

## BOE Honors Marching Band, Receives Favorable Audit Report

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - In front of a jam-packed audience, members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education read a congratulatory resolution last Thursday evening, honoring the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) Marching Band's many achievements this past fall. According to the resolution read, the SPFHS Marching Band, consisting of 181 members, won the New Jersey State Championship in group VI A for the second consecutive year at the

U.S. Bands 2014 Competition held last month at Rutgers University. It also was noted that the band had received "caption" awards for Best Visuals and Best Effect.

In addition, the resolution stated that the band, under the direction of Duran Thomas, captured first place in Group VI A at the U.S. Bands A Class National Championships show at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, Pa. The band also took first place in Best Music, Best Percussion, Best Color Guard, Best Visuals and Best Effects.

It was noted that the Marching Band won the U.S. Army Award of Excellence for a band "that best displays the values and beliefs of the Army and Youth Education in the Arts Programs."

The program included Board President Trip Whitehouse and the eight other members of the board of education presenting awards with Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes to each band member. Mr. Thomas then announced to the enthusiastic crowd that because of the high achievements earned by the band, the classification has changed and the SPFHS Raider Marching Band has been moved to a higher level than Group VI A.

In other business, Heidi Wohlleb, a Certified Public Accountant with Nisivocchia & Co. in Randolph, gave the auditor's report for the annual school budget.

In her report, Ms. Wohlleb said the district's \$86.5-million budget, of which 88 percent or \$7.3 million is supported by the tax levy, is managed well and that "records were in excellent condition with just minor adjustments that need to be made."

Ms. Wohlleb said the district had a proactive business administrator who kept excellent records for Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools. The only recommendation noted was that deposits for high-school student activities were not made in a timely manner. The corrective measure given by the report states that a reminder letter provided by the business office will be sent by the principal to all staff as a reminder that all receipts must be turned in to the office daily. In addition, the office staff will be reminded of timely deposits.

The next board of education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the administration building on Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS...From the 2006 archives the Fanwood Train Station is decorated for the holidays. Horace Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

## Planning Board Says 2003 Access To Development Was Temporary

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

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - The planning board held an unusual hearing on Monday night that forced its three longest-serving members to jog their memories as they focused on the meaning of the term "access."

Back in 2003, when the board gave its approval for the development of the Heather Glen age-restricted housing development located off Jerusalem Road, it included a provision granting access from the rear of the residential property at 7 Johnson Street to a road in

the new development. This was done to give the owner, Deborah Jorgensen, an alternative means of entering and exiting her property if Johnson Street - a primary access point into the new development - was blocked by construction vehicles.

Ms. Jorgensen was under the impression that her access to what is now Coldstream Court would be permanent and would even allow her to install a driveway from the rear of her 300-foot-long property to the street. When that access was ended after the Heather Glen development was completed, Ms. Jorgensen sued. A state Superior Court judge recently remanded the matter back to the planning board for clarification of what the board meant back then when it granted "access" to Ms. Jorgensen.

The three board members who were on the board during the original hearings in 2003 - Paulette Coronato, Joseph Doyle and Robert LaCosta - heard from attorneys for Ms. Jorgensen and some of

the Heather Glen property owners on Monday night before making it clear that they had intended 11 years ago for access from the Jorgensen property to be temporary until construction was completed.

Attorney Joseph Murray argued in vain on Ms. Jorgensen's behalf that access, as stated in the 2003 resolution approving the development, meant permanent access. However, Mr. LaCosta recalled "no discussion" at the time about permanent access being provided to Ms. Jorgensen or allowing her to put a driveway at the rear of her property to connect to Coldstream Court.

Mrs. Coronato agreed, saying the access was only granted during construction in case Johnson Street became impassible.

Mr. Doyle added that the planning board had intended for access to be temporary, "not a permanent easement" for Ms. Jorgensen. "Why should she continue to have 'temporary' access 11 years later?" he asked.



TALENTED COLLIE...Zack, whose registered name is CH Dunhill Steeler Nation, a 4-year-old Bearded Collie owned by Kathy and Ray Harrington and Scott and Valerie Shafer of Scotch Plains, won "First in Group" for the Herding Group at "The National Dog Show Presented by Purina" on November 15. The show will be broadcast on Thanksgiving Day on NBC following the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

## Hist. Pres. Panel Postpones Vote on Walnut Designation

By **DELL SIMEONE**  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**WESTFIELD** - The Historic Preservation Commission, on Monday evening, held a public hearing on designating Walnut Street, between Elm Street and Mountain Avenue, as a historic district. The meeting lasted almost two hours with testimony by residents from the 26 homes affected by the proposed change.

