

# THE TIMES

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## Urgent Council Action On Lower Speed Limit

A group of Midway Avenue residents asked the Fanwood Borough Council to fight for reduction of the 40 mph speed limits on Midway Avenue, which is a county road. The residents said they are launching a campaign and will "reach the untouchables" on a city and state level until what they said were hazardous conditions are eliminated.

Michael Dunay of 363 Midway said no other county roads he has observed have the density of homes as close to the street as Midway. Dunay said he had been checking speeds there for 17 years. "When the speed limit was 25 miles, the average speed of drivers was 38" he said. He added that accidents have occurred in front of almost every home.

Ralph Lunato of 359 Midway claimed that two autos have been hit in front of his home and he has had two of his dogs killed.

Joseph Miscioscia of 369 Midway cited problems he has in pulling out his driveway and said he has narrowly missed accidents in so doing.

Mayor Roland M. Beetham said the Council is not oblivious to problems with the speed limit. He said 61 traffic tickets have been issued there this year.

Beetham said that one of the major problems in achieving lower speed limits is the fact that while Midway is densely populated on one side of the street, the other is mainly wooded area.

Councilman William Nelson said that a concerted effort has been made through county and state officials, and that Fanwood has been running a speed check on Midway Avenue. He said that the limits are set by the Safety Division of the N.J. Department of Motor Vehicles and that he and Police Chief Gorsky have been to Trenton many times to try to resolve the problems. It is difficult to obtain results quickly, Nelson pointed out.

Nelson said the 25 mph limit posted there some time ago was actually illegally posted by the borough, hence impossible to enforce. He said the borough cannot install warnings, flashing lights, or any signs without state lights, or any signs without county permission.

The speed limits are part of a state-wide scheme to improve flow of traffic, according to Mayor Beetham. While the program has eliminated nuisance 10 and 15 mph limits in some places, it results in situations like Midway Avenue on the other hand, he said. Beetham said the reason for lower limits on North Avenue in Westfield was because of greater population density.

Jonathan Shattuck of 435 Midway said the residents are forming an organization and invited

the Mayor and Council members to attend meetings, which they accepted.

Nelson said the borough is rechecking, going through the motions again, and will re-file with the state authorities requesting lowering of speed limits.

Councilman Jerome Boryea, reporting for the Recreation Commission, said that the petition for a municipal pool submitted to the Council by over 200 residents last month was under discussion and study. A committee has been formed, composed of citizens' representatives on the Recreation Commission. The committee is now consulting with neighboring communities where municipal pools are operative. Pool committee members include Chairman George Gould, Douglas Clausen, Carl Factor, and Ray Osterman.

Boryea said the annual Halloween party was the largest ever held, with 2000 attending. The annual turkey shoot sponsored by the Recreation Commission will be held on November 27 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Council approved the promotion of probationary patrolman Jeffrey Jaczko to rank of Class E patrolman effective November 1.

Councilman Donald Dunne issued a reminder to residents to avoid piling leaves over catch basins. He said such action results in clogging and flooding. Dunne also asked that residents try to avoid parking automobiles on the street during leaf season. The leaf vacuum must cut a 50 to 60 foot swath around parked cars, he said.

## I.C.B.O. Fund Gets \$50,000 Merck & Co. Gift

The Interracial Council for Business Opportunity of New Jersey announced here today that it had received a major contribution of \$50,000 from Merck & Co., Inc., a pharmaceutical and chemical corporation.

The \$50,000 gift will be used to guarantee some \$200,000 initially in "soft" loans to black businesses in the 21 communities of Union County.

The contribution establishes the Merck-ICBO Guarantee Fund, which will be administered by the New Jersey office of the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity (ICBO), a national non-profit organization founded in 1963. The guarantee fund concept was adopted by ICBO in 1967 to obtain commercial bank financing for black owned and operated businesses that would not normally qualify for such loans. In addition to financing, ICBO provides management

## Annual Report Not Fireproof

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt asked for patience on the part of Fanwood residents awaiting the delivery of their annual report on the borough financial condition, usually in the mails before this each year. Pollitt said he took the report with him on a September vacation at his cabin at Lake Damariscotta in Maine, with intentions of tying up a few loose ends on the report before its printing.

Unfortunately, Pollitt's cabin was gutted by fire during the family vacation. Fortunately, the family were not injured, but the annual report was lost. Pollitt said he had to start from scratch on a new one, which will be issued shortly.

