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VOLUME

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Possible Substantial Savings To Homeowners In Governors Tax Package

Property taxes on a \$30,000 home in Scotch Plains would be reduced by \$429 this year if Governor Cahill's tax reform proposals had been in effect. The same value home in Fanwood would have a \$465 reduction, according to Fanwood councilman Van Dyke Pollitt, a member of the Tax Policy Committee.

The State legislature is meeting in a special session to study the 60 bills to accept or reject the program.

Pollitt computed the tax impact based upon the Governor's proposed legislation which varied somewhat from the Tax Committee's recommendations.

"The 1972 Scotch Plains equalized tax rate is \$3.86," Pollitt said. "This rate would be reduced to \$2.43, assuming the enactment of the Governor's proposals. In Fanwood, the equalized tax rate would be reduced from \$4.10 to \$2.25," he said. These rates include the recommended \$1.00 uniform property tax.

Property tax savings on other representative homes in Scotch Plains would be as follows: a \$15,

000 home, \$215; \$20,000 home, \$286; a \$25,000 home, \$358; a \$40,000 home, \$572; and a \$50,000 home, \$715. Similarly valued homes in Fanwood would have property tax reductions as follows: a \$15,000 home, \$233; a \$20,000 home, \$310; a \$25,000 home, \$388; a \$40,000 home, \$620; and a \$50,000 home, \$775.

The property tax reductions would be made possible by the State assumption of the cost of the judicial system, welfare, and the current expense costs of elementary and secondary education. Those funds would be raised by a \$1.00 uniform property tax, a personal income tax, expansion of business taxes, and expansion of the base of the existing 5% sales tax.

Playgrounds Open Monday Morning

Richard E. Marks, Superintendent of Scotch Plains Recreation announces that the parks and playgrounds in Scotch Plains will open this Monday at 9 a.m. The parks have been open this week in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. under supervision.

Children should register at their respective parks and playgrounds during the first two weeks. There are many events such as baseball league, Junior Olympics, Wrestling Clinic, Football Clinic, Tennis Clinic, arts and crafts, basketball camp, teen dances, trips to Forest Lodge, Wild West City and the Aquarium, Yankee ball game and this year for the first time a family night is being planned. Information on all these events will be posted at all parks and playgrounds, giving dates and time.

The following parks and playgrounds will be open starting Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The parks will also be open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the evening.

Brookside Park, 233-3735 -- Director -- Barbara Rudnik; Asst. Director -- Carol Poh and John Fisher.

Farley Park, 322-8306 -- Director -- Bill Lee; Asst. Director -- Linda Silberg and Pat Guillaume.

Green Forest Park, 889-4440 -- Director -- Charles Sousa; Asst. Director -- Laura Symonds and Lynn Giacobbe.

Greenside, 889-6595 -- Director -- Jim Nally; Asst. Director -- Michelle Ventura.

Kramer Manor -- Director -- Wayne Carpenter; Asst. Director -- Pat Zabow. Shackamaxon -- Director -- Rose Marie Donnelly; Asst. Director -- Tim Smith.

Terrill Junior -- Director -- Bette Schnitzer. Haven Ave. Park -- Director -- Susan Kennedy; Asst. Director -- Arthur Fenska. Muir School -- Director -- Lee Fusselman.

Special Education -- Director -- Christina Klunder (will

Residents Urge Action On King St. Speeding

Report Agreement With State On Solution To Rt. 22 Flooding

A combination of no sidewalks and speeding cars has residents of King Street upset over the safety of their children. Nine men from King Street came to the Scotch Plains Township Committee meeting this week to urge fast action, and 86 more have signed a petition. Since the street marks the dividing line between Scotch Plains and Fanwood, with each side of the street in a different municipality, the residents plan to bring their complaints to the Fanwood Borough Council as well.

In addition to the joint complaints from groups of residents, the Township Committee also heard from Edward P. Walsh of 1636 King Street. Walsh, who says he has been fighting this problem for years, read a notarized letter which he said would be duly recorded "so that, if nothing is done to correct things and a tragedy does occur, it will prove that our pleas for action have again gone unheard and, as could well happen, were in vain."

The residents want sidewalks for their children to use walking to school. They also want implementation of the 25 mph speed limit. At present, speeders come around a blind curve from Terrill Road, approaching Pandick Court, Walsh told the Committee. "Your police blotters will show that there have been youngsters struck, and injured, but by the grace of God alone, not seriously," Walsh said.

According to Mayor Theurer, the Township Committee met with the Fanwood officials on the question, but there was great diversity of opinion on where the sidewalks should go, the Fanwood side or the Scotch Plains side. There are many side streets entering King on the Fanwood side, Theurer said, while on the Scotch Plains side one very old house juts out close to the street, which would make sidewalk installation impossible. Theurer said the two groups of officials agreed to consult their police and public safety officers, to review the question, and try to arrive at a solution on sidewalks.

