

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

O. 31

SCOTCH PLAIN-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1972

15 CENTS A COPY

Christmas Is Coming, But - Without Lights!

What will happen to the Scotch Plains business district during the 1972-73 Christmas-New Year holiday season, with nary a light or an ornament to mark the festive occasion? That question was posed to residents several months ago, when the local businessmen's association announced that they could no longer afford the costs of putting up the strings of lights above the streets for the next year. They asked for ideas and help from any and all interested citizens. They heard from one lone voice.

Mrs. Jinny Robins of 2216 Coles Avenue offered an idea. She wrote to William Murray of Village Shoe Store, president of the Businessmen's Association, suggesting large cement tubs at intervals along Park Avenue and East Second Street on the wide sidewalk side of the street. The tubs Mrs. Robins suggests would be year-round and permanent and evergreens would be planted in the tubs. At Christmas, each evergreen would be decorated very simply - perhaps with red waterproof bows such as those used on bank and office garlands.

Ideally, in Mrs. Robins' view, the township might purchase the tubs. Since first writing her letter suggesting cement ones, she has also seen attractive redwood slat tubs which would be less receptive to writing of obscenities, etc.

She has been very active with Environmental Action Group and hopes to interest them in the question.

What are the advantages? In her view, the only expense is the initial expense and not a recurring annual outlay such as is now required for stringing of lights. The trees would require a minimum of upkeep - watering, pruning, fertilizing, etc., which might be performed by the Public Works Department. The evergreen-decorated sidewalk would create

an attractive mall effect, and the evergreens would produce oxygen all year long, improving the quality of air.

According to Mrs. William Murray, who supports Mrs. Robins' ideas, the strings of lights have represented quite an outlay annually for a handful of businessmen. It tallied approximately \$2,000 per year, according to Mrs. Murray, and costs included paying staff of Ted Miller's Bowcraft to string the lights, electricity paid by storeowners who had a string of lights in front of their store and an electrical connection, and the insurance. Mrs. Murray said the businessmen now own several thousands of dollars worth of lights. She said she would hate to see the town without any touch of the Christmas spirit and noted that the live animal creche disappeared last year.

Both she and Mrs. Robins are anxious to hear views and/or offers of help from other segments of the community. Mrs. Robins has suggested that perhaps civic and service organizations might be willing to donate trees and/or the pots.

Citizens may alert Mrs. Murray at Village Shoe Shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains or the Scotch Plains Times.

Plains Residents Now Eligible For Flood Insurance

Township Hires Attorney On Nursery Action

The Township of Scotch Plains has engaged a new attorney for its forthcoming legal case against Verdic's Nursery. The business, which is located on East Second Street and Flanders Avenue in the business district, once dealt in small shrubs. In recent months, however, high piles of earth are deposited at the site and sifted for topsoil. Residents have complained vehemently about dust and dirt, as have businessmen who have said spilled topsoil has been hosed down on the streets and becomes muddy and later been tracked into their business establishments.

The township officials have said for some time that they will seek legally to cease Verdic's topsoil operation. Mayor Albert Theurer said it was felt that a specialist was needed for this type of legal case. In addition, the two local attorneys were ruled out to serve. Township Attorney James Walsh has offices adjacent to the Verdic operation and Assistant Township Attorney Dominick DeFrancesco has known many of the Flanders Avenue families for many years, which made an out of town attorney desirable for impartiality, Theurer said. The township would have paid for legal services on the case regardless,

Will Be Available To Local Property Owners August 15

Scotch Plains has joined the many communities across the nation which are now eligible for national flood insurance, Mayor Albert Theurer said this week. Theurer said no written or definite information has yet been officially received by the township, but he has been notified that Scotch Plains will be included by U.S. Assemblywoman Florence Dwyer, who has been most helpful in pushing for Scotch Plains on this matter.

The insurance will be available to Scotch Plains property owners effective August 18, and further details will be forthcoming soon regarding action to be taken by interested parties.

Township Engineer Brewster Burns will be in charge of the insurance program and applications and information will be available through his office when details are received.

Theurer said the government of Scotch Plains has been seeking on the insurance rating for a very long time, and apparently seemed stymied at every turn. Just as one set of studies would be completed, another set

Theurer said, and therefore the out-of-town attorney will not cost any more.

The lawyer is now engaged in communicating with the homeowners in Flanders Avenue and vicinity and the township is just about ready to go to court to seek an injunction to stop the topsoil business.

would be required -- and the engineering work which preceded the designation of Scotch Plains as an eligible community now fills a folder, the Mayor pointed out. Initially, the township attempted to act through the federal insurance commission but when results weren't evident, Theurer said he sent letters to legislators detailing Scotch Plains' long history of involvement.

