Library Building Project Moves Ahead

The Fanwood Library Improvement Project (FLIP) kicked off the new year with approval from the borough council. FLIP had gained momentum since last fall's successful petition drive that collected over 750 signatures. A remarkable range of Fanwoodians went on record to support the plan, from kids and teens to parents and seniors, as well as many downtown merchants.

The project architect is also exploring ways to lower construction costs. And NJ legislators will vote soon whether to include a referendum on the November ballot that would fund part of the construction to improve libraries like ours (see FLIP below). For more info, write board vice president Jane Frost-Guzzo: janefrost@verizon.net.

Will FLIP Get State Money?

State may pick up portion of building costs

The NJ legislature votes soon on a bill that supports library building projects. Called the NJ Library Construction Bond Act (A222/S2171), its one-to-one match would help Fanwoodians pay the full cost of the library expansion and renovation.

If both the Senate and Assembly approve the bill (which authorizes $125 million in general obligation bonds), a referendum would appear on the November ballot for the public's consideration. Many library advocates are hopeful the bipartisan bond act will pass. The bill is a perfect fit for small libraries like ours: non-ADA compliant, with outdated infrastructure and insufficient space for the community's needs.

The list of supportive libraries is growing. You, too, can encourage a YES vote. Use the sample letter link on the library homepage to write Senator Scutari and Assemblymen Jerry Green and James Kennedy before April 28.

Second Chance Accessories Sale

Donations have begun! Sale is May 5-7.

For the first time, the FRIENDS will hold an accessories sale to raise money for the library. It works just like the book sale: You bring us gently used goods (pashminas, scarves, ties, handbags, jewelry, and some kids' stuff), and we sort and sell them. Our goal is to raise $3,000.

You may bring your donations to the library, ensuring that all materials are clean and usable. To join the volunteer team, contact campell@verizon.net.
Meet Meredith Scheiner
On the front lines of your library

The first thing you notice about Library Assistant Meredith Scheiner is her sunny disposition. Asked to name a favorite aspect of her new position, she couldn’t. “I like it all!” she said. “I’ve always been a big reader and feel lucky to work in a library . . . Who gets to do that?”

A Westfield native and current resident, Meredith attended local schools. Her very first job was working as a page at the town library. She earned her master’s in comparative religion, served as managing editor of the Johns Hopkins newsletter, and became a medical writer. While her children attended the McKinley School, she volunteered in that school’s library. It proved so rewarding that she applied at the FML.

Since last spring’s move into this full-time position, she’s been up front and center at the main circulation desk, now writing all the press releases, putting together the library newsletter, updating Facebook and the Children’s Department pages, and helping Nancy Kipping with programming. Her responsibilities also extend to managing payroll and billing.

Does she see her work changing if the library manages to expand and renovate? “It would be exciting to work in a bigger, newer space. It would energize all our efforts.”

The Word Is Out...

By Jane Van Haasteren

MuseumPass is a hit!

Last year alone, this program made possible nearly 2,500 visits to local museums and education centers for free, or at reduced admission – all thanks to the joint sponsorship of the Friends of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries. There’s no waiting on long ticket-buyers’ lines, and you also qualify for some on-site discounts at museum cafes and stores.

Explore the family-friendly landscape at Grounds for Sculpture. Learn the fun way at Imagine That!! Try some hands-on design at Cooper Hewitt. Walk the famous helix at the Guggenheim. Gaze upward at the great blue whale at the American Museum of Natural History. What’s not to love?

All you have to do is go to the Scotch Plains library and check out the venue’s membership card, just as you would a book. Or, choose the discounted tickets you wish to purchase. Participation is limited to Fanwood and Scotch Plains library card holders, and certain restrictions apply. Check out MuseumPass today! To learn more, click the FRIENDS tab at fanwoodlibrary.org.

Support our supporters! * New in 2017 * Fanwood Pharmacy, Joli Visage Clinic, Shalom Fanwood Nails & Houdini Pizza Laboratory. And many thanks you to our longstanding supporters! Mara’s Cafe & Bakery, Rocko’s Ice Cream, Scotchwood Florist, Norman’s Hallmark, Fanwood Bagel, Double Dipper, Enchantments, Crown Jewelers, Fabio’s Bistro, Nick’s Pizza & Deli, Town Bookstore in Westfield, & Print Tech—printer extraordinaire of this newsletter
A Word from Carol Campell
President of the FRIENDS

First, a big thank-you to the following who bring you Museum Pass (Jane VanHaasteren), Museum newsletter (Annette Madarasz), this newsletter and press releases (Katherine Balch), the book sale (Tlena Rosahl, Tracy Rasmussen), and sound financial management (David Richard). Thanks to Phyllis Brown and Matilda Francis, we have membership records. And without the best “we can do it” crew – Lori Katz, Tuula and Hans Ruhland, Kathi Wildstein, Mindy Matthews, Paula Barry, Arlene Song, Larry and Sally Hogan, Jean Rosen, Marianne Moncrief, Debra and Mark Edelman, Barbara Rodriguez, Cathy Hirschhorn and so many more – the Friends would not be able to make the library all it can be.

