities will be a classic car show, sponsored by the Cougar Club of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, beginning at 11 a.m. in the south-side train station lot. Judges will award prizes at 2 p.m. Participants may register on the day of the event for \$15, with proceeds benefiting Children's Specialized Hospital school programs.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the 18th annual FestiFall celebration, sponsored by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, will fill the streets of Westfield's downtown until 5 p.m.

"We're getting better and better," Chamber Executive Director Naomi McElynn told *The Times*, noting more than 300 artisans and craft vendors are expected to participate. A juried arts and crafts show is scheduled to be part of the festivities, and there will be an upgraded petting zoo. The KidZone, to be located at East Broad Street and North Avenue, will feature rides, contests and activities.

Ms. McElynn said the festival's main stage on Elm Street will be "jam-packed with talent and excitement" between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Musical performers will include Southern Fried Funk and Static Jacks.



Horace R. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* editor Mike Pollack, second from left, shows the Democratic freeholder candidates *Times*-made posters depicting Chuck Berry's performance at Union County's MusicFest two weeks ago. The candidates, from left to right, current freeholder Dan Sullivan, freeholder chairman Bette Jane Kowalski and Plainfield City Councilman Rayland Van Blake, sat down for an exclusive interview with *The Times* last Friday. Watch the full interview at goleader.com/video and read up on the candidates at goleader.com/07election.

Dem. Freeholder Candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are salaries and pensions negotiated, labor agreements," she said.

The freeholder chairman said the county is working on shared services by combining services offered by municipalities with the county to help lower the impact on taxpayers.

She said towns could save money by joining the county's gasoline purchasing cooperative; "This is like a no brainer — why not go in with the county when we can get a better price instead of paying several cents more per gallon where they are?"

The county also offers geographic information systems (GIS) services and has developed a new information-technology initiative with four towns for high-speed Internet access for faster connections to municipal websites and e-mail systems. GIS stores geographic reference information, such as maps.

Mr. Sullivan said Union County is working with Bergen County to offer space at the new 75-child-capacity Union County juvenile detention center in Linden. He said Union County would benefit by helping to lower the county's cost of the soon-to-open facility. Union County is also working with the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) to initiate a county shared-services network with neighboring Essex and Middlesex Counties similar to what Hunterdon and Warren Counties have through NJAC.

On transportation issues, Mr. Sullivan said Union County has addressed "a major problem" by working with the state to develop a pedestrian shuttle bus service along Route 22 aimed at workers and customers of the "big box stores" such as Target and Home Depot.

"The idea that you would get out of a bus on the westbound side and now try to make your way across six lanes of traffic on Route 22 to get to your job — I mean, you're literally taking your life in your hands," he said. "So this is going to go, I think, a really long way to get people to work and to get them to work safely."

The county has received a \$300,000 state grant to purchase two shuttle buses and has money remaining on a previous grant to operate the service. Ms. Kowalski said the county has developed a tourism initiative promoting its parks system, designed in the 1920s by the sons of American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, along with its historical sites, the soon-to-open restored Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway and the expanded Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

She said this year's Four Centuries in a Weekend event, scheduled at historical sites around the county on October 20 and 21, will feature period re-enactments at all of the sites as part of the county's 150th anniversary celebration.

If elected, Mr. Van Blake said recreational and youth services are areas he would "like to champion." As a councilman, he said, he helped the city garner \$1.2 million in grants to rehabilitate two of Plainfield's pools.

He also is interested in senior services; he said he would bring a "fresh perspective, new energy and definitely new ideas" to enhance county senior programs. Mr. Van Blake said he has worked to expand Plainfield's tax rates in its business district, noting that 13 redevelopment projects are in the works in the city, two of which are under construction.

Mr. Sullivan concluded by citing the board's education initiatives, noting that the Union County Magnet High School is "now one of the high-

est rated schools in the country, let alone the county or the State of New Jersey. He said the school would add a performing arts component specializing in mathematics and the sciences.

He said the county would soon award \$1 million in grants through its Kids Recreation Trust Fund to all 21 towns to create playgrounds and other recreational opportunities.



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* SPRUCYN' UP...Painters work assiduously to meet the schedule for the reopening, planned for next week, of the renovated restaurant and bar at 16 Prospect Street in Westfield. In addition to a complete renovation, owners Tim and Chris Boyle are changing the name of their restaurant to 16 Prospect from its former moniker, Northside Trattoria.

School-Aid Formula, Stem Cells Top Issues for Genovese

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

AREA — She faces an uphill battle against Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield in the race for District 21's State Senate seat, but Gina Genovese of Long Hill is no stranger to battles.

She was ranked 150th in the world in women's tennis back in the early 1980s, and later, in the world of politics, she became the first Democratic mayor in the history of Long Hill Township in Morris County after being selected by a 3-2 Republican-controlled governing body in 2006.

In an exclusive interview with *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* last Monday, Ms. Genovese said she is a former 30-year member of Nomahegan Swim Club in Westfield, "so I do know a lot of people from Westfield, and I feel this is a home for me."

