

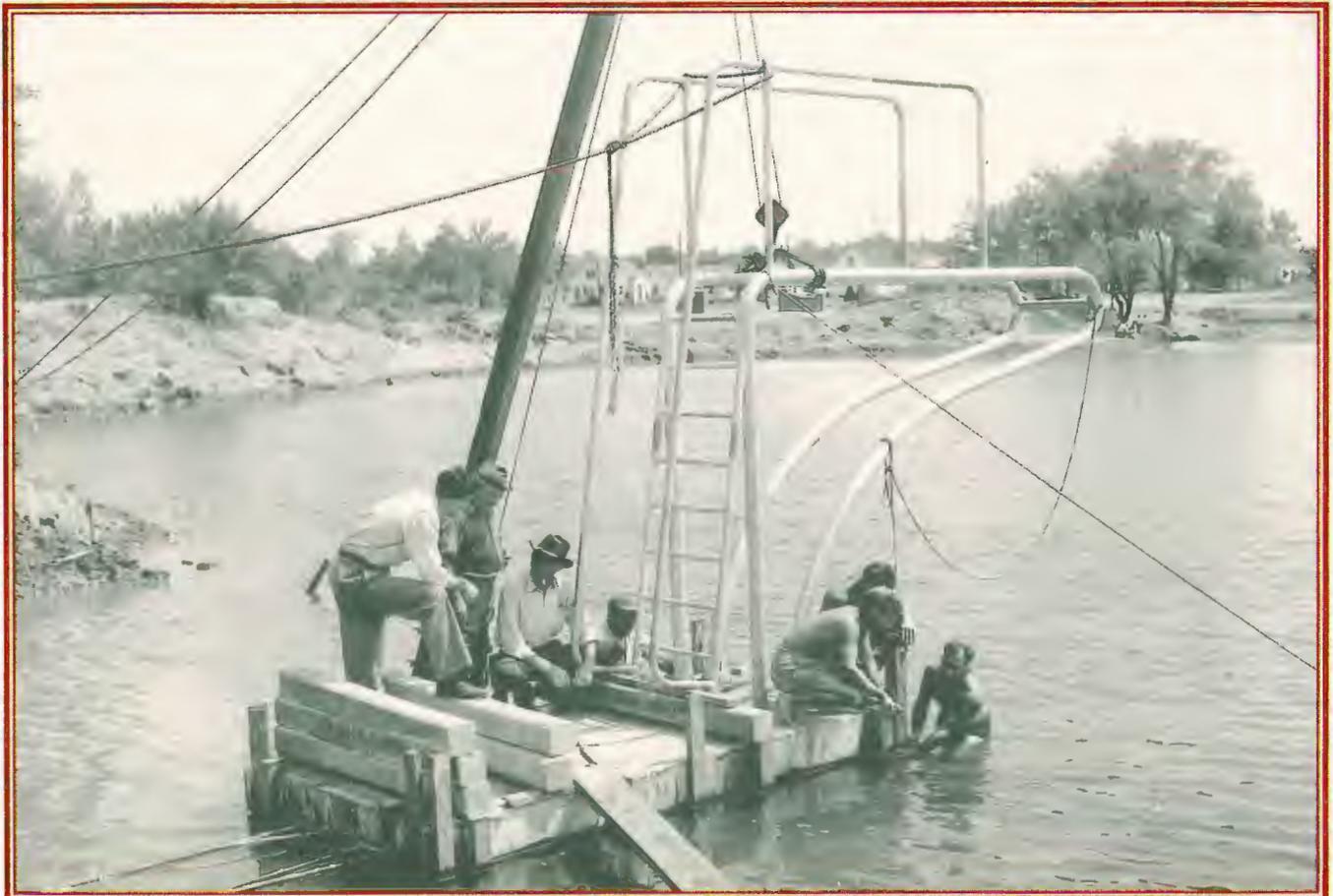


FAIR LAWN

NEW JERSEY

1924 - 1999

“A Work in Progress”



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

The diving board at Fair Lawn's showcase facility – Memorial Pool – is built in 1949.



Fair Lawn 75th Anniversary Logo designed by Jack Donohue

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Fair Lawn 75th Anniversary Journal

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Background photo courtesy of Radburn Association. A Sunday School class in front of the Radburn School, circa 1930.



A MESSAGE FROM JOHN COSGROVE

Chairman of the Fair Lawn 75th Anniversary Committee

'This is still a volunteer town'

At the age of 75, Fair Lawn isn't just surviving – it's thriving. Yes, the corporations, merchants and developers have found the town's vitality a distinct enhancement to their businesses, and our neighborhoods offer some of the finest homes and friendliest blocks in Bergen County. But it's something else.

Fair Lawn is a big town with small-town spirit. Large enough to face the challenges of a suburban center, but intimate enough to offer friendly faces instantly recognizable in every Fair Lawn neighborhood, this is still a volunteer town. The Borough needs the active, committed participation of its people – and its citizens, in turn, revel in their own tradition of civic duty.

The town's organizations in sports, government and emergency services would end overnight if its citizens were not willing to shoulder the responsibility themselves. In fact, the

celebration of our 75th anniversary itself could not have been staged in its full, exuberant form if not for the wonderful volunteers on the 75th Anniversary Committee. Their names are listed below and on the next page. As you read them, please know that it is surely dedication like theirs that got us ably through the first 75 years. This Committee has set an example for all the residents of Fair Lawn and its members have inspired a spirit of community that will carry us through the next 25 years – to our town's Centennial and beyond.

THE FAIR LAWN 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

John Cosgrove

Chairmen of the Committees

FAIR LAWN DAY AMUSEMENTS

Joyce Caratozzolo

WEB PAGE

Joe Cook

75TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

Joe & Marnie Di Vita

FUNDRAISING

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FAIR LAWN DAY EXPO

Cathy Hochkeppel

LONG TIME CITIZENS BANQUET

Jack Hoitsma

75TH ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL

Jerry Jastrab

FAIR LAWN DAY ENTERTAINMENT

Kathy Krieger

"KNOW YOUR TOWN"

League of Women Voters

HISTORICAL TOUR

Richard Lustgarten

FAIR LAWN DAY

Tom Metzler

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

Scott Osback & Tim Yuskaitis

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Marianne Pettineo

FOOD EXPO

Pat Riley

LOGISTICS

Barbara Simon

Background photo courtesy of Recreation and Parks Department. The Sweet Adelines sing in 1966.

Members of the 75th Anniversary Committee

Sheri Adler Matt Ahearn Jay Bender Maura Berutti Bob Beshlian Chris Bonafede Fay Borodogna Allie Bray Marianne Bray Cookie Bredehorst Marge Bueschen Robert Byrne Joanne Cardillo Jack Collins Dot Collins Joe Collins Joan Cosgrove Jim Croucher Dennis Cummins Jr. Barbara Davis Andrew De Fusco Angie Del Buono Debby Della Monica Marie DePassquale Don DeVries Jane Diepeveen Joe Di Vita Marnie Di Vita Florence Dobrow Dot Donohue Regina Elfers Richard Elfers Ed Feldman Alan Fineburg	Elyss Frenkel George Frey Joan Frey Jim Funcheon Dennis Gaul Janet Gaul David Ganz Kari Gallagher Dr. Gilbert Goldenberg Diane Greco Charlie Herman Stuart Herrmann Cathy Hochkeppel Chris Hoitsma Jerry Jastrab Steve Hriunik Ema Liebowitz Penny Kaplan Seymour Karas Maryann King Rick Kellerman Robert Kneer Larry Koplik Linda Kubasta Ken Kubasta Vicky Lent Shirley Loeber Phyllis Lodner Joseph Lomonico Ann Lustgarten Barbara Martin Bev Michaels Gigi Minsky	Lawrence Morgenstein Steve Mulry Tim Murphy Pat Muse John Nakashian Gary Oberndorf Scott Osback Marc Palmieri Richard Purpose Dennis Reardon Pat Riley Geri Rinaldo Jack Rosen Brian Rypkema Ken Rypkema Patti Rypkema Barbara Sacks Madge Schiepan Phyllis Schlossberg Trudy Schweitzer Margaret Scotto Sal Scotto Katie Scully Mark Sedaka Jane Spindell Bonnie Taplits Joseph Tedeschi Evelyn Tomasi Janet Tenore Edward Trawinski Lois Van Olden Barry Winston Steve Wrightman
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A special Thank You to Russ and Roy Zito, whose legendary photography has chronicled Fair Lawn life for many decades. Many of the Journal's best photographs from the Recreation and Parks Department archives were produced by The Zito Studio.

Thank you, as well, to Robert Rogers, whose essential 1960 volume, "From Slooterdam to Fair Lawn," was vital in the Journal's preparation; The League of Women Voters, whose "Know Your Town" book was an important source of data; Jane Salek and Jim Storozuk, Editors of Fair Lawn's 50th Anniversary Journal; and to the unnamed editor of the town's 25th Anniversary Journal.

Background photos by Rae Feldman, courtesy of Recreation Dept. Top, summer fun at Memorial Pool. Bottom, winter fun there.

THE FOUNDING of a COMMUNITY

The Early Years

Fair Lawn became a Borough in 1924, but the land within its borders has a much longer history, beginning with the arrival of the Algonquins, perhaps thousands of years ago. These aborigines apparently migrated from the northwest, possibly from Eurasia across a shallow or frozen Bering Strait into what would become Alaska.



COURTESY OF ROBERT ROGERS

This primitive but effective fish trap was constructed with large rocks in the Passaic River by the Lenni Lenape Native Americans 300 or more years ago. The always-famous "slooterdam" gave the Fair Lawn area one of its earliest names.

THE 'ORIGINAL PEOPLE'

The migration continued to the south and east and the Algonquins who settled on the land that is now Fair Lawn were a peaceful, semi-nomadic society of hunter-gatherers that lived in small villages of extended families. These Native Americans were later known by the British as the Delawares, but called themselves – quite correctly – the Lenni Lenape, or "Original People." Agriculture was fairly new when the Europeans arrived a half a millennium ago and there is evidence that corn was introduced here by Spanish or Portuguese traders.

In the Fair Lawn area, there was a Lenni Lenape trail following the Passayack River – later Passaic, and meaning "valley" – north to the Wackraw area – later Wagaraw, referring to the "big bend" in the waterway. A connecting trail along the present line of Broadway led to the Parampseapus River – which means Cranberry River, and was later called Saddle River. Paramus takes its name from the original Lenni Lenape name for the river.

The Lenni Lenape gradually sold their lands to the Dutch colonists and went west into the area that is now Pennsylvania, but not before their villages were decimated by smallpox, an unknown disease before the Europeans arrived.

NEW SETTLERS FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

By the early 1700's, the land area of present-day Fair Lawn was controlled by a group called the East Jersey Proprietors. They divided the property north of a key east-west line into nine parcels, considered "small lots." Accordingly, the road to the south of the parcels was called Small Lots Road, later to be renamed Fair Lawn Avenue.



COURTESY OF ROBERT ROGERS

Built about 1740, the Naugle House still stands on Dunkerhook Road. One resident of the atypical 2 1/2-story home was a paymaster to the troops of General Lafayette during the Revolutionary War. A historical plaque there tells that Lafayette visited the house when he made his return tour of the United States in 1824.

To the south of what would become Small Lots Road, the East Jersey Proprietors divided the land – bounded also by the Passaic and Saddle Rivers and running until their confluence in the south – into five larger lots.



JERRY JASTRAB

Peter Garretson's house and smelting furnace were built in the early 1700's. Garretson Forge is now a Bergen County museum.

The first owner of record who farmed his land in what is now Fair Lawn was Daniel Danielson, who leased the Slooterdam Patent, or land parcel, from the East Jersey Proprietors in 1708. The sizable tract stretched from the Passaic to the Saddle River and ran north along the Passaic River to the eponymous "slooterdam" itself. A Dutch word that means "closing dam" – for the V-shaped Lenni Lenape fish trap whose stones can still be seen in the Passaic River – Slooterdam became one of the Fair Lawn area's earliest names, although its southern portion extended well below the Borough's 20th-Century border. In another key settlement, the Hopper family secured land at Wagaraw in 1711.

Peter Garretson bought the northern, Fair Lawn-area portion of the Slooterdam Patent in 1719 or 1720 and built a house on River Road in about 1725. According to recent research, a forge was built at the site between 1740 and 1750. Today the Garretson Forge Historic Site illustrates Fair Lawn and early-American history as a Bergen County museum.

NEW WORLD HOUSING, EUROPEAN-STYLE

The Dutch stone houses were built in the Flemish Colonial style characterized by long, low, red sandstone walls with gabled or gambrel roofs, usually with flaring eaves to protect the houses from the weather. All the homes faced south to get the most advantage from the winter sun. The gambrel, or two-pitched, roof was developed to get more room in the attic area.

Some of the original stone houses still standing are the Cadmus House, moved from Fair Lawn Avenue to Pollitt Drive and now serving as the Borough Museum, and the Dutch House, which serves as a tavern on Fair Lawn Avenue east of Plaza Road.

These farmsteads were built in the early 1800's, as was the Garret-Hopper-Milnes House, a 1 1/2-story frame home moved to Warren Road after 1949 to make room for apartment houses on Fair Lawn Avenue.



DAVID JASTRAB

Moved from its original site on Fair Lawn Avenue at 20th Street, the Cadmus House, built in about 1800, is on Pollitt Drive, next to the Radburn Train Station, and serves as the Borough Museum.

CENTERS OF
COMMERCE AND CONVERSATION

An unofficial town center in the 1700's was the Red Mill – for a time known as Zabriskie's Mill – at the junction of two coach roads, one being Swamp Road, later called Paramus Road, and the other Garretson's Lane, later known as Broadway. Originally built on the Saddle River as a grist mill in 1745, the large two-story structure also served the community as a meeting place for the many farmers.



JERRY JASTRAB

The Red Mill – much altered and now out of business – still stands, more than 250 years after its construction in 1745. Sited on the Saddle River south of Route 4, the building served as a gathering place for the area's hard-working farmers.

A generation later, the Red Mill was converted to the manufacture of woolen blankets and linen made from locally grown flax for the Revolutionary Army. At a Christmas party during our War of Independence, in fact, a hero of that time and future Vice President, New Jersey native Aaron Burr, was honored there. His infamy for killing Alexander Hamilton in a Weehawken duel, as well as for an alleged plot against his own nation, would come several years later.

The only roads in the Fair Lawn part of Slooterdam – sometimes spelled Sloterdam or Slotterdam – at the time of the Revolution were Garretson's Lane, Swamp Road, Sloterdam Road, which is now River Road; and Maple Avenue.

FREEDOM'S BATTLEGROUND
ENCOMPASSES SLOOTERDAM

With important elements of the Revolutionary Army encamped in the region or marching through it with frequency, Slooterdam paid its dues in the War of Independence. In a vicious battle in May 1777, for example, the Revolutionary Militia protecting the area faced the Tories south of the Red Mill.

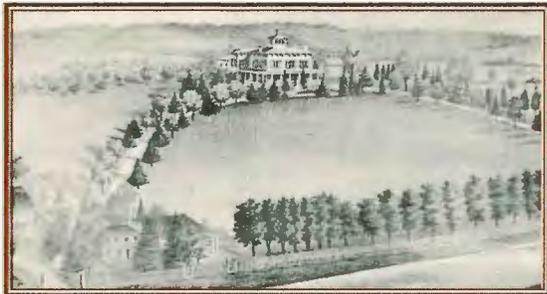
"The overwhelming force of the enemy caused them (the Revolutionary forces) to retreat," wrote John Aaron Ackerman, a Paramus farmer, in his diary. "At the mill they took the road (Garretson's Lane) to the ford over the Passaic River at Slooterdam.

As the water of the river was too deep, escape was prevented and a bitter hand-to-hand encounter occurred on the road near the ford (River Road). When the militia no longer had time to load their muskets, they used their bayonets." Some Revolutionary fighters were captured by the British loyalists but others escaped.



JERRY JASTRAB

The Dutch House, a former homestead built in the early 1700's, serves three centuries later as a meeting place for Fair Lawn residents. The busy tavern is on Fair Lawn Avenue, east of Plaza Road.



COURTESY OF MAURICE PINE FREE LIBRARY

In the mid-1800's, this magnificent estate fronted on the north side of what was known as Small Lots Avenue, later renamed Fair Lawn Avenue. But the house was positioned so far back that it stood well behind what is now Gardiner Road. Owner David Acker named his estate Fair Lawn.

Several residents of Slooterdam served in the Revolutionary Army, which also had to endure Tories who hid in the Great Thicket along Swamp Road to stage raids on farmers who backed the American revolt.

Locals in the American army included Andrew Hopper, General of the Bergen Militia – Hopper Avenue was named to memorialize his service; John H. Post, who, in a strategic operation, dismantled the Aquackanonck Bridge across the Passaic River after Washington's retreat; and John (Joris) Doremus, who served with General George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War.

