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# THE TIMES

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ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 13, NO. 40

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1972

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## PTA Petition Objects To Construction Of Storage Facilities

Construction of a storage facility for Board of Education vehicles behind Park Junior High School has aroused vehement objections from the Park PTA President Mrs. Florence Clark, the Park PTA Executive Board, and hundreds of parents who have signed a petition of objection.

They oppose Board of Education plans to expand the existing maintenance shop behind Park to a building twice the size. In fact, Mrs. Clark would like to see not only the proposed new addition removed but also the existing storage shed. Her concerns are dual - the safety of children attending Park Junior High, and the lack of play and gym space when the new Willow Avenue elementary school is built on the Park Junior grounds.

The storage facility will be expanded as a part of the total school expansion package approved by voters last year. The present setup behind Park Junior includes a large cement block building. The front half of the building is used as a woodworking shop for repairs to school equipment, while the back half of the building now is utilized for storage of some equipment and as a garage for three Board-owned school buses. Eventually, if the new storage shed is added, all Board trucks and buses would be stored indoors at the single location. The new building would also include an office for Building and Grounds Supervisor Gerald Coffman and the two clerical employees who complete his department.

In the view of Mrs. Clark, the new facility for truck and bus storage should never be erected, since once it is built, the Board and the public will never get rid of it. She toured the Park Junior grounds last week to point out her objections.

At present, at least ten different vehicles use the area behind Park Junior. The vehicles include three buses, racktrucks, pickup trucks, etc. Each vehicle must reach the present outdoor parking area and the proposed new garage via a narrow driveway which runs along the side of Park Junior High School. The driveway is only a few feet from the side of the building, and from classroom windows. At the present time, basement classrooms house science students who look out upon the driveway. In Mrs. Clark's view, it

## Will Auction Abandoned Property

This Sale will be conducted at the Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, October 28, 1972.

This Sale will include among other things, over 50 bicycles.

Police Chief Powers announced yesterday that his office will conduct an Auction Sale of all property abandoned, recovered after theft or found within the confines of the Township and in possession of the Police Department for over six months.

is highly unlikely that the science classes could ever be moved from that location because of permanent lab equipment.

Each time a Park Junior High gym class has outdoor gym, the entire class must cross the same driveway which the trucks use to reach the small wooden bridge leading to the Park athletic field.

The drawings for the addition to the storage facility also show provision for an underground gasoline storage tank. However, the tank will not be included at the present time. Board vehicles are now being permitted to "gas up" in Fanwood, eliminating the need for the storage tank right now. However, Board Vice President Richard M. Bard told Mrs. Clark at a Board meeting last month that this would continue only for as long as the present refueling arrangements lasts.

To reach the gas tank, should it ever be installed, each vehicle owned by the Board would have to go straight through the new storage building to arrive at the gasoline tank, since there is no driveway around either the old or the new storage facilities. The drawing does show a double gate in the fence to the rear of the storage shed - a fence which separates the Park Junior land from the parking lot of the new elementary school. If this gate were to be used by the vehicles for access to the garaging and maintenance areas and/or gasoline tank if it were to be built, Mrs. Clark feels that eventually a PTA of the new elementary school would be equally concerned.

She has claimed that the Board has stated that there is really no additional traffic to be added with the new facility. However, she claims, Coffman's business alone will bring some additional traffic to the narrow Park Junior driveway. She has also noted that 25 parking spaces in the faculty parking lot of the new Willow Avenue school will be for maintenance personnel.

The reaction of the Board of Education has not been unsympathetic. Board members have indicated that if there were any other location in which to house the vehicles, they would gladly do so. However, to duplicate what will eventually be located on the Park Junior property would cost not only the tally for the new storage area, but also a replacement for the existing shed, which has been estimated by the Board as adding another \$75,000.

Michael Klick, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools, said the new building really does not change the status quo of the existing maintenance area which has been located on the Park Junior property for eight or nine years. Actually, all that is being done is walling in with cement walls an area which heretofore had already

## Proposed Property Tax Bill -- Boon Or Boondoggle

### Citizens Brave Rain To Attend Listening Post

Comments on the new zoning ordinance and comments on a new sign ordinance competed with problems of children cutting through property neighboring the YMCA on Martine Avenue, early morning garbage collection problems, and various other requests and problems presented to Township Committeemen Augustine, Grote and Newcomb at the October LISTENING POST.

A total of twenty-two people braved the rain and bad weather Saturday morning to make their way to the municipal building to meet with Township Committeemen and the Township Attorney and Building Inspector. It has been the policy of the Township Committee to invite municipal department heads to also attend the popular Listening Post sessions.