The Mayor expressed his pleasure with the efforts of Mrs. Dwyer and with the news. "We must get this insurance for these people before we have another disastrous flood," he said.

In the past two years, there has been extensive damage in several areas of Scotch Plains due to heavy rains and tropical storms.

The efforts to obtain eligibility for the flood insurance represent a lengthy list of activities on the part of the Scotch Plains

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Apprehend Man In Breaking & Entry Case

Jose Diaz, 30, of 488 Summer Avenue, Newark was arrested by Scotch Plains Patrolman John Barish on Tuesday, August 2 in Blue Star Shopping Center. He was charged with breaking and entry, larceny, receiving stolen property and attempting to elude police officers. He was scheduled for arraignment before Municipal Judge George Wood yesterday.

Two other members of the Scotch Plains force, Patrolman Ernest Hines and Patrolman John P. Kennedy, were on patrol when they observed a strange motor vehicle parked next to Soltis Service Station in Route 22 at 1:41 a.m. Upon investigation, the patrolmen observed two men inside the station building and one outside. The two patrolmen gave chase and the men fled through the bushes into Blue Star Shopping Center. Barish intercepted and apprehended one of the three men, while the other two escaped.

The service station in question, in the westbound lane of Route 22, was the scene of a murder resulting from an armed robbery in March of 1970.

Police Report On Vandalism

VANDALISM REPORT - COMPILED BY THE SCOTCH PLAINS JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB AS REPORTED BY THE SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Pulling up flowers on Center Street.
 2. Paint on car on Pearl Place.
 3. Chain between Lincoln Federal & Municipal parking lots broken.
 4. Windows broken at South Side Fire House.
 5. Windshield of car broken on Redwood Road.
 6. Lamp post destroyed at home on Winding Brook Way.
 7. General vandalism to abandoned house on Route 22.
 8. Air let out of tires on Jacobs Lane.
 9. Eggs broken at Potato King on Route 22.
 10. Kids in vacant house on North Avenue.
 11. Water balloons thrown at passing cars on Plainfield Avenue.
 12. Bricks thrown into pool at Aberdeen Road.
 13. Chairs and garbage thrown into pool on Fawn Ridge Drive.
- "Vandalism is a symptom not a disease." If compared to a disease such as Cancer, we all know that doctors do not tell their patients they should go home and let the Cancer take its course because there isn't any cure. Instead the doctors will do everything medically possible to stop the disease from growing. This is what we, Scotch Plains residents, have to do. Vandalism must be restrained!

VANDALISM -- FANWOOD

COMPILED BY THE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB OF FANWOOD AS REPORTED BY THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

1. Local paper boy had his papers stolen before he could deliver them.
2. Bottles were thrown from cars on several streets causing broken glass.
3. Fence post removed from private property on Patterson Road.
4. Several windows broken at Woodside Chapel.
5. Obscene words painted on a house on Shady Lane.
6. Seven street lights broken on Glenwood Road.
7. Holes shot through screens (BB gun) on Estelle Lane.
8. Tires deflated on Vehicles on South Avenue.
9. Fire set in Goodwill Clothing box in A&P parking lot.

"Y" Representatives And Residents Meet With Mayor Theurer

YMCA officials and staff met with neighboring homeowners at an informal meeting called by Mayor Albert Theurer last Monday at the Municipal Building. The purpose was an exchange of information geared toward solution of some of the complaints which homeowners have cited regarding the YMCA teen coffeehouse, "Mama's Illusion." Theurer said the meeting had been effective and that several short-term improvements had been decided upon to be put into effect during the three weeks before the coffeehouse closes for summer sprucing up. Longer term solutions will be considered by YMCA leaders.

Some neighbors had approached the Township Committee in July regarding noise and nuisance created by the teenagers gathering in the street before and after the coffeehouse sessions. Theurer had announced then that he would call the meeting in an attempt to reach some understanding. He said specific complaints were identified. A similar meeting was held a year ago, he noted.

The Grand Street YMCA isn't an ideal place to have to conduct such a facility, Theurer said, and because of the lack of privacy and isolation, special efforts must be made to attempt to create neighborhood compatibility.

Theurer said some solutions offered included the provision of a supervisory person outside in front of the Grant Street building on evenings when the coffeehouse is in session to deter random gatherings. Extended efforts will be made to close the coffeehouse exactly on time, to get the guests moving toward home, and to eliminate late closings due to cleanup crews.

Joseph Qutub, director of the YMCA, said the YMCA will hire a college student to serve as a staff member for liaison with the coffeehouse. The staff member will monitor aspects of the coffeehouse which may cause complaints.

Qutub said YMCA officials will make every effort to retain good relations with the neighborhood residents. The YMCA is in a residential neighborhood, Qutub said, and "our interest always has been and always will be directed toward working things out with the neighbors."