CHANGES IN LAND AND SOCIETY IN THE 1800'S

As the 19th Century progressed, the larger farms were broken up by sale or inheritance. By 1861 there were three new roads: Small Lots Road, Prospect Street and Cherry Lane, which is today's Lincoln Avenue. A map from that year shows about 80 houses, most of them farmsteads, and indicates that the Fair Lawn area was known as Small Lots.

Slavery was outlawed in Bergen County in 1820, with freedom coming to slaves gradually. Only 41 slaves remained in the County by 1850, but substantial pro-slavery sentiment continued, with a majority voting against abolition's greatest proponent, Abraham Lincoln, during his two races for President in the next decade.

However, the abolitionist cause found support in the County as well. An African-American settlement on Dunkerhook Road, for example, is thought to have been a stop on the fabled "Underground Railroad," an escape route that spirited slaves north to freedom.

Houses were now being built in the Victorian style. Perhaps the grandest of these was the Acker home, built about 1850 on one of the highest points in the region. A huge lawn sloped down to Small Lots Road and when David D. Acker occupied the house he called the estate "Fair Lawn."

When the Erie Railway Company's Bergen County Line – popularly known as the Bergen County Shortcut – came through in the early 1880's, Acker built a railroad station at Small Lots Avenue for his guests' convenience and labeled the building with a sign that read "Fair Lawn." As we know, the town used the same name when it incorporated as a Borough in the next century.



COURTESY OF CADMUS HOUSE

David Acker built this Train Station on the Erie Railroad's Bergen County Shortcut so his friends could visit him. Taken from his nearby estate, the Station name – as was often done at the turn of the century – was eventually adopted by the town itself.

Other notable 19th-Century homes were the mansion of silk magnate George Morlot near the Passaic River, which structure later became the Hamlin School; the Van Riper-Ellis Homestead at Morlot Avenue and River Road, torn down to make way for the Van Riper-Ellis Church; the Adam Hopper House, later bought by the Borough for Henry "Pop" Milnes Boys Club; and the Sheriff Henry A. Hopper Farmstead, built in 1855 and rebuilt in 1880 after a fire.



COURTESY OF JIM CROUCHER



COURTESY OF CADMUS HOUSE

Above, the Fair Lawn Avenue homestead of Sheriff Henry Hopper in 1919, the year it was sold to the Croucher family of Queens, N.Y. At left, Florence and Perce Croucher.

In 1919, Sheriff Hopper sold his farmstead to William Croucher of Queens, N.Y., and the house became known as the Croucher Farm. One of the the last original Victorian homes in the Borough, the building was condemned by the State in the 1980's for a ramp to Route 208.

PRESERVATION BEFORE PROGRESS

Carefully excavated by State-commissioned archaeologists before the house's demolition, the Croucher Farm site is marked by a tablet and garden, and maintained by one of the farm's last residents, Jim Croucher. It is for his family that the main road in the Fair Lawn Commons housing complex – Croucher Lane – is named.

As late as 1876, the Borough was mainly agricultural, a part of Saddle River Township. The only new



COURTESY OF JIM CROUCHER

Above, the Croucher children about 1920. Jim poses attentively in the basket. In 1953, the equipment on the Croucher Farm was auctioned off; at right, in anticipation of the sale of the farmstead itself. Farmers, entrepreneurs and the curious gathered at the estate for the event.



COURTESY OF JIM CROUCHER

road was Berdan Avenue, on or near which five Berdan families had farms. An atlas of that year shows 60 named residences, many of whose owners were descendants of the original settlers.

But as America changed with the new century, progress in the community that came to be known as Fair Lawn would eventually outpace that of the nation itself.



A Saddle River Township referendum on the proposed construction of five schools in what are now Fair Lawn and Saddle Brook was held, but all that were approved were one school in Saddle Brook and a new brick building to replace the wooden Warren Point School. This angered residents in other sections of town whose children were served by only the old, overcrowded Washington School, while Columbia Heights children had to attend Hawthorne schools.



COURTESY OF JANE DIEPVEEN

The Fair Lawn and Paramus Clarion provided a newsprint forum for political expression in the years after the Borough's creation. It was published by Warren Point printer Clinton Kimball.

A movement to secede from Saddle River Township was started and hotly debated, with some farmers fearing taxes would rise and other Fair Lawn-area citizens complaining they were paying high taxes anyway while not getting schools for their own neighborhoods. Led by the Saddle River Township Taxpayers Association, the advocates of independence – sometimes called the “Borough Fanatics” – fomented a rebellion that even broke out into scuffles and fistfights.

In a referendum on the issue held April 5, 1924, about one-fourth of the Fair Lawn area's 3,900

residents cast ballots and voted the Borough into existence. The vote was 602 to 401 in favor of independence. Now the community leaders who won their case among their neighbors initiated the process of incorporation itself. The rebellious community successfully petitioned the State for enabling legislation to incorporate the Borough of “Fairlawn,” corrected to “Fair Lawn” in 1933.

THE NEW TOWN GETS ORGANIZED

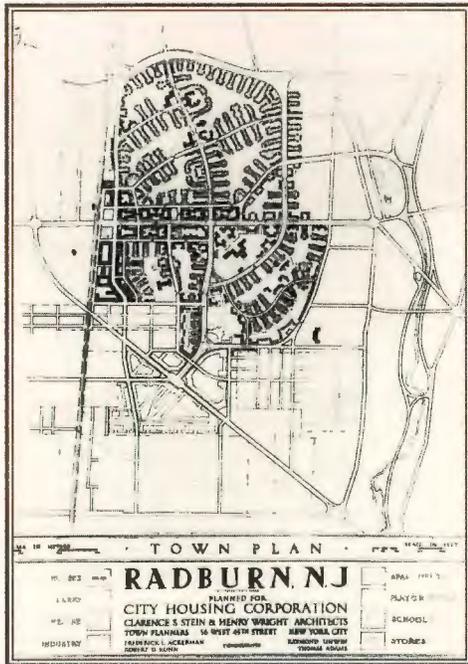
At an Organization Meeting on June 2, 1924, convened in the Company 1 Firehouse on River Road, the Borough's leaders forged their town's Government and designed its vital municipal services. With newly chosen Mayor Robert Smith presiding, the six Councilmen got right to work, appointing a Tax Collector and Assessor, Building Inspector, Chief Police Marshal, Borough Clerk, Recorder, Attorney and Postmaster.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Fair Lawn's original Borough Hall, part of the David Acker estate, was on Gardiner Road and 11th Street, where the Senior Center was later built.

In other priorities that followed, a Municipal Budget was adopted and a snow plow acquired. In 1927 the Acker Estate was purchased for use as the Borough Hall, a referendum for construction of a water plant was passed, and a three-member Board of Tax Assessors was established.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

The City Housing Corporation's original plan for Radburn, an international landmark known for its innovative, self-contained and traffic-safe environment.

The subdivision plats laid out earlier were still sparsely settled, except those in Fair Lawn Center, Warren Point and Columbia Heights. In those areas, employees from the factories found homes in which they could be near their work but still live in “the country.” New factories followed in Fair Lawn and stores were established to serve the new residents, but without the Zoning Code restrictions of later years, smaller manufacturing plants were mixed in with the homes.

The first Board of Education was elected in May 1925. The Lincoln School, so badly needed in Columbia Heights, and the Roosevelt School – later renamed the Forrest School – had already been approved by the voters and constructed. Statutes outlawing child labor and requiring compulsory school attendance – along with Fair Lawn’s burgeoning development – were responsible for successful 1929 referenda for construction of the Radburn School and additions to the Lincoln and Warren Point Schools. More new schools and additions were built as the Borough’s rapid growth continued.

THE BREAKAWAY BOROUGH GROWS UP

The prosperous ‘20’s had reached Fair Lawn by the time the community achieved Boroughhood, but most of its area was still farmland. Despite the substantial increase in homes to service textile workers, most land was actively farmed for vegetables, fruits and corn, and George Peterson home-grown roses and peonies along Fair Lawn Avenue and the Erie Railroad’s Bergen County Line were famous.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

The Plaza Building as it looked in the 1930’s, when the Radburn section it served was built out to become Fair Lawn’s fourth major community.

In Fair Lawn Center, River Road had a restaurant and hotel, a food market, Kuiken Bros. Lumber, and the Company 1 Firehouse. The Landzettel and Sons Paint Factory was on Fourth Street and the Warren Bronze and Aluminum Factory, which still stands, was on Second Street. (In the Journal section called *A Crossroads of Commerce*, there is more on Borough businesses.) A vital part of the Fair Lawn Center neighborhood was the three-room Bergen Avenue School, which educated about 50 pupils.

**THE TOWN DEVELOPS,
SECTION BY SECTION**

By 1924, the new Borough's northwest corner had many houses and businesses to serve the growing population. Columbia Heights, at and around the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Wagaraw Road, had only about five other streets. On them were a new firehouse and a general store, with a new school set to be built soon. Along with the Paterson textile industry itself, the Wagaraw Bleachery, Wagaraw Silk Mill and Wyder's Textile Piece Dyeing and Finishing Corporation of America all drew employees from Columbia Heights.

Although Warren Point was constructed before most other sections of town, it was not densely developed – this despite including a church, Post Office, Broadway itself and the Hudson River Trolley to Paterson and Hackensack. There was also a train stop on the Bergen County Line, which railroad station was actually built for one wealthy commuter. And the neighborhood featured, as well, a butcher who made Borough-wide deliveries, a gas-line station, shoemaker and an A&P supermarket, all on the north side of Broadway at or near Hartley Place, a continuation of Midland Avenue.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

Fair Lawn Avenue as it looked in the 1930's, when a pedestrian bridge spanned it near Radburn Road, joining the Radburn development's north and south sections.

Another key structure in Warren Point was the new brick, eight-room, referendum-approved school at 30th Street, which had replaced the earlier frame structure. West of Hartley Place were about 20 homes and beyond these, the Kimball Press and the Turner Silk Mill operated where Banta Place was later established. The subdivision now known as Lyncrest was undeveloped and the Elmwood Country Club extended south of Broadway. East of the school now known as Warren Point was an orchard and beyond that a cluster of narrow lots.

Broadway ended at a traffic circle with Saddle River Road, which then continued south as Swamp Road. Traffic crossed the Saddle River at Red Mill Road, which is still in use. This area was called Arcola and had several farms and the Terhune Brothers farm stand, where their ancestors' General Store had stood.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Fair Lawn Swimming Team competes against Glen Rock's at Memorial Pool in August 1953, as part of the Borough Government's diverse Recreation Program.

Except for those settlements, and the mansions of George Morlot and a few others, Fair Lawn in 1924 comprised mostly farm land. But several other major subdivisions would soon be proposed to the community's leaders and, along with new roads and schools to serve them, those new neighborhoods would soon launch the town's precipitous expansion.

From 1925 to January 1, 1929 the estimated population multiplied from 1,800 to 4,500 people as families were attracted to the new housing and schools. The development of Radburn -- the unique "Town for the Motor Age" with super blocks, cul-de-sacs and interior parks separating vehicles and pedestrians -- produced its own growth spurt from 1929 until about 1933, when construction all over America was slowed by the Great Depression. Known throughout America and many foreign nations as an innovative, trail-blazing community, Radburn was built east of Plaza Road on both sides of Fair Lawn Avenue. It was in 1933 that a Zoning Ordinance was created, establishing the Zoning Board of Adjustment and separating industrial land development from residential.

RAPID GROWTH AND ITS CONTROL

As the flames of a new global war were fanned in Europe in the late 1930's, growth picked up again in Fair Lawn and in 1939, the town gave itself more control over private development by creating a Planning Board and a Board of Subdivision Control. Between the 1940 U.S. Census and 1941's wartime Sugar Rationing Registration, Fair Lawn emerged as the fastest-growing municipality in the country, with population increasing from 9,000 -- double its 1929 reading -- to about 13,000.

Ground was broken for Fair Lawn High School during this period and, despite World War II's shortages in material, the facility opened in the fall of 1943 as a junior-senior high school -- reputed to be the only secondary school in the country completed during the war.

A FOREIGN WAR HITS HOME

Most of Fair Lawn's young men left their town and country to fight the war, and sadly, many never returned. On the Home Front, the community, like the nation, also endured air raid drills; dim outs, in which citizens and businesses extinguished lights at night to keep Fair Lawn from becoming a possible target for enemy bombs; rationing of food and supplies; War Savings Time to conserve electricity; and – despite those programs – shortages in key provisions.

The war's impact also registered when the old Wagaraw Road factories were taken over by Wright Aeronautical, which made airplane engine parts, and by a company which manufactured parachute material. In even more direct utilization of the Borough by the military, an anti-aircraft unit was deployed in Columbia Heights and, at one end of Radburn, a staging camp was set up for units going overseas.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mayor Richard Vander Plaats places a time capsule in the corner of the new Municipal Building in 1960.

Fair Lawn men lost in the war are remembered by a monument in Memorial Park., which was dedicated on July 4, 1949, 25 years after the Borough's creation.

AN EXPLOSION IN POPULATION AND PROGRESS AFTER THE WAR

With World War II's end in 1945, an upsurge in construction came to Fair Lawn again as farmland was converted to housing tracts. In 1950 alone, the Planning Board approved 20 subdivisions.

With the town Administration's workload thus increased, the community, in 1948, ended the Mayor and Council system and voted in a Council-Manager Government. That system features a five-member Borough Council, whose members choose the Mayor from their own ranks, and a full-time Borough Manager, who exercises great executive powers to run the town. That system, with minor changes, remained in effect in 1999.

The Borough's population grew from 9,000 in 1940 to an estimated peak of 37,000 in 1968, even more than the estimated 33,000 citizens it would hold in 1999. The Fair Lawn Industrial Park was developed by McBride Construction on the Hopper-Croucher farm in the 1950's, with additions in the following decade.

Local shopping areas were expanded, chiefly along Route 4, River Road, Plaza Road and Saddle River Road. New schools and additions were constructed, often after hard-fought battles among the PTA's, the Citizens School Committee and their allied organizations, and those opposed to higher taxes. Because of limited classroom space, some schools had to divide the day – and the enrollment – into morning and afternoon sessions.

A DO-IT-YOURSELF COMMUNITY BUILDS ITS OWN FUTURE

Fair Lawn has always been a volunteer town, starting with the Fire Companies of its earliest days and Councilmen William Croucher and Garret Houtsma operating the new snowplow. Borough-wide civic associations were started during the great post-World War II growth period to deal with varied problems created by the rapid development. The Public Library, Memorial Pool and the Helda Walsh Pool were all conceptualized and realized by volunteer leaders.

In 1953, in fact, Fair Lawn received an All-American Cities Award from the National Municipal League. The town's growth never stopped and, through the decades following World War II, the development consumed all the Borough's farm land. The expansion, however, and the larger tax base it created, allowed for important public construction during that period, like a new Borough Hall on Fair Lawn Avenue, the Maurice Pine Library (covered in the section called *Dreams on Loan*), a Youth Center and Senior Center.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF DIVERSITY

Fair Lawn's 33,000 citizens utilize a varied housing stock of one- and two-family homes, townhouses and rental and condominium apartments. In those homes live an ever more varied mix of people, many newly arrived in America. One of the Borough's most important challenges as it moves toward its Centennial year, 2024, will be accommodating the latest wave of newcomers so all can share in the promise and stability of this dynamic community.



JERRY JASTRAB

Signs like this, funded by local businesses and organizations, were put up in 1997 at all key roadways that lead into the Borough. This one is just east of the Fair Lawn Avenue Bridge.

Operating a Modern Society

A COUNCIL OF OUR PEERS

Towns the size of Fair Lawn must often pay professionals to craft the laws, approve spending plans and handle the emergent matters that the Borough's elected and appointed Government does without full-time compensation. The **Borough Council**, in fact, must hold two regular Public Meetings and two Work Sessions a month just to process its most important work – twice the number of meetings of many nearby towns.



JERRY JASTRAB

The 1999 Borough Council examines an updated plan for the Fair Lawn Commons housing development at a Work Session in January. Seated, from left, are Councilman Joseph Tedeschi, Mayor David Ganz and Councilwoman Florence Dobrow. Standing, from left, are Councilmen Edward Trawinski and Matthew Ahearn.

The Council's five members choose the **Mayor** from their own ranks, requiring that colleague to conduct Council meetings, make many key appointments and set the pace for the community's progress during the mayor's tenure.

Mayor David Ganz, who took office on January 1, 1999, said, "Fair Lawn's jubilee year is an exciting time to serve" his town, adding that his term in office would also see him at the helm as the Borough reaches the new millennium. "We're becoming a major transportation hub," the Mayor said, describing progress he sees for Fair Lawn in the year 2000 and beyond. That expansion – in population and commerce – would likely follow the huge NJ Transit rail improvements being undertaken in Secaucus, he said.

RENEWED GROWTH AT 75

The Borough's growth is also coming from within, Mayor Ganz noted. "It's probably safe to say that with the addition of Fair Lawn Commons, we're becoming a prime location for homeowners and apartment-dwellers, and a a more vibrant community, which Fair Lawn is," Mayor Ganz said.

