

# THE TIMES

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1973

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## Fanwood Told Sump Pumps May Not Empty On County Roads

If you live on a county road in Fanwood, it's OK to have a sump pump just so long as it doesn't empty onto the county road. Of course, what benefit the sump pump would be if it couldn't empty thusly wasn't spelled out by the freeholders when they wrote to remind the Fanwood governing body of the sump pump restrictions. It would affect homeowners on Terrill Road, Martine Avenue, Midway Avenue and a part of North Avenue.

The law is not a new one. The freeholders are now reminding communities of its existence. The question has been referred to the Planning Board.

In other business, the Fanwood Borough Council last week introduced an ordinance which would appropriate \$80,000 for land acquisition, relocation of traffic lights, and curbing in La Grande Avenue from Terrill to South. The borough pays for the curbing and the sidewalks, while the county will pick up the costs of road reconstruction. The land acquisition is necessary for the widening of the intersection of La Grande and Terrill.

Another ordinance sets \$191,000 for street reconstruction of Paterson Road from the right of way to Terrill Road, Beech Avenue from LaGrande to South and Old South Avenue from the Shell Station to the Chippery. This project is a part of the regular road reconstruction work in Fanwood.

Both ordinances will have May 9 public hearings.

The borough will seek bids for a new police radio system for the police cars. The present equipment is about 20 years old and has caused problems. It would be transferred to the public works vehicles with a new frequency assigned, providing Public Works with a communications system.

James Pasco was appointed probationary police officer.

Kathleen C. Welby was named a special police officer for the balance of the year.

## Commission Recommends Fanwood Nature Center

For some years now, the Borough of Fanwood has owned a 5.87 acre piece of property located off Terrill Road, between LaGrande Ave. and Cray Terrace. Known as the Stemming property, the acreage is the last sizeable piece of public land undeveloped in the borough, and is currently used as a detention basin for flood waters. Now, the Fanwood Environmental Commission has hopes that the property will have another future - as a nature preserve for the enjoyment of local residents.

The Commission, formed only last year, has completed a study of the property and has come up with the resolution urging the development they suggest. The recommendation is now under consideration by the Borough Council.

The preserve area now houses dozens of trees, shrubs and wild-

## Hours For Voter Registration

The Clerk's Office in Scotch Plains will be open for registrations Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evening hours, until 9 p.m., will be scheduled for Thursday, April 19 and Monday through Thursday, April 23, 24, 25, 26.

flowers which are native to New Jersey. More New Jersey plant species have been promised - these to come from the Route 78 Right-of-Way through the Watchung Reservation when construction begins in the spring. The Commission has received permission for removal of the species which would otherwise be lost because of the highway construction.

The preserve would feature trails - both major and minor, footbridges, a bog which is proposed for a fern garden, and various woody and garden areas. A cleared area would feature dogwood plantings, while another section would be a wild-flower garden. Visitors would

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Mrs. Llewellyn Fisher was named to the newly created post of Deputy Administrator. She has been serving as Borough Treasurer and Office Manager.

Councilman John Swindlehurst introduced a resolution seeking governor's intervention in ending the PATH strike. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Swindlehurst pointed out that the Fanwood Library has available the ballots which accompany the television series, Choices for '76. The series, in six parts, follow the town meeting format and poll area residents on housing, government, etc. The results will be tabulated by Gallup. Participation might help legislators, Swindlehurst noted, in suggesting local interest.

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## Committee Recommends Demolition Of Old Municipal Building

### Notes Cost Of Renovation And Annual Maintenance

The old Scotch Plains Municipal Building is now slated for demolition, following a two-month study by a special committee formed to consider the future of the building. The committee has come in with a recommendation for demolition.

Initially, when a former Township Committee approved plans for the new Municipal Building now under construction in Park Avenue, they included a line item of \$10,500 for demolition of the old building. However, there was some comment and question from the citizenry, leading Mayor Kitz to decide to form a study committee. The twelve-member committee began its task in early February.

The Committee was charged with a number of considerations, including cost to renovate to a point where it would be utilized for a number of years, cost analysis of continuing maintenance costs in the event of renovation, recommendations for possible uses, comparison of uses versus cost involved, the impact upon parking space if the building were to be saved, thereby giving up the parking space planned by the architect on that site.

