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THE TIMES

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15 CENTS A COPY

Thanksgiving Is Here - Busy Holiday Schedule In Both Communities

Thanksgiving Eve (that's today, folks) finds the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community busy with dozens of plans for a festive and warm holiday. Tonight is the big night, with activities which combine nostalgia, excitement, and the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

Homecoming '72 begins at 6:30 p.m. this evening, with a rally at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School track. The festivities include a parade of floats from the various clubs and organizations at the school, the crowning of the Homecoming Queen, performances by the color guard, twirlers, rock groups, cheers, and of course the tops in talent from "Boop's Troops" - the high school marching band. Alumni return tonight, the coach gives a pre-game talk tonight, and there are refreshments in the cafeteria following the outdoor fun.

The meaning of Thanksgiving will come to the fore a bit later in the evening, with the start of a community Thanksgiving program.

The Thanksgiving Eve-Unity Service sponsored by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Ministerium will be held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. The service will be held on Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a time for fellowship and refreshments in the downstairs hall. The theme of this year's service is "THANKSGIVING FOR OUR UNITY IN CHRIST" and will include choirs, layman and clergy from the Churches of Fanwood-Scotch Plains. Members of the sponsoring churches are: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Willow Grove Presbyterian, First United Methodist,

All Saints Episcopal, Fanwood Presbyterian, Scotch Plains Church of Christ, Gethsemane Lutheran, Saint Bartholomew the Apostle, Terrill Road Baptist, St. John's Baptist, and Scotch Plains Baptist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.

The Thanksgiving game "kicks off" the big day itself, as the high school Raider team meets Clark. Band festivities will include, perhaps for the last time at a halftime, the traditional theme "The Horse," and also "Hawaii '50," "Blues and Brass," etc.

What's a Thanksgiving game without the tear-jerking "Exodus," that solemn moment when the outgoing seniors march of the band ranks, and the cheer-out of the band ranks, and the cheerleading, twirling and color guard captains turn over the leadership to juniors for next year? Needless to say, there will be an "Exodus" again this Thanksgiving day.

The conclusion of the Thanksgiving events will be a high school Homecoming Dance, featuring the semi-professional "Decays." The dance is from 8 to 11 p.m. at the high school cafeteria, admission \$1.50, except for alumni, who pay only 75¢ each.

Happy Turkey Day All!!!

High School Seniors Seek "Open Lunch Policy"

Seniors at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School have approached the Board of Education, seeking approval for a new "open lunch" policy at the high school. The Board of Education has not made a decision in the matter yet, but hopes to rule on the matter at the December monthly meeting.

Under "open lunch," seniors assigned to lunch and/or study hall during periods four, five and six of the school day (anywhere from 10:54 a.m. to 1:18 p.m.) would be permitted to leave school grounds. They do not now have such a privilege.

Under the plan recommended for a one-month trial basis by the Student Council, the departing senior would be required to show an identification card as he left from one of two designated "departure areas." An attendance sheet listing those students who checked in and out during this time period would be circulated daily to administration and faculty.

Any student participating in the "open lunch" policy would be required to have a signed permission slip from his parents and anyone who cut a class to leave campus illegally during the three periods would be removed from the "open lunch" program and would face disciplinary action. The Student Council would plan to contact local police each day during the trial period to deter-

mine whether any students had been involved in moving auto violations. No food would be permitted to be brought back into the school.

Dr. Peter Britton, Board President, said there are many considerations and ramifications. Among the many, many points which the Board will discuss are such matters as whether such a policy should extend to only seniors or to the entire student body, whether there should be two or more exits used for departure, etc.

Board member Sheldon Anderson remarked on the excellent preparation and presentation made by the students when making the appeal.

The Board approved approximately 20 new courses for the 1973-74 high school curriculum. Some old courses will be dropped for lack of student interest and other reasons. Included among the 20 new courses is the controversial driver education course, dropped from the curriculum several years ago in the interests of economy.

One Hundred Attend Property Maintenance Code Informal Hearing

Audience Reaction Negative, Formal Hearing Set For Dec. 13

If anybody in Fanwood fully favors the Property Maintenance Code which is currently before the Fanwood Borough Council for consideration, that resident stayed home by the hearth on Monday night. Almost 100 other residents turned out for an informal public hearing at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, and a vast majority of them spoke, and spoke negatively.

No action was taken on the ordinance, which was introduced at the October meeting of the Council. The legally required formal public hearing, and possibly a final vote, will occur on December 13 when the Council convenes for its regular monthly meeting.

The code provides a system whereby properties, both commercial and residential, would be maintained well, with the Building Inspector to act as public officer, inspecting buildings and/or properties when a complaint comes to his attention. When a property is inspected following a complaint, that property owner would be charged a \$10 inspection fee, regardless of the validity of the complaint. People would be responsible for dog excrement and overhanging branches, painting of homes and crumbling brick on stairways.

