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Fanwood GOP's Name Mrs. Geer, Howlett

The Fanwood Republican Organization has named Mrs. Joan Geer and Fred Howlett as their candidates for the Borough council this year. In an unprecedented move, the broadbased committee unanimously drafted Mrs. Geer as the party's standard bearer, and named Howlett, a 33 year old executive with the Long Lines Department, A T & T as her running mate.

"Joan Geer is the perfect candidate," former Mayor Roland Beetham said. "She combines a sensitivity for people and a compassion for their problems with a devotion to the government process and to Fanwood. I can think of no one more qualified to serve on the council. The Republican party is extremely proud to offer her as a candidate."

Howlett, who moved here in 1971 is a professional engineer with a masters degree in business administration. A veteran of the nuclear submarine service, he is active in the local Jaycees and the Human Rights Council. He was featured in Outstanding Young Men in America in 1971. He has been an All-State athlete in three sports in high school. He lives with his wife Pat and their 3 children at 61 Tillotson Road.

Mrs. Geer and her husband Bob live at 229 Burns Way with their 2 children, Patti and David. She was an organizer of the popular Carol Ann Boyd Fund, a Girl Scout leader, chairman of the March of Dimes, and a member of the PTA executive board at Terrill Junior High School. She is legislative aide to Assemblyman Peter J. McDonough and served last summer on the Platform Committee as a delegate to the GOP National Nominating Convention. She has been Republican municipal chairman in Fanwood for 7 years.



MRS. ROBERT GEER

"The Republican party is offering the voters a perfectly balanced ticket," Beetham said. "Mrs. Geer's decade of civic, charitable, political and governmental experience is coupled with the dynamism of a business executive who has already proved his leadership qualities in our town."

Mrs. Geer and Mr. Howlett will be the Republican candidates in the primary election on June 5.

School Board OK's \$550,000 Budget Cut

Firm Will Aid School Program Budgeting

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has engaged a national public accounting and consulting firm, Pear, Marwick, Mitchell, and Company, to assist in the implementation of program budgeting. The new budgeting process has been suggested by many citizens and by board members in recent months, as an approach to more specific identification of the various areas of school budgeting. According to Board member Peter Britton, the board would be able to "break out" more specific expenditures than in the present line item budgets, and program budgeting here would be compatible with a new system being implemented by the state.

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge estimated the cost of implementation of program budgeting at \$40,000 to \$50,000. The board set a \$13,000 maximum for the consulting fees. The goal for introduction would be the 1974-75 school year.

Program budgeting assists school personnel in better identifying the needs and priorities of the School District and then assists in relating them to the resources required to support the programs. This type of involvement and participation by District personnel enhances support for the program budget and fosters a more analytical approach to the budgeting process. Since program budgeting portrays the District's annual educational plan in dollars, it assists the District in using a greater sophistication in considering the way resources are to be allocated among programs. Further, it will lead District Personnel, Board Members, and the Community, to ask questions about program intent and to relate programming decisions to resources. It also provides a more lucid explanation of how taxpayers' dollars are being used.

To assist the District internally in its implementation of the program budgeting process an Assistant Superintendent will be designated as Project Director. This individual will have the responsibility of coordinating the District's involvement in the management process, and will also act as liaison between the Consulting Personnel and the District Personnel.

The project will officially commence on April 24, 1973, with a one-day workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to orient the district to the concepts and methodologies of program budgeting and also to take the first steps in implementing program budgeting. The program budgeting implementation project will be substantially completed in early fall. At that time, Mr. Laberge will present the program budget to the Board of Education.

Major Portion Of Cut Is In Salaries, Twelve Teachers May Be Eliminated

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education approved the \$550,000 in budget cuts recommended by Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge. The action was taken on a split vote at the regular monthly meeting of the Board on Thursday, April 19 at Terrill Junior High School.

The action was carried by Board members Philip Labasi, Meyer Freiman, John McCormick, Henry Schwiering and Mrs. Robbie Mason. Peter Britton and Charles Ferguson voted in the negative. Board president Joseph Parry and Mrs. Lee Reilly were absent.

Major areas of cut are found in the teachers' salary account, where the superintendent recommended elimination of 12 teachers in areas which would have represented improvements for next year. This includes elimination of four driver education teachers, three elementary music teachers, three elementary art teachers, and two open end classroom teachers. The addition of the music and art teachers would have provided a teacher in each of those areas at each elementary school, eliminating the present system of doubling up which will now have to continue.

