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Starts Saturday, November 24th • Elm Street Athletic Field

Weekdays Monday to Friday 5PM - 9PM • Saturdays & Sundays 9AM - 6PM

All Proceeds Donated To Local Charities & Non-Profits



HO, HO, HO...Rainy weather on Sunday could not keep the kids away from a chance to brief Santa Claus about their gift requests at the Scotch Plains holiday celebration in the parking lot adjacent to town hall.

## Mountainside Council Reviews Traffic Study

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

**MOUNTAINSIDE** — At Monday's work session meeting, the borough council reviewed a preliminary traffic study prepared by the consulting firm NV5. According to the principal engineer Joseph Fishinger, the source of the traffic congestion in the community can be traced to the intersection of Route 22 and New Providence Road, which is operating well beyond its capacity and causing significant backups and spillover traffic in neighboring communities.

Mr. Fishinger indicated that there were no easy fixes for the problem since there are no alternate routes for commuters who need to travel East and West on Route 22, or parents who need to drop their children off at area schools other than "peeling cars off at the Lawrence Avenue exit and have them travel through Westfield."

In addition, the volume of traffic in the area is likely going to increase as a result of the construction of high-density housing at the former Bowcraft facility and on the Barnes Tract, Mr. Fishinger said.

In response to a question from Councilman Keith Turner as to what was causing the increased vehicle volume, Mr. Fishinger pointed to an increase in the number of vehicles traveling on Route 22, which is the main connection between Route 78 and points south and the fact that the New Providence intersection is the last eastbound traffic signal for several miles. He noted that without a permanent and significant infrastructure improvement, such as the installation of oversized jug handles or clover leaves, the only feasible option appears to involve moving the traffic queues from one location to others in neighboring towns and reminded the council that any changes would require the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The council asked Mr. Fishinger to consider other options and agreed to reach out to the Union County

Traffic Advisory Board and neighboring communities including Westfield to solicit their thoughts on solutions.

Michael Paige, operations manager for New Jersey American Water, asked the council for permission to reconsider the borough's denial of the water company's application for a road opening permit for Pembroke Road. Mr. Paige advised that the existing water main is a 72 years old cast iron pipe which, when installed, had a six-inch diameter, but now, is so filled with sediment that it is causing discoloration of residents water. The company plans to replace the aging line with 1,600 feet of new pipe at a cost of more than half-a-million dollars. The council agreed to grant the permit after Mr. Paige confirmed that American Water was willing to pay to repave the road.

In other business, the council agreed to approve raffle requests from the Mountainside Education Foundation, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and Holy Trinity School.

The council's next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18.

## FW Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ough Hall by the end of the business day on December 3. No late gifts were accepted.

It also was announced that Santa Claus will stop by the "Christmas House," located at 83 Paterson Road, this Saturday, December 8, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., rain, snow or shine. All are welcome to attend and there is no charge. Gifts will be provided for the children visiting by the Rose family.

The Christmas House also is open now through Tuesday, January 8, for visitors to enjoy the Christmas lights display. Donations are accepted for the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities at [www.njid.org](http://www.njid.org).

The next Fanwood council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 17, at 7 p.m., at Borough Hall.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### WESTFIELD

Monday, November 19, Carlos Jimenez, 35, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant from the Atlantic City Court, with bail in the amount of \$2,500. Jimenez was arrested in the area of South and Central Avenues subsequent to an investigation. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was held in lieu of bail. Jimenez was later turned over to Atlantic City authorities.

Tuesday, November 20, Quason Brewster, 37, of Westfield was arrested on two outstanding warrants. One was from Westfield Municipal Court and the other was from Union County Superior Court. Brewster was arrested in the area of Central and South Avenues subsequent to an investigation. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was held. Brewster later was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Office for commitment to the Union County jail.

Wednesday, November 21, Russell Schundler, 75, of Wolfboro, N.H., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct pursuant to an investigation that took place in Westfield near the NJ Transit railway. Schundler was transported to police headquarters and placed under arrest. He was released on a summons.

Wednesday, November 21, three incidents involving motor vehicle burglaries were reported at residences on Coolidge Street. One vehicle was burglarized on the 700 block, another on the 800 block, and two were at a residence on the 1000 block. In each case, the victim reported leaving the vehicle unlocked while parked in the driveway. In the incident on the 700 block, the victim stated that no apparent items were taken from the vehicle; in the case on the 800 block, the victim stated that \$30 was stolen from the vehicle. The victim in the case on the 1000 block reported that items valued at approximately more than \$200 were stolen from the two vehicles.

Wednesday, November 21, Dion Montgomery, 48, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding criminal warrant, in the amount of \$1,000, out of Westfield Municipal Court pursuant to a prisoner pickup. He also had an outstanding criminal warrant out of Union Municipal Court in the amount of \$750. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance on both warrants.

Wednesday, November 21, a burglary was reported at a residence on the 0-100 block of Kimball Circle while the homeowner was there. The resident heard a loud "bang" coming from the kitchen area. Upon inspection, the resident observed the exterior door to be open, with minor damage to the chain lock, consistent with forced entry. The victim did not hear anyone inside the residence and nothing appeared to be disturbed. No items were removed from the residence.

Monday, November 26, Lister Perry, 27, of Irvington was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Irvington Municipal Court, in the amount of \$1,000, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop. Perry was processed and posted bail.