Between March 12 and 25, the committee contacted 43 civic and social organizations seeking opinion. Only five replied. Of the five, only two groups said definitely they would use the building.

"That settled for once and for all the matter of clubs clamoring for use," according to Mayor Kitz.

The committee studied moving of the building (which would take three months and \$162,000). Next the group surveyed 68 stores and businesses seeking opinion on whether the township should demolish the building. A total of 64 signed a petition urging demolition.

Physical repair would have cost \$50,000 - \$60,000, and annual maintenance would cost \$15,000 regardless of type of use.

Therefore, Mayor Kitz concluded, it's curtains for the old building and the architect will be instructed to proceed with demolition.

The Township Council approved two ordinances - one establishing a salary range for township employees, another providing for a police, fire and emergency alarm system and setting fees for connection.

Five new ordinances were introduced. Each will have a May 1 public hearing.

One adds \$20,000 to funds already appropriated for Lamberts Mill pumping station. Another sets \$30,000 for stream maintenance and improvement. A third appropriates \$35,000 for purchase of equipment for Public Property Department, including dump truck, street sweeper, leaf picker, pickup truck.

### Recycling Drive

On Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M., the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Environmental Protection will conduct their monthly recycling drive. You are urged to bring your papers, glass, and metal wastes to the Recycling Center, located on the south side of the Fanwood Railroad Station. All paper should be tied up into bundles and the glass waste separated by color -- clear, green, and brown.

## Councilman Urges Letter Campaign

In a prepared statement issued at the April 17 meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council Councilman Lawrence Newcomb urged a letter writing campaign of support for Assembly Bill 4-456. Councilman Newcomb said:

"A-456, Assemblyman Arthur Manner's bill to specifically require heliports and heliostops to meet local zoning requirements prior to the issuance of a license by the State passed the New Jersey Senate 29-2 last Thursday. The Senate vote took place almost exactly one year after the bill passed the Assembly.

"As a Scotch Plains resident I would like to thank Assemblyman Manner for the effort he has made to get this bill introduced and passed by the legislature. Also I would like to thank our two State Senators Jerry Epstein and Frank McDermott, who were finally successful in getting the Senate to act. Our battle is not over however, the bill still must be signed, and while few voted against this measure there were strong arguments and powerful interests on the other side which delayed action by the Senate on this much needed home rule legislation. Therefore I urge everyone who is concerned that Scotch Plains has some control over the location of heliports within our community or any other community in the State to write Gov. Cahill at the State House in Trenton. Tell him of your concern and urge the governor to sign A-456.

"This bill does not ban all heliports it merely gives towns the power to regulate them just as the towns now can regulate the location of airports within their town limits.

"Please write Gov. Cahill today and tell him how you feel."

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Two additional ordinances involve the police department. Because the demand for special services is constantly increasing, special police protection for any person, firm or corporation, public or private, for purpose of transporting money or other valuable goods would cost \$5 per round trip from one single source to a single destination. The Council would have the right to waive fees for religious organizations or public schools.

Other services of the police department are covered under another ordinance. It sets fees as follows: copies of reports of a noncriminal nature, \$3 per page; search fees for review of a record, \$3; viewing photographs of an accident scene, \$3; copies of photographs, \$5; photostats of accident reports, \$3 per page; fingerprinting canvassers, applicants for private employment, record checks and applicants for gun permits, \$2.

Donald Robinson of Myrtle Avenue urged action in improving his street. The street is filled with potholes, Robinson said, and he has been urging action for a while.

## To Designate Landmarks In Fanwood

They may be very familiar public buildings to many a Fanwood citizen, but those citizens may tread more respectfully upon the floors of the Fanwood Community Center and the Fire House in the future. The two buildings will be designated landmarks by the Union County Heritage Commission, according to Justis Agnoli, Fanwood's representative to the Commission.

As landmarks, the two buildings will be open on April 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. along with many other county landmarks. On the local scene, there will be punch and cookies served and Agnoli will do a slide presentation entitled Fanwood Past and Present. He'll also narrate local history using a different series of slides.

His presentation, sought by hundreds who know his reputation as a local historian, teacher of children, etc., may hear the slide show at 3:30 p.m. on the 29th. Agnoli's program will last about three quarters of an hour.

Mrs. Audrey Martin was named to the Heritage Commission, in charge of Cultural Affairs.