



Jim Drewes, Howard Drewes, Jim Russell: Three Generations of Fanwood Volunteers

Firefighter Jimmy Drewes was in his dress blues, checking over one of the fire engines just a few minutes before the start of this year's Memorial Day Parade.

"This one's as old as me," he said as he ran a hand over some of the vehicle's age marks.

Jimmy, 21, was born at about the same time Engine 7 arrived, a rig both his father and grandfather would ride many times during their years with the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department.

As a boy, Jimmy saw his father, Howard, patrolling the streets as a Fanwood police

officer and, when off duty, responding to fire calls as a volunteer firefighter. And his grandfather, Jim Russell, was always responding to calls as a volunteer with both the fire department and the rescue squad.

The three of them have given thousands of hours of their time over a period of 40 years to the people of Fanwood.

"I like volunteering and I like to help people," says Jimmy, who divides his time between the fire department and the Fanwood Rescue Squad where he is an EMT.

"Fighting fires is exciting but there's more action with the rescue squad because they have lots more calls," he says. The fire department averages about 150 calls a year to the rescue squad's 500.

Howard Drewes, now retired from the police department but still an active firefighter and Fanwood's Emergency Management Coordinator, remembers his reaction when Jimmy wanted to become a firemen, too.

"I was thrilled," he said. "I thought it was great."

Father and son were both in service during the 2004 President's Day house fire that destroyed a home on North Avenue-Jimmy fighting the fire, Howard coordinating the efforts of the fire department with the police and rescue squad.

"Being Emergency Management Coordinator in Fanwood is easy because everyone knows what to do," Howard says. "It's not like some bigger towns where there can be a lot of confusion among the various responders."

Meanwhile, down at the Jersey shore, Jim Russell, Howard's father-in-law, remembers the day in 1996 when he was at his retirement place in Surf City and the local fire chief paid him a visit.

"He saw the Fanwood Fire Department sticker on my car, so he knocked on the door," he remembers. "The rest is history - so much for retirement!"

Russell, a life member of both

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A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

Fanwood observed Memorial Day 2004 by paying tribute to Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The theme for this year was World War II veterans, "the greatest generation." In addition to our local celebration the nation opened a memorial in Washington to those men and women. In a moving ceremony at the Fanwood Memorial Library, I was honored to introduce eight Fanwoodians who are among the 4 million remaining veterans of WWII:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alvina Bell
U.S. Coast Guard | William Kirner
U.S. Navy |
| John Paardecamp
U.S. Army | Charles Smith
U.S. Army |
| Eugene Gatens
U.S. Navy | Pat Masi
U.S. Army |
| Walter Rutkowski
U.S. Navy | Leonard Zuckowski
U.S. Marines |

More than 16 million served in the armed forces during World War II and more than 400,000 died. These seven men and one woman are our neighbors. Thank you, for all you did in securing freedom and democracy.

A special thanks goes out to the Memorial Day "Picnic In the Park" Committee: Linda Caminiti, Pat Plante, Agnes Meade, Victoria Cook, Pam Sayles, and Victoria Gal, Karen Diaz and Phyllis Mirabella. These people worked very hard as a team to make this event possible this year for Fanwood. We also want to thank the many volunteers who were there bright and early to set up and spent the day working. This display of deep volunteer spirit continues to define our town.

Spring and Summer are traditionally busy seasons with a lot of special events. Our Recreation Commission has developed the enclosed list of activities and events for you to enjoy. Please support them any way you can.

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Three Generations of Fanwood Volunteers

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the Fanwood Fire Department and Rescue Squad, was recruited on the spot for the Surf City Fire Department where he now serves as president, EMT and chaplain.

"It's certainly harder being a volunteer now than years ago because the training is much more rigorous and there are many



From left to right, Jim Drewes, Howard Drewes, Jim Russell.

more controls," he says. "For people with full time jobs, it's almost impossible any more. My hat's off to them."

At a time of shrinking budgets and heightened awareness of the dangers in our world, Fanwood is blessed with a family of such caring public servants-- hats off to YOU Jim Russell, Howard Drewes and Jimmy Drewes.

Mark Your Calendars And Save The Date

Fanny Wood Day will be held on Sunday, October 3rd from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in downtown Fanwood. In the event of rain, the celebration will be held the following Sunday, October 10th.

Mark your calendars now to join us for a fun filled day of crafts, entertainment, contests and information.

If you would like to be a vendor, volunteer to help out that day or have suggestions or recommendations contact Councilwoman Donna Dolce by telephone at (908) 889-6072 or by email to DonnaD@VisitFanwood.com.

Contributions, suggestions and comments are welcome and may be sent to:

The Fanwoodian
75 N. Martine Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023

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The Fanwoodian



www.VisitFanwood.com

Meet Your Borough Council: Councilman Andrew Calamaras



Councilman Andrew G. Calamaras moved to the Scotch Plains area in 1972 and has been a resident of Fanwood since 1999. He was educated in New Jersey, having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Rutgers University.

Councilman Calamaras is in the second year of his first term on the Fanwood Borough Council. His current appointments are Public Works Chairman, Senior Citizens Liaison, co-liaison to the Fannywood Day Committee and a member of the Shared Services Coordinating Council, a committee formed by Fanwood, Scotch Plains and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. The focus of this Council is to improve services and lower costs by coordinating utilization of departments that exist in all of the three entities.

The first year and a half in office for the Councilman has seen the completion of the Senior Citizens Center in Forest Road Park. As Senior Citizens Liaison and Public Works Chairman, Councilman Calamaras was involved in both areas as the building progressed. "I enjoy meeting with the Senior Citizens and try to give them an effective avenue to communicate with the Borough Council."

The 2003 Fannywood Day vendors were coordinated through the Councilman's office and due to the success in Vendor participation last year it was decided to continue with that coordination effort.

In addition to his political activities, the councilman is active in the Rotary, having served as President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and will be installed as District Governor for Rotary District 7510 in July of 2005. As Governor, he will have responsibility for 45 Rotary clubs throughout state.

Councilman Calamaras has a son Marc who is married and lives in Pennsylvania.

Borough Appoints New Chief Financial Officer

Fredrick Tompkins was hired as the new Fanwood Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in April replacing Barbara Brennan who retired after 17 years of service. Fred comes to Fanwood with a wealth of experience having served in a similar role in Jersey City.

A Certified Public Accountant, Fred is a partner with the firm of Donohue, Girona and Doria and he is a graduate of St. Peter's College. He is currently an adjunct professor at Caldwell College.

Fred lives in Westfield and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Jersey City.