Ms. Genovese bought her own tennis club in Berkeley Heights in 1986 and has been a tennis coach and teacher for 25 years.

"It was about five years ago that I started to get more involved in politics," she said. "The issue for me was the Iraq War."

Ms. Genovese won a seat on the Long Hill Township Council in 2004. "I just realized that with my municipal experience and my business experience, I felt that running for the State Senate would be a good choice for me. It's one of the better decisions that I have made," she said. "My business is in Berkeley Heights, so I know a lot of the people in the district and I am very familiar with it."

Ms. Genovese said the state legislature must come up with a new formula to calculate school aid and develop revenues to pay off a state debt currently estimated at more than \$33.7 billion.

Noting that the legislature has put a 4-percent cap on school district and municipal-budget annual increases, she said local governments "are struggling here in New Jersey."

The candidate said school aid "has remained flat for the last six years, which has hurt schools because they've had to make up for the inflation through property taxes."

"The problem is that by addressing the school formula there are going to be towns that are going to have an advantage and there are going to be towns that are going to suffer," she said.

"We really haven't had a [school aid] formula since 1994. We need one that addresses where all the towns are at now," she said, adding that the state needs to find a solution for Abbott school districts "and to make sure that they thrive and [a funding system] that's equitable for everyone."

She said, "property values are tied to your educational system, and so one hand feeds the other."

Ms. Genovese said she would support or introduce legislation to enable school districts to maintain surpluses instead of being required to spend

POLICE BLOTTER

Fanwood
Tuesday, September 18, Angel Aponte, 41, of New Brunswick was arrested on numerous outstanding Bordentown Township warrants after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Tuesday, September 18, Andre Reynolds, 40, of Greenbrook was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor-vehicle stop in the 100 block of South Avenue.

Wednesday, September 19, Robyn B. Cohen, 40, of Stamford, CT was arrested on Sayerville warrants after a field investigation on Martine Avenue.

Thursday, September 20, Jorge Nunez, 38, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with hindering apprehension and providing false information to police after a motor-vehicle stop on Midway Avenue.

Thursday, September 20, Earlisha M. Green, 20, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Watchung warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on North Avenue.

Saturday, September 22, Kashari D. Slaughter, 21, of Fanwood was arrested on outstanding warrants out of South Orange, Garwood and Scotch Plains after a field investigation.

Saturday, September 22, Rhonda R. Peck, 24, of Somerset was arrested on outstanding Piscataway and Watchung warrants after a motor-vehicle stop on Shasta Pass.

Monday, September 24, Brian A.

Mundy, 19, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Roselle Park warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Monday, September 24, Gregory L. Peterson, 2d, 21, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Carneys Point warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Tuesday, September 25, a resident of Mary Lane reported that someone stole his silver, 2003 Dodge pick-up truck, while it was parked in front of his house sometime between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Westfield
Wednesday, September 19, a Westfield resident reported that his 2001 Volkswagen was burglarized while parked at the south-side Westfield train station lot. The passenger-side front window was smashed, and a satellite radio valued at \$50 was removed.

Wednesday, September 19, a Westfield resident reported that her 1991 Ford Taurus was burglarized at the south side Westfield train station lot. Someone smashed the passenger-side front window and removed a car stereo valued at \$129.

Wednesday, September 19, a Westfield resident reported that a Trek bicycle was damaged with scratches while secured at the Westfield south-side train station lot.

Sunday, September 23, Elizabeth Jimenez-Perez, 45, of Manville was arrested by Scotch Plains police on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant with bail of \$500. She was committed to the Union County jail on default of bail.

FW to Hold Megan's Law Presentation

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Community Policing Alliance (CPA) and the Fanwood Police Department, in conjunction with the Union County Prosecutor's Office, will host a presentation on Megan's Law on October 3 from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Park Middle School, located on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Due to limited seating capacity, individuals who want to attend this event must register in advance.

Those wishing to register can send an e-mail listing the names of those who will attend to fanwoodcommunitycpa@yahoo.com with "October 3 Event" in the subject line.

Questions may be directed to Lieutenant Richard Trigo of the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000, extension 117.

Organized in 2004 by the Fanwood Police Department, the CPA invites all residents, as well as those working in Fanwood, to attend meetings and become a member of the CPA.

Their goal is to create a link between the police and the community to address topics including crime prevention, child safety and community events. The CPA meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of every month except during the summer at the Forest Road Park Building on Forest Road.

For more information, visit FanwoodCPA.org.

SP Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Weiss said many of these rail lines would cross streets at grade level — meaning that vehicles would have to stop whenever a train is passing. This, he said, will cause "gridlock across the State of New Jersey." He also warned that taxpayers would end up subsidizing a good deal of the operating costs of the new rail lines, which, he added, might be used to transport potentially dangerous chemicals through residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Weiss said he is urging local governing bodies to pass resolutions opposing rail expansion.