Speaking on April 5, 1999, at a reenactment of Fair Lawn's first Government meeting, held in June 1924, Mayor Ganz praised his town's 75 years of progress and marveled at advances just ahead: "Frankly, who would have thought, even five years ago, that the Borough of Fair Lawn – and, indeed, even its 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee – would have their own Web sites, <http://www.fairlawn.org> and <http://www.fairlawn75.org>."

“Before, if you wanted to know the Council’s agenda, you would call the Municipal Clerk’s office, or read the bulletin board, or attend the meeting and read the handout,” Mayor Ganz continued. “You can still do that, but since February 1999, our automatic (Web-site-visitor) counter tells us that increasingly, our residents are looking at the Borough’s Web site for this information, which is updated at least weekly – sometimes daily.



JERRY JASTRAB

At its meetings, the Borough Council is aided by its top professionals, including, from left, Borough Engineer Ken Garrison, Borough Attorney Richard Lustgarten and Borough Clerk Joanne Kwasniewski.

“A couple of years ago, when someone wanted to speak to the Mayor or the Borough Manager, they could call on the telephone, write a letter, or attend a Council Meeting. Now they can send a direct electronic mail to the e-mail address: mayor@fairlawn.org, or manager@fairlawn.org.”

There’s even more work waiting for Council members on their Committees, like Finance and Public Safety, but for critical decisions in land use and regulations, the town counts on its appointed **Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment**.

FAIR LAWN’S CHIEF EXECUTIVE



JERRY JASTRAB

Borough Manager Barbara Sacks.

Despite the substantial work performed by elected officials, however, it is the Borough Manager, a paid, full-time employee, who runs the town day to day and oversees the various sections of the Borough’s busy, diverse Administration.

“We’re on a very aggressive campaign right now to make all the public spaces in town look better, said Borough Manager Barbara Sacks, describing a Government initiative citizens would see in 1999. “We’re working on the parks, we’re working on the strips of land around the town, like patches of land around the public buildings. We’re really going to try to ‘green up’ the Borough.”

Other changes that are in the works “won’t be visible,” Sacks said, but “they’ll make people happy. We’re putting in place a very user-friendly atmosphere right here in Borough Hall. We’ve started the process and people are beginning to notice.”

“If you’re dealing with the Borough Administration, you’ll notice the new attitude,” Sacks added. “We’re eager to please.”

Sacks sits with the Council during its meetings to provide answers only a hands-on chief executive would know. By her side at the sessions is **Borough Clerk Joanne Kwasniewski**, who chronicles the meetings in her minutes.

Fair Lawn, like only a few County towns, has its own **Legal Department**, headed by full-time **Borough Attorney Richard Lustgarten**, who also attends Council sessions to advise the Government. In addition, the Borough also has its own **Engineering Department** and **Borough Engineer Kenneth Garrison** joins the Council as well, to assist the Government with the frequent discussions on design and construction.



JERRY JASTRAB

*Chief Financial Officer
Barry Eccleston*

To meet the Borough's pressing need to control its money matters effectively, Fair Lawn created a full-time position. "The last decade has witnessed dramatic changes in the field of public funds management as well as rapid advances in technology," said **Chief Financial Officer Barry Eccleston**. "By keeping pace with these changes, the Finance Department has helped the Governing Body improve the efficiency of Borough operation at the lowest possible cost to residents."



JERRY JASTRAB

A citizen conducts business at the Tax Collector's window in Borough Hall.

Lawn's blueprint for the future looks bright," Eccleston continued. "Fair Lawn's finances should always be considered a work in progress and as we approach the new millennium with effective capital planning, programming and budgeting, future Councils will be able to help their residents enjoy all of the services and programs that are provided today."

The **Department of Public Works (DPW)** makes the town run and keeps it going, in the purest sense of those words. Without the workers in the orange shirts, operating the heavy yellow trucks, the town would literally fall apart.

Roads must be repaired, trash and recycling collected, water pumped to residences and sewage pumped away, trees trimmed and cut down, public buildings maintained, and the broken, messy remains of major mishaps cleaned up or – one by one – the facilities, systems, services and activities that comprise the town would shut down.



NICK MESSINA

The DPW Water Division's Pump Station at the Saddle River Road facility.

The DPW has 70 employees spread among the Administrative, Building Maintenance, Roads Services, Sewer Services, Water, Shade Tree, Electrical Services, Recycling and Vehicle Maintenance Divisions.

Along with the more typical municipal responsibilities like road maintenance and recycling, Fair Lawn's DPW also provides its citizens with water and sewer service and tree maintenance.



JERRY JASTRAB

DPW Superintendent William Davidson



JERRY JASTRAB

The popular, vital Mini-Bus Program, operated by the Department of Health and Human Service, links the four corners of Fair Lawn for its citizens young and old. Here the free service helps passengers on Plaza Road heading north, just south of Fair Lawn Avenue.

“We’re going to continue upgrading various levels of service,” said Public Works Director William Davidson about DPW’s plan for 1999 and beyond.

“The one area we’re really zeroing in on is shade trees,” Davidson said. “With the assistance of outside contractors, we hope to keep current with removal, trimming and replanting of trees.”

Many trees on Borough property or in public right-of-way were diseased or otherwise compromised by the late 1990’s and the Shade Tree Division’s four employees, with Borough-approved outside firms, were set to repair or replace all of the unhealthy ones by the spring of 1999.

“They’re going to be red maples, for the most part, which are very appropriate for our area. They enhance the environment,” Davidson said.

In 1999, Shade Tree was set to replace more than 200 trees. Along with red maples, residents would also see new ash trees and zelkovas, which are called Village Green Trees, and, where appropriate, flowering cherry trees, Davidson said.



NICK MESSINA

This familiar Saddle River Road signpost announces the variety of services performed at the municipal complex there.

The Borough Government was also served by the following people, in these positions and Boards, in 1999:

<u>BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION</u>		
<u>TAX ASSESSOR</u> Thomas McCullum	<u>HEALTH OFFICER</u> Denise DePalma-Farr	<u>FIRE MARSHAL</u> Jay Bender
<u>TAX COLLECTOR</u> Carol Barclay	<u>MUNICIPAL JUDGE</u> Dennis Lahiff	<u>HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR</u> Bernice May
<u>CONSTRUCTION/ZONING OFFICIAL</u> Thomas Van Hook	<u>COURT ADMINISTRATOR</u> Carmela Breslin	<u>RECYCLING COORDINATOR</u> Ron Lottermann
<u>PLANNING BOARD</u> Lewis Sprechman Chairman Scott Levy Vice Chairman Matthew Ahearn Joseph Daloisio III David Ganz Kenneth Garrison James Grauso Lawrence Josephs Cathy McAuliffe Lawrence Morgenstein Nelsie Parrado Gail Stussi	<u>ZONING BOARD</u> Mark Sedaka Chairman Harvey Rosenberg Vice Chairman Perry Bolkin Martin Etler Jimmy Jesrally Charles Panella Richard Spitale John Stramiello Lisa Swill	<u>RENT LEVELING BOARD</u> Kevin Antonelli Allan Caan Wayne Canastra Robert Hanjinlian Bea Leiderman Leslie Levine Jack Link Joseph Meer Larry Metzger Rober Waxman
<u>LIBRARY BOARD</u> Sheri Adler Victor Amato Joanne Cardillo Carol Herron Betty Schacher Phyllis Weglein Jerome Weiner Freda Wettach	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION</u> Elaine Winshell Chairman Mary Burdick Wendy Dabney Florence Dobrow Lawrence Josephs Joseph Pineiro Ann Rempel Samuel Wolosin	<u>LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD</u> Harry Becker Ed Feldman Shirley Loeber Marie McKenna Susan Winston

COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Background photo: Aerial view, looking north, of the McBride industrial area in north-central Fair Lawn in about the 1950's.



Recollections



Oral Histories from Longtime Residents

{ Interviews conducted by Jane Diepeveen, Seymour Karas, and Jerry Jastrab }



COURTESY OF EDNA SPORN

Edna Sporn

“My folks were looking for a new location (in 1930) and they finally found an ad in one of the New York papers – it mentioned Radburn. Of course, the George Washington Bridge wasn’t finished at the time, so we were on the ferry. Route 4 was only three lanes wide and the middle lane was for passing.

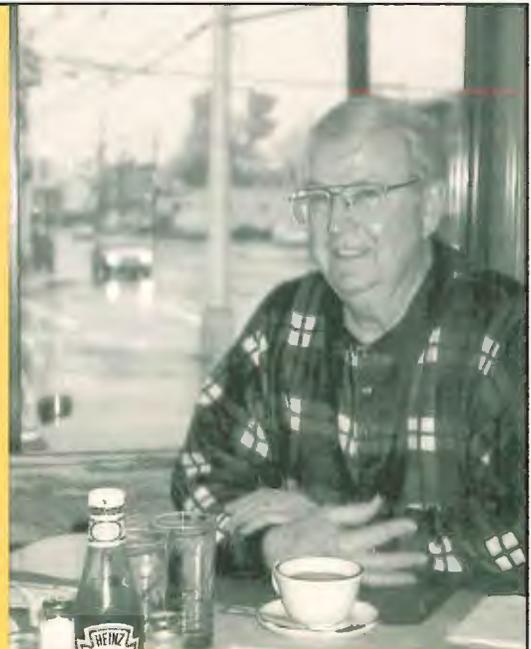
“The S-turn in Plaza Road was put in purposely to slow down the fast cars. Some people had a car by the name of ‘The Cord’ and it was a real flash car and they were going to control the speed with that S-turn.

Jim Croucher

“There was no busing to school (in the 1920’s and 30’s). You either walked through the woods when it was dry or on the avenue when it was wet.

“In the winter, people would bring their toboggans to Lowe’s Farm, the high point on Fair Lawn Avenue. You could go all the way down to Berdan Avenue from there, which made it a beautiful ride—but a lousy walk back.

“In the decades after, there was an explosion of people and the farms gave way to houses and other development in what became the expansion of America.



JERRY JASTRAB

The Police Department has grown with the town through the decades, expanding its roster and enhancing its skills to maximize safety during Fair Lawn's precipitous growth. But in the years after its creation in 1924, the Borough was protected only by 13 part-time Marshals who responded as needed, using their own cars and communicating by telephone. On Sundays and holidays, the roads – all six of them – were crowded, so the town purchased a motorcycle for the Marshals to patrol Fair Lawn Avenue, Broadway, River Road, Saddle River Road, Maple Avenue and Lincoln Avenue.

The arrival of the Textile Dyeing and Printing Company in the west side of town, and the development of the Radburn section in the east – coupled with Fair Lawn's overall growth – greatly advanced the need for full-time police presence and compelled the town to create a fully paid force in 1930. The Police Department of four officers increased, in two years, to six and then, in another two years, to nine. For the agency, home at that time was in the old Borough Hall on 11th Street, where things once got too hot in the Police Station itself.

IN THEIR OWN HOUSE



JERRY JASTRAB

Former Police Patrolman Milton Capwell in his Fair Lawn home.

“There was the time a call came into the dispatcher that our own building was on fire,” remembered former Patrolman Milton Capwell. “The building was burning and we didn’t even know it.”

Smoke was pouring furiously out of their own roof, a resident told police, who quickly looked up inside their quarters and observed a frightening sight. “That tin ceiling was cherry red,”

Capwell recalled.

With the building loaded with gunpowder as well as other police equipment, “It’s a good thing they got the Fire Companies in there in a hurry,” Capwell said. He recalled as well that the trouble in their own house didn’t keep the police out of business long. “They had the desk back in operation the next day,” he said.

The Headquarters survived the fire there after the birth of the Borough but soon gave way to the town’s development. Fair Lawn wasn’t done growing yet and neither was its police force. As the town built itself out, its leaders approved a Police Department many times the size of its earliest incarnations, and along with the Borough’s Administration, the Police Department moved into the new Borough Hall on Fair Lawn Avenue in 1960.

By the 1990’s, the force comprised 54 officers, housed in the agency’s own section of Borough Hall. The officers included two Captains, four Lieutenants, eight Sergeants, 39 Patrolmen and a Department leader.

Except for a brief period in 1998, when the leadership was turned over to the civilian position of Police Director, the highest rank in the agency has been that of **Police Chief**, and in 1999 veteran Department member **Rodman Marshall** was appointed to that post by Borough Manager Barbara Sacks.



JERRY JASTRAB

Police Chief Rodman Marshall in his office

To perform other vital work, the Department also employs four radio dispatchers, three clerks, a secretary, a mechanic, an Animal Warden with four part-time assistants, and more than 30 School Crossing Guards.

TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR 2000 AND BEYOND

The Department's size and training have allowed a sophisticated organizational structure whose operations are separated into three Divisions: Patrol, Technical Services and Administration. At their own pistol range near the Recycling Center, the police sharpen their skill in firearms, in order to meet and control violent crime with appropriate force.

And as the new millennium approached, the officers on patrol were given two key items that advanced police work significantly while enhancing public safety in the most basic form.

Each cruiser is outfitted with a Mobile Data Terminal, or MDT, that can prepare complex messages and radio them to Headquarters, or consult County, State and National law enforcement or motor vehicle data banks to learn crucial information about vehicles, motorists or suspicious persons.

With funds from Hackensack University Medical Center and training from St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, cruisers were also equipped with defibrillator devices – the electronic medical miracles that can shock a stilled heart back to life.

“We’re trained as first responders,” said **Robert Martin**, the veteran Jersey City police officer who served as Fair Lawn’s **Police Director** for the last nine months of 1998. “We can give medical help and we’re allowed to use defibrillators.”

The Police Department can deploy six defibrillators around town in its patrol cars on each tour of duty, Martin said, and as the first to arrive at most scenes of medical emergency, police – ready to use their defibrillators – will be able to save many lives that would have been lost in years past.



NICK MESSINA

Patrol Officer Karen Censulo comforts an entrapped motorist after a serious traffic accident.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Other life-saving work is less visible to the public, but just as vital. For example, when **Sgt. Michael Messina** and **Patrolman Lou Evangelista** responded separately to a call on November 18, 1998, a citizen's report of a stranger in a back yard suggested, at worst, a possible burglary. But soon, the lives the officers would be fighting to protect included their own.

When Sgt. Messina stopped his cruiser on 11th Street, the suspect was walking south on the block. Questioned by the officer and asked to display the contents of his pants pockets as a possible burglar, the man, in his 50's, nervously pulled out item after item – including suspicious ones like a black skull cap and a bundle of nylon strips – keeping Sgt. Messina busy as the officer took each one, inspected it quickly, and turned to place it on his vehicle.

As the officer turned away with one item, the suspect suddenly pulled up his sweater and when Sgt. Messina looked back, "He was in the process of pulling out and pointing a handgun at me."

By that time, Evangelista was on the scene but was waiting quietly behind the suspect, out of his sight, Sgt. Messina said, adding "He never realized there was another officer there."

Sgt. Messina alerted his colleague by yelling out "Gun!" and – rather than initiating a possibly deadly duel – responded by reaching for the weapon that was threatening his life.



NICK MESSINA

Police Sgt. Michael Messina, left, and Patrolman Lou Evangelista

"With my right hand I grabbed the gun and with my left hand I grabbed his wrist and pushed toward his midsection," Sgt. Messina said. "Louie grabs hold of him and takes him down to the ground, and I was able to take the gun from his control."

The officers were then able to subdue the suspect and arrest him, but the questions of "What if?" linger. For one thing, the nylon strips – sometimes used by criminals to tie up victims – suggested the possibility of not only a burglary but a home invasion. And the suspect's own comment to the sergeant after his arrest added an even more ominous tone to the incident. "You got to understand, I'm a Federal parolee," the suspect told the officer, referring to the stiff sentences handed to those who violate U.S. parole, Sgt. Messina noted.

One thing that Sgt. Messina is certain about, however, is that without Evangelista on the scene, he would have had to draw his own gun. "Who knows what would have happened?" Sgt. Messina said. "I don't want to know."

With community policing set as a high priority, the officers feel they will benefit from a switch from the gray uniforms they wore for some 40 years, to newly designed outfits in blue. “It makes you more recognizable as a police officer to the general public, especially for those from out of town,” Police Chief Marshall said.

In a special project prompted by community concerns, the Department addressed the problem of teens congregating in the late-night hours at shopping areas, according to Police Chief Marshall. Coordinated by Sgt. Joseph Cook, the program focused on the CVS Shopping Center on Fair Lawn Avenue at Plaza Road, where surveys were handed out to patrons – and to the teenagers themselves.

“We did a survey on the kids that were part of the problem,” Police Chief Marshall said. “We did a survey on the shoppers – what they thought.”

The surveys were also featured on the Department’s Home Page – its interactive Web site, maintained by Sgt. Cook – that is also part of Fair Lawn’s Home Page itself, found at <http://www.fairlawn.org>.

