



THE *TIMES*

FORMERLY
THE
SCOTCH PLAINS TIMES
AND
FANWOOD
INDEPENDENT

VOL. 8 NO. 16

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J., THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1967

10 CENTS A COPY

Queen Gardens Apartments Vetoed On Lake Avenue Site

After a year of hearings, the Scotch Plains Township Committee rejected the Board of Adjustments recommendation and denied the applications of Queen Gardens, Inc. to erect 148 unit garden type apartments on 9.9 acres of land located at 2140 Lake Avenue.

Following the original recommendation made by the Board of Adjustment, the Township Committee studied the exhibits, testimony and evidence adduced at the Board's hearings and referred the application back to

them. Further hearings were held and the Board again referred the matter back to the Township Committee without further recommendations. Again after careful consideration, the Committee denied the application.

The property in question is zoned for industrial use. The Industrial Committee has maintained that this particular area's peculiar adaptability to industrial use, due to its proximity to the Lehigh Valley Railroad, makes it most suitable for industrial rather than any other use. The

railroad went on record with the Board of Adjustment as very strongly objecting to change of use because they felt that the railroad siding would be totally wasted with an apartment complex and also the fact that the Township has so very little property adaptable to industrial use.

The Committee found that the existing low density residential character of the surrounding residential uses would be no more adversely effected by utilizing the property for industrial purposes, but that "the change in

use requested would be a substantial detriment to the public good and do serious damage to the Township zoning plan and zoning ordinances. The Township has a serious need for the type of industry permitted in this area which would be a benefit to the community as a whole and to which this particular piece of property is especially suited."

The final tax rate, as "struck" by the Union County Board of Taxation was announced at the Township Committee meeting, and proved to be 5¢ more than

was estimated last January. Based on \$72,901,614 property assessed valuation, the tax rate for 1967 will be \$6.74 per \$100 of evaluation. This represents an increase of 60¢ over the 1966 rate. Final figures for 1967 are: local property tax, \$918,296; regional school tax, \$3,373,818; County tax, \$585,051 and Veterans and senior citizens exemptions, \$126,220; bringing the grand total to \$5,003,385. The regional school tax increased \$61,400 due to the additional requirement of medical insurance costs as per teacher contract agreements approved last February. The business personal property tax rate increased from \$9.25 in 1966 to \$9.51 for 1967. Of the total \$5,003,385 to be raised by taxation, \$95,565 is business personal, the balance of \$4,907,820 is general tax. Several citizens attending the

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• Fanwood Girl Scores Twice

Local Beauty Wins Miss Union County Crown

The theme was 'April in Paris' at the annual Miss Union County Pageant held Saturday in Scotch Plains - Fanwood High School, sponsored by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees.

A vivacious brunette was this year's winner and a first for our community. Miss Susan Hoos, 21 years old, of 143 Hunter Avenue, Fanwood was elected "Miss Union County 1967". She is a 5-foot, 8-inch brunette, and likes art, music and tennis.

A junior at Kings College, Briar-Cliff Manor, New York,

she is social chairman of her class, a member of Phi Lambda Sigma literary society, and plans to teach English in high school. Miss Hoos also won the talent award with her rendition of the song, "Mira," from the Broadway musical, "Carnival."

She will now represent Union County at Cherry Hill, during the contest to select Miss New Jersey from the 21 county winners. The winner will go on to

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Fanwood's own Susan Hoos was crowned Miss Union County of 1967 at the pageant sponsored by the Jaycees and held in the high school last Saturday. Pictured above is Nancy Ann Wyman of Summit, Miss Union County of 1966, as she bestows the crown on the new titleholder. Miss Hoos also won this year's talent award. Winner of the "Miss Congeniality Award" of 1967 was Karen Weiss of Berkeley Heights. Shown above right, Mrs. June Coles is making the presentation of this award that is sponsored by the Claire Louise Shop of Westfield.

(Photos by Jerry P. Donnini)