Mayor Martin Marks said the council would discuss the matter at its conference meeting next week.

At the start of the meeting, the council passed resolutions congratulating Chad Ringel on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and congratulating members of the Junior Women's Club for their work benefiting township residents.

Mayor Marks also issued a proclamation declaring the month of September as "September" as he urged residents to exercise more and eat more healthily.

FW 2008 Parking Permits on Sale Oct. 1

FANWOOD — Parking permits for 2008 will go on sale October 1 for Fanwood residents. Permits for all other residents will be available starting November 1. Those interested can purchase permits at the Fanwood Police Department, located at 75 North Martine Avenue. Permits can be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week after the dates listed above. Cash or money orders will be accepted. Credit cards will not be accepted.

The cost of the permit for Fanwood residents is \$240. For all other residents, the cost is \$504. Questions can be directed to Sergeant Howard Jarvis at the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000 ext. 153.



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* CLEANING UP SHOP...Workers demolish a building that formerly housed La Belle Cleaners and The Mattress Factory on North Avenue in Garwood as part of a new redevelopment project.

Fanwood Democrats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the train station. "It is a caboose that did run on the Raritan Valley line, so this will be an educational tool and just something to be proud of," she said.

She said the borough is waiting for the State Department of Transportation to release \$100,000 in funding already approved to off-set transportation and restoration costs associated with the caboose.

"After nine years, I thought long and hard about whether I really wanted to run again and I said, 'It's a very exciting time, so yes, I do want more of this.' I love Fanwood, and that's why I am doing it," Ms. Mitchell said.

The mayor and council, in their role as the Fanwood Redevelopment Agency, is negotiating with the owners of a corner property at South and Martine Avenues. The building had housed the Internet Café, a dog-grooming store and a dance studio.

"The [two] owners are basically selling it jointly, and we have one developer who we are negotiating with for a really beautiful corner mixed-use building. When that comes online, that will really make a statement because when you come over the [Martine Avenue] bridge, it's sort of the gateway [to Fanwood]," Mayor Mahr said.

She noted that the borough recently completed sidewalk replacements along the length of Martine. Also, following improvements to LaGrande Park's tennis courts, the borough plans improvements to Forest Road Park.

Mr. Populus added that the borough's real-estate market is "holding up" with new people moving in "because they like what they see."

Ms. Mitchell, a former member of the board of health and council liaison to the rescue squad, has helped initiate a senior walking program in Fanwood through a new state program.

"I think as people age, one of the reasons they fall is because their balance is off. And they fall and then they end up in a long-term care facility. If we could avoid that for many people, that would be a great thing," she said.

Ms. Mitchell said the borough has hired a senior coordinator to focus on borough seniors, who account for 20 percent of Fanwood's population. The borough sent a questionnaire to all senior residents to address senior issues and concerns.

Mr. Populus said the borough seeks state and county funds to help with homebound seniors and residents living solely on Social Security.

The mayor said Fanwood does not have any problem maintaining sufficient volunteers for its rescue squad and fire department.

In an effort to save costs, the borough and neighboring Scotch Plains have a shared-services council. One of the projects the two towns, along with Union County, took on was the field next to Park Middle School. The three entities together purchased equipment to maintain the field.

"We are now looking at building

sort of a public works/shared-service bay/garage to house the equipment because space is such a premium everywhere. We are actually looking at space over at the Ponderosa Farm [in Scotch Plains]," the mayor said.

The borough is also working with Scotch Plains on a proposal to construct a regional library.

"So you would dissolve the two libraries by referendum and at the same time you dissolve them, you would then decide on whether you felt that a combined library is something that the two communities would want," she said. "We are at the very preliminary stage. And the money [a state shared services study grant] is just being used for the discussion."

The mayor said locations the municipalities are eyeing for the facility include the borough's municipal complex on North Martine Avenue and the existing Scotch Plains library on Bartle Avenue.

"We don't want to have to acquire land as part of the equation. So we thought if we could do it with property that either entity already controlled, that takes a financial chunk out of the picture," she said.

Mr. Populus said the borough needs to look at long-range shared costs, such as fire trucks.

The borough also shares the tax collector and tax assessor operations with Scotch Plains.

"I think that sometimes people get nervous about shared services in small communities. They think that maybe it's a slippery slope into losing their identity... We are going to find what works for us but doesn't work for us — kind of where the boundaries are. We like who we are and we plan on staying as the Borough of Fanwood, but we will pursue any and all opportunities to try and ease our tax burden," Mayor Mahr said.

The borough, she said, plans to re-vamp its website and has already revitalized its summer camp for children.

"I guess Fanwood's model is quality of life," Mr. Populus concluded.



MEET THE CANDIDATE...Gina Genovese of Long Hill, the Democratic candidate for the District 21 State Senate seat, sits down with Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times assignment editor Paul Peyton in the Times offices last Monday to discuss the election and the issues on which she is campaigning. Watch the exclusive interview at goleader.com/video, and read candidate bios at goleader.com/07election.