THE PROFESSION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Department Home Page’s usefulness extends way beyond the survey. “We’ve started the ‘Cyber-Precinct,’ ” Police Chief Marshall said, “which is a Web site maintained by the Police Department which can keep residents current on our activities, programs and even information like our arrest books. They can also purchase a parking permit for the Train Station or commuter lots.”

As the requirements of modern law enforcement increase for its practitioners, Fair Lawn’s own agency is keeping up. “The police officer’s job now is truly a profession,” Police Chief Marshall said. “It is much more complicated than it has ever been before and here in Fair Lawn we’re very lucky to have a professional police force. We’re professional police officers, not just a group of cops.”



PHOTO BY BOB LOCKHART, COURTESY OF CHARLES WRUBEL

Police Det. Sgt. Robert Kneer in the Department’s new blue uniform.

The Volunteer Spirit

By the People, For the People

PROTECTION from FIRE

It was Fair Lawn's own residents who marshaled their financial resources and whatever energy was left at the end of the working day to found, staff and maintain Firehouse after Firehouse through the town's first 75 years. And as the needs of its citizens – resident and corporate – progress with the 20th Century into the 21st, so will the technical skills and professionalism of the town's firefighting volunteers.

Early in the 1900's, Fair Lawn's public safety activists banded together to fight their town's fires. On November 11, 1911, with the Borough's incorporation still 13 years away, a mass meeting in the Fair Lawn Hotel on Fair Lawn Avenue at River Road produced Fair Lawn Volunteer Firemen's Association No. 3, headed by **Charles Vogel**, the former Hollis, N.Y., chief who convinced his new neighbors that night that a firefighting force was essential. Later, the agency would be called Fire Company 1.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Members of Fire Company 1 at work in 1963.



COURTESY OF CADMUS HOUSE

Charles Vogel, who organized Fair Lawn's first firefighting Company and became its chief.

The organizers acted not even a month too soon, for their first sizable blaze came only two weeks after the start up meeting – and the location was the new association's headquarters itself. The Fair Lawn Hotel burned down before the fledgling fire organization even had time to purchase equipment.

One year later, the Warren Point Fire Department was organized, later to be known as Company 3, located on Plaza Road at Rosalie Street. It was 12 years later that the Columbia Heights Hose Company was created, now called Company 2, located on Route 208 at Harristown Road. Five years after that, in 1929, the fourth and last force, Radburn Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, was founded, now known as Company 4.

EMERGENCY SERVICE THROUGH A 'GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT'

These organizations were private entities – often called “Companies” – in the non-profit “business” of providing fire protection. They raised money themselves and paid for much of the equipment and gear needed to combat fires.

The Companies' first piece of apparatus was a hand-pumped hook-and-ladder truck, often drawn to fire scenes by horses provided by Charles Vogel.

Though separate organizations, the four Companies coordinated their work. For example, they set up a "Gentlemen's Agreement," as it was known, to annually choose a new Fire Chief on a rotating basis, from one company to the next – an arrangement still in effect as the Century drew to a close.

With the population doubled, the fast-growing community put its firefighting network under official Borough control in 1930. But although the fire engines and trucks and other equipment and gear are bought directly by the town, the Firehouses have generally remained under private ownership.

GREAT FIRES of FAIR LAWN

GLEN ROCK LUMBER

August 1979



JERRY JASTRAB

1979 Fire Chief Joe Mahoney

"I was driving up Morlot Avenue and I saw it in the sky," said 1979 Fire Chief Joe Mahoney about the smoke and flames he saw coming from Glen Rock Lumber, the large wood depot on Banta Place, after he got the summertime call and responded to the scene. "It was almost totally engulfed when I got there."

Police Detective Peter Kemp was "going around house to house trying to get the people out of their houses," Chief Mahoney recalled, because the size of the blaze threatened even neighboring homes of the business.

A member of Fire Company 2, Chief Mahoney was soon joined at the scene by all four Companies. But even for a call about 8:30 on a weekday evening – the time of the week in which most volunteers can respond -- the Borough's entire manpower wasn't enough.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRK SHAW

The day after a major fire swept through Glen Rock Lumber's Banta Place facility, a charred truck, left, testified to the devastation and Fire Company 1's Snorkel truck continued to wet down the smoldering remains.

A 20-year veteran at that point, Chief Mahoney summoned the Fire Departments of Paramus, Elmwood Park, Saddle Brook and Glen Rock to help fight the fire. There were about 100 firefighters at the scene at the height of the blaze.

“The main fire had been put down, controlled about midnight,” Chief Mahoney recalled about the stubborn blaze. “I was there 22 hours.”

An emergency of this magnitude often requires other facilities and organizations in town – public and private – to handle the extensive and complex demands. One call, for example, went out to Public Works Director William Davidson to augment the water pressure that was dropping dangerously low because of the



NICK MESSINA

In July 1993, a power outage at the Maple Glen Nursing Home required the evacuation of its residents. Fire Chief Walter Demeraski, right, is joined by Deputy Chief Chris Messina, center, and Rescue Squad member Tim Yuskaitis for an impromptu strategy session and a brief respite on the sweltering day.

many fire apparatus tapping into every hydrant in the area. “Davidson went and turned all the water pumps on to give me all the water I needed,” Chief Mahoney said.

“George Dworetzky furnished us with a bulldozer,” Chief Mahoney said about a resident who operated a Lake Street business. “He used it to uncover (smoldering) stuff so we could put water on it.”

Only by the evening of the next day was the work completely done. Asked if anything was left of Glen Rock Lumber’s inventory, Chief Mahoney said, “Only a freight car of cedar wood.”

“I had a lot of help that day,” said Chief Mahoney, who was emphatic that credit for handling the large-scale emergency should be shared by scores of volunteers. “It was the guys that done the job – not me.”

FAIR LAWN AVENUE

February 1993

“When I hit the rise over (Route) 208, I saw heavy smoke across Fair Lawn Avenue,” said 1993 Fire Chief Walter Demeraski about his crosstown ride after a fateful radio dispatch summoned him about 5 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 1993. The fire was in a restaurant in the row of stores and apartments on Fair Lawn Avenue’s north side, just east of River Road.

“When I got there, I pulled my truck in the back and saw flames shooting out the first floor in the back of the Chinese restaurant,” said Chief Demeraski, a member of Company 4. “Also, it was the coldest day of the year. The wind-chill was five-below.”



PHOTOS BY NICK MESSINA

At left, the rear windows of a Fair Lawn Avenue building explode as a flashover occurs from the intense heat of the pre-dawn fire there in February 1993. Above, Company 1's engine is glazed over with ice some four hours after the winter blaze struck on the coldest day in years.

Actually, the morning of the fire that volunteers refer to as “Fair Lawn Avenue” was the coldest in three years, adding stress and strain to the already fearsome challenge of evacuating residents, knocking down the flames and dealing with a cleanup and investigation that would keep emergency services there for some 20 hours.

The restaurant was part of a row of four stores, with two apartments located over each one, Chief Demeraski said, making the priority the evacuation of the residents. Company 1 was assigned that task as Company 2 deployed its ladder vehicle on George Street and Companies 3 and 4 tried to hook up to hydrants – an effort that was frustrated by finding at least three hydrants frozen inside and out.

FIRE AND ICE

With the severe challenge of fighting the elements along with the flames, neighboring forces that had been summoned to stay in Fair Lawn's Firehouses were now asked to assist right at the scene. For example, a Saddle Brook Fire Company had been assigned to stay in Company 3's Firehouse in case of emergencies in that part of Fair Lawn, but “then I told them (the Saddle Brook Fire Department) to keep coming on in (to Fair Lawn Avenue) to find a hydrant,” Chief Demeraski said. Also summoned to provide Mutual Aid assistance to Fair Lawn were the Fire Departments of Paramus, Elmwood Park, Glen Rock, Rochelle Park and Maywood.

The Fair Lawn volunteers were released at about midnight. “The guys went home, got some sleep and came back in the morning to get the trucks in shape and clean their gear,” Chief Demeraski said about the considerable work involved even in dealing with the firefighters' frozen equipment.

**STILL BY THE PEOPLE:
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TODAY**

With some 115 active members to protect a town of 33,000 – a community with some of the region’s most vital industrial plants – the Department is one of the largest fire agencies in the area that provides that service as a volunteer force. But the firefighters’ dedication and performance are professional, and they look forward to the Borough’s funding technological upgrades that will carry their craft into the new millennium, enhancing their ability to protect lives and property, and keeping themselves safer at the same time.

“One advancement is the new Communications Truck,” said 1999 Fire Chief Thomas Reardon. “There’s no other truck like it in the County or even in the State.”

With state-of-the-art radio equipment and an on-board, computerized data bank, Truck 979, operated by Company 2, is a moving Command Center. Features like its satellite-referenced Global Positioning System (GPS), Chief Reardon said, can pinpoint the Communication Truck’s location “so if you have to have a helicopter come in (for example, to medevac a critically injured accident victim to a hospital Trauma Center) you can give them (the helicopter crew) the coordinates so even if you’re on a highway, you can have them come in right there.”

For firefighters hurrying to their trucks when a call comes in, “Computer-Aided Dispatch will give us the location of the call, the location of the nearest hydrants, the number of people in the house and the special needs that are there, like a handicapped resident,” Chief Reardon said. And the initial transmission of that most important information will not even require the two-way radio discourse – conducted between the Police Department Dispatch Room and all four Fire Companies – that begins each alarm response now.

“The officer will just rip off the page (from the Firehouse’s printer) and take it with him on the truck,” Chief Reardon said about the Computer-Aided Dispatch program the Fire Department was planning in the Borough’s 75th year.



JERRY JASTRAB

1999 Fire Chief Thomas Reardon radios Police Headquarters



JERRY JASTRAB

At a recent Fair Lawn Fire and Safety Expo, a woman, using a picture book on fire trucks, shows her child the real thing, compliments of Company 4.

To develop their skills, the Company members begin with a hands-on, three-month-long, twice-weekly course at the state-of-the-art Life-Safety Complex in the Bergen County Police and Fire Academy in Mahwah. Then, each Company separately conducts a weekly, two-hour practical drill at Fair Lawn's own Fire Training Center near the Recycling Center off Saddle River Road. In addition, four Borough-wide drills are held annually to teach inter-Company coordination, with simulated disasters staged at some of the town's largest public and private facilities.

To show their neighbors the volunteer work they do, all the Companies hold annual Open Houses and combine with the other emergency services to produce a Fire and Safety Expo event with lively demonstrations of firefighting and rescue techniques.

RESCUE FROM LIFE'S HAZARDS

During the World War II era, like many American communities, Fair Lawn organized its own Civil Defense operation to be ready for emergencies such as a bomb attack on our home turf. The agency was deactivated after the conflict but in the 1950's, responding to the stark fears of the Cold War period, the town leaders revived the agency and expanded it into the Civil Defense-Disaster Control (CD-DC) organization.

It was Ernest Eyer who restarted the agency and two years later, Colonel Carl J. Koenig (U.S. Army-Retired) became its Director, holding the post for decades and moving the service into the modern era.

This time, the end of the ongoing tensions didn't shut down the organization. The CD-DC agency had proven its worth for times of war or peace and the large, well-organized force was added to the town's family of public safety services.

The CD-DC comprised sections for Block Wardens, nurses, radio operators, the Ambulance Corps, a welfare operation and even a unit to handle high-level radiation. There was also a volunteer service that could safely free citizens trapped in collapsed buildings or accident-damaged vehicles. That was the CD-DC Rescue Service, launched in 1955 with the purchase of the unit's first Heavy Rescue truck.



The Heavy Rescue Squad uses its skill and a specialized hydraulic tool to demonstrate an automobile extrication procedure at a public safety demonstration in town.



JERRY JASTRAB

1999 Rescue Squad Chief Pete Yuskaitis, right, with former Rescue Chief Kirk Shaw.

Eventually, “the CD turned into the Office of Emergency Management (OEM),” said 1999 Rescue Chief Pete Yuskaitis. When the Rescue Squad and the CD-DC parted ways, the Squad was housed in the Firehouse of Company 1, located on George Street. In 1976, the Squad moved to a Borough-owned building on Heights Avenue and in 1994, the growing organization moved to its attractive new home on the west end of Romaine Street.

The Heavy Rescue Squad survived the end of the CD-DC and has survived the end of the Cold War itself. Since 1955, the agency has used advanced-design vehicles, ever-more innovative tools and equipment to bring trapped and injured citizens to safety.

In 1999, the Squad had about 40 active members, who operate the agency’s two specialized, equipment-laden trucks. Heavy Rescue conducts weekly practical drills at the Fire Training Center and selected special sites in town.

Now operated by the Rescue Squad, the Hazardous Materials Squad (Haz-Mat) was formed to handle emergencies involving volatile or toxic substances. The agency provides Fair Lawn with an in-house service for which most other towns must rely on Bergen County. Through the dedication of volunteers who take the extensive and specialized training the job requires, the Borough was able to invest the considerable funds needed to buy the high-tech apparatus and gear the job requires. In 1997, Haz-Mat became part of the Rescue Squad and its specialized vehicle and gear are housed at Rescue Headquarters.

‘A VERY GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE’

The demands of Heavy Rescue and Haz-Mat require a formidable assortment of abilities and remarkably extensive training. Along with those two basic disciplines, members are also certified in firefighting and Emergency Medical Technician skills.

“There are no two people in Rescue that are trained in the same way,” explained 1997 Rescue Chief Kirk Shaw. “Everyone has his own specialty. One guy is an expert in (problems in) confined spaces, and others have other skills; like the Hoitsmas are elevator people. (Father Jack Hoitsma and son Chris Hoitsma are both former Fire Chiefs. Chris is also a Rescue Squad member). We have a very good cross-section of people.”

THE CORPS OF HEALTH PROTECTION

The year after the Second World War ended, the Police Department needed relief from what had become an extraordinarily laborious responsibility – providing first aid and transporting the acutely ill to hospitals. Six volunteers responded – each one a Borough employee or volunteer firefighter – and the group handled 138 calls over the next two years, with the Police taking the rest.

In 1948, the group was formalized into the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Corps and some 20 new members signed up within a year. With a first aid course from the Red Cross and an obstetrics class from St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, members used an ambulance purchased by the Warren Point Community Club.

After housing itself in a shed behind the old Borough Hall at 11th Street and Gardiner Road, the Corps moved in 1953 to the facility off Plaza Road at Berdan Avenue it still occupies. In 1998, however, the Mayor and Council joined the Corps in honoring Life Member Edward Cooper, who passed away in 1989, by renaming the stretch of Berdan Avenue dedicated to the Corps' exclusive use. The Squad's new address is 1 Cooper's Way.



COURTESY OF THE FAIR LAWN AMBULANCE CORPS

In their Cadillac rig, a crew from the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Corps travels in 1951.

THE CORPS TODAY

By 1999, the Ambulance Corps was handling over 2,000 calls a year. Its approximately 45 active members schedule Duty Crews to ensure that at least the minimum two-person ambulance complement is available at all times to drive the rigs and provide care. The Corps operates three rigs.

In addition to providing emergency health care, the Corps must raise money itself toward its Headquarters and even for the ambulances themselves. But the hardships of fund-raising to maintain the Squad have not discouraged the members from maintaining a high degree of professionalism.



NICK MESSINA

On a call in mid the 1990's, Ambulance Corps secures a victim on a stretcher before transportation for medical care.

“Right now, we’re providing state-of-the-art first aid,” said 1998 Corps President Gail Cebular. “Maybe down the road, they’ll let us provide IV (intravenous) therapy (to the victims being transported).”

One innovation the Corps has been asked to use is the defibrillator, whose well-known wired twin paddles— also used by the Police Department (see Police Power section) — can save the lives of heart attack victims like never before. President Cebular and her Corpsmates are excited about the advancement “because with the defibrillator, that was something we never thought we’d be able to do and now we’re doing it,” she said.

The Corps members, who are all Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s), know cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and are trained on the defibrillators, earning the volunteers the crucial designation of EMT-D.

That’s important, because, as 1992 Corps President Ira Marks said, “The more (defibrillator) units that are out there with trained people, the more lives you save.” The rest is just getting there soon. “If we get there early on, we bring them back,” Marks said.

In 1998, when the Squad celebrated its own 50th anniversary, President Cebular said, “We’ve come a long way since the inception of the Ambulance Corps.”



