



Nursing Staff



Social Worker Team

www.HomewatchCareGivers.com

Homewatch CareGivers Professional Staff Raising the bar in homecare every day!



- Hourly or live-in care in your home or residence
- All caregivers are state certified CHHAs
- Hourly caregivers can drive for errands and appointments
- Every client supported by an RN and Social Worker at no charge



Homewatch CareGivers®

(908) 448-2230



DINING IN...Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr serves up some salad to her sons, Colin, Liam and Dan, in their Fanwood home. Family dinners are the hallmark of the holiday season, and with that in mind, Mayor Mahr and the Union County Freeholders invite residents to participate in the national "Dine in with Us" campaign.

SP Police to Crack Down On Drunken Motorists

SCOTCH PLAINS — The police department will be out in force along with other law enforcement agencies throughout New Jersey and the rest of the nation for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" crackdown on drunken drivers from Friday, December 5, through Friday, January 2.

"Drunken driving continues to be prevalent, persistent and deadly on city streets and rural roads throughout New Jersey," according to a Scotch Plains Police Department press release.

During 2012, 164 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in New Jersey. There were more than 25,000 convictions for drunken driving in New Jersey last year.

"Drunken driving is entirely preventable. If we can deter people from getting behind the wheel when they're not sober, we will make progress toward the goal of reaching

zero preventable traffic deaths in Scotch Plains," Police Chief Brian T. Mahoney said. "Our message during the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign and throughout the year is simple. If you're driving while impaired, we will arrest you. The devastating consequences of a drunken driving arrest include major embarrassment, expensive penalties, mandatory installation of an ignition interlock device on all your vehicles, and possibly jail time. Driving drunk will be a decision you'll regret the rest of your life, if you are lucky enough to live."

Correction

A front page article on the Fanwood Borough Council meeting that appeared in the November 20 edition of *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* should have listed the start time for the Fanwood Presbyterian Church's *Messiah* concert on Sunday, December 7, as 4 p.m.

WF Historic Preservation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

level of integrity, to the homes, to which Ms. Hickey replied, "yes."

When she finished her presentation, area residents weighed in on the topic. James White, who said he and his brother own 225 Walnut Street, asked, "This came up in 2013, but was tabled. Why are we here now?" Ms. Kessler replied, "It was never tabled; it is a long process and can be time-consuming."

Mr. White's brother, R. Thomas White, said, "Some residents who are here never got the packet. When I came here, I wasn't sure what would happen tonight." James White added, "I don't see the benefit of it. I don't see the need for it."

A resident who lives at 303 Walnut Street asked, "What is the legal avenue? Is there a waiting period? What if I wanted to demolish my home?"

Ms. Kessler responded, "You'd have to get a permit." He also asked if property values would go up. Ms. Hickey said, "yes."

According to the proposed ordinance, once the area is designated as historic, homes within the district would be subject to various restrictions. A certificate of appropriateness would have to be obtained from the commission before a permit would be issued by the applicable municipal official for the following activities: 1, demolition or relocation or any improvement; 2, changes in the exterior appearance or any improvement by addition, alteration, replacement, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction or painting; 3, changes in or addition of new signs or exterior lighting, subject to certain exceptions; 4, any new construction in the district, and 5, certain changes in the exterior appearance of the district. Exceptions to the above requirements may include emergency repairs and interior work. Other standards are specifically outlined in the ordinance.

The commission is required to obtain the written consent of the owners of at least 75 percent of the properties

in the district before taking action. Town Attorney Russ Finstein said 75 percent of the owners signed notarized copies of their consent to be included in the district. The proposed ordinance does have a provision which states that if a protest petition against a proposed historic district is signed by the owners of 20 percent or more of the area of either the lots or land included in the proposed designated area, or of the lots or land extending 200 feet in all directions there from, inclusive of street space, it may be filed with the town clerk. If such an event took place, the proposed designation would become effective only if two-thirds of all members of the town council supported the measure.

The avenue for the individual home owner who does not wish to be included in the district will be better defined at the next meeting, said Mr. Finstein. He admitted the issue, in that case, is property rights.

The designation process is as follows: If the commission votes to support the ordinance, it then goes to the planning board for approval and then to the town council for its approval of the designation. Robert Burslem, a resident of the Kimball historic district and a proponent of the Walnut Street designation, during the public portion of the meeting, said that the commission has nothing to do with the Westfield Historical Society, which is a separate organization. The commission, he said, is a municipal entity with members appointed by the mayor.

Following the meeting, Mr. Finstein said the ordinance will be reviewed and refined by the next meeting, which will be Monday, December 29, at 7:30 p.m., at the municipal building, located at 425 East Broad Street.



SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS...Paul Lachenauer for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
The annual Support Our Troops Casino and Auction was held Saturday at the Westfield Armory. The fundraiser is sponsored by Bonds of Courage and the 117th Calvary Association.