## Collect Toys For Needy Children

Bob Kraus, chairman of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees' "Toy Time" program announced this week that the local Jaycee chapter will again sponsor a drive to acquire and distribute toys to needy children.

Donations of new or usable toys, especially bikes, wagons, go-carts, doll carriages, doll houses, and sports equipment may be made by contacting the following Jaycees: Bob Kraus, 29 Rainier Rd., Fanwood (889-4972); Dick Hill, 368 LaGrande Ave., Fanwood (889-2137); Randall Kunz, 2143 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains (232-6988); or Gene Rector, 405 Acadia Road, Scotch Plains (233-8374).

## Raritan Road Residents Say County Road Status Would Hurt Community

### Petition Signed By 312 Home Owners

Raritan Road residents continued their campaign to attempt to prevent county road status for their street, with the submission of a petition to the Township Committee on Tuesday signed by 312 residents of the south side of Scotch Plains. The signers, representing many streets from the south side, offered the opinion that county road status would be contrary to interests of the community, would introduce an "incompatible element of commercialism into a solely residential area", would threaten children going to school, and would reduce real estate values. They registered vigorous protest to any such contemplated action.

Mayor Thomas SantoSalvo was not present. Acting in his stead, Committeeman Albert Theurer said no discussion had been held between county officials and the township committee concerning such a possibility. He said such action was not imminent, that no notification had been received regarding it, and that thinking at present is to keep Raritan Road a township street.

Dr. Richard Sharritt of Raritan Road, speaking for his neighbors, said that five of them had attended a Union County Planning Board meeting during which the interim road plan was being discussed. They said they were told by a county freeholder that the county must request permission to establish a county road from the municipality involved. Attorney George Wood agreed. They claimed that it seemed apparent that the county had such a plan in mind for Raritan Road, since there were "20 maps all over the place" showing Raritan Road as a part of a proposed county system.

The residents asked why road surveys are underway in many portions of Raritan Road. Theurer said the surveys may be in connection with the building of bridge at Clover Lane to connect Terrill Road and Raritan Road. Municipalities cannot legally build bridges, he said, and the bridge was being built by the county next year at the request of the Township Committee. He said that in establishing the exact location for the bridge, it was necessary to determine the center lateral of approaching road and the location of the road-bed. The county had asked the township to determine this. Such studies are difficult on old roads, he said. Surveying also could be in connection with proposed drainage and pavement there, he said, for which a state grant has been received.

Theurer expressed his own desire to keep "lovely residential areas" from being developed and free from heavy traffic. He said he had often suggested a new road running along the railroad out in the industrially-zoned south side area to skirt present residential portions but had been told that his idea was "far fetched and too expensive".

The Committee was pressed for an opinion of its members

on allowing county control of the road. Theurer said he would not speak for members, since sufficient study had not been made, nor had discussion been held. Committeeman Michael Regan volunteered from the floor that, should the question

## BE AN EARLY-BIRD MAILER

More mail than ever before will be delivered between now and the holidays.

Postmasters Schettino and Cardozo of Fanwood and Scotch Plains, N.J. urged mailers to start to plan for their holiday mailings now and to be "Early Bird" mailers.

The postal service can handle the unusually heavy load of mail expected this year, if the mailing public will give us a hand by depositing their cards and packages into the mail a bit earlier than usual and by using ZIP codes, Postmasters Schettino and Cardozo said.

Packages should be wrapped well, without rattles. Addresses should be legible.

New postal laws have eliminated the lower rate for greeting cards weighing an ounce or less. Therefore, all "regular" Christmas cards will be mailed at the six cent rate this year.

This is also a good time to record the ZIP codes in the return addresses of incoming mail, to up-date address lists, Postmasters Schettino and Cardozo said.

arise during his forthcoming term, he and Committeeman-elect Griffin would not be in favor.

Virginia Dekle of 1 Balmoral Lane questioned whether expense account limits had been set for municipal employees attending the League of Municipalities convention this week. She was told there were limits of \$85 per man. She registered opposition to the attendance of the assistant township engineer, whose attendance was approved by the township committee.

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### EARLY DEADLINE

The Thanksgiving Week  
Issue of THE TIMES  
Will be published on  
Wednesday Nov. 27  
Deadline For Advertising  
and Club News will be  
Friday Noon Nov. 22