JERRY JASTRAB

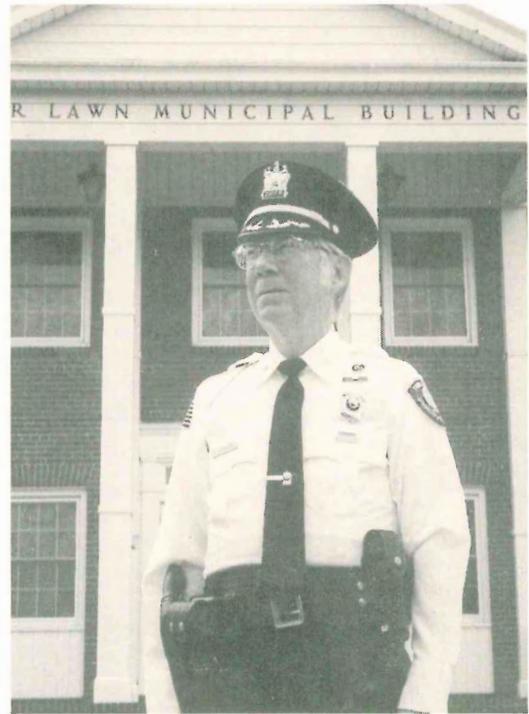
1998 Ambulance Corps President Gail Cebular and former President Ira Marks in the Squad’s new blue jump suits. Note the “Calvin and Hobbes” cartoon on the rig’s back corner. It reads: “Defibrillator Equipped.”

POWER in RESERVE

The Auxiliary Police Force's Key Role

Even a sizable police force like Fair Lawn's cannot muster the extra manpower needed for planned and unplanned events that demand large-scale crowd control, traffic management and other priorities. So in 1950, an organized Police Reserves was created by the town's Civil Defense-Disaster Control (CD-DC) Office. In 1980, New Jersey reorganized the CD-DC and renamed it the Office of Emergency Management and the Police Reserves was renamed as the Auxiliary Police.

"We're 27 strong now; we just got nine new recruits who graduated from the (Bergen County) Police Academy," said **Auxiliary Police Chief Michael Kearney**. Those recruits will add to their education as they join the other members in on-the-job training from the regular Police Department. Coordinated by regular Department's liaison to the Auxiliary, **Capt. Tony Serrao**, the sessions feature instruction in the lawful use of force, police baton, pepper mace, first aid, CPR and much more.



JERRY JASTRAB

Auxiliary Police Chief Michael Kearney

The Auxiliary officers perform at least eight hours of patrol and four hours of courtroom duty a month. Scheduled in four-hour shifts, the members patrol – generally at night – in uniform, in a marked patrol car provided by the town, patrolling around municipal buildings, schools, large factory facilities, parks and throughout the Borough, Chief Kearney said.

In the Fair Lawn Municipal Court, the Auxiliary members provide uniformed security during the regular sessions on Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon. As they perform their official duties, and during training sessions, the Auxiliary members are legally invested with full police powers.

READY AND ABLE

The agency also provides the crowd control at sizable events like the Memorial Day and Halloween Parades, the Independence Day fireworks and more. And the Auxiliary members are on call all the time – via Police pagers – for emergencies, for which they carry special jumpsuits to don quickly and respond, Chief Kearney said.

Using their own dues money in 1999, the Auxiliary Police were set to furnish their new Meeting Room in the Heights Avenue building formerly occupied by the Rescue Squad. "It will make it easier to have meetings and to get together if something needs to be done quickly," said Chief Kearney, who noted that his agency used the Police Pistol Range off River Road in the past. As a Police-affiliated agency, the Auxiliary cannot solicit contributions, but accepts donations from residents and local businesses.

Chief Kearney, who has been an Auxiliary member for 34 years, was assisted in 1999 by **Capt. James Van Krunigen**, **Executive Lt. Steven Camen**, and **Lt. Kenneth Pfeiffer**.

CRISIS CONTROL
A Working Plan To
Manage Any Emergency

When a large-scale emergency requires the involvement of multiple public safety agencies – for either the crisis’ size or complexity – the Borough’s federally created office of Emergency Management (OEM) assumes command, coordinating the organizations and their counterattack.

Emergency Management Director Tom Metzler, a dispatcher for the Fair Lawn Police Department, is a Former Fire chief, and Deputy Director Michael Messina is a Sergeant on the Police force. Their OEM service, however, is done on a volunteer basis.



JERRY JASTRAB

Office of Emergency Management Director Tom Metzler, who also serves Fair Lawn as a Police Dispatcher and volunteer firefighter, outside Borough Hall

“Fair Lawn already has a reputation for Emergency Management throughout the state for being very effective,” Director Metzler said, “and we set a course back in 1992 to achieve that goal.”

One element in Fair Lawn OEM’s reputation are crisis rehearsals like “Exercise 1998,” the huge disaster drill held around a simulated overturned tanker at Route 208 North and McBride Avenue. The all-too-possible scenario drew more than 25 agencies into a massive, expertly managed response.

Fire Departments from Glen Rock, Elmwood Park, Saddle Brook, Paramus, Mahwah, Waldwick and Fair Lawn itself, joined with Heavy Rescue Teams from Paramus and Fair Lawn, and with Haz-Mat Teams from Paramus, Mahwah and Fair Lawn. Ambulance services from Glen Rock, Elmwood Park, Saddle Brook and Paramus worked with Teaneck’s Box 54 Canteen, the American Red Cross, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and many more organizations.

“The State Police have told us that the (Exercise 1998) disaster drill is probably the most comprehensive exercise held in New Jersey in recent history,” Director Metzler said. “And our goal as we go into the next millennium is that we’re trying to maintain the proactive programming that we put into place as part of our strategic plan.”



DREAMS on LOAN

A Library for an Ambitious Community

"A library is a service to which the citizens of a town are entitled, and more people are involved with the library than with any other municipal service." – DR. MAURICE PINE

It was the belief encapsulated above that compelled the Fair Lawn Library's chief proponent, Dr. Maurice Pine, to insist that his Borough offer a real, working facility for books. The dentist from Passaic helped set up his new town's first such facility in 1933 in a small office located next door to his own. That year, 568 of the Borough's approximately 5,990 residents found their way to their new Library, taking out books 6,425 times.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Fair Lawn Public Library in one of its River Road buildings.



COURTESY OF CADMUS HOUSE

In the middle of this Century, the Public Library even traveled to its users in its own "Bookmobile."

In 1934, the Library was moved to one room on the second floor in the 11th Street Municipal Building and in 1940, it took over three rooms on the main floor. In 1944, placed fully under municipal control, the Library was moved to its own building on River Road, south of Fair Lawn Avenue, and in 1951 to a larger building further south on the road.

Then in 1958, Henry Thomas took the position of Library Director with the intention of constructing a building just for the Library. The entire process took almost 10 years and on January 22, 1967, the 31,500-square-foot Maurice Pine Free Public Library was dedicated.

In 1999, holding over 175,000 books and thousands of periodicals, audio and video cassettes, and access to the Internet, the Library is visited over 250,000 times a year and loans out books and other items over 400,000 times a year. But even in this traditional setting, change is at hand.

"The Library has changed dramatically in the past few years with the emergence of computers as an information tool," said Library Director Timothy Murphy. "At the same time, traditional Library services such as borrowing books and other materials for recreation and research will still flourish. Residents of Fair Lawn remain devoted to books and reading while having great interest in the newer technology as well."



JERRY JASTRAB

Library Director Timothy Murphy in his office.

EVOLUTION THROUGH THE LENS

An Historical Photo Essay



COURTESY OF BUD BOLGER

The Fair Lawn Athletic Club's Basketball Team during its 1926-27 season.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

Girls' basketball in the 1930's.



COURTESY OF CHERYL KOREI

In the 1920's and '30's, plowing farm land was a common sight in town. This farmer and his horse are working the Lagrosa property on the north side of Fair Lawn Avenue.



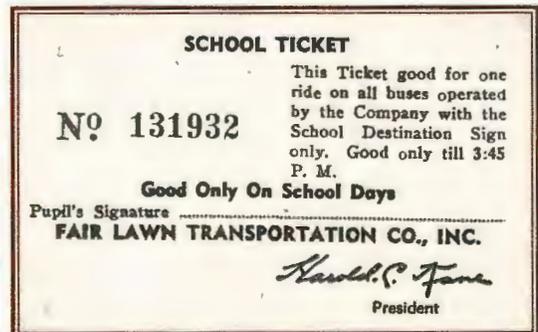
COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

Residents didn't have to travel far in 1930's Fair Lawn to conduct a nature walk.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

Men and women pitch horseshoes off Plaza Road in the 1930's.



COURTESY OF CADMUS HOUSE

Restrictions applied, but tickets like this helped Fair Lawn students when the Borough had its own bus company.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

This night in January 1954 was perfect for sledding.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

In 1940, football could be played across Plaza Road from the Plaza Building. The game is going on where the Grand Union supermarket would stand five decades later.



COURTESY OF CHERYL KOREI

A party at the Lagrosa homestead in 1942. Everyone posed for the photo, even the man peeking from the outhouse at the right.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

With virtual unanimity in choice of headgear, these women are playing cards in the Radburn Club Room in the 1930's.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

These Borough beauties make good use of the diving board at Memorial Pool in 1953.



RAE FELDMAN

A Fair Lawn couple at the town's 1955 Ice Show



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Carl Richard does the long jump at the Playground Championships in 1961, conducted by the Recreation and Parks Department.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

DON'T MESS WITH US: These tough looking competitors were participants in a mini-bike event in 1968.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Carefully watched by their friends and supervisor, these girls exhibit confidence, coordination and grace in a gymnastics session in 1964.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

THEY GOT THE BEAT: With stylish hair-dos done just so, these Fair Lawn girls practice a new dance step in the 1950's or '60's.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club was for young and old in 1966.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

In monogrammed blouses, Mary, left, and Dot, second from left, watch as their teammate scores their game in the Women's Bowling League in 1958.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Boy meets girl – in plural – at the Columbia Heights County Fair in 1959.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

This prospective Little Leaguer has plenty of supervision as he tries out under the watchful eyes of a full lineup of coaches.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

With nothing behind the Radburn School playground but trees and sky, these youngsters scale the monkey bars when the neighborhood was still growing up.



COURTESY OF THE RADBURN ASSOCIATION

The Radburn community uses its unique winding paths to stage a roller-skating race in the 1930's.



COURTESY OF ROBERT GAJASKY

That's Presidential candidate General Dwight Eisenhower standing in the car on Broadway at Plaza Road, probably during his first successful campaign in 1952. Fair Lawn gave its key and a rousing welcome to the man who led the Allied forces in Europe during World War II. The Fair Lawn police officer to the right is Robert Grunstra and the man with the camera to the left is Russ Zito, whose Fair Lawn Avenue studio produced many of the best images in this Journal.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

SIGNS OF THE SIXTIES: Above left, Fair Lawn girls remind citizens to help their own children fighting around the world in Viet Nam.

Above, students proudly point out that the psychedelic group Vanilla Fudge would perform at Fair Lawn High School in 1968.

At left, that same year, the High School would hold the Borough's annual Beauty Pageant.



the shopper NEWS

Price 25¢

Zone 1: Fair Lawn ▾ Elmwood Park ▾ Saddle Brook

March 5, 1997

INSIDE

Seniors head for Mohegan casino

ELMWOOD PARK — The Elmwood Park Senior Social Club held its weekly meeting Feb. 18 at VFW Post 5084. Guest speaker was Robert Lind of the AARP State Legislative. A Valentine luncheon was held Feb. 11. A trip to the Mohegan Casino in Connecticut is planned for May. Guests are welcome to attend meetings. Membership is available. Refreshments are served at noon.

Mayor to speak at elks club

Whitman brings road repair money on visit

By LAURIE MIZRAHI

FAIR LAWN— Governor Christine Whitman brought money to Bergen County when she stopped in Fair Lawn last Tuesday to announce the state's plan to allocate \$177 million to municipalities for local street repair and resurfacing projects.

"It is a perfect example of my administration's commitment to local property tax relief and the Department of Transportation's commitment to rebuilding our infrastructure at all levels", said Whitman who was joined by Acting Transportation Commissioner John J. Haley.

According to the governor, one of the benefits of the grant funding is that municipalities are now able to receive 75 per cent of the grant when the construction contract is awarded. Municipalities will not have to bond in anticipation of the



KEN METSCHWSTAFF

Fair Lawn Mayor Ed Trawinski proudly displays the check given to the borough by the state during Gov. Christine Todd Whitman's visit. The money will be allocated for road repairs.

COURTESY OF THE SHOPPER NEWS

In one of Fair Lawn's weekly newspapers, The Shopper News of March 5, 1997, Mayor Edward Trawinski accepted a big check — for \$150,000 — from Governor Christie Whitman for road repairs. as a local union shows its gratitude behind them.



PHOTOS BY JERRY JASTRAB

FACES OF TOMORROW: Above, left and center, children enjoy the double-hill landscape behind the Milnes School after a snow in 1999.

Above right, that same snow provided a chore at the Peace Korean Church on Fair Lawn Avenue near Saddle River Road, where this Boy Scout, aided by a pretty, young parishioner helps the congregation remove the ice from the parking lot.

At right, Joy Albarracin explains an ancient test of speed and skill to her schoolmates during "The Long House," Radburn School's 1999 look at Lenni Lenape life some 300 years earlier.



SCHOOLING The GENERATIONS

A Lesson in Excellence

As Fair Lawn reinvented itself from a rural to a suburban community, its leaders in education made certain the schools progressed along with their standard-setting town. In fact, Fair Lawn's creation as an independent Borough in 1924 grew out of dissatisfaction with the number and location of elementary school buildings in the various neighborhoods of the old Saddle River Township, of which the Borough was only one part.



JERRY JASTRAB

In a Radburn School fourth-grade class, teacher Shelley Nitkin helps Isabelle Jacobs on one of the classroom computers.

The community's original one-room schoolhouse, built in 1822 in the area of present-day George Street, is gone, but the tradition of excellence that began there continues. The Victorian-style Washington School on Bergen Avenue, built in 1853, was refurbished and enlarged 20 years later for an enrollment of 50, and is now used by the Board of Education for support functions.

From these humble beginnings, the education system has evolved – with the usual growing pains – into a full kindergarten-through-12th-grade School District that has served student bodies as large as 6,500. The enrollment at the town's 75th anniversary was about 4,000 students.



NICK MESSINA

Fair Lawn High School's Football Team, the Cutters, in the bright-red uniforms (which appear darker here), converge on their opponents in the first quarter of a home game. As the scoreboard indicates, Fair Lawn leads 7-0.

HOME RULE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS

In spite of the system's size, the concept of neighborhood schools is alive and well here. The District's six elementary schools are positioned evenly throughout the Borough. The Forest, Lyncrest, Milnes, Radburn, Warren Point and Westmoreland Schools are all located within reasonable walking distance from the homes in their neighborhoods.

The Edison School, on Fair Lawn Avenue in the town's northeast section, isn't used anymore as a regular elementary school but houses a Special Education program and is a base for many supplementary School District functions.

The two Middle Schools, Memorial and Thomas Jefferson, are in, respectively, the west and east parts of town with Fair Lawn High School rather centrally sited on Berdan Avenue. In this way, the system's 10 buildings serve as centers for community activities as well as schools.



JERRY JASTRAB

Assistant Superintendent for Business Bruce Watson with Human Resources Official Lisa Panagia



JERRY JASTRAB

1999 PTA Council President Mariane Pettineo

The concept of neighborhood schools is also reflected in parental involvement. "Parent volunteers serve on various District-wide committees...as well as coordinate the activities and programs at their individual schools," said 1999 PTA Council President Mariane Pettineo. "Our High School also fosters parental involvement by having parent volunteers sit on committees with students, faculty and administration. This provides parents and students with a unique opportunity to share in the 'ownership' of the school."

MAINTAINING THE CUTTING EDGE

Today's teaching – like the school system itself – has grown way beyond relatively simple elements like "The Three R's." Maintaining its leadership in education, the School District provides up-to-date instruction so the Borough's youth can succeed and



JERRY JASTRAB

Early in 1999, the Board of Education convened for a meeting. Sitting, at left, is Student Liaison Scott Vedder, then a senior at Fair Lawn High School. The others are all regular Trustees, including, sitting, from left, William Thimmel, Elyss Frenkel, John Mancinelli and Board Vice President Ed Carter. Standing, from left, are Trustees Dan Zino, George Frey, Board President Gene Banta, Eric Lansey, and Rocco Recchione.

prosper in a world constantly changing with advancements in high technology.

"Residents can look forward to seeing a lot more technology," said 1999 Board of Education President Eugene Banta. "We're constantly buying new computers and upgrading the old ones. And we'll be switching to the Internet."

“New technology has brought about many changes” said Pettineo, “and it is exciting to see the type of learning opportunities that our children are receiving now, and even more exciting to think about the changes that await our future students.”

To guarantee that the students keep pace with changing technology, the School System uses professional, industry-standard software in areas from word-processing to science and drafting. All the schools are equipped with sophisticated, computerized, satellite-based, weather stations for student use and the High School boasts its own modern, state-of-the-art Planetarium. Along with these cutting-edge facilities, the School District maintains full traditional programs in art, music, sports and much more.

“We have installed technology across the grade levels and are now in the process of providing training

the shopper NEWS
Zone 1: Fair Lawn ▾ Elmwood Park ▾ Saddle Brook
April 24, 1996

Fair Lawn Board of Education incumbents (from left) Eugene Banta, Elyss Frenkel, and John Mancinelli congratulate each other on their victory after last week's elections.