DWC Proposes One Event For Girls' Night Out in '15

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the management entity of Westfield's Special Improvement District (SID), held its last monthly board of directors meeting for 2014 this past Monday night.

The board discussed reducing the biannual Girls' Night Out from two events a year to one a year and promoted the "Welcome Home to Westfield" events for the holiday season.

Executive Director Sherry Cronin first reported on the most recent Girls' Night Out, which was held last month. "Girls' Night Out was October 18. It was a successful night. We had about 2,000 (women) who registered. It was well done."

Ms. Cronin then discussed the possibility of making Girls' Night Out a

one-time event during the year to enhance its uniqueness. "We need to scale it back...to make it special as a one-time event because April's (event) was far better in terms of entertainment value, kinds of special events, trunk shows, things like that."

"Next year, we'd like to propose that we only have it once and just see if it works better as a result of making it a little bit more special...I'm not saying we shouldn't do that again (having two Girls' Night Out events a year). I just think for next year we scale it back one time and see what happens," Ms. Cronin stated.

The board next discussed the "Welcome Home to Westfield" events that are scheduled during the holiday season.

The events will begin the weekend following Thanksgiving, Ms. Cronin stated. "This weekend is a marathon weekend with photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus" at Lord & Taylor on Friday and Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ms. Cronin also promoted the annual food drive that occurs at this time of year. "We also collect a lot of food when we do photos with Santa. We have a food drive that goes to the Holy Trinity Food Pantry. Typically, my van is packed three times over which we drop off for this event."

More information and a full schedule of events may be found at the DWC's website, located at WestfieldToday.com.

The board next approved a grant for Brownie Points Bakery, a "classic American desserts" shop that will be located at 339 South Avenue, West.

The board also discussed the new smart phone application for paying for parking in downtown Westfield. The application allows residents to either initially pay for a parking spot or continue to pay for a parking spot without having to pay from their car's location at one of the town's pay stations.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea encouraged residents to download the phone app, located at mpay2park.com or at the iTunes app store.

More information may be found under the metered parking section on the town's website, located at westfieldnj.gov/.

The next DWC board of directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. The DWC office is located at 105 Elm Street, basement level.

MS Council OKs Land Use Ordinance Amendment

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

MOUNTAINSIDE — The borough council unanimously voted to approve an amendment to the borough's land use ordinance, which will increase the allowable Floor Area Ratio (FAR) from 2.25 to 2.40. A FAR is the ratio of a home's total floor area to the size of the piece of land on which it is built.

The ordinance has been the subject of extensive debate for several months and the decision to increase it was made after consultation with legal counsel, planning experts and the engineering and building departments. Throughout the discussions, Mayor Paul Mirabelli repeatedly emphasized that he and the council shared a common goal of ensuring that homes in the community "fit" their lot and the new ordinance supports this goal.

The council also voted to authorize Acting Police Chief Allan Attanasio to apply for a New Jersey Department of Transportation Safe Corridor grant. The Safe Corridor program was created in 2003 and distributes resources to 10-mile segments of highways that see high crash rates. Grants distributed from the program can be used to buy enforcement equipment such as police vehicles and radars.

In other business, the council ap-

proved the appointment of Patrick Klebaur as a volunteer firefighter and voted in favor of approving applications from the Our Lady of Peace Church in New Providence for two off-premises raffle drawings and a 50/50 off-premises draw.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a resident of Poplar Avenue, Frances Bellak, who has resided in the community for more than 50 years, spoke to the council regarding the impact that storm and rainwater runoff is having on the residents in her area. According to Mrs. Bellak, the situation has deteriorated to the point that she feels her property is "being washed away."

Mayor Mirabelli advised Mrs. Bellak that members of the borough's engineering department were investigating the situation and consulting with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), but because of increasing environmental regulations and a strict permitting process, options to control runoff, which were used decades ago, were likely no longer going to be considered feasible by the DEP.

Mayor Mirabelli and the council urged the public to join the community at its annual tree lighting festivities on Saturday, December 6.

The Laser Dental Group P.C.

Advanced Dental Care

Most Insurance Accepted

Implants

Cosmetic Dentistry

Smile Design

Same Day Ceramic Crowns

ZERO % FINANCING AVAILABLE

An America's Top Dentist by Consumer Research Council of America 2014



Peter Louie, D.M.D.
General Dentistry

CALL TODAY!

THE LASER DENTAL



581 Westfield Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-232-2136

1205 Coolidge Ave,
Union, NJ 07083
908-686-2080

www.thelaserdentalgroup.com



HELPING THOSE IN NEED...St. Helen's Parish's sixth-grade CCD class is more than happy to give a helping hand during this time of the year by providing a traditional Thanksgiving meal to a family in need. Pictured are: Top row, Lily McGuire, John Thorburn, Giulia Pinelli, Julia Johnson-Milstein and Michaela Hobson, and in front row, Jason Petruzzi, Ryan Della Rocco, Chris Grochan, Ali Brennan, Mary Heinzlering, Kaitlyn Duffy and Liam Robb.