

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME

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## Community Leaders React to Cahill Tax Proposals

A blue-ribbon committee named by New Jersey Governor William Cahill has spent many, many months studying the taxation structure of the state of New Jersey, concluding in recommendations for sweeping reforms. Included are suggestions for elimination of property tax funding for public schools and introduction of a state income tax. What are the reactions of local political leaders to these suggestions, and, in their opinion, how would residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood be affected? Two Republican mayors and two Democratic municipal leaders were contacted.

Scotch Plains Mayor Albert Theurer, a Republican, has hopes that Scotch Plains taxpayers might benefit from elimination of the property tax burden, but he wants lots more information before formulating a positive opinion. "Everybody wants improvement in their tax situation, and maybe the proposals will do that for residents of Scotch Plains, since we have always paid very high taxes here and a give-and-take even distribution situation could help," Theurer said. However, his prime concern is retention of local control over schools, and he wants assurances that the Scotch Plains taxpayers would still be able to determine quality of education here if the state were to distribute educational dollars from income tax. He is not exactly optimistic over that possibility. Theurer said he is fearful that state funding of education could result in loss of control and in contributions to other areas where residents had never been as concerned about quality education and hadn't worked as hard toward that goal.

However, he is taking concrete steps toward obtaining lots more opinions and information. He

said he already has been furnished with extensive information pro and con on the issue, which he has distributed to all members of the township committee and had hopes that eventually the governing body might be able to come up with a joint reaction. Before that, Theurer plans to invite N.J. Senator Jerome Epstein (a Scotch Plains resident), N.J. Assemblyman Peter McDonough, and Fanwood Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt, who was a member of the Governor's tax policy group to meet with the Township Committee and possibly with the Fanwood Borough Council as well.

Theurer said he understood there were considerable differences of opinion among legislators on various aspects of the taxation suggestions, and he would like to hear the many arguments in order that Committee members could react in behalf of Scotch Plains.

Fanwood Mayor Theodore Trumpp, who is also a Republican, feels that the possible benefit to Fanwood residents might be to those who now commute to New York. These citizens would not have to pay a state income tax if it were imposed.

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## Fanwood Liquor License In Transfer Process

In a community the size of Fanwood, any action involving one of the community's pair of retail consumption liquor licenses is bound to arouse some question and curiosity. Application was made recently for transfer of one of those licenses, bringing with it some citizen concern over ultimate location and application of the license.

The license had been held by Mother's Pantry, and was used at Maple Tree Inn, which is in the process of demolition in preparation for construction of Humble Oil Company's car diagnostic center on Terrill Road between South and LaGrande Avenue. The land was sold to Humble by a corporation, headed by Fanwood residents. The corporation, Kingsley-Blakeley Corporation, lists as its officers Kingsley L. Bilcher and Robert H. Kraus, both of Fanwood. The same two, plus the estate of Harry Mateer, are listed as stockholders. The license transfer, application would also transfer the liquor license from the Mother's Pantry group to the Kingsley-Blakeley Corporation. The remaining consumption license in Fanwood is held by Rocco's Tavern.

Contacted this week regarding the license, Lee Bilcher said he has no definite plans for ultimate disposition of the license at the present moment, but has been deeply involved in discussions. He has investigated the possibility of going into business on

a partnership basis with other people, has looked into using the license by himself for establishment of a new business, and has talked to "many, many" interested people concerning outright sale of the license. The license is a Plenary Retail Consumption "broad package privilege" C-1 license.

Bilcher said he plans to exercise the most meticulous care to insure that the ultimate application of the license would result in a benefit to citizens of Fanwood rather than a detriment. He said he was aware that there had been concern that the license would be used for a package goods store rather than a restaurant, but said he would oppose any such move himself, as a resident of Fanwood. He lives with his wife and family on Belvidere Avenue.

Bilcher said he would like to see the license used for establishment of an attractive restaurant or cocktail lounge. As long as he can hold out financially for this ultimate goal, he would

## Both Parties Name Council Candidates In Light Primary Vote

### Board Of Ed To Hold Special Meeting

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Thursday, June 15, 1972 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the auditorium of Terrill Junior High School on Terrill Road.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive quotations on \$1,100,000 in school promisory notes.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board will be held this month on Thursday, June 29 at 8:00 p.m. in the Terrill Junior High auditorium.

### Fanwood DEMS Favor McGovern

Following the Democratic party trend evident throughout New Jersey in Tuesday's primaries, Fanwood Democrats went for McGovern by a very wide margin. Although final votes had not been tallied, it appeared that McGovern was a 5 to 1 choice.

