

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 1

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1973.

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## Mayors Hear PATH Transportation Plans

Representatives of the New York Port Authority entertained mayors of several New Jersey communities at lunch last week to fill them in on proposals for extension of PATH train service from its present terminals in Newark out to Plainfield. In attendance were Mayor Theodore Trumpp of Fanwood, Mayor William Kitz of Scotch Plains, and Councilman Walter Groe of Scotch Plains.

Mr. Louis Gambaccini, Rail Transportation Director for PATH, informed the local representatives that PATH is committed to provision of the electrified rail service, almost regardless of what happens in the future of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

Mayor Trumpp said he had been told the trains will provide a more extensive schedule combined with a shorter ride. During peak morning and evening hours, PATH plans to run about 15 trains, whereas Central Railroad service now provides a choice of approximately seven. During the daytime, trains would be available every half-hour in contrast to the present wait for a Central train approximately every hour or hour and a quarter.

The running time into New York City is expected to be 52 minutes from Plainfield, a trip which now takes 62 minutes under the existing transportation system. The 52-minute run will include stops at all stations now existent on the Central run, as well as a loop out to the new stop to be built at Newark Airport.

The PATH trains would run on the two northerly tracks, and it is anticipated that PATH would build a new four-mile stretch out to the airport and back to the Newark South Street tracks.

The electrified trains would

undoubtedly be quieter, Trumpp pointed out. He said he understood that they would not operate at all between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., and that the tracks would be fenced along their entire length. High rise platforms are planned for installation at each stop, and new park-and-ride stations are being studied for Newark Airport and the intersection of the Garden State Parkway.

The trains are planned to be more comfortable than the PATH trains being used on short runs now, to provide better service for the new long-distance commuters.

John Hoban has been named to the post of Deputy Director to act as liaison to the communities involved.

Trumpp said once the details are worked out, it will probably take an additional four or five years before the new system is completely operative.

There are no plans at present to cut out any stops along the route, Trumpp said, and mayors and community representatives were told that if such a move were to be contemplated in the future, it would not be done without extensive discussion and involvement of the affected community.

## May Re-introduce Fanwood Budget At Tonight's Meeting

### Parry Named Board President

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting on Monday, February 12, naming Joseph Parry III as the President for 1973.



JOSEPH S. PARRY

The choice of Parry was unanimous. He has served on the board for two years as a representative from Fanwood.

The unanimous choice as vice president was Charles A. Ferguson. Ferguson begins the second year of a three-year term as a representative of Scotch Plains voters.

Three new members joined the body, all of them elected earlier this month. They include, from Fanwood, Henry L. Schwiering, and from Scotch Plains, Mrs. Robbie Mason and Mr. Philip Labasi.

Michael Klick was unanimously approved as the acting secretary of the educational body for another annual term.

Those who received the questionnaire have expressed a desire to write in comments in situations where they feel a written explanation would better sum of their feelings on a subject. Freiman was questioned about the advisability and effectiveness of such an approach, and said that unfortunately it would make the tabulation that much more difficult and asked that respondents simply fill in the questionnaire as presented, to the best of their ability.

The committee who formulated the survey includes in addition

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### Deadline Change

Because of Washington's Birthday on Monday the deadline for news releases in our February 22 issue will be tomorrow, Friday, February 16.

Some residents, who have re-

### Eligibility Of Mayor To Cast Deciding Vote Is Questioned

The Fanwood Borough Council introduced its 1973 annual budget last Wednesday - or at least they thought they did. With two Democratic Councilmen, John Swindlehurst and Steven Ritter, voting in the negative, the budget received positive votes from the three Republican members present - Councilmen Tony McCall, John Coulter, and Charles Coronella. That wasn't enough votes to carry the budget. A vote of four Council members is required, and Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt was absent.

Therefore, Borough Attorney Edward Beglin advised Mayor Theodore Trumpp that, since borough law lists him as a member of the Council, he could cast the deciding vote. Trumpp carried the budget . . . or so everybody thought.

After the meeting, however, the two Democratic members wrote to the mayor and majority members, charging that the pro-

posed budget was not legally acted upon.