Tuesday, November 27, a resident of the 500 block of Hillside Avenue reported being the victim of credit card fraud. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects made several purchases online without the victim's approval. The approximate amount of the fraudulent purchases is \$2,500.

### GARWOOD

Monday, December 3, Angelo T. Spalliero, 29, of Greenville, S.C., was arrested and charged with credit card fraud, receiving stolen property, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, shoplifting, credit card theft, and burglary to motor vehicles. Police responded to a pharmacy on North Avenue on a report of an intoxicated male in the store. Officers observed a male, who was seated and slumped over in the photo section of the store. While conducting their investigation the individual showed the officers a New York State driver's license with a photo which, once examined by the officers, was not the suspect.

Dispatch radioed the officers of a reported burglary to a motor vehicle and informed the officers that the burglary victim was the same individual named on the New York driver's license. The suspect was then placed under arrest and admitted that his name was actually Angelo T. Spalliero.

A search incident to the arrest found Spalliero in possession of numerous items from the victim's car as well as items in unopened packaging but with-

out receipts, along with numerous wax paper folds of suspected heroin and other property not belonging to the suspect. Further investigation determined that the items in packaging were stolen from the convenience store located next to the pharmacy in Garwood.

The Garwood Detective Bureau continued the investigation and identified at least two victims of burglary to vehicles in Garwood as well as several more victims of car burglaries in Cranford. Garwood Police are continuing to work with the Cranford Police Department to identify all of the victims from this string of car burglaries and return the property to the rightful owners.

Spalliero was remanded to the Union County jail pending a court appearance.

### CRAFORD

Thursday, November 29, Khayri Hudeen, 22, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue East and Centennial Avenue for a seatbelt violation. Hudeen was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date. In addition, he was issued motor vehicle summonses for a seatbelt violation and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle.

Friday, November 30, Catharine Strom, 37, of Cranford was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue East and the Garden State Parkway 137 Exchange for making an illegal U-turn. Strom was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date. In addition, she was issued motor vehicle summonses for an illegal U-turn, careless driving, failure to observe a red traffic signal and for an unregistered vehicle.

Monday, December 3, James Molloy, 28, of Cranford was arrested and charged with possession of a hypodermic syringe following a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue East and John Street for a seatbelt violation. Molloy was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date. In addition, he was issued a motor vehicle summons for a seatbelt violation.

### FANWOOD

Friday, November 16, a victim came to police headquarters to report her parking permit was stolen out of her motor vehicle, which was parked on the 265 block of South Avenue.

Tuesday, November 20, Christian Melendez, 25, of Elizabeth was arrested pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at North and Hetfield Avenues for a motor vehicle violation. While the officer was speaking with the driver, Melendez, he could detect a strong odor of suspected marijuana coming from the inside of the vehicle. The driver was asked to exit the vehicle while the officer did a search. The officer located the suspected marijuana and Melendez was placed under arrest. He was processed and charged with possession of marijuana and released pending his court appearance.

Tuesday, November 27, police made a motor vehicle stop at East 7th Street and Terrill Road for a motor vehicle violation. A check of the driver, Trevor Gunnell, 25, of Plainfield, showed active warrants out of Fanwood, Plainfield and Edison. Gunnell was placed under arrest, processed and turned over to the Union County Correctional Facility. A check of the passenger, Marcus Peake, Jr., 24, of Linden, showed an active warrant out of Elizabeth. Peake also was arrested, processed and released by Elizabeth Municipal Court pending a new court hearing.

Tuesday, November 27, a resident of the 20 block of Gere Place reported that an unknown person stole a delivered package from the front porch. The incident was caught on a security camera. The suspect is described as a young, thin male wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt and gray sweatpants. He fled in an unknown type motor vehicle. There was no further description.

## Scotch Plains Redevelopment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During the fall election campaign, the three victorious Democratic candidates expressed some concerns about the scope and breadth of potential new development in the downtown.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Stamler, who was elected on November 6 and appointed to the council two weeks ago to fill a vacancy, said she is "looking forward to reviewing the plans developers will be bringing forward." She told *The Times* that she and her running mates, Joshua Losardo and Roshan White, "just want to proceed with caution. This is a huge undertaking and we want our downtown to thrive for all of us to enjoy."

Mr. Losardo said the Democrats, who will control the five-member council come January, "fully grasp that Scotch Plains is required to comply with the affordable-housing settlement, and that redeveloping downtown is part of that." He told *The Times* he believes Mayor Smith's goals — "including promoting economic development, ensuring adequate parking exists, that

there are options for commuters to take NJ Transit buses or trains to and from New York — are sound ideas." He said the township "should be proactive with commercial spaces being made available while also keeping in mind the development on Route 22 as we make plans."

## SP-F BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as well as the Raiders Don't Risk It Distracted Driving Simulator, a program meant to simulate a crash and the emergency response to the aftermath of a distracted-driving incident.

Board members were joined by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Soccer team, who were honored for winning their ninth straight county championship. The Raiders shut out Cranford High School, 2 to 0, in the county championship.



SINGING GALS AND THEIR LEADERS...At the Mountainside tree lighting and visit from Santa on Saturday night, the Girl Scouts of Mountainside sing five songs.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN FANWOOD...Despite a steady drizzle and a little bit of mud, Fanwood's annual Santa arrival and Christmas tree lighting took place Sunday. Mayor Colleen Mahr, who lit the tree with the assistance of Santa Claus, is pictured with Recreation Commissioner Bruce Zakarin and his daughter, Allie.

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