

# THE TIMES

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## • Board Lends An Ear

# CITIZENS ENRAGED OVER CLEAN-UP

Annually, the Board of Health of Scotch Plains sets aside the April meeting specifically for the hearing of complaints on health matters from the public. The annual gripe session this year, held on Monday, April 24 at 9 p.m., brought to the attention of the Board complaints on only one subject, the collection of refuse within the township.

The combination of increased rates and the elimination of twice-a-year cleanup occasioned comment from several citizens. One resident, Mr. Basili of Lyde

Place, asked how the Board of Health justifies the increase in local taxes and the elimination of cleanup days. He asked for at least one cleanup a year. Under terms of an ordinance recently passed, local cleanup days have been eliminated, and citizens are personally responsible for getting rid of large items which can't be taken with regular collections by paying the scavengers specified fees set up in the ordinance. Mrs. Wright of Lyde Place also requested that the Board of Health take action to restore the annual cleanup pro-

gram, pointing out that not every family in town can pay the carting fees, such as \$3 for a chair, \$6 for a dryer, and the resultant pileup in backyards will bring about a very unattractive town.

One resident cited the figures of 5000 families paying \$40 a year, with a total of approximately \$200,000 spent by Scotch Plains residents annually for garbage collections. At these rates, he still did not know how to get rid of stones and rocks from his property. He mentioned that leaves in the fall caused the same problem; burning is forbidden, and scavengers won't take the leaves. He stated that he had lived in any number of communities, but he had never encountered such an undesirable situation with garbage collection. He suggested that the township should attract other scavengers on a bid basis, contracting annually for the collection of all garbage and refuse.

Philip Cobb, vice president of the Board of Health, explained that the elimination of waste is an ever increasing problem for communities throughout the nation. The members of the Board of Health felt that the recent increase in rates was reasonable, considering general increases in living costs everywhere. The program in Scotch Plains is similar to that in many towns nearby, and the long distances now required for hauling garbage justify higher rates, he said. The pre-

## At Your Service

On Friday, April 28 from 1 to 3 p.m., The TIMES phones will be manned to receive calls from the residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood regarding questions you want answered concerning the proposed high school addition and the \$3,640,000 bond issue. Answers to the twelve most often asked questions will be sought from the proper officials, and the results will be published in the next issue of the TIMES available Thursday, May 4. The phone number to call is 322-5266.

sent situation in Scotch Plains is not ideal, Cobb said, but is an attempt to smooth things out. He added that if the new ordinance does not work, something else will have to be tried, and pooling of effort on the part of surrounding communities in the building of disposal plants will be the answer for the future. However, snags in refuse-burning plants will first have to be ironed out, he said.

The licensing of scavengers in Scotch Plains was questioned by several, among them John Andrusky, Jr. In answer to questions, Cobb replied that there were now eleven licenses for scavengers issued annually within the township, that the same eleven licenses had been issued for many years, at least twenty, and that the books had been closed to new scavengers wishing to establish a business in Scotch Plains, because it had been felt that the present eleven licenses satisfied the needs of the community. Andrusky suggested a more competitive program for licensing, stating "that the present licensing methods were discriminatory against anybody new who wished to obtain a license. He added that there is no limit on the number of milkmen within the community." John Koleszar

also suggested opening up the books, adding that an adequate number of licenses is one more than we need.

A request was voiced by several citizens to alter the present schedule for pickup of grass clippings on the second collection day of the week. They asked that arrangements be made with the scavengers to collect clippings on the first collection day of the week, so that they would not have to be saved in boxes and bags in garages, smelling and causing a health menace. Cobb claimed that this request was an important one, worth serious consideration, and the Board of Health had overlooked the problem of grass clippings when drawing up present system with the scavengers. He said that the request would be made. Cobb pointed out to the residents that Mayor Kitz, a prominent nurseryman, would strongly urge residents to save their clippings because they make wonderful compost for their gardens, at which point several in attendance quickly offered "Let him take mine!"

Cobb said that all complaints would be considered, referred to the township committee, and that the public would be informed of decisions in the future.

# New Pipeline, More Water

More than 2-1/2 miles of new 48 inch transmission main is now being put into the ground in Scotch Plains and Fanwood to provide additional water service to this area and make sure everybody has all the water they want on hot days, the Elizabethtown Water Co. announced this week.

The new pipeline can carry up to 30 million gallons of water daily and will cost \$700,000. It is part of Elizabethtown's \$5,700,000 construction program for 1967.

Most of the new 48 inch main runs along the Public Service right of way in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. It will connect with a

main will be controlled from the telemetry board at the company's load dispatch center in Netherwood. The pipe used in the main is made of ductile iron, a new technical advance in the manufacture of cast iron pipe. American Cast Iron Pipe Co. of Birmingham, Alabama, is the maker of the pipe used in this project and D'Annunzio Bros. of Scotch Plains are the contractors.