There were feelings on the part of some that sidewalks were not necessary. Officer Kuna, safety officer for Scotch Plains, did a survey which showed that 75 percent of the children go to school on the Fanwood side. However, Ed Smith of 1133 Tanglewood Lane, corner of King, said since there are already sidewalks on the Scotch Plains, or south side, from Terrill Road to Tanglewood Lane, he felt that is the logical location for sidewalks through to Martine Avenue. Mayor Theurer expressed sympathy with the plight of the residents. He said the Scotch Plains police will enforce the 25 mph speed limit, put radar checks in the area, and help in whatever way possible. Meanwhile, more meetings will be sought with Fanwood toward solution of the sidewalk problem.

Another step toward solution of Route 22 flooding was taken, by way of an agreement with the state for storm sewer improvements.

Date Change For Listening Post

The Listening Post will be held on Thursday nights instead of Saturday mornings for the summer months. The first session will be held on Thursday, June 22, with Mayor Albert Theurer and Committeeman William Kitzsch at the helm. The June 22 Listening Post replaces the Saturday, July 1 date. Another Listening Post will be scheduled on a Thursday in August.

Narcotics Charge Holds H.S. Student

As the result of a continuing investigation, and armed with a search warrant issued by Superior Court Judge John E. Berger, Detective Lieutenant, Robert Luce and Detective Thomas Culp of the Scotch Plains Police Department conducted a search of a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School last week. The student, a Fanwood resident, was apprehended for possession of LSD on his person, and a later search of his home turned up additional narcotics, including LSD and marijuana.

The two policemen were acting as members of the Union County Narcotics Strike Force.

The youth is being held awaiting a court appearance in juvenile court in Elizabeth.

Detective Lieutenant Luce issued a warning to the community as a whole, noting that Scotch Plains has been, and still is, suffering an influx of LSD into the area. At present the LSD appears in the form of small, orange, barrel-shaped tablets, some of which are wrapped in tinfoil, Luce said. He stated that investigations are still continuing.

Fireworks Are Illegal

The Scotch Plains Police Department advises all residents of Scotch Plains that fireworks are illegal in New Jersey.

Chief Joseph Powers has stated, "We would hope that everyone will abide by these laws and avoid any of the tragic accidents which occur annually at this time. Let's make it a safe and sane July 4th."

Police Report On Vandalism

1. Vandalism to a car on O'Donnell Ave., specifically smeared paint.
2. Rear window broken at Shackamaxon School.
3. Broken windows at the following places: Metropolitan Baptist Church; Union Catholic High School; Park Junior High School and the Southside Firehouse.
4. Damage to a lawn on Martine Ave.
5. Fence knocked down on Maple Hill Rd.
6. Attempt to force door at Green Forest Park, resulting in broken glass.

7. Child throwing stones and ringing door bells on Nichol Ave.

8. Egg throwing and cut screen on Edgewood Terrace.

9. Attempt to set fire to a stockade fence on Mountain View Ave.

These acts of vandalism and most of what is committed here in Scotch Plains is committed by our youth. It makes one wonder if perhaps they have too much time on their hands. As a parent or guardian, do you know where your child goes when he leaves the house and what he will be doing?

The state agrees to pay its share (not to exceed \$250,000) of costs for a lateral storm sewer which would originate at a point in the east branch of the Green Brook in the vicinity of Victor Street southwesterly to the vicinity of Mountside Ave., at which point the improvement is planned to be within the right of way of Route 22 along the northerly shoulder of the highway. The sewer would continue to the existing culvert midway between Scotland Street and Westfield Road, with an outfall into the east branch of the Green Brook, deepening and widening the east branch downstream to its junction with the Green Brook.

The Township entered into an agreement with the State for continuing Planning assistance. The State Department of Community Affairs will provide aid in the form of professional planning assistance for the Planning Board, all of whom are nonprofessionals at planning. The state aid provides \$9,000 annually through 1977 for a total of \$36,000. The township share will be a total of \$27,000 over the same period.

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. Hubert Humphrey from the Board of Health, due to reasons of health. Dr. Humphrey served on the board since its inception in 1954, and according to Committeeman Walter Grote, was a most impressive man, highly respected, who has made a great contribution to the community.

Willow Grove church notified the township that \$550 is being given by the church to the DARE Drug Abuse Rehabilitation program. In a most unusual move, the church members last year donated \$500 to the township in gratitude for the many services and protection through the years.

This year the church decided that DARE, which is strongly supported by the Township Committee, would be the best source of the donation, since it serves "the double purpose of expressing our continuing appreciation to the Scotch Plains community and showing our love for our neighbor -- the person helped by DARE..."

An ordinance was introduced which would appropriate \$37,806 for curbs and pavements in Frank Street, the project to be assessed to benefitting property owners.

Creast Lane residents wrote to express appreciation for gypsy moth spraying in their area. It is the one area threatened with infestation, and state authorities surveyed the area advising on spraying.