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Committee Votes To Regulate Parking In Maple Hill Road

The Scotch Plains Township Committee voted to ban stopping and parking of cars from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day in Maple Hill Road and Maple View Court. The action came despite strong protests from residents of the two streets.

The request for a safety solution initiated at McGinn School, where the principal and parents requested some traffic assistance to insure safe conditions for children exiting from the rear of the school into the two streets, which have no sidewalks. Parents had been driving to the two streets to pick up the children.

In the view of Officer Kuna, safety officer of Scotch Plains, and the Police Chief, the ban is recommended. In a traffic study, Kuna counted 190 children walking in the morning, 163 at noon, and 165 in the afternoon, and seven moving vehicles.

Residents have gotten an entirely different count, Mrs. Nelson told the Committee. She and Nick Migliaccio counted about 36 children per day, many from the two streets. Whatever action the Committee takes, three homeowners said, it won't keep the children from walking in the streets and the mothers from driving down and stopping, unless there is a police officer on duty daily for three hours, since there are signs there now which parents totally ignore, and white walk lines which children ignore.

There is more danger inherent with a parking ban, Mrs. Nelson said, since it will lead to drivers "cruising" and dangerously turning around and backing out of driveways.

The residents have urged one side parking, which would eliminate inconvenience for them. Some homes in the area have unusually steep driveways

which are very difficult to use in ice or sleet conditions and the parking ban would create problems of parking at a distance, Migliaccio told the Committee.

Only Mayor Albert Theurer voted against the ban. However, other committeemen joined him in the opinion that a continuing analysis of the situation is necessary, and perhaps the elimination of some of the restrictions in the future. The majority of the Committee, while sympathetic to the position of the homeowners, felt that the recommendations of the chief and top safety officer should be observed.

Three ordinances received final approval. One appropriates \$57,000 for sanitary sewers at three different locations. The second appropriates \$60,000 for traffic control signals at Martine Avenue Extension - Lake Avenue, Goodman's Crossing - Lake Avenue and Rivervale Drive - Martine Avenue and Raritan Road. The third sets \$45,000 from the capital account for alteration, renovation, and modernization of the interior of the northside fire house.

The fire house, which is located behind the municipal building, was originally a public works garage, and the changes desirable for operation as a fire house were never made. Last year, renovations to the outside were undertaken, and the interior will now be changed.

The Committee acknowledged the resignation of Peter Walsh

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At Last - A Candidate For The School Board

Philip G. Labasi, of 2309 Lyde Place, Scotch Plains has announced his candidacy for the Board of Education election in February.

Mr. Labasi, a local attorney, is employed as a Medicare Specialist by the Social Security Administration. He was formerly a Medicare frauds investigator with the government, and has worked on the problems of the elderly for ten years.

Phil has a bachelor of science degree in personnel management and a juris doctorate in law. A captain in the Army Reserve, he is also a member of the Scotch Plains Fire Dept., Rescue Squad and American Legion. He was appointed by Mayor Theurer as Scotch Plains' delegate to the Board of Directors, Union County Anti-Poverty Commission.

Phil and his wife Marisa have two children and are members of the Evergreen School PTA. Phil, who describes himself as a fiscal conservative said, "I have been increasingly upset with spiraling costs in education and the results achieved. If elected I pledge to devote all my energy to cutting out unnecessary spending and sponsoring mea-



PHILIP G. LABASI

sures consistent with economy and good sense. As a federal employee, I owe no debts to any special interest groups; my loyalties are to the taxpayers and their children."

Property Maintenance Code Dies In Fanwood

Five To One Council Vote Kills Controversial Issue

The controversial property maintenance code introduced by the Fanwood Borough Council in October, was killed on a 5-1 vote last Wednesday, after two spirited and heated public hearings - one an informal public hearing in November, the second a formal public hearing last Wednesday. Over 100 people jammed the small Borough Hall chambers, with only four of them indicating a positive stand on the code.