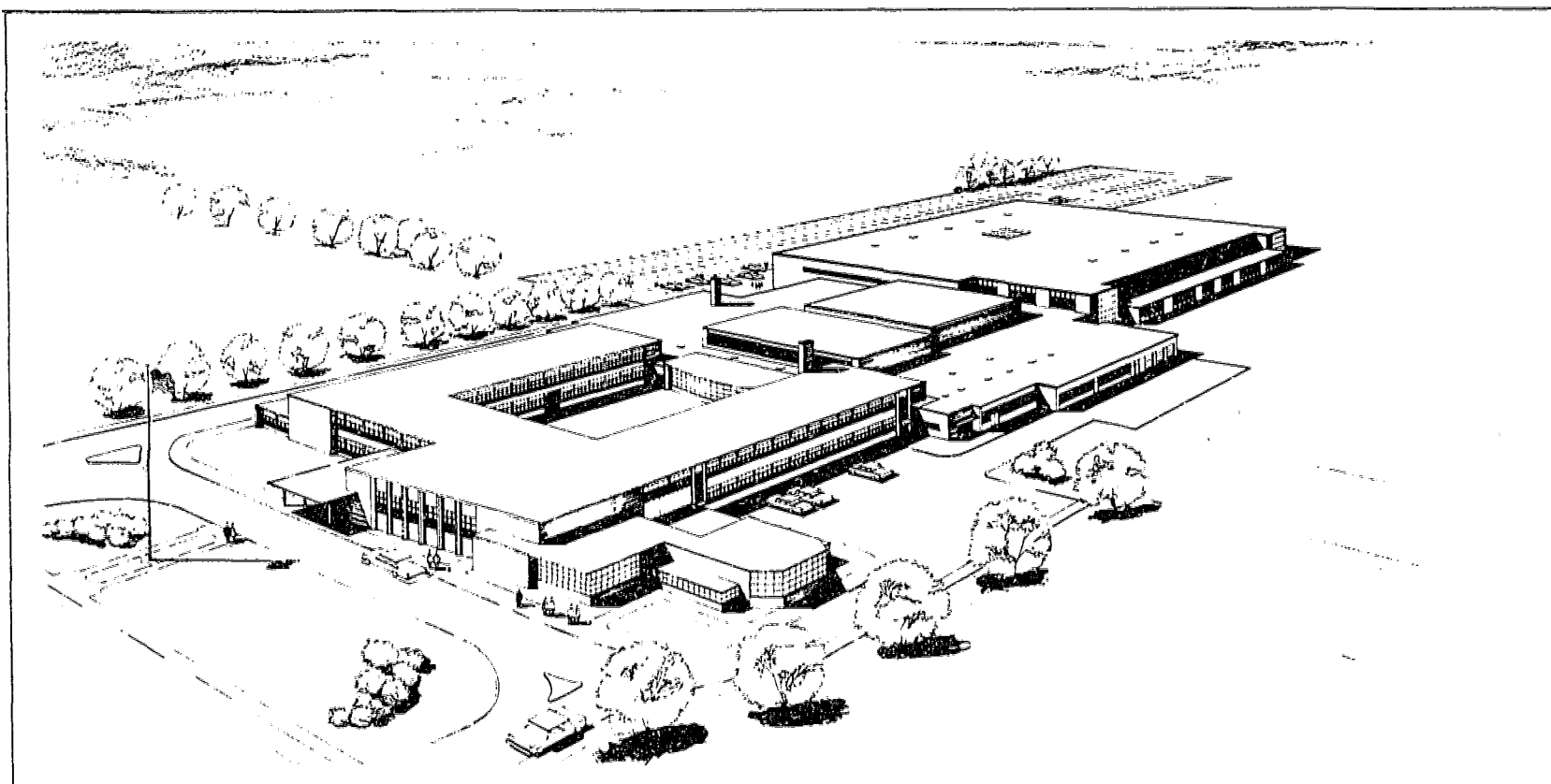
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transmission main on Raritan Road, just west of Terrill Road, where water will be pumped from Elizabethtown's storage center at Oak Tree.

The new line will terminate at North Ave. in Fanwood where another connecting transmission main will carry the water to the company's Jerusalem Road storage reservoir in Scotch Plains. This storage center is the key facility in providing water to Westfield, Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Plainfield and North Plainfield.

Elizabethtown engineers said the new main will make it possible to "very substantially increase" the water available on the hottest day of the year and also provide for future anticipated growth in this area. The main is expected to be in operation by May 20.

Water service through the new



On May 16 the voters in Scotch Plains and Fanwood will have the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed addition to the high school pictured above. In an effort to acquaint the public with the program, costs and other facts, the Board of Education is mailing a brochure covering all these points to every home on May 8. In addition, they have scheduled fifteen meetings with PTA and Civic groups. May 8, 8 p.m., members of civic and service groups in the two communities have been invited to attend a presentation of the plans at Park Junior School, Scotch Plains. The general Public Hearing will be held Thursday, May 11 at 8 p.m. in the high school.