The audience began with a basic question: Why do we need it at all? And how did we get to this stage, with such legislation pending? According to two different members of the Planning Board, the body which drafted the code, five or six years ago there were some real problem properties within Fanwood - rundown homes which the Borough was powerless to do anything about. Since then, in the opinion of the planners, these properties have been improved and, in their view, there isn't a property today in Fanwood to which the code should be brought to bear.

One man questioned the right of the governing body constitutionally to concern itself with private property. "It's like trying to legislate religion or morality, and unwittingly this type of thing could grow up inside this ordinance."

"Our rights as owners of private property are endangered," said another, "and private property is not open or controlled by the public."

Telling citizens how to maintain their property shows lack of confidence in the citizenry, stated another from the audience.

Still another man questioned the need for a code at all. "I'm awed by all this legalese. It's stunning to me," he said. He expressed the opinion that Fanwood is a comfortable community, friendly, with neighborhood pride, and he said he sees no evidence of the "creeping blight" which the code is intended to cure.

Some observers felt that state board of health codes could be brought to bear in many of the situations which the code was

intended to cover. Melford Tietze of Midway Avenue said the Council could cure many of the "more onerous" situations under existing ordinances. He advised the Council to draw up a list of undesirable situations, and to examine them in light of whether they could be dealt with under current laws.

Tietze said he feels the community is opposed, and he wondered how "far we have to go" to influence the Council in the same direction. Is the Council in an unalterable position? Tietze asked. Councilman John Swindhurst, who presided over the public hearing, said the informal hearing was not the place for a declaration of position on the part of the Councilmen. Tietze said he had felt perhaps the initial

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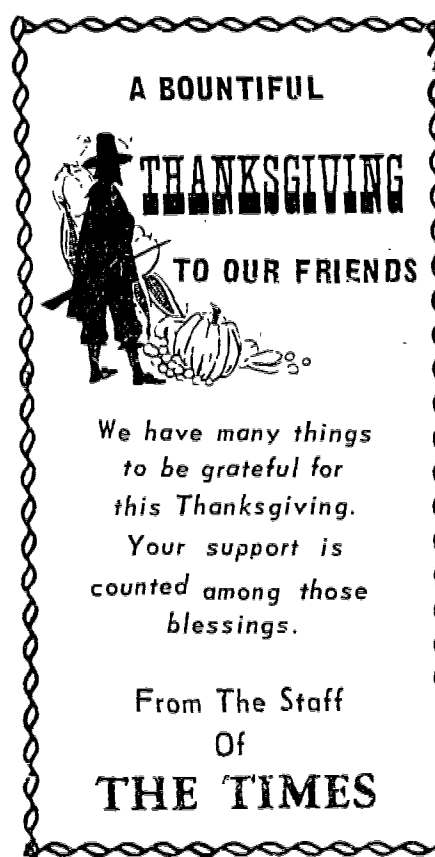
Area Chamber Hails PATH Line

Announcements by Governor William Cahill and Board Chairman Donald McNaughton of Prudential Insurance Company of America, have been hailed by Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce President, Paterson Bond as "major actions contributing to the solid and sound economy of the Plainfield Area."

Bond noted that expectations of the PATH Link coming to Plainfield were something the Chamber had long worked and hoped for as a "boon to the economy" of the core city of Plainfield. He added, "that our campaign to have PATH extended beyond Cranford was supported by a great many organizations and communities and I wish to thank them for helping to make this become a reality." Bond expressed special thanks for Governor Cahill's assistance and noted that the city of Plainfield should prepare to assist in whatever way possible to expedite improvements necessary for the PATH system to come into the city of Plainfield.

Commenting on Prudential's announcement to build in South Plainfield, the Chamber President stated that "the vote of confidence," as he terms it, would have national impact. He added that the Chamber was ready to assist in any way possible in making the move a smooth one.

"I look forward to the day when we can welcome these two institutions into our area," said Bond.



Run Again? One Yea, One Nay, One Question

December 23 is the filing date for Board of Education candidates, with three seats to be vacated. From Scotch Plains, Sheldon Anderson and Walter Siff are up for re-election, while Richard Bard's term runs out from Fanwood. Will they run again?

After nine years on the Board, Sheldon Anderson says he has made the very difficult decision not to seek re-election. It's time for new blood, he feels. Walter Siff is undecided at present. He has served for a single year. Richard Bard, now vice president of the Board, will run again. Bard will seek a second three-year term.

Does approval of the new curriculum assure that driver education will be in the schedule for next year? No. The approval was made with the understanding that the course will be offered if the budget permits.

Can the public vote separately on putting driver education back into the budget, the Superintendent was asked by a member of the audience. While such an approach might be possible, Superintendent Fred Laberge would not favor it, since voting on areas of the budget piecemeal could lead to a most involved vote in the future.

The Board approved a total of \$51,000 in pay hikes for a total of 10 school nurses. A recent state ruling puts nurses on a par with the teacher salary guide, necessitating large salary jumps

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