



# TIMES

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## Anna Judd's Run Across U.S. for Vets Reaches SP, WF

By CHRISTIE STORMS  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — When Anna Judd laced up her sneakers on March 22, it wasn't for a mere jog around the block. The 29-year-old began running across the country from Venice Beach, Calif., to New York City raising awareness for the needs of America's military veterans. Last week, she ran through the local area, including Scotch Plains and Westfield.

Accompanying her for this part of the route were local runners from the Central New Jersey chapter of Team Red, White and Blue (Team RWB), including research director and

community captain, Caroline Angel of Westfield.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times spoke with Ms. Judd and Ms. Angel last Wednesday as they arrived at the Scotchwood Diner after running into the area from Dunellen.

Ms. Angel explained that Team RWB partnered with Ms. Judd because they champion the same cause.

"Our mission is to connect veterans to their communities through physical and social activities," Ms. Angel said.

The organization is comprised of approximately 50,000 members divided into 90 chapters. Many mem-

bers joined Ms. Judd for various parts of her journey around the country.

Ms. Judd said she began contemplating the run a few years ago as a way to challenge herself and have a "transformational experience" while also becoming a "catalyst for change."

"Instead of looking inward, I wanted to look outward and help others," she said.

She began volunteering at VA hospitals last year and connected with the veterans immediately. "I also see veterans as teachers with the mental toughness necessary to complete a journey like this," she said.

Ms. Judd said planning and organizing the run was a year-long effort. She is an artist, which she had subsidized with waitressing until it became too difficult to juggle with the preparations. Fortunately, the day after she quit waitressing, she sold one of her original oil paintings for \$5,000 and was then able to sustain herself to fully concentrate on training and securing sponsorships for the run.

One of her favorite aspects of the cross-country experience has been meeting and connecting with both veterans and civilians along the way. She celebrated her 30th birthday July 31 by jumping out of a plane with a wounded warrior.

But the trip has not been without challenges. The RV accompanying her broke down and was also involved in a fatal multi-car collision. Plus, pushing her body to run 3,400 miles over four months has resulted in a lot of pain and exhaustion. She said this was particularly evident between Texas and Georgia where she ran in 95-degree heat with 95 percent humidity.

However, Ms. Judd said she had personally made a promise to Mike Irwin, the founder of Team RWB,

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## GW Council Discusses Flood Prevention, AFC

By BRIAN TRUSDELL  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

GARWOOD — Cranford is working with a new engineering firm to explore widening the Orchard Brook, Garwood Mayor Pat Quattrocchi told the borough council on Tuesday, but Borough Engineer Don Guarriello said he thought any plans probably would need new approval from the state.

Mrs. Quattrocchi's statement, following a meeting with Cranford Mayor Andis Kalnins, also revealed that flooding in the township from storms such as Sandy and Irene in recent years has accelerated efforts to obtain easements from property owners along the waterway.

The issue has been of particular interest recently to Garwood residents, especially on the south side of the borough who saw water approach their homes on Spruce Street twice during thunderstorms this past summer.

At the July 22 council meeting, several residents blamed the nearby Athletic Field Complex, but Mr. Guarriello pointed to an unrealized plan that is more than a decade old to widen the Orchard Brook, which is a continuation of the Garwood Brook after it passes under North Avenue.

The plan was never implemented, Mr. Guarriello said a month ago, because Cranford was unable to obtain the easements from its residents and decided not to pursue eminent domain. Without any widening of the Orchard Brook, Mr. Guarriello said, Garwood is prohibited from enlarging the Garwood Brook culverts along South Avenue and under the NJ Transit rail line, which is what he said caused the flooding on Spruce.

"What Mayor Kalnins indicated to



Christie Storms for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
CROSS COUNTRY RUN...Local members from Team RWB ran alongside Anna Judd during the last few miles of her nation-wide run which began in California in March and ended in New York City on Saturday. They are pictured here after arriving in the parking lot of the Scotchwood Diner in Scotch Plains on August 20. Pictured, from left to right, are: Misty DiGangi of Colonia, Caroline Angel of Westfield, John Mazzei of Long Island, Jack Robertson of Budd Lake, Anna Judd, Robot, Craig Williams of Mountainside, Chris McGee of Califon and Todd Adrian of Bloomfield.