Budget passes, incumbents win seats

By LAURIE MIZRAHI

FAIR LAWN — Board of Education members were jubilant last Tuesday night, as the 1996-1997 school budget passed by a record 739 votes. Residents voted 2,131 in favor of the budget, as opposed to the 1,392 who voted against it.

All three incumbents retained their three year seats on the Board of Education

term with 2,272 votes (after being voted in for a one year term in 1995, replacing retiring

tricts gave a final tally after 10:00 P.M., resulting in overwhelming support for this year's school budget. Last year's \$41,332,138 budget increased this year by \$1,529,977 for a 1996-1997 total school budget of \$42,862,115.

"I was overwhelmed with excitement that the budget passed" said Superintendent Robert Byrne. Byrne credits the "lowest school tax increase ever

exceptionally positive vote was a show of confidence in the school system and in the BOE. Frenkel was "overwhelmed with excitement and very happy that the budget passed." Mancinelli was surprised, "with such a low voter turnout that the budget was so well supported." He then added that, in his view, the board's objective of parental support is creating a bond between the board and the community.

K.J. HELFMAN

COURTESY OF THE SHOPPER NEWS

Successful Board of Education candidate Elyss Frenkel is kissed by her victorious running mates, Eugene Banta, left, and John Mancinelli, on School Election Night in April 1996. The three incumbents were buoyed as well by the passage of their Education Budget.



JERRY JASTRAB

Assistant Superintendent for Education Larry Bryan sadly announces his 1999 departure as PTA official Vicki Lent, right, listens at a School Board meeting that year.

and instruction in computers to both the staff and students” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Byrne.

“We’re still going to concentrate on the basics,” Banta assured residents, “The School District doesn’t want the basics to get lost in the never-ending quest for technology.”



JERRY JASTRAB

Fair Lawn Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Byrne

“Our school district continues to provide a highly effective educational program which focuses on learner-active classrooms supported by a very comprehensive plan for staff development,” said Dr. Byrne.

MARKS OF EXCELLENCE

Fair Lawn students consistently achieve superior rankings on standardized tests, and the District – particularly the High School -- has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with the coveted Blue Ribbon Award, the Federal Government’s designation for “A School of Excellence.”



JERRY JASTRAB

The Jazz Band performs at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, popularly known as TJ.”

The Blue Ribbon honor – which the High School received twice in the last few years – acknowledges that not only is the education delivered superior, but that the high level of quality is achieved with cost-effectiveness.

High School Principal Elizabeth Panella, in fact, was designated one of the top educators in New Jersey by the State’s Department of Education in 1998.

Perhaps the greatest proof of the School System’s effectiveness is that the vast majority of High School seniors go on to pursue studies at the finest institutions of higher learning. Thus, the town’s citizens can rest assured that a proud tradition of educational excellence will continue to benefit the community for the next 75 years and beyond.

TEACHING THE FOURTH ‘R’ – RELIGION

For Catholic families who want their elementary-schoolers to study Christianity along with secular material, St. Anne’s School has offered – for half a century – a rigorous course of religious instruction along with an excellent State-approved curriculum in regular subjects.

Opened in 1950, the school’s stately brick building on Lyncrest Avenue, near St. Anne’s Roman Catholic Church, serves 340 children in its all-day, kindergarten-through-eighth-grade program, as well as 750 more in its twice-a-week religion classes.



JERRY JASTRAB

St. Anne School, on Lyncrest Avenue.

Religious Life

Maintaining Tradition Amid Change

From the Dutch Reformed Christian faith of the earliest white settlers through the Catholicism and Judaism of many thousands of immigrants this century, to the wide spectrum of worship practiced in the Borough today, Fair Lawn has evolved in its religious makeup as has America.



JERRY JASTRAB

Our Savior Lutheran Church on Broadway

With some 40 houses of worship in operation, the Borough is home to multiple denominations of the major faiths – and to their adherents. And while the community changes with the new variety in its religious life, so do the institutions themselves.



JERRY JASTRAB

Rev. Dr. Lee A. Morris, Pastor of Van Riper-Ellis Broadway Baptist Church

“We are redesigning our whole ministry for the new millennium,” said Rev. Dr. Lee A. Morris, Pastor of the Van Riper-Ellis Broadway Baptist Church. With a striking

location at the intersection of Morlot Avenue and River Road, the Church added the “Broadway” to its name when the Broadway Baptist Church of Paterson merged into Van Riper-Ellis a few years ago. Van Riper-Ellis was founded in 1930.

One change in place already is the appointment of the Church’s first female as Assistant Pastor, Stacie Turk-Cacciottolo.

Another new initiative the Church’s 300 members will experience is the T-Net, or Trainer Network Team, said Rev. Morris, who has led the Church since 1997. The 1,000-day, three-year program is an “exciting thing,” Rev. Morris said, “because the Church is not run like it was 30 years ago. The goal is to make new Disciples.”

Under a rubric of “progressive traditionalism,” Congregation B’nai Israel is broadening its appeal to Conservative Jews, said Rabbi Joshua Finkelstein. But the Synagogue – whose name means Congregation of the Children of Israel – founded in 1953 and located on 30th Street at Pine Avenue, will retain its “strong communal feeling and family base” – its quality of being *hey mish* – Yiddish for home-like.



JERRY JASTRAB

Rabbi Joshua Finkelstein of Congregation B'nai Israel on 30th Street

“We’ve drawn in a new generation of members,” said Rabbi Finkelstein, who has been the Congregation’s spiritual leader since 1996. But the changes in policy – like girls’ Bat Mitzvahs allowed for the first time in the all-important Saturday–morning service – and the improvements in the Synagogue’s physical plant – like ramps to provide wheel-chair access to the upper-floor sanctuary – were undertaken for congregants old and young.

For Rabbi Finkelstein, that means the innovations are also in accord with Scripture itself. “Moses said, ‘We go with our young and old together,’” the Rabbi said, quoting Exodus 10:9, “and I think this was always the impetus of this Synagogue.”



JERRY JASTRAB

St. Leon's Armenian Church on Saddle River Road

In **St. Anne's Church**, whose elegant, soaring main chamber was redecorated and repainted in 1999, “The theme is: Renovation of the Church and of the heart,” said **Father James Nero**, who was Pastor of the Roman Catholic house of worship until 1999. “In other words, it’s a two-pronged thing we’re working at.”



JERRY JASTRAB

Fr. James Nero, Pastor of St. Anne's R.C. Church until the start of 1999

All of this rededication “is in preparation for the millennium. It just happened that the town’s anniversary coincided nicely with ours,” Father Nero said, referring to the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. In yet another important anniversary, parishioners are proud of their Church’s 90 years of service since the first Mass was celebrated there in 1909.

In St. Anne’s, sited on St. Anne Street at Lyncrest Avenue, the Church’s huge family of 3,200 households prays under new chandeliers and lights, within brighter walls, and even in front of wooden, hand-carved statues whose familiar features were enhanced through a painstaking restoration.

But it’s the Parish’s home-grown charity work in which Father Nero takes special pride. “One of the most significant outreach things we do here is our Food Pantry,” the Pastor said. “It’s sponsored by the parishioners, who bring in food on the first Sunday of the month and 80 families are helping operate the program.”

When **Rabbi Benjamin Yudin** worships, he prays that **Congregation Shomrei Torah** stays much as it is. The Orthodox shul, or Synagogue, located on Morlot Avenue, just west of the NJ Transit train line, would be the envy of many houses of worship of any religion for its members’ enthusiastic and overwhelming attendance.



JERRY JASTRAB

Rabbi Benjamin Yudin of Congregation Shomrei Torah on Morlot Avenue

“**W**e’re the only Synagogue in town that has three services, seven days a week, every day of the year,” the Rabbi pointed out. In fact, the Synagogue – the last two words of its name mean “Observance of the Torah,” Judaism’s most important book – schedules three separate seatings for its morning service alone, which are offered at different times to accommodate its members’ varied schedules. At holiday services the Synagogue must open a second large room, which is also filled in a separate service.

“**W**e’re not looking to change,” said Rabbi Yudin, who has lead the Synagogue for 29 of its 32 years. “What does that mean? That means we have a sacred tradition that has maintained our people for well over the last 2,000 years, through difficult times and good times.”



JERRY JASTRAB

Temple Beth Sholom’s well-known sculpture of a flame greets visitors and passersby on Fair Lawn Avenue at Saddle River Road.

“**O**ur challenge is to have our youth and adult community become more knowledgeable through observance so that they don’t simply observe out of tradition, but so they do so out of a sense of understanding and conviction,” the Rabbi explained.

Many of Shomrei Torah’s 275 families are relatively new to Fair Lawn, but the influx that bolstered the Congregation’s membership was not coincidental. “The majority of families moved to Fair Lawn because of the Synagogue,” Rabbi Yudin said.

The Peace Korean Reformed Church has been expanded by newcomers, too. But the regional house of worship serves congregants from all parts of the Bergen County area.

Peace Korean, 11 years old in September 1999, has occupied its site on the north side of Fair Lawn Avenue, west of Saddle River Road, since 1993, moving there after spending its first three years in Closter.

The Church was founded by and for immigrants from South Korea, but intends to be a working, dynamic part of its home Borough. The Pastor, Rev. Myung Woo Lee, described events his Church has staged to open its doors to its Fair Lawn neighbors.



JERRY JASTRAB

Rev. Myung Woo Lee, Pastor of The Peace Korean Reformed Church on Fair Lawn Avenue, near Saddle River Road

“**L**ast year we had a bazaar,” Rev. Lee recalled about 1998. “Some members own food markets in New York City, so we can get the food cheaper.”

The Pastor, leader of the Church since 1996, pointed with special pride to 1998's three concerts by the Church's own Peace Children's Ensemble. "We invited all the community members because we want to share the Church," Rev. Lee said.

The Church also sponsors Boy Scout Troop No. 7 and courses in religion and Korean language. "We started the Peace Children's Ensemble and the Boy Scouts about two years ago, as a mission and as a community service," Rev. Lee said.

At Temple Avoda, members of the Reformed Jewish Synagogue can now find current happenings on the Internet, at www.avoda.com. The Temple's own Web site benefits from the computer skills of the spiritual leader himself, Rabbi Jonathan Woll.

But for actual worship, the Rabbi insists members attend services at the Temple, located on Plaza Road, south of Berdan Avenue. "You can't be a Jew alone," he is heard counseling families during special lectures. "You have to pray as part of a community. You're part of a larger group."

The Temple extends that community to the town's poor, when members bring in food around Thanksgiving and deliver it to Borough homes. And the outreach involves, as well, area programs like Habitat for Humanity, whose houses members have helped build.



JERRY JASTRAB

Rabbi Jonathan Woll of Temple Avoda on Plaza Road.

The only Reformed Synagogue in Fair Lawn, Avoda, with about 170 member families, marked its own milestone in 1999. "We're celebrating 45 years of the Congregation on May 1," said Rabbi Woll. "And it's my 10th anniversary as the Rabbi here."



JERRY JASTRAB

The Rev. Jeffrey Leininger, Pastor of the Warren Point Presbyterian Church on Broadway.

The longest-serving cleric in Fair Lawn is Rev. Jeffrey Leininger, Pastor of the Warren Point Presbyterian Church. Established in 1925, the Church moved into its present site, on Broadway at 17th Street, in 1948.

The Church's leadership, in 1985, adopted a Statement of Purpose that read, in part: "In congregational life, we are called to be a nurturing community, particularly as we worship, learn, work together and serve one another.

"We desire to share our experience with others. In mission we are called to reach out to others locally and beyond, particularly as we witness in word and deed to the gospel and its implications for human life."

THE LANGUAGES OF FAITH: Signs, messages and art at the Borough's houses of worship pointedly reflect the diversity in Fair Lawn's thriving, robust religious community.



PHOTOS BY JERRY JASTRAB

Clockwise, from left: At the Jewish Center on Norma Avenue, elegant fabric appointments enhance the focal point of worship; Bris Avrohom's three-language sign on Fair Lawn Avenue frames the Plaza Building; New Jersey First United Methodist Church on Fair Lawn Avenue; and the Taiwanese Reformed Church on Berdan Avenue offers services in Taiwanese and English.





Oral Histories from Longtime Residents

Interviews conducted by Jane Diepeveen and Seymour Karas



COURTESY OF LILLIAN GORDON

Lillian Gordon

“In 1954, someone said to me, ‘You’re going to buy a house near the railway tracks? You’d better sit there all afternoon and see if it’s too noisy.’ I sat there and nothing came by. All of a sudden my son’s nursery school teacher, Mrs. Simmons, came by. I asked her, ‘How bothersome is the railroad track?’ She said, ‘It’s the Tooterville Trolley; you never hear anything.’ Well it was that way

when I bought it. But when my son, Bob, (future Mayor Robert Gordon) was growing up, he said, ‘This is the noisiest place you could have possibly bought a house – the airplanes overhead, the traffic in the front and the trains behind us.’ But before, it was nice and rural.

“I remember when I tried to listen to the Watergate Hearings (in 1974) I was so livid. Because by then, the trains used to go by every five minutes and you had to keep the door closed.

Nick Vanore

“Fair Lawn was only a small town. When I graduated from Warren Point School in 1930 we had only nine boys. There were no girls.

“When I got on the Police Department (in 1941, with few radios or phones), the first job we had was walking patrol. We’d leave Borough Hall (on Gardiner Road), walk to River Road, and go all the way down to Morlot Avenue. There was a telephone box on Fire Company 1 and we’d call Headquarters. Then down Morlot Avenue to Hartley Place and Route 4, where we’d call in from the box on Company 3. Then along Route 4 to Saddle River Road and up to Fair Lawn Avenue. And then back along Fair Lawn Avenue to the top of Radburn, where we’d call in from Company 4. That was your eight hours.



JERRY JASTRAB

Organized Recreation

Athletics and Leisure for a Growing Community

Fair Lawn citizens young and old benefit every day from an athletic and recreation tradition developed over decades of innovation and volunteerism. Civic activists agreed with the town's leaders early on that life in the Borough would offer much more than a business environment and a bedroom community, and together they forged the massive, vibrant social enterprise that grew more elaborate and ambitious as did the town it served.



JERRY JASTRAB

Recreation's Street Hockey League has three age divisions with over 300 participants -- and is just one of the town's many major sports programs.

The framework of this exemplary program is produced by the Borough's Department of Recreation and Parks. But the huge undertaking depends on a dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers to fill out its stunning variety of sporting and cultural events. From ham radios, bridge playing and hunting, to roller skating, basketball and hockey, to senior socials, theater trips and the town's own stage productions, the "Rec" Program is for all ages and seasons.

The inspiration for today's comprehensive program came from the Radburn Association's Community Recreation operation of the 1930's, and for some 15 years, Fair Lawn's

new Recreation Department took its direction from a citizen Recreation Committee. But in 1949, **Monte Weed** was appointed as **Superintendent of Recreation** and that perfect match served the community for 25 years. As the ambitious, diverse program expanded with the town it served, the Recreation Program became a national model for innovation and organization.

Today, Recreation and Parks comprises nine basketball courts, 10 tennis courts, 15 baseball fields, three street hockey rinks, 12 park areas, two swimming pools, a theater, youth facility, gym and a new all-purpose building at its largest ballfield area – the Florence Dobrow Complex.

"When Fair Lawn started developing, the idea was that each district would have its own park," said **Superintendent of Recreation George Frey**, pointing to the a Borough map with recreation areas sited in a sensible distribution throughout the town. "In

the past decade, we caught up and have gone beyond other Boroughs in facilitating our parks with equipment and we'll continue to strive to be a leader in Recreation and Parks in the State of New Jersey."



JERRY JASTRAB

Superintendent of Recreation George Frey in his Kipp Street office.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

PERFORMING ARTISTS: A sculptor, left, explains his work in 1966 and a painter, above, demonstrates his craft in 1967, in programs sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department.

The Department does this with 16 full-time staff members and 175 part-timers. In addition, “We have over 1,000 volunteers, period,” Frey said, emphasizing the importance of the coaches, club leaders and other residents, without whose contribution of time, energy and caring the Department could not operate.

**ALL FOR ONE
AND ONE FOR ALL**



JERRY JASTRAB

*Assistant Supt. of Recreation
James Graff*

For many young citizens, the first connection with Recreation and Parks is the comprehensive athletics program. “All Sports For All Kids” was the motto that inspired the program’s founders in 1950. Since then, the Fair Lawn All-Sports Association has made better the lives of tens of thousands of youngsters – along with the lives of the fathers, mothers and other citizens who volunteer to coach and referee the matches in baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer, hockey, wrestling, lacrosse and track-and-field. All-Sports also offers a cheerleading program and manages Club Fun for special needs children.

The ambitious All-Sports program fills the after-school and weekend schedules of the town’s families throughout the year. In the baseball and softball programs alone, “we get over a thousand kids; that’s our bulk signup,” said Assistant Superintendent of Recreation James Graff. That means that All-Sports needs referees and coaches in the hundreds. “They’re certified and they’re all volunteers,” Graff said. In 1999, the leader of the volunteers was All-Sports President Christopher Bonafede, who began an immensely popular ice hockey program.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPT.