In addition, one remedial reading teacher has been eliminated, with a notation from the superintendent that closing of Muir School still permits retention of a reading specialist at each elementary school, with specialized work which was to be assigned to the additional person to remain uncovered. The final chopping in the teacher salary account is that of a single classroom teacher. Due to the rezoning pattern, the elimination of a teacher in this area is possible while still retaining class size at 25.

The account for administrative-supervisory personnel salaries has been trimmed by \$20,000 in the area of attorney's fee for negotiations. The exact area of reduction cannot yet be determined.

Another major area of improvement eliminated by the \$550,000 dent in the budget is the addition of a child study team, for \$55,000. Operating with the existing two child study teams in the district will mean that the current backlog of between 40 and 60 cases will continue, according to the superintendent. Another \$40,000 saving will be applied in the line item for tuition for handicapped children. Heretofore, the district has sent some special education children to other districts or to private schools. These children will no longer be so assigned, realizing a \$40,000 saving to the district. This reduction represents a change of philosophy as far as placement of children with outside agencies. Such placement

will now be made only when absolutely required by law. Otherwise, the children will be contained within the local district.

Further cuts in instructional areas were approved - \$10,000 less than planned for substitute teachers, \$10,000 less for bedside instruction, \$10,000 less for supplemental instruction, and \$30,000 chopped from the account for teacher aides. The reduction in aides means a "status quo" situation in the elementary schools at lunch, necessitating a request for help and cooperation of parents in providing lunch at home whenever possible.

Two other major chunks of money were removed - \$25,000 from instructional supplies and \$40,000 for replacement of equipment and new equipment.

The only comment from the audience regarding the budget cuts came from Richard West of Fanwood, representing the local Learning Disabilities Association. To have over 20 percent of the total recommended budget cuts in the area of special education is very sad to members of that organization, West pointed out. He asked for a reconsideration on the part of the board, and further stated that the group would have to consider taking the question to the courts to get education for special education children.

Laberge replied that he is personally very interested in this area of education and has been attempting to improve opportunities for special education children. In recommending the cuts, he did not zero in on the special education areas, but found it necessary to eliminate a third child study team with a cut of this magnitude. "A lot can be done with monetary support," Laberge told West.

Laberge said he made the cuts reluctantly and was not proud of them, but felt they were in the areas which least affect education and would cause the least conflict from staff and public.

Clean-up Week Is Coming

Household cleanup for the north side of Scotch Plains will be conducted next week, beginning Mon., April 30.

For southside, the annual trash pickup starts on May 7.

Finalize Plans For Memorial Day Parade

American Legion Community Post 209, Scotch Plains and Fanwood, is gearing up with final plans for their major event of the year - the annual Memorial Day services and parade. This year's observance is slated for Saturday, May 26. According to Mr. L. Scillitani, Parade Chairman for 1973, several very popular crowd pleasers will once again appear in the parade.

The Denville String Band from Morris County has marched for a number of years, and is a very colorful Mumpers-type group with most colorful costumes and catchy tunes. The Saints Drum and Bugle Corps from Fords, five-year veterans of the local parade, are signed up for May 26.

The Polish Falcons Drum and Bugle Corps from the Hillside area is a highly popular marching unit, as are the Silver Lancers from Middlesex County, and both groups will be on hand early on May 26.

What's the most popular band with Scotch Plains-Fanwood people? None other than the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Band. They'll be back in the line of march once again for 1973. They missed the 1972 parade, since they were in competition in the Washington, D.C. area, and it is expected that local crowds will welcome them back with rounds of applause.

The Girls Athletic League of Fanwood was a new group last year, and for starters they entered a small contingent, but they're getting "bigger and better" and the young lady athletes of Fanwood will be on hand with a much larger group and a float for '73.

The Highland Girl Pipers from Berkeley Heights and the Antique Auto Club rounds out the initial roster for this year, but Mr. Scillitani promises further information as Memorial Day nears.

The parade begins with memorial services for the war dead at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 9 a.m. Forming on Martine Avenue and North Avenue in Fanwood, the paraders proceed to Scotch Plains to Westfield Avenue, east to Montague Avenue, North to Mountain Avenue, West to Park Avenue, South to the monument and past the reviewing stand at the monument.