Primary day brought forth 25 percent of Fanwood voters - 1,184 of a registration of 4,700. Not too much crossover voting was reported from Fanwood, although vote counters noted that there had been a few instances of requests.

On the local level, the two Republican candidates for Borough Council went unchallenged, as did the two Democrats. Republican Van Dyke Pollitt collected 550 votes, Tony Mc Call 557. In the Democratic column, Dick Bonner polled 303, Howard Van Towle 288.

Clifford Case received a challenge from Fanwood voters in his bid to seek his seat once again in the U.S. Senate. Although he won nomination statewide and in Fanwood, the vote in Fanwood was close, with Case receiving 311 votes to 274 for challenger Ralph. Matthew Rinaldo tallied 520 votes toward his run for the House, and Fanwood Republicans chose Ulrich, Tiller, and Hellmann, 542, 560, and 538 respectively, for freeholder candidates.

As in Scotch Plains, popular Jerry English brought out a good vote seeking nomination for the House. She defeated Samuels for the Democratic nomination in Fanwood by 255 to 135.

refrain from selling the license for any other possible application, Bilcher said.

He noted that action on the transfer is scheduled for the Fanwood Borough Council meeting of Wednesday, June 14 and he plans to be on hand to answer any questions which may arise from Council or public.

### McGovern Is 3-1 Favorite With DEMS. Mrs. English Wins

The Scotch Plains polling booths drew approximately 2,060 of the municipality's 11,700 registered voters on primary day Tuesday, with results which brought expressions of delight from local Democrats. They claimed a much greater than usual turnout.

Although there was no contest in either Republican or Democratic ranks locally from the five candidates to run for the new Council, the election was marked by a noticeable turnout of newly registered 18-year olds and by considerable interest in the Democratic Presidential contest. In Scotch Plains, final tallies had not even computed in the clerk's office due to the complexity of the ballot, but "guesstimates" indicated that George McGovern was the overwhelming favorite as a Democratic Presidential candidate, pro-

bably by a 3 to 1 total. Approximately 770 Democrats and 1290 Republicans voted. The Republican slate of five candidates gathered the following votes: Alan Augustine, 1289; William Kitz, 1282; Lawrence Newcomb, 1265; Walter Grote, 1272; Albert Theurer, 1275. In the Democratic column, the numbers were: Anne Wodjenski, 769; Robert Griffin, 753; Sylvester Green, 764; Donald De Nitzio, 766; and Philip Carroll, 737.

Jerry Fitzgerald English, seeking the nomination for the House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket, proved a popular vote-getter, topping her competitor Richard Samuel by 575 to 321.

Pollworkers reported that

there was a respectable turnout of 18-year olds in every voting district, and that the majority of them voted in the Democratic ranks. The pollworkers also noted that there was crossover voting in every district -- usually averaging a handful of voters in each district. The old "strictly party" voting was recently declared unconstitutional, and voters were permitted to register preferences for either party for the first time in New Jersey primaries.

According to several of the candidates, their

Democratic party candidates have, in past primaries, generally garnered only about 33 percent of the total turnout. The rise in their percentage "indicates that the people of Scotch Plains want to follow through with their desire for a complete change in government," according to Anne Wodjenski.

In November, a completely new governing body, five men strong, will be chosen. The Township Committee now in existence will be replaced by a Council-Manager form of government, necessitating a total turnover. At the present time, five Republicans are seated on the Township Committee and all are seeking re-election for the new governing body.

## Police Report On Vandalism

The following list of acts of vandalism for last week has been compiled as a cooperative public service. The Junior Women's Clubs of Scotch Plains and Fanwood have received the lists from the Police Departments of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

1. Damage to Southside Firehouse.
2. Window broken in door of Brunner School.
3. Two (2) windows broken at the High School, one on the north side and one in the auto shop.
4. Two (2) windows broken at Evergreen School, one on the south side and one in the rear.
5. Damage at Brookside Park.
6. 3 young boys set off a Burglar Alarm in a Business.
7. Vandalism to a private home on Hunter Avenue.
8. Broken windows in a business on Jerusalem Road.
9. Vandalism at Brookside Park.
10. Vandalism to homes under construction on Wedgewood Way.
11. Vandalism to the brook near Park Junior High -- throwing things into the brook.

Point of information - taken from Ladies Home Journal, February, 1972 a New Jersey builder adds \$100,00 to his price to cover the cost of vandalism during the building of a home.

May 29 -- Mailbox knocked over on Westfield Road.

May 30 -- Stop Sign removed from corner of Laurel Avenue and South Avenue.