

# **Police, Rec. Depts., DPW Included In Study Due Out in Dec.**

Thank you for all of your extensive, positive coverage of our two towns' Shared Services efforts and successes for the past 10 years!

Thank you for your recent editorial supporting our current, all-inclusive study including a possible joint or shared police chief and police department. To make the record clear for all of the citizens and taxpayers of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, please continue to highlight the following:

1. The Scotch Plains and Fanwood program is considered a model for other towns in New Jersey to emulate.
2. Our formal shared services coordinating council was first created in 2001, with the mayor and two Council members from each town, plus the president and two members of the "already shared" Scotch Plains – Fanwood Board of Education, and a senior management employee from the three governments.
3. Over the years, the two towns' shared-services record has been outstanding, with dozens of new joint programs and shared services, including joint use of recreation ballfields, joint department of public works equipment, improving and expanding student parking lots, library programs, computer training and programs for sports team field use, a DPW shared services coordinator, and a recreation shared services coordinator, and many more.
4. Opportunities to improve services and/or to save taxpayer dollars have been fully and thoroughly explored and studied, even if they have not always been written about in the newspaper or covered by the Cable TV Station.
5. The current full study for any and all possible new shared services includes possible joint departments, including a joint police department, a joint department of public works and/or a joint recreation department.
6. Representatives of Scotch Plains' and Fanwood's mayors and council members began discussing and seriously planning for this major study last fall. (This study is a statewide, recognized model program.) In March of this year, both towns formally adopted resolutions approving this feasibility study, which is fully paid for with 100 percent state grant funds!
7. An independent, professional and well recognized management consulting company based in Cranford has been hired to complete this study and issue a thorough report by December, 2009, just three months from now. Jersey Professional Management, a company specializing in local government management in New Jersey, is 100 percent non-partisan and has conducted over 100 shared services studies for most municipal services for over 200 towns in New Jersey.
8. Our goals are simple and straight forward: improve municipal services, and/or reduce costs and save taxpayers dollars.

In conclusion, we are pleased to announce the date for the next public forum for our residents and taxpayers to learn more about this study and provide us with their comments, input and suggestions.

The date and location is: Public Forum #2, SP-F Shared Services Study Committee, Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Park Middle School Auditorium.

**Mayor Colleen Mahr  
Fanwood  
Mayor Nancy Malool  
Scotch Plains**