Some residents welcomed the designation, some did not. Of the 26 homes, 10 are condos in the Park Edge development that borders Bicentennial Park, which used to be called Triangle Park. When one resident said, "I want to opt out," Commission member Bob Algarin demanded of the panel, "I want a clarification on this point." The other members and the committee's attorney were not able to define the situation vis-à-vis the proposed ordinance. The meeting was then abruptly adjourned.

The meeting began with a presentation by Margaret Hickey, of Connolly and Hickey Historical Ar-

chitects of Cranford. Ms. Hickey outlined the rationale for the area to be designated historic. She said that the homes were on property in the Dudley Park section of town, which had been owned by John and Helen Dudley, and then subdivided around 1890.

Ms. Hickey said most of the homes were Queen Anne Victorians with front porches or Dutch Colonials. The homes, she said, were two-and-a-half story wood frame houses with gables, shingles, and dormers with wrap-around porches. Other homes in the area were deemed conforming or harmonious. The Park Edge condos, built in 1949, are considered non-contributing.

A section of Kimball Avenue, the street just north of it, is already designated a historic district. Commission Chairwoman Kelly Kessler said Walnut Street should be added as a separate district because of the architectural styles. A commission member asked if there is a consistency, or

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DINNER IS SERVED...A colonial Thanksgiving dinner looks ready to eat last Sunday at the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield. Members of the museum's Cooking Committee prepared the feast during a program entitled "Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Demonstration and 18th Century Table Customs and Manners."

## Local Towns Announce Holiday Celebrations

**AREA** - Local towns will hold Christmas tree and holiday celebrations beginning this weekend.

Westfield will kick off its annual Welcome Home to Westfield holiday events, sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation, this Saturday, November 29, with Santa and Mrs. Claus strolling downtown between 10 a.m. and noon. Also, music will be provided by The Harmonics from 4 to 6 p.m. and by the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Brass Quartet from 1 to 3 p.m.

The annual Christmas tree lighting will take place this Sunday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m., at the North Avenue, West, train station.

Cranford will have a host of activities concluding with the Christmas tree lighting tomorrow, Friday, November 28. Morning events, held at the North Union and Springfield Avenue Gazebo, will begin at 11 a.m. with the Daisy Girl Scouts tree decorating and will continue at 11:30 a.m. with the Brownies tree decorating and at noon with the Junior and Senior Cadet Girl Scouts tree decorating.

Afternoon holiday events at Parking Lot No. 7 on Mill Street will include: 1 to 4 p.m., petting zoo, moon walk, and free horse-drawn wagon rides.

Events at the North Union and Springfield Avenue Gazebo: 4:30 to 5 p.m., Cindy Smith Dancers; 5 to 6 p.m., concert by Cranford High School Madrigal and Brass Ensemble, and 6 p.m., Santa arrives to light the Christmas tree.

Garwood will hold its Christmas tree lighting on Saturday, November 29, at 5 p.m., in the parking lot at Borough Hall, located at 403 South Avenue. Santa will arrive for a visit and pictures. Refreshments will be served.

The Scotch Plains Holiday Celebra-

tion, sponsored by the Scotch Plains Recreation Department and the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association, will be held on Sunday, December 7, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Alan Augustine Village Green at 430 Park Avenue.

Activities will include: horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas tree lighting at 5 p.m., and free hot chocolate and pastries from the Scotch Plains Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Santa will arrive at 3 p.m. and visit children until 5 p.m. in the Gazebo. Fanwood's annual holiday party also will be on December 7, starting at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to meet Santa under the big tent on the lawn in front of the North Avenue Train Station. The event will include seasonal music, holiday crafts and refreshments - all for free.

The celebration will conclude at 5 p.m. when Mayor Colleen Mahr lights the Fanwood Christmas tree on the train station lawn. The holiday party is sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.

In Mountainside, the Historic Committee will hold its annual Holiday Craft and Gift Boutique on Saturday, December 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m., during the annual Gingerbread Open House, at the historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. The Hetfield House is located on Constitution Plaza.

The borough tree lighting will take place on December 6 beginning at 4:30 p.m., near Mountainside Borough Hall. Visitors also are invited to come to the Rescue Squad Building that day for the annual "Cookies and Hot Cocoa" sale benefiting the maintenance and restoration of the Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House.



EQUAL PARTNERS...Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, left, and Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Board President Trip Whitehouse, center, enjoy a moment at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City to discuss their upcoming presentation on "School/Municipal Cooperation," with Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover. Mayor Mahr commented that, "Sharing our best practices is one of the most valuable things that happen here at this convention. I am delighted to have been asked to share our successes."

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Congratulations to the **#1 Agent** for October!



**Congrats!**  
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