SHOW SOME EMOTION: Recreation Department performances have offered a range from spirited theatrics, like the scene at left, in 1963, to the decidedly cool trio at right, in 1967.





COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

A young swimmer carefully plans his dive on a hot day at Memorial Pool

**AN ORGANIZATION
FOR ALL SEASONS**

Along with the winter sports and summer camps, clubs and culture, Recreation and Parks produces many of the massive holiday events that bring thousands of citizens together each year. From the fireworks at Memorial Pool on the Fourth of July to the Lighting Ceremony at Borough Hall in the winter, the Holiday Celebrations Committee stages these safe, well-organized occasions that define the community and are cherished by residents.



COURTESY OF RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Professional pool player William Mosconi racks 'em up during a 1955 demonstration in the Youth Canteen.



COURTESY OF RECREATION AND PARKS DEPT

FAMILIAR FACES: Municipal Judge Morris Dobrin appreciates his stunning likeness, rendered in the town's Arts Program and presented by legendary Superintendent of Recreation Monte Weed in 1968.

**TO RELIEVE
GROWING PAINS**

The Department headquarters on Kipp Street also houses the Youth Center, which is open Monday through Saturday nights for socializing, friendly competition, movies and special events. With a full gym, billiards, ping-pong and more, the Youth Center is a fully supervised haven for 5th- through 12th-graders.



COURTESY OF RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

GOING PLACES: In 1961, space travel was just getting started in the U.S., but Fair Lawn's Rocket Club did some traveling of its own — by car. At right, the Flying Club gets ready for takeoff in 1963.



A TOWN
FOR THE AGES

The Fair Lawn Senior Citizens Center has extended the town's remarkable breadth of social programs through its citizens' entire lifetimes. Built in 1980, the Senior Center is on Gardiner Road at 11th Street, one block north of Borough Hall and the Public Library.

As Senior Center Director June Schwartz wrote in the 1998-99 Recreation and Parks Directory: "The exterior of the building exudes a cheerful, almost 'resort-like' atmosphere, with its comfortable outdoor furniture, canopies to shade the sun during the warm weather, picnic tables and benches, all surrounded by beautifully manicured lawns, flower beds and shade trees."



JERRY JASTRAB

Senior Center Director June Schwartz

A Bocci Ball court and areas outside for horseshoes and shuffleboard maintain the resort spirit, the Directory says. Then, "As you enter the lounge area of the Center, it is apparent that the aesthetically pleasing atmosphere is reflected by the warm and pleasing atmosphere created by the staff and the participants themselves....A 'cozy' rather than institutional decor, accented by a large display of house plants, interesting and beautiful artwork, photo and scrapbook albums of past and present events and activities, and a 'book of humorous newspaper and magazine clippings' are displayed at all times. Some people refer to the Senior Center as 'their home away from home'."



JERRY JASTRAB

At the Senior Center, a participant enjoys a therapeutic visit by Otis, a specially trained dog, brought over by a volunteer.

'THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
ARE ENDLESS'

In 1996, the Senior Center's veteran Director, Goldie Singer, retired and the executive leadership of the facility was taken over by Schwartz. "The senior population of Fair Lawn is so large that there really is a need for activities," said Schwartz, who explained that of the Borough's 33,000 people, about one-fourth are over 60. One such activity is fitness sessions – from sitting exercises to a walking club to low-impact aerobics. "People are loving the classes and asking for more fitness classes," Schwartz said.

"Participation has increased so much," Schwartz said, that the Senior Center commissioned a major addition to the facility for 1999. The new 958-square-foot wing expanded the east side of the facility, which had totalled 6,074 square feet. "I feel that we have to preserve the dignity and value of senior citizens," Schwartz said. "They are not old people. They are retired people who are older adults, and their contributions are endless."



A Crossroads of Commerce

Leading the Way in Business and Industry

Eastern neighbor to one of the state's oldest and largest industrial centers, Fair Lawn was resolute that it would not let commerce simply "happen" in town. The Government would control development, encourage it when necessary, and reap the benefits for its own citizens. It was no wonder, then, that the establishment of the industrial parks and their harmonious juxtaposition with residential areas became a state and national model for planned progress.

In 1924, while most of the Borough was composed of farmland and most residents used Paterson as their preferred shopping area, small retail establishments began to cluster in several distinct areas of Fair Lawn. These sections included the Warren Point area, along Broadway near Plaza Road; Fair Lawn Center, at the intersection of River Road and Fair Lawn Avenue; and Columbia Heights, on a stretch of Lincoln Avenue near Hawthorne. The new businesses primarily serviced the older residential communities that surrounded them.

In 1929, the landmark Plaza Building was constructed at the northeast corner of the intersection of Plaza Road and Fair Lawn Avenue to provide both retail services and office space for the new residents of the Borough's planned community – Radburn.



COURTESY OF NABISCO

A young worker uses a mixing machine in Fair Lawn's Nabisco plant soon after the facility's opening in 1958.



JERRY JASTRAB

A major producer of pasta products – and acknowledged innovator in the industry in this country – A. Zerega's Sons has made its commercial home in the Borough for many years.

A POST-WAR BOROUGH BOOM

It was not until after World War II that the population's growth created opportunities for small businesses to establish themselves in other sections of Fair Lawn. These included neighborhood stores near the intersections of Morlot Avenue and Banta Place; the Plymouth Park section along Saddle River Road near Morlot Avenue; and the continued expansion along Broadway, which became an extension of state Route 4.

Manufacturing came to Fair Lawn around the turn of the century as an extension of Paterson's silk and textile-dyeing industry. The Warren Foundry was one of the earliest businesses in the town's industrial northwest corner. Built in about 1895 on Second Street, it had a tannery for a neighbor.



COURTESY OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Kimball Press, in the Warren Point section of the Borough, in the 1950's.

Fair Lawn Industries occupies a huge tract in the northwest manufacturing zone, sited generally at the intersection between



COURTESY OF THE NAKASHIAN FAMILY

Nakashian Carpets, a landmark store on Broadway and 26th Street, began in Paterson, where founder Harry Nakashian, above, poses in the company vehicle in 1936. His sons, below, John, left, and Jack, at the Fair Lawn shop in 1999.



JERRY JASTRAB

Maple Avenue and Wagaraw Road. With a wide array of business tenants in the area, Fair Lawn Industries had been the principal employer for the Fair Lawn neighborhood known as Columbia Heights.

During World War II, many of the businesses in the Fair Lawn Industries complex converted their plants to produce materials needed for the war. One of those firms was the Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical Company, which produced magnesium and parts for use in airplane engines.

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

The McBride Industrial Park, in the center of town, along state Route 208, is the other major industrial and office site in Fair Lawn. Dedicated in 1955 by Governor Robert Meyner, the huge development was described as a "model industrial community which gracefully fits into the plan for suburban living."

The McBride corporate campuses comprise 173 acres and feature buildings constructed with a low profile and ample space between them, establishing a workable, pleasant merger of the commercial and residential areas.

Today, many of these buildings have been remodeled to accommodate the change from a predominantly manufacturing site to an office park. However, the landmark Nabisco plant still provides the aroma of cookies baked right in the Borough.

The Kodak Corporation has a major plant in the McBride industrial park, where America's largest film company operates a Kodalux processing facility. Purchasers of **Lea & Perrins** Worcester Sauce and Brioschi antacid can find the name of Fair Lawn on the bottles because the popular national brands are made in plants in the McBride corporate community.



JERRY JASTRAB

Ken Kuiken, left, and Doug Kuiken at their family's flagship store on Fair Lawn Avenue at Sixth Street.

STALWARTS OF FREE ENTERPRISE

The oldest existing business in the Borough is believed to be **Kuiken Brothers Lumber** – the hardware, lumber and construction company founded in 1912. It was three brothers, **Richard, Henry and Nicholas Kuiken**, who transformed a woodworking shop on Sixth Street into a general contracting business. Nicholas' sons, **Evan and Ed Kuiken**, joined the firm about 10 years later and remain at the helm today.

In the years leading up to the founding of the Borough, the Kuiken Brothers firm was responsible for the construction of a large number of the homes in Fair Lawn. Over time, the business evolved from a construction firm into the lumber and hardware business that bears its name today, with stores also located in Midland Park, Emerson, Ogdensburg and Warwick, N.Y.

Another business that was created in Fair Lawn and grew with the Borough is the **Columbia Savings Bank**. Founded in 1927 as the **Fair Lawn Building and Loan Association**, its first offices were in the former Washington School on Bergen Avenue.

Evan Kuiken

“We started the construction business in 1912. The family had a millwork shop on Sixth Street and we made the windows in them days and everything.

“We built a lot of houses in this area (Fair Lawn Center). George Street is named after a cousin and Edward Street is named after my brother.



COURTESY OF KUIKEN FAMILY

“First we had a paint store, later on it went into hardware. We went into the lumber business in about 1921.

“My uncle Henry and his brother built a house here (on Sixth Street) in, I guess, the early '20's. Then we (needed to build) our warehouse there, so we moved the house down the street.



COURTESY OF KUIKEN FAMILY

Ed Kuiken

As Fair Lawn Building and Loan expanded to meet the needs of its rapidly growing hometown, the former schoolhouse could no longer meet the needs of its customers, called “members,” and in 1931, its offices were moved to the Kuiken Brothers building. Only two years later, the financial institution moved again, this time to the old Borough Hall building at 11th Street and Gardiner Road.

In December 1941, just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the company's new headquarters, at River Road and Fair Lawn Avenue, was dedicated, and the company became known as **First Savings and Loan Association of Fair Lawn**.



JERRY JASTRAB

The regional bank founded in 1927 on Bergen Avenue in Fair Lawn, Columbia Savings and Loan, stayed in the Borough and opened its gleaming new headquarters in 1999 on Route 208 North, in the McBride corporate community.

As the primary source of mortgage money in Fair Lawn, First Savings and Loan played a major role in the post-war expansion of the town. And as the financial institution itself expanded beyond its hometown's borders, a new name was again needed. In 1971, the company became **Columbia Savings and Loan Association**.

Today it is known as **Columbia Savings Bank** and operates over 30 branches throughout the state. Now a major purveyor of financial services to individuals and businesses, Columbia Savings once again demonstrated its commitment to its home-

town when in 1998, it moved into its custom-built corporate headquarters in the McBride Industrial Park on Route 208 in Fair Lawn.

A veteran retail business with a commitment to the town is **Strehl's Pharmacy**. In 1929, owner **Henry Strehl** moved his Paterson medicine shop into the newly constructed Plaza Building. In spite of two fires, one of which gutted the drug store in 1943, Strehl's is still in its original location in the north end of the Plaza Building – but its popular ice cream parlor is gone.

ENTERPRISING FAMILIES

One landmark business celebrated its 50th year at its present location as the Borough marked its 75th. The **Lazon Paint & Wallpaper Company** has served the community and the region from its important River Road facility since 1949, but the firm's commercial – and family – roots in the community are even longer than that.

“We’ve been manufacturing since 1932,” said **Donald Landzettel**, a third-generation member, about the small facility his family began at their Fourth Street homestead. But the Landzettels, a clan of German immigrants, came to the neighborhood “before it was Fair Lawn,” he pointed out.

In 1919, the Landzettels moved to the section of Saddle River Township called Fair Lawn Center and soon went into business as painting contractors. Despite the Great Depression that began 10 years later, family patriarch **Henry Landzettel** soon began making paints himself and selling it to the contractors he had been competing with.

Working with his sons, Walter and William, Henry took the business' early name, Landzettel & Sons Paints, and reworked it into Lazon Paint Products, the trade name familiar to contractors, decorators and do-it-yourself men and women throughout the area. With retail outlets open – at different



PHOTOS BY JERRY JASTRAB

At the Lazon Paints store on River Road, above, owners Walter, left, and Robert. At left, co-owner Donald Landzettel points out that many retail customers don't realize the business also includes a complete manufacturing facility behind the shop.

times – in Midland Park, West Milford and Passaic; and two manufacturing firms of related products acquired recently, the company is more widely recognized than ever.

The business, now operated by William's sons, Donald and Robert, and Walter's son, Walter, Jr., is still at its site between River Road and the Passaic River, north of Fair Lawn Avenue. Seen as a major retailer, Lazon's main manufacturing operation – deliberately placed out-of-sight, behind the store on River Road's west side – is unknown to many customers, even Fair Lawn residents.

“The significant thing is that we are a manufacturer,” said Donald, as he stood in his River Road storefront. “It is actually a paint factory that you're in.”

“One of the primary things is that we manufacture for others,” Donald explained, pointing to huge lots of paint cans produced under the Old Village label for shipment out of state. With an operation of that size, the River Road storefront and factory is a major facility, Donald noted, “and that's a pretty good benefit to the tax basis of the town.”

ROAD TO OPPORTUNITY

A few doors north of Lazon, also on River Road's west side, is another commercial veteran of the Borough. Joel Tanis & Sons Ready Mixed Concrete, like Lazon, began three generations and more than six decades before the Borough became 75. And like the Landzettels, the business started at home.

“We started a business on 12th Street and Fair Lawn Avenue. That's where our house was,” recalled Charles Tanis, one of the founder's three sons. “My mother answered the telephone for us and we'd call in for the orders.” The orders were for loads of construction items like concrete, sand, gravel, topsoil and ashes.

“In 1931 was the first dump truck that my father bought,” said Charles about a key move by Joel Tanis in the building trade. “In 1939, he bought his first (cement) mixer,” Charles continued. “I guess about a year or two later, we bought this place here (the River Road site) and it’s been growing ever since.”

Charles worked with his brothers, Joel, Jr. and Walter, as the business concentrated on producing concrete and shipping it to construction sites all over the North Jersey area. In 1999, Charles’ two sons, Mark and Wayne, operated Tanis Concrete with their father. Mark put the decades’ changes in perspective as he looked back at his family’s business.

“My grandfather remembers when he (could have bought the land) from here to the Fair Lawn Avenue Bridge for \$1,200,” Mark said. “He bought his property for \$400.”



JERRY JASTRAB

The Tanis family still operates its namesake River Road cement business. Charles Tanis, center, in front of his office with sons Mark, left, and Wayne.

BUSINESS FUTURES

The townspeople will benefit for decades from several improvements that were already in progress as the Borough’s 75th anniversary approached. “They will see many changes, especially the redevelopment being done along River Road; that’s the most important one,” said Rick Kellerman, 1999 Chamber of Commerce President. With hundreds of thousands of federal dollars, the business community and the Borough Council collaborated on the renovation project that is to draw residents, clients of professional offices and shoppers from everywhere back to the section of town always known as Fair Lawn Center.

Funded also by a special assessment on the more than 100 businesses within the business district, the



JERRY JASTRAB

1999 Chamber of Commerce President Rick Kellerman, at his desk in Columbia Savings.

River Road Improvement Project will streamline River Road and appoint it with decorative features that befit an important avenue of commerce, Kellerman said. With some reconstruction complete at River Road’s intersection with Berdan Avenue in 1998, the renovations were set to continue in 1999 from Bergen Avenue, one block north of Fair Lawn Avenue, to Harrison Avenue, one block south of Berdan Avenue. With River Road’s **Shop-Rite Supermarket** and **Walgreen Pharmacy** both set for new buildings in 1998, the thoroughfare will even have the anchors it needs to capitalize on the improvements.



THE GROWTH OF CIVIC ACTIVISM

CAMARADERIE IN THE CAUSE OF CHARITY

Beyond the volunteerism of the town's public safety forces and its ambitious sports and recreation programs, Fair Lawn's citizens have banded together in groups that undertake a massive array of charitable and public-interest programs and projects. Much too numerous to even list here by name, the organizations and their causes are highlighted – with apologies to the many worthy groups left out.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention

Coordinator: Denise DePalma-Farr Founded 1992
Provides prevention-education programming against drug abuse

Cosmos Club

Founded 1951

President Joseph Near

A charitable organization for Italian-Americans who maintain a large program of community-oriented events.

Elks Lodge No. 1863

Chapter founded 1968

Exalted Ruler Joe LoPresti

Charitable work is performed for handicapped children and drug awareness programs. A national foundation is operated to provide college scholarships.

Lions Club

Founded 1950

President Howard Bookbinder

A charitable organization whose enormous fund-raising is directed toward eyesight, with even the construction of hospitals for eye surgery.



NICK MESSINA

The Lions Club drop box for used glasses is dedicated at its convenient spot next to the Maurice Pine Library. Club President Howard Bookbinder is to the box's left, Ina Levine right behind it and then-Mayor Edward Trawinski to the right.



COURTESY OF RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

AWAY GAME: Trips to see the New York Mets were popular when Fair Lawn's community service organizations banded together to produce them. This bus-full of young fans can hardly contain themselves as two organizers see them off in the 1960's.