After contacting the state statutes, Swindlehurst and Ritter said the Mayor should not have voted. They asked for reintroduction of the budget and an explanation to state officials for the reason for Fanwood's late

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## House Fire Damages Woodland Terr. Home

Ironically, just as a demolition crew was busily engaged in removing the top floor from a building on Park Avenue which burned last week, the Scotch Plains Police and Fire Departments were busy once again on Monday fighting two more in the string of fires which have plagued the Scotch Plains-Fanwood area in recent weeks. One of the Monday afternoon fires was serious, the second occurred during the same period, but was only a chimney fire in the Black Birch area, to which the southside fire company responded.

Mr. and Mrs. George Piccoli of 2282 Woodland Terrace, Scotch Plains were barely enroute to a visit with a daughter in South America when a fire broke out in their Scotch Plains home, causing extensive damage to the house and its contents.

Police and fire officials were alerted at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12, and had the fire under control within about an hour. Fire Chief Harry Messemer said 16 men fought the blaze and remained at the location for two hours or more. The fire had been burning, Messemer estimated, for approximately 45 minutes or an hour in the empty home before firemen were summoned.

The cause has been narrowed to one of two possible sources, Messemer said. The fire initiated in the den and was started either in the television set or in two bowls of matches which had recently been moved to a window-sill in the room.

Messemer said the matches were part of a matchbook collection, and that it was possible that the windows acted as a magnifying glass upon the matchbooks, igniting them.

Severe fire damage occurred in the den, dining room and part of the living room, while smoke damage was evident in other areas of the home.

The Piccolis' son and daughter did not accompany their parents, but they were not at home at the time of the fire. The

son was summoned from Seton Hall Law School.

Piccoli has been a member of the Planning Board and the Industrial Commission.

Patrolman John Moore was injured during the fire fighting according to Police Chief Joseph Powers.

Powers had better news regarding the Piccoli family pets,

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## Recycling Set For Saturday

A record number of residents turned out for the January Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Drive sponsored by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Environmental Protection Group.

The next drive will be held Saturday, February 17, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Recycling Center is located on the southside of the Fanwood Railroad Station.

All residents are reminded that the Center will accept paper, glass, and metal waste. We would appreciate adherence to the following rules:

1. Please tie-up papers;
2. Glass should be free of all metal rings and separated into clear, green and brown groupings.

## Questionnaire Due Back By March 1

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education distributed close to 20,000 questionnaires last week, and it is hoped that the 69-question survey will be returned by March 1, so that tabulations of results may begin.

The questionnaire was mailed to every registered voter in Scotch Plains and Fanwood and delivered to 4,000 secondary students and close to 500 members of the teaching staff. It is designed to elicit community reaction to education here. The student respondents have filled in their questionnaires in the classroom.

According to Meyer Freiman, who is chairman of the committee which formulated the questionnaire, the many categories covered in the 69 questions reflect both the concerns of the board and the subjects which have been questioned or commented upon by the public to board members.

Guidance in selecting and phrasing the questions was received not only from state department of education publications and personnel, but also from guidelines established by top professional pollsters Gallup and Kittering and from professional periodicals. The subject matter covers a wide range of material, seeking opinions not only on teacher careers and salaries, but also on aid to private schools, sex education courses, tenure, driver education, discipline,

year-round school, and other concerns which are confronting taxpayers and school administrators throughout the country in these times.

Each questionnaire is marked with a five-digit number on the back, and groups of questionnaires differ in color of paper, according to respondents. The two aspects of the survey have aroused some community interest, and Freiman was questioned regarding their purpose. He said the numbers have absolutely no tie-in with the registered voter or the student to whom they are mailed, nor is there any record which would make it possible to identify the respondent.

Instead, the series of numbers was included on the questionnaires to avoid any individual or group from duplicating copies, mailing them and invalidating the effectiveness of the survey. The different colors of paper were used in order to provide the board with some indication as to the group answering, with three colors of paper used - one to designate student responses, another for voters, a third for staff.

Some residents, who have re-