## Westfield Road Paving Projects To Get Under Way This Week

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

WESTFIELD — Road paving projects in town will go into high gear this week and continue through the next few months, town officials told The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times last week.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said the town is spending \$1.5 million on municipal road resurfacing projects in addition to work to be completed by the county. Of the total amount appropriated for municipal paving, he said \$375,000 is being

funded through the state Department of Transportation's Transportation Trust Fund.

"Starting [this] week and through September and probably early October we're going to have a lot of work going on in town and not just the town's work, which is most of the roads we're doing. We (also) have state aid jobs that we have partnered with the state that we're going to be doing. We (also have) requested that the county do some work," he said.

"We just ask for [residents'] patience as our outside contractors come through and our police department makes sure things are safe as the work gets done," Mr. Gildea added.

Work was to begin this week on Rahway Avenue from West Broad Street to West Grove Street and on Westfield Avenue from South Avenue to Park Street. Both are state-funded projects, Mr. Gildea said.

Other roads to be paved include: Cowperthwaite Place from Prospect Street to Elm Street, Crossway Place from North Avenue to South Avenue, Dorian Road from Hyslip Avenue to Lamberts Mill Road, Elm Street from Walnut Street to Parking Lot 4, Kimball Avenue from North Chest-

nut Street to Baker Avenue, the entire length of Kimball Circle, Lawrence Avenue from the town border to Roanoke Road, Lenox Avenue from Central Avenue to Elmer Street and from Stanley Avenue to South Chestnut Street, South Chestnut Street from the town border to Hillcrest Avenue, South Euclid Avenue from Lenox Avenue to North Avenue, St. Marks Avenue from Stanley Avenue to South Chestnut Street, Tremont Avenue from Stanley Avenue to South Chestnut Street, West Dudley Avenue from Tuttle Parkway to Clark Street and Woodland Avenue from Kimball Avenue to East Broad Street.

"A lot of the roads we've chosen are ones that needed to be done or had some issues with them from the winter," he said.

The town will be opening bids on Tuesday, September 2 for the paving of Seneca Place from Embree Crescent to Coleman Place. The town council will then vote to award the contract at its next meeting also on September 2. The town is also going to go out to bid next year to pave St. Marks Avenue from Benson Place to South Chestnut Street and Boynton

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Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
PURDIE GOOD...The Bernard Purdie All-Stars played before a large crowd on August 14 at Oak Ridge Park in Clark as part of the Summer Arts Festival.

## Deadline for Bids For Skateboard Park Due Sept. 4

By LISA HAGEN  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The bidding process for the skateboard park at Forest Road Park will move into a second round after initial bids exceeded the borough's budget requirements, a decision approved at the borough council's August meeting.

Bob Budiansky, director of recreation, explained at the August 20 recreation commission meeting that four bids for the park were submitted, but none were accepted. He said that Z-Tech, the contractor who submitted the lowest amount, bid around \$50,000 over budget.

The borough council voted back in June to establish an estimated budget for the skate park of \$242,000.

Susan Banzon, one of the engineers from Adams, Rehmann and Heggan (ARH), said another bidding round could generate lower bids and new general contractors. She said the new bids are due by Thursday, September 4.

"We may result in the same bidders coming back and, knowing that that's out of budget, maybe they'll change their price and come in less," Ms.

Banzon said. "It could also result in an additional pool of general contractors bidding and they could also either come in at the same numbers or lower."

If a second bid falls through, Ms. Banzon said the process moves to a third round, followed by negotiations between the borough and the apparent low bidder.

"At that point, the skateboard park subcommittee may want to get involved because they may want to figure out what they're willing to give up on," Mr. Budiansky said. "You don't want to be left with a couple bars and a concrete step."

Mr. Budiansky also mentioned that he submitted the application for the Union County Kids Recreation Grant to receive funding for LaGrande Park tennis court upgrades. Based on the estimate from T&M Associates, an engineering consulting firm, he said he requested \$140,000 to repair the courts' cracks and color coat.

He also included \$530 in the grant application to replace the broken refrigerator at the LaGrande Park facility. Mr. Budiansky said the commission should hear back this fall.



Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
SWEET SOUND...Carrie Jackson sings a selection of rhythm and blues before a large crowd on Elm Street in Westfield during the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival on Tuesday evening.



Christina M. Hinke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
FUN FOR ALL...Streets were lined with crafters, novelty items, goods and services, food stands, and local organizations, as well as a kids area and vintage cars during the Cranford Street Fair held Sunday in the downtown.

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