

## Girl Scout Gift Mobile In Fanwood

Just in time for holiday gift

community. A wide variety of modestly priced items are available for examination and sale, with appeal to Brownies and Scouts of all ages, including tables for camp and travel, belts, bags, creative crafts, jewelry,

**GIVE A DELECTABLE . . . UNFORGETTABLE  
GIFT . . . TO YOUR LOVED ONES  
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

SCOTCH PLAINS LIB  
1927 BARTLE AVE  
SCOTCH PLAINS N. J. 07071

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 13, NO

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1972

15 CENTS A COPY

## Maintenance Code Needs More Study

### Formal Public Hearing Is Set For December 13

The proposed Property Maintenance Code now pending before the Fanwood Borough Council may have some changes as a result of a lengthy informal public hearing which was conducted last month. The ordinance, which spells out maintenance standards for residential and business properties throughout Fanwood, will have a formal public hearing, and possibly a final vote by the Council, next Wednesday, December 13.

According to Councilman John Swindlehurst, Chairman of the Building and Zoning Committee, the committee had met with the Mayor to go over the objections and suggestions offered by the public at the informal hearing. As a result, the Committee will suggest changes, to be incorporated in the form of amendments to the code.

Among the recommended changes, Swindlehurst pointed out, would be the clarification of the meaning and purpose of "certificate of compliance." As initially spelled out in the ordinance, the Public Officer would, upon written request cause an inspection to be made and, if no violations exist, or if violations are found to exist which are then corrected, shall issue a certificate stating that the premises were found to comply with the maintenance code. The fee for the inspection would have been \$10, and would have been paid by the owner of the inspected premises. This area had aroused considerable public comment at the informal hearing, with residents claiming that such an open policy could lead to harassment of one neighbor by another, that the fee would not be legal, etc. Now, under the proposed change, Swindlehurst said the certificate of compliance would be issued to realtors, savings institutions, or similar business establishments for their purpose, and not to anyone whose premises are to be inspected.

Furthermore, Swindlehurst said, there would be proposed the deletion of "certain extraneous definitions and phraseology, and the inclusion of a definition of the Board of Appeals. The ordinance now pending had stated

that those who wished to appeal decisions made regarding the code could do so through a Board of Appeals, but the composition, size, and appointment of that body had not been detailed, which some citizens questioned.

Another question which had been raised by the public was that of just how inspections would be made and who would initiate them. The ordinance had not made this area clear to many of those in the audience at the informal hearing. This would be clarified under another proposed change, the Councilman noted, and the changes would also suggest a revision of the section pertaining to the Public Officer and the power vested in him in the code as introduced. The Building Inspector would serve as the Public Officer responsible for the enforcement of the code. Under the proposed changes, the power would be vested in more than one person.

The penalties would be changed under the Committee's list of suggestions, and would match those now established for violations of the zoning ordinance, being "no more than a \$200 fine." Swindlehurst said the opinions and criticisms received from the public had been invaluable in helping the Committee to obtain reactions and to gather a general impression. It is hoped that those with opinions will come once again on Wednesday to express themselves for the formal record and to react to the proposed changes in the code.

The changes to be proposed will not necessarily be accepted, he noted, nor will possible changes in the code be limited to only those detailed above.

## Freeholders Drop Park Avenue Widening Project

The observers almost outnumbered the citizens with problems at the December Listening Post last Saturday morning at Town Hall. The problems brought before Township Committeemen Walter Grote, Alan Augustine and Larry Newcomb ranged from zoning to leaf pick-up to snow removal. Several citizens expressed concern about what might happen to the School 1 property now that Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Board has announced the property is for sale. The committeemen noted that the purchaser of this property will have to abide by the same zoning restrictions as apply to the property adjacent to School 1.

In the course of discussing the problems of leaf pick-up, Committeeman Augustine noted

that some 35,000 cubic yards of leaves have been removed from Scotch Plains streets so far this Fall. He also noted that the Public Works Department reports they have now finished three complete circuits of the township streets.

One citizen's problem gave the three committeemen a chance to push for greater citizen participation in the monthly recycle programs that are conducted at the Fanwood Railroad Station by the Jaycees. These collections of old newspapers, bottles and metal cans occur the third Saturday of each month and are supported by both the Scotch Plains and Fanwood town governments.

One particularly complex problem involved possible changes

## Loitering Ordinance Passes Over Some Audience Objections

### Taxes Paid Up?

The Scotch Plains Tax Collector has advised that a list of delinquent taxes or assessments will be advertised in next week's issue of The Times.

