

## Township Council Sets Standards For Food Trucks, Chicken Coops

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council on Monday passed one ordinance setting out standards for keeping chickens on residential properties and introduced another ordinance to regulate food truck operations.

At its hour-long meeting, the governing body gave its approval to an ordinance that will allow residents to keep up to six chickens on their property and confine them to a house or coop not more than 100 square feet in size. A license from the health department, costing \$100 annually, and a \$75 zoning permit from the zoning officer will be required. The ordinance also sets out rules for cleaning

of the chicken coops and where they can be situated in a yard.

The council also spent time discussing how food truck operations should be regulated. At its meeting last month, several residents complained about what they felt was the disruptive operation of a popular food truck parked on Westfield Avenue near Henry Street. Formerly, the truck had been situated next to the QuickChek on Forest Road.

Township Attorney William Robertson told the council on Monday that there were no ordinances directly related to food truck operations, pointing out that the local law regulating peddlers did not apply in this instance. The council introduced an ordinance this week that will cre-

ate a separate category for regulating food trucks, and it includes setting out license fees, the number of licenses to be permitted in town and identifying the fixed locations where food trucks will be allowed to operate. A public hearing is set for Tuesday, September 11.

Councilman Andrew Bondarowicz wondered whether the proposed ordinance might be too restrictive, given that it sets out four locations for food truck operations. He said that, in "trying to solve one problem, hopefully, we're not creating another one." Mayor Alexander Smith echoed that concern, asking how the four locations were picked. He called on the public, especially those who purchase items from the food trucks, to attend the September 11 hearing and "give us their thoughts" about the proper locations for food trucks.

The proposal calls for the following four fixed locations: the 2300 block of South Avenue near the Westfield border; the 400 block of Terrill Road behind Farley Park; the 1200 block of Martine Avenue in front of Highland Swim Club, and the 2500 block of Plainfield Avenue near the parking lot for Scotch Hills Country Club.

In other business, the council also approved an ordinance that restricts parking on both sides of Muir Terrace and Westfield Road Circle during school hours. The governing body additionally awarded a contract not to exceed \$73,404 to Motorola for mobile radios for the public works department.

Mayor Smith said progress is being made on a possible shared-services agreement between Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield and Garwood to share public works functions. He said the towns are working with the governor's newly-appointed "czar"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**PROMOTED...**Newly-named Scotch Plains Deputy Municipal Manager Margaret Heisey confers about township affairs with Township Manager Al Mirabella.

## Weekly Trash Pickups Discussed by Health Board

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — Board of Health members on Monday night discussed possible negative health impacts if residents elected to reduce their garbage pickup from twice weekly to once weekly.

The town code requires residents to have garbage pickup twice weekly, stated Health Board President Thomas K. O'Neill. Councilman and Green Team liaison, David Contract, said the idea was proposed by the Green Team to reduce Westfield's total waste output. It was noted that the town code requires only one weekly residential pickup.

Mr. O'Neill said the manner in which the bagged garbage will be contained remains a primary concern for the health board. Health Officer Megan Avallone said individuals who elect for one pickup for garbage per week may eventually have overflow of their household trash.

Ms. Avallone said a Green Team liaison will speak at September's board of health meeting, discussing

the initiative's objective and how it will be introduced to minimize or eliminate any health concerns.

"Containment is the concern. Actual trash bags being stored in residential yards set next to a filled can is the problem," said board member Dr. Lawrence Budnick.

Westfield's garbage collection is solicited through private contractors. Ms. Avallone said theoretically if a town was to reduce its pickups from twice to once weekly the plan could be rolled out without any health impact. Ms. Avallone said there would be no health impact for a town organized garbage pickup if the cans can be guaranteed large enough to contain overflow pertaining to special events and skipped pickups. She said the health board is not suggesting a town-organized garbage disposal program, but that each private company offers different sized garbage bins or may not offer a bin.

She said where residents choose to place garbage overflows until the next

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Courtesy Mountainside Police Dept.

**BAD ACCIDENT...**A box truck driver was seriously injured last Thursday morning in an accident on Route 22 west between the intersection of New Providence Road and Pembroke Road. Mountainside Police said the 2011 Isuzu Model NPR box truck struck the rear of a 1997 Mack tri-axle dump truck as the vehicles were merging into the left lane. The box truck driver was transported to the trauma unit at Morristown Medical Center by Union County EMS. The driver of the dump truck was not injured. The Mountainside Fire Department and Atlantic Healthcare Paramedics were also on the scene.