Comments concerning the new zoning ordinance were limited to specific instances affecting individual home owners. Those attending who addressed themselves to the political issue, expressed concern that Scotch Plains would soon look like towns in the vicinity whereby neighborhoods become cluttered with political signs for five to six weeks during election time. Suggestions were to limit the size of the sign, the time period for displaying signs and to permit only one sign per lot.

Committeemen Augustine, Grote, and Newcomb thanked those who came to express themselves on these vital concerns of the Township Committee. They assured those present that every consideration would be given to their concerns.

been fenced in anyway, an outdoor parking area. "If we had a better place to put the maintenance facility, we'd put it there," Klick said.

Last Spring, Mrs. Clark complained to state Department of Education officials about the proposed plans, resulting in a visit to the Park Junior site by M. Lee Pisauro, Consultant in the Facility Planning Services Division of Field Services, New Jersey Department of Education. In attendance during Pisauro's visit were Mr. Coffman, Superintendent of Schools Fred Lamberge, board members Mrs. Lee Reilly and Bard, County Superintendent of Schools Dr. William H. West, and Mrs. Clark.

In Pisauro's subsequent letter to West regarding the situation, he stated: "It appeared that there was general agreement on the part of all parties concerned that the best solution to the problem was to locate

### Warns Against Fixing Of Property Taxes By Classification

Since the defeat by the Legislature of Governor Cahill's tax reform package last July, considerable speculation has centered upon the various alternatives which the Legislature might create as a substitute for the defeated program. Most recently, there has been considerable speculation regarding "property classification" and The Times has asked our local tax expert, Fanwood Councilman Van Dyke J. Pollitt, to help us keep our readers informed.

In the weeks to come, the New Jersey Legislature will wrestle with a wide variety of tax schemes designed to raise \$1.3 to \$1.5 billion for the purpose of a State take-over of the funding of elementary and secondary education. Regardless of the mode of taxation finally approved, the funds would be "replacement revenues" for the existing property taxes presently levied by the State's 567 municipalities to fund education.

7% occurring at \$25,000 Adjusted Gross Income, an expansion of the base of the existing 5% Sales Tax to include certain professional services, a 70% increase in the Corporation Business Tax (Income Tax) and a \$1.00 Uniform Property Tax. To off-set this "new revenue," locally imposed property taxes would be reduced by an average of 40%.

This package was submitted to the Legislature by Governor Cahill and was rejected by a 53-24 vote last July.

At the beginning of this year, Judge Theodore Botter, sitting in the Superior Court in Hudson County, ruled that New Jersey's method of financing public schools by locally-imposed property taxation was a violation of our State Constitution. The Constitution says, "The Legislature shall provide for a thorough and

efficient system of free public schools." Judge Botter ruled that the work "thorough" was being abrogated through the use of property taxes to fund education. He gave the Legislature until January 1, 1974 to develop a substitute funding plan. He also ordered that all available State aid funds be redistributed to the "poorer" school districts by January 1, 1973, again assuming no legislative action on a new funding plan.

Last month, the State Supreme Court ordered a delay in the Botter mandate until that higher court had an opportunity to review the entire case and to give the Legislature more time to act.

With the rejection of the Cahill package, a very few alternatives to raise that great sum of money by broad-based taxation are available to the Legis-

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## Mayor Names Flood Control Commission

Township Committeeman Lawrence Newcomb and Mrs. Margaret Messemer have been named by Mayor Albert Theurer to be the Scotch Plains representatives on the Green Brook Flood Control Commission, in addition Mayor Theurer named Mr. William T. Hilliard to be an alternate member of the commission.

In naming the Scotch Plains members of the commission Mayor Theurer said participation in the Green Brook Flood Control Commission is one more step in the Township's efforts to protect its citizens from the ravages of flooding and storm damage.

Mrs. Messemer is Civil Defense Director for Scotch Plains and has informally represented the township at meetings of the flood control group since its beginnings as the Green Brook Flood Control Committee. She is the only woman to be appointed a member of the Flood Control Commission and has been named to head its Insurance Committee. Committeeman Newcomb is an engineer and training director for N.L. Industries in South Amboy and heads the township's

Finance and Administration Committee. Mr. Hilliard, 215 Byrd Avenue, is Superintendent of Production Control and Shipping for U.S. Metals and Refining Co. in Carteret.

The Green Brook Flood Control Commission is a body of nine participating municipalities, Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Dunellen, Green Brook, Middlesex, North Plainfield, Plainfield, Scotch Plains and Watchung and the counties of Union, Middlesex and Somerset. Mayor Theurer said Scotch Plains is concerned with the problems of the Green Brook because almost the entire north side of Scotch Plains drains by one means or another directly or indirectly into the Green Brook.