Councilman John Swindlehurst voted in favor of the code. However, several of the other Councilmen who were opposed noted that they were not necessarily opposed to the concept of such a code, but to the way in which this particular code was written.

After the first hearing, the Planning Board and the Council members had digested the community reaction evidenced at that time and had composed a lengthy list of proposed amendments to the code, but the amendments failed to create a receptive audience or Council.

The opposition came from many quarters, and the opponents cited many different areas of the code as their reasons for not wanting such a law in Fanwood. The ordinance had proposed maintenance standards for both business and residential areas of the community, with the Building Inspector to serve as the Public Officer in charge of inspections and enforcement of the code and a Mayor-appointed Court of Appeals to provide an avenue of relief for the property owner who did not agree with the decisions of the Public Officer Stephen Tomczyk of Shady Lane opposed the code as a "totalitarian way to conduct things." Is there a real need for the code in Fanwood? He asked, The audience let forth with a loud "No."

He felt residents would be adjudged guilty under the code, and would be prejudged without benefit of a jury if notified of violations.

Frank Lindner of 190 LaGrande Avenue said he felt the code should be scrapped because it was useless and an insult to the people.

Joseph DiLorenzo questioned the benefit of such a code. "No ordinance is going to impose on citizens any more conscience," he said. The city of Paterson was cited by DiLorenzo as a case of a community with a maintenance code which has failed to improve the city. "The sooner government officials realize and have faith in the people who put you in office the better off we'll be," he concluded.

Mrs. I. A. Riccardi of Old South Avenue agreed. The ordinance might carry a fine of \$200, but it would be far more beneficial if a homeowner were to spend that \$200 on his home, she said.

Roy Rusk of Martine Avenue, a leader in the organized opposition to the code, said it was designed more than five years ago and was developed because

there were some sore spots.

"You are attempting to foist upon us something designed to meet a problem which has been overcome," he told the Council.

Several residents cited problems which might lead well-intentioned homeowners to violations of the code. Mrs. Mae Donnelly, who called the code an invasion of rights, said senior citizens often want to keep their properties in top shape but are unable to because of fixed incomes. "If you want to clean up anything clean up South Avenue and let the citizens take care of their own residential properties," Mrs. Donnelly said.

John Moberg of 8 Glenwood Road pointed out that young couples select a community such as Fanwood and put all they can into a home, but their properties could have violations of a property maintenance code until such time as they can afford all repairs.

William Cameron of Willoughby Road, a member of the Planning Board, told the audience that while there may not

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School Board Candidates Must File By Dec. 28

The law provides that all persons who wish to file nominating petitions as candidates for election to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education must file same by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 28, 1972. Petitions may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Education.

The petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

All candidates filing petitions must meet the requirements as prescribed in New Jersey School Law:

- (1) Candidate must be a citizen and resident of the territory contained in the district, for at least two years.
- (2) Candidate shall have been a resident of the school district for at least two years immediately preceding his appointment or election to the Board of Education.
- (3) He shall be able to read and write.
- (4) He shall not be directly or indirectly interested in any contract with or claim against the board.
- (5) He must be eighteen years of age to qualify for office.



Board Accepts Resignation From Teacher

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education met in a special public session on Monday, December 18, and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Roger Bangert. Mr. Bangert has been a teacher at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School for the past three-and-a-half school years and has achieved considerable local fame for his role as director of the high school marching band.

Personal reasons were cited as the reason for the resignation of the teacher, who achieved tenure at the end of last year.

The resignation was originally submitted to the Board of Education on November 28 but withdrawn, and then resubmitted on Monday.

According to a statement read by Board of Education Attorney Jeremiah O'Dwyer, Mr. Bangert's resignation was a "completely free and voluntary act" and he received advice from eminently qualified legal counsel.

DEADLINE CHANGE

Because of The Christmas Holiday on Monday The Deadline for News Releases in our December 28 Issue will be tomorrow, Friday December 22.