For some of us, it’s a family affair! Thena and Thomas, along with daughters Sophia and Melissa, form the active-library-supporting Rosahl family. The multitalented Chaves sisters -- Bianca, Celina and Diana – complement each other and are master book sale volunteers. We all pitch in, share the work, have lots of fun, and often discover a great read from a fellow volunteer. Please contact me to help out – the more the merrier!

Second, my deep appreciation to the volunteers for the petition drive. Their efforts demonstrated to the mayor and council residents’ widespread interest in repairing and expanding the library. They tirelessly canvassed neighborhoods, stood outside Dunkin Donuts and Fanwood Bagel, visited ballgames at the park, and more. We even had a teen crew headed by Sophia Rosahl. It was gratifying to speak to so many residents who understand the need to update and reorganize library space for the services patrons need today and in the future.

Third, we have added another fundraiser to our annual calendar – the Second Chance Accessories Sale. See details on page 1 to donate or volunteer.

Have a great idea that could raise money for the library? Want to join our board? Write me: campell@verizon.net. Thanks to you all!

Children’s Department Update
By Susan Staub, Children’s Librarian

This June, we will again offer our summer program to encourage vacation reading so that valuable skills won’t be lost between June and September. This year’s theme is Build a Better World. Participants log titles of books they’ve read and receive weekly awards.

Children discover in so many ways. Building is especially engaging when we involve books, toys, play, art, music, and STEAM topics. Building with friends and family helps with social skills as we work to solve problems together. A range of building opportunities and structure levels motivate and stimulate participants as they use their creativity to become engineers, architects, and inventors. The sky is the limit for young patrons who find themselves building outside the box.

The FRIENDS of the Fanwood Memorial Library, like other library FRIENDS groups nationwide, is a volunteer group that helps our local library be all it can be. This newsletter is mailed every spring to each Fanwood household and emailed each fall to (willing) FRIENDS members. Editor: Katherine Balch (katherine.balch@verizon.net)
FRIENDS Annual Meeting
May 10 at 7pm at the library

All of Fanwood is welcome! After a brief FRIENDS business discussion, we'll bring on our featured speaker. This year it's Alan Sepinwall.

A writer for Uproxx, he'll discuss his latest work, TV (the Book), and his favorite subject, television.

According to Slate, Sepinwall pioneered the postepisode analysis back when the Sopranos rose to cultural prominence. After a 14-year stretch at the NJ Star-Ledger, he blogged for HitFix and now reviews 10 to 15 shows a week. Sepinwall manages just enough air between his strong emotions and the drama unfolding on his screen to analyze it. More often than not, his morning-after analysis ends up as impassioned cheer rather than diagnostic exam.

Join the FRIENDS & Enjoy the Benefits!

Name _______________________________  New Member ☐ or Renewing Member ☐
Address ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________  E-mail ________________________________

➢ Enjoy these many benefits:
  • 10% (or more!) discount from our growing list of local merchants:
    Fanwood Pharmacy  Houdini Pizza Laboratory  Norman's Hallmark  Enchantments
    Joli Visage Clinic  Mara's Café & Bakery  Fanwood Bagel  Crown Jewelers
    Shalom Fanwood Nails  Scotchwood Florist  Rocko's Ice Cream  The Town Bookstore, Westfield
    Fabio's Bistro  Nick's Pizza & Deli
  • 5 free DVD rentals  • First pick at our annual book sale  • Updates on happenings at area museums

➢ Select a level of giving:
  ☐ OVER THE TOP!!!  $50 or more and we'll post your name at the library with your permission, plus you receive a FRIENDS mug or umbrella as well as all the member benefits above.
  ☐ SPONSOR  $25 and get a stainless steel FRIENDS logo water bottle and all the member benefits above.
  ☐ FAMILY  $20  ☐ INDIVIDUAL  $15  ☐ OTHER _____________

➢ Select a committee. Make a difference!
  ☐ Publicity  ☐ Programs  ☐ Book Sale  ☐ Hospitality

Send your tax-deductible membership fee to the FRIENDS of the Fanwood Memorial Library, 5 Forest Road, Fanwood, NJ 07023, and remember us in your company's matching gifts program. Many thanks! Phyllis Brown and Matilda Francis  pjrbrown@gmail.com  2017