## Termination Recommended For Attanasio, Huber

By KATE BROWNE

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — During Tuesday's Mountainside Borough Council work meeting, Borough Attorney John Post recommended that the governing body execute an employment termination agreement with former Police Chief Alan Attanasio and Officer Andrew Huber, both of whom voluntarily resigned as of July 21.

The two were named as defendants in a civil lawsuit filed in May by five members of the Mountainside Police Department and a part-time employee. The suit, Stinner versus Borough of Mountainside, alleges that the men engaged in sexist, racist and homophobic conduct. Under the terms of the agreement, the two former officers will forfeit all accrued compensation other than what they are entitled to under the federal wage laws.

Unlike most employees, who can be terminated at will, New Jersey law provides special employment protections to members of law enforcement. In New Jersey, a police officer can only be removed from his or her position if he or she voluntarily resigns, if he or she is terminated for cause, or if a termination is negotiated. The termination for cause process in New Jersey is one of the most onerous in the country. The state is one of only five in the nation that does not have an officer decertification process, and, as a result, it often requires a criminal conviction before an officer can be removed.

According to Mr. Post, an officer who a municipality wishes to terminate for cause is entitled to a disciplinary hearing, which can take several months and cost approximately \$100,000 per officer in legal fees and administrative hearing costs. The officer also would be entitled to a civil



Courtesy of Tom Kranz/Borough of Fanwood

**MEETING THE COMMUNITY...**Fanwood Rescue Squad President Ed Winsor makes one little girl happy with a balloon during Fanwood's National Night Out. Fanwood's public safety responders opened their vehicles and their hearts to the community on Tuesday evening for the National Night Out program held in La Grande Park.

## New Deputy Manager Focused On Improved Communications

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Among the top priorities for the township's new deputy municipal manager will be to further improve how the public receives information from the township government and also to further get residents and businesses interested in the downtown as redevelopment moves forward.

Margaret Heisey joined the township in November 2015 as special projects coordinator, and at last

week's township council meeting, Township Manager Al Mirabella announced her promotion to formally serve as his deputy. Speaking this week to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Ms. Heisey said it was "nice to have the support not only of the mayor and council but of the staff" at the municipal building as well, something she said she has had since her service began. Prior to her employment in Scotch Plains, Ms. Heisey worked for seven years for the Union County Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Mirabella told *The Times* this week that hiring Ms. Heisey in late 2015 was "the single most important and best decision" he has made as manager, adding that "her job has grown in stature since she got here." He said he knew of her reputation as

a "dedicated, service-oriented employee" when he hired her and said he "knew she'd thrive in this role." It seems that Ms. Heisey manages to be at pretty much every township event, whether it is the twice-monthly council meetings, the various downtown events over the course of the year, the Martin Luther King Day of Service in January and the Saturday morning sunrise yoga sessions.

Ms. Heisey said her new title does not come with any new responsibilities beyond what is already on her busy plate. At the moment, she is working on securing "a really great" state Safe Routes to School grant. She also is doing what she can to support township officials involved in downtown redevelopment efforts, assisting the volunteers coordinating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Announcement About Fanwood Tax Bill

FANWOOD -- Tax bills will be mailed the week of August 13.

The grace period for payment has been extended to Wednesday, September 5. Payments received after the grace period will be subject to interest.

If you would like to pay your taxes prior to receiving your paper

bill, the amounts are available on the borough's website under the sidebar for tax payments and lookup.

Please make your payment online, in person or by mailing a check to 75 N. Martine Avenue, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

Colleen M. Huehn  
Tax Collector



Courtesy of Tom Kranz/Borough of Fanwood

**FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD...**The Fanwood Rescue Squad had a great turnout at Tuesday's National Night Out in La Grande Park.

### PAGE INDEX

Regional .....	2-3	Education .....	16-17
Editorial .....	4-5	Sports .....	9-14
Police .....	15	Real Estate .....	9-18
Community ...	6-7, 15	Classifieds .....	15
Obituary .....	6	A&E .....	17-18



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**WESTFIELD WEST**  
COLDWELL BANKER  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

### FOR ALL MARKET INFO:

- Twitter: @cbwestfield
- Instagram: @cbwestfieldnj
- Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/westfieldwest
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/cbwestfieldnj

Westfield West Office • 600 North Avenue West, Westfield, NJ 07090 • 908-233-0065 • ColdwellBankerHomes.com

© 2018 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker® and the Coldwell Banker logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

**#600NORTH**