End Violence Now

Founded 1985

Chairman Gloria Broder

A leading anti-crime group, this organization supports victims of violent crime throughout northern New Jersey. Through advocacy and lobbying, its members have been instrumental in passage of the State's recent victims' rights and anti-crime legislation and have successfully fought parole for many offenders.

Knights of Pythias – Benjamin N. Cardozo Lodge

Chapter founded 1951

President Mark Sedaka

Fraternal order of Jewish people who undertake charitable projects

League of Women Voters

Founded 1937

President Jane Spindell

Non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Sunrise Rotary Club Founded 1991
President Cliff McDaniel

In a town busy enough to produce two Rotary Club chapters, the Sunrise Rotary Club maintains the organization's imressive commitment to public service and fund-raising. The Sunrise Rotary's formidable program of charitable dinners, donations to the Borough's volunteer services and much, much more, is too extensive for inclusion here.

National Council of Jewish Women – Jersey Hills Section Founded 1949

Working with Rev. McConnell of the Church in Radburn in 1960, the National Council formulated the plan for the Fair Lawn Mental Health Center. In 1970, the Council collaborated with civic activist John Gottlieb to establish Fair Lawn's remarkable Opportunity Center, now a regional resource for developmentally challenged adults. 1979 saw the Council's creation of both a 24-hour telephone hotline for battered women and a "Woman's Haven" in Paterson, a shelter for abused women that was still in operation 20 years later. In 1985, Involved Mothers at Home, or (IMAH) was the Council's forerunner of the 1990's Mommy and Me program. To the Council, IRS stands for Improved Reading Skills, a 1994 tutoring project in which members tutor children in the primary grades – one to one – to read better earlier.



BARBARA JASTRAB

At Fair Lawn's 75th Anniversary Parade on May 15, 1999, the Fair Lawn Rotary Club celebrated with a look at the decades past and present.

Fair Lawn Rotary Club Founded 1948
President Dr. Alan Dubin

With members from professions from dentistry, accounting and the law to construction, advertising and restaurateurship, the Club uses its diversity to design and conduct a huge schedule of fund-raising and civic-minded projects. The international organization's motto, "Service above Self," is reflected in Fair Lawn in the members' elaborate renovation of Beaver Dam Park on Saddle River Road, substantial contribution toward the Fire Department's new thermal imaging camera, donation of the huge rotating globe in the Maurice Pine Public Library, and countless other equally tedious and equally beneficial undertakings.

VETERANS GROUPS



KENNETH DICKSON

FIRST LADY: Ann Dickson, a Service Officer of Harry Coppendyke American Legion Post No. 171, was the first woman to serve as Grand Marshal in Fair Lawn's Memorial Day Parade, in 1999. Fellow Legionnaire Eugene Feeley, 90, rides with her as the procession enters the Avenue of the Heroes near Memorial Park.

Harry Coppendyke American Legion Post NO. 171 Founded 1930

Catholic War Veterans Post No. 1076 Founded 1946

Jewish War Veterans Post No. 651 Founded 1950

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 281 Founded 1940



JERRY JASTRAB

An open invitation at the V.F.W. Post's Morlot Avenue home.

HOBBY & INTEREST GROUPS

<p>Art Association Founded 1950 <u>President Candi Feinberg</u></p> <p>The level of expertise is high enough to challenge cyber professionals, but novices attend to benefit from the members' extraordinary experience.</p>	<p>Radio Club <u>President Al Savio</u></p> <p>A decades-old organization for enthusiasts of long-range radio communication.</p>
<p>Computer Club Founded 1985 <u>President Herman Sachs</u></p> <p>The level of expertise is high enough to challenge cyber professionals, but novices attend to benefit from the members' extraordinary experience.</p>	<p>Federated Arts <u>President Isidor Freeman</u></p> <p>Music, dance and the arts in Fair Lawn are supported by this group, which also stages the summertime Concerts in the Band Shell in Memorial Park.</p>

THE GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

THE WARREN POINT SQUARE CLUB

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America have been active in the town for virtually Fair Lawn's entire history. The character-building and community service activities of Scouting have benefitted not only thousands of Fair Lawn youth, but the Borough's population as a whole.

Scouting's major programs for all the age groups – Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, Cub Scouts, Tigers and Explorers – have been sponsored by numerous educational, religious and non-profit organizations. In addition, many adult volunteer leaders have devoted countless hours of their time to the program, but have also found satisfaction from their service.

The Borough's Special Role in Scouting

Fair Lawn is home to the Headquarters of the Bergen Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is the preferred location for planning the Council's Summer Camp Program. The Council's modern offices on Route 208 South are a reminder of the organization's commitment to the town.

Founded 1940

The Warren Point Square Club began informally at the Warren Point Post Office when local members of the Mason organization met while picking up their mail. By the 1970's, an enlarged Clubhouse on Monroe Street was home to three different Mason Lodges. The Club has initiated an impressive number of charitable projects in Fair Lawn, an early example of which is the donation of the Volunteer Ambulance Corp's first rig.

SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE GROUPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

<p>Fair Lawn Livewires Founded 1984 <u>President Tina Gilroy</u></p>	<p>Happy Seniors Founded 1980 <u>President Henry Kirchner</u></p> <p>Social Organization</p>
<p>Fair Lawn Senior Club Founded 1975 <u>President John Valinski</u></p>	<p>Grandmothers Club Founded 1984 <u>President Mattie Testin</u></p> <p>This organization supports and funds research on diseases of children</p>
<p>Golden Circle Founded 1958 <u>President Alex Hogan and Ernie Morris</u></p>	<p>Seniors of St. Anne Church Founded 1976 <u>President Marie DeMaria</u></p>
<p>Friday Social Club Founded 1981 <u>President Dorothy Bohan</u></p>	

Background photos courtesy of Recreation and Parks Department. Top, a summer Sunday concert in Memorial Park in the 1950's or '60's. Bottom, Girl Scouts flank Mayor Richard Vander Plaats in a 1963 ceremony.

Marking Time

The Borough Celebrates its Jubilee Year

To highlight the Borough's remarkable 75 years of progress, Fair Lawn threw itself a joyous, year-long birthday party to remember its venerable past while looking ahead to the brightest of futures.

JERRY JASTRAB
In the Council Chambers on April 5, 1999, the 75th Anniversary Committee staged a reenactment of the Borough Council's first meeting in 1924. A huge birthday cake was the celebration's centerpiece.



The 1999 events included:

-  **KNOW YOUR TOWN** –
Thursday, March 11
-  **REENACTMENT OF FIRST COUNCIL MEETING** –
Monday, April 5



PHOTOS BY JOE COOK
The Longtime Citizens Banquet, held at the Athletic Club, above, brought out Borough Historian Jane Diepeveen, left, who received a commemorative plate from Anniversary Chairman John Cosgrove; this speaker, near right, one of many who described growing up in town; and celebrants like the happy ladies at far right. Below, a place setting at the gala event.



-  **HISTORICAL WALKING/ RIDING TOUR**
Saturday, April 17
-  **75TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE**
Saturday, May 15



BARBARA JASTRAB
At Fair Lawn's 75th Anniversary Parade on May 15, 1999, the town's four Fire Companies march single-file behind their Captains, along Fair Lawn Avenue.

-  **ANTIQUE CAR SHOW** – Sunday, May 16
-  **LONGTIME CITIZENS BANQUET**
Sunday, June 6
-  **FAIR LAWN DAY** – Sunday, September 5
-  **75TH ANNIVERSARY BALL**
Saturday, November 13

Making Plans for the New Millennium

“This is home rule that’s working,” said Larry Koplik, who, with his wife Felice Koplik, are part of a community drive to make Fair Lawn walker- and cyclist-friendly. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Task Force of Fair Lawn, headed by Chairman Phil Plotch, pointed the way to a safer town – and the Borough Government embraced its vision and joined the campaign to make it come true. “The gist of it is that the community started doing things on a grass roots level and the town Government responded,” Larry explained.

“It’s wonderful that a group of people can get together and do something that makes a real difference in our town,” said Plotch. “This collective effort is pulling everyone together so that in the new millennium, Fair Lawn can have a sense of community based on the ability to safely and comfortably walk and bicycle around town.”

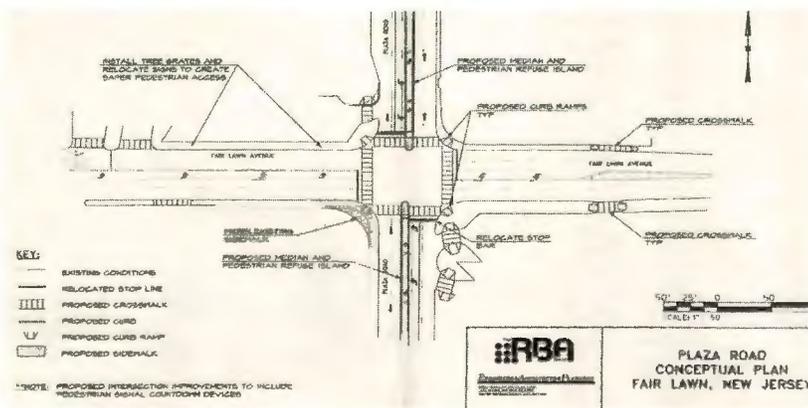
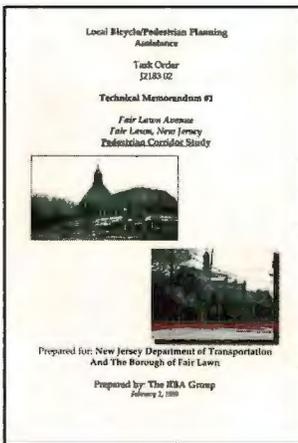
A WORKING RELATIONSHIP

Through the collaboration between citizens and Government, the year 2000 will usher in a period of dramatic change to enhance the appearance, ambiance, convenience, functionality and safety of Fair Lawn’s public infrastructure and built environment. Efforts were already underway in 1999 to upgrade and reinforce safety features and pedestrian/bicycle amenities in the Borough, particularly in terms of refining the relationship of regional

and local mass transit to improve access to Fair Lawn’s commercial districts.

Fair Lawn’s dream of walker- and cyclist-friendlier streets is closer to reality with the joint Borough-State initiative that funded studies like these, conducted by a Morristown firm. At left, the report’s cover page; below, a new concept for the important Fair Lawn Avenue/Plaza Road intersection.

DOCUMENTS COURTESY OF FAIR LAWN PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TASK FORCE



The River Road Improvement District – the community’s original downtown, known as Fair Lawn Center -- has completed the installation of new sidewalk pavers, traffic signals and street lighting. It is the Borough’s first use of Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (or ISTEA, popularly known as “Ice Tea”) funds and State monies made available to enhance traditional neighborhood shopping districts and to improve and coordinate related modes of transportation.

The Radburn Shopping District and Train Station area is also eligible for Federal and State funding as a showcase project of the State Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, New Jersey’s major new legislative and funding effort to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and amenities and to control vehicular usage and land development patterns. And in 1999 the Train Station became a NJ Transit showcase renovation project.



These projects are coordinated efforts of State, County and local governments and officials, including NJ Transit Executive Director Stanley Rosenblum, who is a Fair Lawn resident, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program, Bergen County Planning Department, Bergen County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, Fair Lawn Pedestrian Improvement Committee, River Road Improvement Corporation, Fair Lawn Disability Committee, Fair Lawn Board of Education, Radburn Association, Fair Lawn Garden Committee and the Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Task Force of Fair Lawn itself.

A SHARED VISION

A vision statement issued by NJDOT declares as a goal that residents and visitors will be able to conveniently walk and bicycle with confidence and a sense of security in every community in the State. Now that the Fair Lawn Borough Council has embraced the same objective, Larry Koplík put it this way: "We have the will, we have the concept and we have the funding. It's all falling into place."



PHOTOS BY JERRY JASTRAB

Top photo, Fair Lawn Avenue; left, River Road ; right, Saddle River Road; bottom, Broadway.

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a happy

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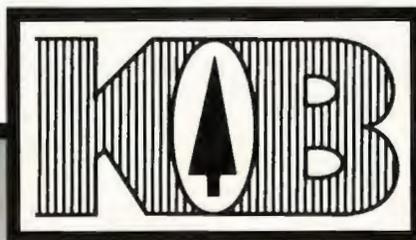
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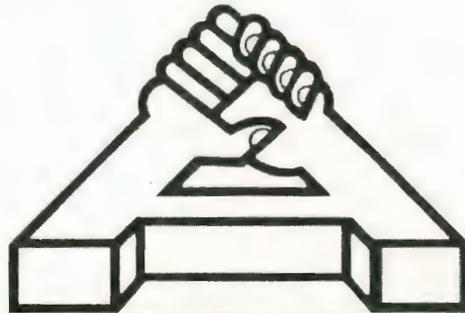
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Congratulations Fair Lawn on Your 75th Anniversary!



From There....



To Here....

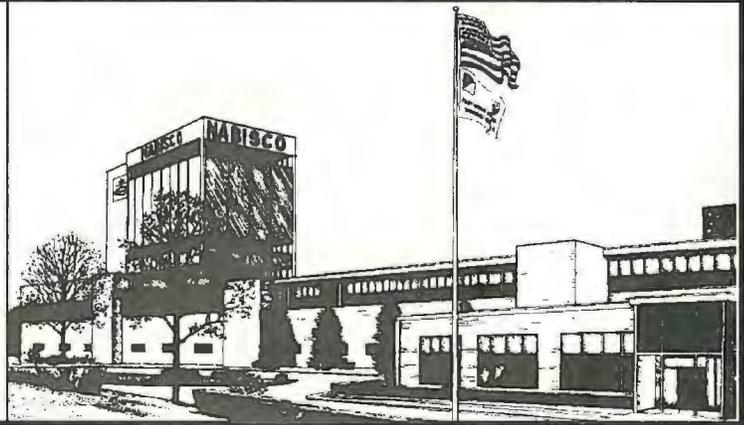
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**Best
Wishes to
Fair Lawn on its
75th Anniversary**



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Borough of Fair Lawn
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FAIR LAWN
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**“WE’RE WORKING ON
IMPROVEMENTS
FOR THE NEXT
75 YEARS”**



RIVER ROAD
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Fair Lawn Republican Organizations

*Congratulate Fair Lawn on Its Glorious 75th Anniversary
Our Best wishes for the next 75 years*

Fair Lawn Republican Club, Fair Lawn Republican County Committee, Fair Lawn Women’s Republican Club
Assemblyman and Speaker Pro Term Nicholas R. Felice
Councilman and Former Mayor Joe Tedeschi
Councilman and Former Mayor Ed Trawinski
Council Candidate and Zoning Board Chair Mark M. Sedaka
Council Candidate and American With Disabilities Act Chair Lisa Yourman

**Congratulations
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on your
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**Happy 75th
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Fair Lawn's Democratic Party

**“Mayor David L. Ganz, Deputy Mayor Matt Ahearn,
Councilwoman Flossie Dobrow and
the Flid Democratic Team of Marty Etler, Sheri Adler, and
Vic Amato Salute Fair Lawn On Its 75th Anniversary.”**



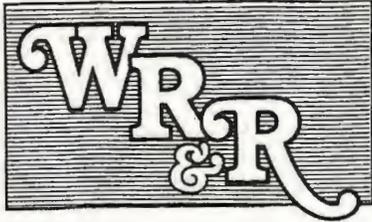
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and a good place to live now.

Happy 75th Birthday Fair Lawn

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You Make Our Town The Great Place It Is.**

Bob Gordon

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**HAPPY
75th ANNIVERSARY
TO
FAIR LAWN**

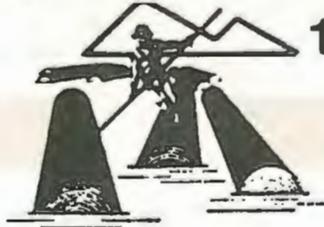
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Fair Lawn's 75th Anniversary

Fair Lawn has a rich history.



25th Anniversary 1949
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75th Anniversary 1999
happening NOW!!!

1999 will be a very exciting year for the Borough of Fair Lawn. This year, the Borough turns 75 years old. There are many exciting things planned for the birthday celebration year including parades, historical walking tours, a re-enactment of the first council meeting, and even a 75th Anniversary Ball in November. You are encouraged to take an active part in the year long celebration as Fair Lawn will only turn 75 once!!!

We will update this page on a regular basis. Got a question?? Looking for more information??? Have information for us???? E-mail us. Click on the links below to navigate around the site. As this web site progresses, we anticipate posting a significant number of pictures. As a result, some of the pages may take a while to load. Be patient!!! It will be worth the wait.

Someone once said, "All roads lead to Fair Lawn." Many people have lived, worked, or played in the Borough.



Have a funny Fair Lawn story or a fond Fair Lawn memory? Why not share them in our guest book. It's as easy as a click.

[Click to read the comments already posted to the guestbook](#)

Fair Lawn's 75th Anniversary Home Page on the Internet, designed by Joe Cook, accessible at <http://www.fairlawn75.org>.

Graphics services for the Journal by The Color Factory Graphics Studio, Fair Lawn