

# THE TIMES

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## Township Council Registers Concern Over Drain Basin

The Township Council of Scotch Plains is concerned over the possibility of a Plainfield Model Cities construction project in a detention basin which is of utmost importance in flood control for Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and portions of Plainfield. The Councilmen have unanimously passed a resolution opposing the request of the Plainfield Common Council for the hiring of an engineering firm to conduct a study of the Robinson's Branch Retention Basin to ascertain the feasibility of the site for a housing project. The retention basin is a swampy, undeveloped area which starts at the northwest corner of Cushing Road and Terrill Road.

The project was brought to public attention once before, some years ago, when neighborhood meetings were held in adjacent areas to show pictures of proposed housing and to discuss the matter.

The Scotch Plains Council's concern is storm drainage and flood control in Union County. The retention basin is a part of the flood control, and according to recommendations of the Scotch Plains Municipal Engineer, "under no circumstances should this conversion be made because of the resulting possibility of flooding."

The Consulting Engineers, Elson T. Killam Associates, have also recommended that the basin not be converted due to the overtaxing of the present Scotch Plains flood control facilities.

The question of a permanent Township Manager was raised by

two local Democratic leaders, Philip J. Carroll of Maple Hill Road asked when the Council expects to appoint a permanent manager.

During the January 1 reorganization, former secretary to the Township Administrator Shirley Capone was named Manager. However the Township is interviewing candidates with professional experience in the area, and has named a committee to assist in screening applicants.

Mayor William Kitz told Carroll the township has no timetable, has heard from 50 to 100 candidates for the position, and awaits the action of the committee in screening the applicants.

Carroll questioned whether any legal deadline was set for hiring

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## Group Aims At Store Clean-ups

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Environmental Action Group were busy during the pre-Christmas season, as were all the residents of the area. However, they were perhaps even a shade busier, for a tour of local business areas was on their list - and their aim was NOT Christmas shopping. The conditions in stores and around the grounds has been a concern of the group in recent months.

Their inspection resulted in several reported violations of health codes, which were investigated. According to a report issued at the Fanwood Borough Council last week, the Board of Health took action wherever legally possible regarding the offenses.

Mayor Theodore Trumpp pointed out that some of the conditions which the environmentalists found objectionable actually fall under the category of litter and sloppiness, whereas only conditions of organic matter come under the Board of Health code.

Trumpp put in a plug for the value of some form of a maintenance code in dealing with litter and sloppy housekeeping. He pointed out that such legislation would give the municipality another tool to attempt to control the appearance and condition of the business area. He promised that the Council will review all ordinances now on the books and will try to strengthen them to control cleanup. The Board of Health is acting wherever a situation falls within their legal limits, Trumpp said.

In another action, the Council went on record once again regarding the great importance of the Central Railroad to the Fanwood community.

Councilman Charles Coronelli pointed out that, in arranging the

recent commuter forum, the borough had been in the vanguard of public opinion, and the forum had resulted in legislators clearly and squarely behind the commuter. He recommended that commuters write to the Governor seeking continuance of rail service.

Since the Council met, arrangements have been made to keep the railroad running, strictly on a temporary basis, for the next two months while a merger effort with other New Jersey rail lines is underway.

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt expressed the appreciation of the Geer family for the unusual effort made by the Fanwood Fire Company in putting out a house fire at their Burns Way home recently. Pollitt noted that investigators and adjusters have made comment on the effectiveness of the local company's effort, and have called it a "save" of a home on the part of the company.

There is now in effect a cooperative plan between the residents of Montrose Avenue and the police of Fanwood regarding traffic on the street. Pollitt further reported.

The residents have complained in the past regarding speeding there, and arrangements were made for the homeowners to meet

## School Board Sets Tentative Budget At \$12,059,732 - Up 10%

### Saturday Is Recycling Day

Start your New Year correctly by taking your papers, glass, and metal wastes to the Fanwood Scotch Plains Recycling Center located on the southside of the Fanwood Railroad Station. The center will be opened Saturday, January 20th from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

The center is operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Environmental Protection Group.

Tom Conroy and Fred Meyland-Smith are the Jaycee co-chairmen for the New Year.

The Jaycees are asking all Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents to come out and help make the January 20th drive the most successful one ever. Come on out and bring your neighbors with you.

with municipal representatives to discuss the problem.

Details of the cooperative arrangement were not discussed.

Melford Tierze questioned whether any recent reports have been received regarding the Venus Health Spa. The Spa advertised memberships in a health club on Martine Avenue in Fanwood, but never opened. Investigations were made by the state at the three locations where the Venus outfit was scheduled to open, with promised gym equipment, reducing machines, pools, etc. Tierze wanted to know how many local people have lost money on memberships paid for in advance.