### Listening Post Draws Light Crowd

The Scotch Plains governing body recently received a communique from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders regarding the long-sought relief from the necessity of widening Park Avenue. The freeholders said they had received numerous complaints from residents and a request from the governing body to eliminate the county planning board mandate that Park Avenue be widened from 40 to 46 feet in the area where new construction is underway at the new municipal building. The freeholders said the Roads and Bridges Committee has given due consideration to the proposed widening and has concluded that the interests of the county "do not require commencement of said widening at this time."

"The Board of Freeholders does hereby notify the Township of Scotch Plains that it is not their intention to proceed with said widening of Park Avenue" the statement said.

The county Master Plan shows an ultimate width of 46 feet for full length of Park Avenue in the future. Local citizens argued that a patchwork widening, beginning just in front of the municipal building, was pointless and would serve only to destroy stately trees there.

### Final Leaf Go-Round

The Public Works Department of Scotch Plains has announced that the fourth and final town roundup of leaves is underway. The next time a leaf truck passes a street during the next few days will be the final trip on that street.

Weather permitting, the final round will continue through December 15.

in drainage being caused by the county's construction of the Martins Avenue extension. The committeemen noted the Township Engineer will be asked to consult with the county's engineer further on this.

### Bill Would Allow Police Some Discretionary Powers

The anti-loitering ordinance introduced last month became law this month, with a few objections voiced regarding areas of concern. The ordinance spells out the types of loitering which are prohibited. These include loitering which leads to breaches of peace, either in the form of public nuisance, disturbing the peace and tranquility of others, using obscene language to another, etc. It permits the police to make the determination, using their best judgment, as to whether a person's presence in a public place is causing or is likely to cause a violation of the ordinance. However, the police do not just arrest as they spot offenders. The violation occurs after the illegal loiterer refuses to leave at police request.

Gerald Weissman of 15 Canterbury Drive felt the law was quite arbitrary, set up against young people. "The Council should be concerned with doing something constructive like using this building for teenagers. We always seem to go a step further in repression," Weissman said.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Union County Chapter, Carol Sperber and Myrna Slomowitz co-chairmen, also registered opposition. While mothers sitting in a park idly could be subject to suspicion under the ordinance, no one would believe they would be apprehended, the two co-chairmen said, claiming that the statute seems to be discriminatory against teenagers and they suggested that the committee find a public place for teens to go instead of attempting to chase them away.

Mr. Goldstein of Orchard Drive asked that the amendment be tabled until there is an alternate place for teens to gather. "The problem is we have lots of kids, an overflow, which makes it cumbersome. They are bound to be loud and boisterous, but they need a spot."

Mayor Albert Theurer and other Committeemen pointed out an aspect of the ordinance which they feel the public doesn't fully comprehend - the fact that the person who is loitering in a manner to cause violations is first requested by the police to leave that place. It is only after the violator refuses that he would be apprehended, Theurer noted. Theurer said he truly did not want the law to be used against teenagers. However, he pointed out, problems have arisen in public places when young people gather in a way which discourages or forbids the use of these areas by adults, and elderly people. The front of the library and the doorway of Buxton's ice cream store were examples cited.

Ron Jayson of 538 Cedar Street asked why the anti-loitering bill was necessary since the violations spelled out in it are already prohibited in other areas of township and state legislation. Theurer said it has been difficult for police to go through the volumes of ordinances, and this law is definitive, with all offenses spelled out in one place. It is an added tool, he said.

A teenager representing the high school newspaper said in his view not too many teenagers feel as oppressed as some might think. Kids know when they're breaking the law, screaming late at night, obstructing traffic, etc., he said.

The recreation program offered in Scotch Plains for the entertainment of children and teens came in for praise.

In other matters, the Committee received a complaint from Harry L. Jaffee, of 2248 Concord Road concerning a rail fence which separates his property from a walkway which children use to and from school. He has

Continued On Page 22

## An Election — But No Candidates?

"The Board of Education ran an election, but nobody ran." Is it possible this will be a Times headline next February, when regular elections will be held for three seats on the Board of Education?? To date, the Joint Civic Committee has not found any candidates to fill the two Scotch Plains openings on the Board.

The three seats which will be available are those currently held by Richard Bard from Fanwood, and Sheldon Anderson and Walter Siff from Scotch Plains. Bard will definitely run again, he said last month. To date, there have been no declarations from any insurgents for Bard's seat. In Scotch Plains, Anderson definitely will not seek re-election and Siff is unsure.

The Joint Civic Committee is a group which organizes annually for the sole purpose of seeking candidates to sponsor for election to the Board. It includes representatives from 14 civic organizations, according to Joan Papen, who is Committee president this year. The Committee members have sought candidates extensively. Mrs. Papen said, but so far have come up with no candidate from Scotch Plains. She asked anyone intending to file for a seat to notify her at 889-2396.

The filing deadline for Board seats is December 28.