To the knowledge of the Fanwood Council, one resident lost \$100, another \$20. However, since those who joined the club were urged to contact the state, there could be more, unknown to local officials.

An investigation is continuing by the state.

Howard Jarvis of 58 Poplar Place was named to the Fanwood Police Department. A Marine Veteran with two years of college, Jarvis is now studying at Essex County Police Academy.

The Council introduced an ordinance which would add \$8,000 to the \$15,000 previously budgeted for paving of Second Street. The street has represented a major paving headache, since a very inferior subgrade condition was discovered, necessitating first the rebuilding of the street with two feet of subbase, then a rebuilding with three feet. A public hearing on the amendment to the ordinance will be scheduled on February 14.

### Approval Comes On Split Vote With Two Members Not Present

Total school costs for the 1973-74 school year were set tentatively at \$12,059,732 by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education last Thursday. The tentative budget represents an increase of \$1,207,380 over the budget for the current year. It is a 10 percent increase.

Seven of the nine board members were present at the special meeting, and only four of the seven gave the budget their stamp of approval. They included Board President Peter N. Britton, Charles Ferguson, Mrs. Lee Reilly, and Walter Siff. John McCormick and Richard Bard were opposed. Meyer Freiman registered an abstention. However, it was explained that an abstention counts as a yes vote in situations where legislation would not otherwise pass because of the absence of a quorum. Board members Sheldon Anderson and Joseph Parry were absent.

The total includes \$10,923,788 for current expense, up \$1,364,517 over last year; \$56,200 for capital outlay, up \$6,200; and \$1,079,744 for debt service, down \$163,336. The amount to be raised by taxation jumps up \$1,267,298, to a total of \$10,550,519.

Bard cited the present economy as one reason for his opposition.

tion.

The Board Vice President said he also is concerned over "the bottom of the iceberg," the bulk of the budget which is not defended. He feels that each annual increase is explained in detail, but each year this portion represents a fairly small percentage of the total budget, and he has not had the full budget justified to him.

McCormick said he was attempting to adhere to the position he took when he was elected - a posture of economy.

Freiman said he would prefer to hear public comment to the budget and to wait for the budget to be finalized before detailing his reasons for opposition.

The vote on the budget is set for February 6. A public hearing will be held on January 22 at Terrill Junior High School.

Further details on the budget breakdown are included in another article herein.

## Officials To Attend Vandalism Forum

A mayor, a former mayor, two police chiefs and a representative of the school district will join forces on stage next Wednesday night to discuss a problem of far-reaching proportions which greatly affects the taxpayer where it hurts - in his pocketbook. The topic is "vandalism" and the event is a community-wide forum sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Scotch Plains and the Junior Women's Club of Fanwood.

Mayor Theodore Trumpp of Fanwood, former Mayor Albert Theurer of Scotch Plains, Fanwood Police Chief Joseph Gorsky, Scotch Plains Police Chief Joseph Powers, and Michael Klick, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools will be the honored guests at the January 24 event, slated for 8:45 p.m. at the meeting room in the basement of the Scotch Plains Library. The memberships of both clubs will be on hand, and they encourage every citizen to turn out to discuss this most important topic which has grown so extensively in recent years. Over \$100,000 in vandalism was incurred by just the schools last year, with the tally expected to climb still higher in the coming year, according to recent reports.

Since last summer the two Junior Women's Clubs have been engaged in a full fledged effort to focus community attention on the subject. For many weeks, club members contacted police for instances of vandalism each week and then submitted the lists to this newspaper for publication. It is the hope of the club members that the forum next Wednesday may zero in on some of

the causes, the totals and the results, and goals toward a cure.

The evening will begin with two short skits, to be presented by the Sub-Juniors, a junior - and senior-high offshoot of the adult club. The girls in the Sub-Juniors have written and staged the skits themselves, hopefully for presentation to students in the school district. One of the skits has already been approved by the Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge for showing at the high school.

Next will come the presentation of an award to the winner of an anti-vandalism contest sponsored by the club women some time ago. The judges for the contest included Trumpp, Theurer, and George Johnston, an executive with "Seventeen" magazine and the owner of "Cache," a crafts shop in Fanwood.

The forum has been arranged by Sue Waite, Vice President and Program Chairman of the Fanwood group, and by Pat Sidun, Civics Chairman of the Scotch Plains Juniors. The two club presidents are Helen Piesicki, Scotch Plains and Judy Manuel, Fanwood.