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Listening Post Hears Flooding, Assessment, Vandalism Complaints

For over two hours Saturday, the "Listening Post" conducted by Township Councilmen Augustine, Grote and Newcomb was visited by residents with concerns and complaints.

Two residents from Highlander Drive presented maps and engineering drawings that they claimed showed that flooding problems on their property started when a builder who developed property behind them was allowed to tie-in several storm drains into a drain pipe located on an easement on their property, thus over-taxing the ability of the pipe to handle normal rainfall runoff. The matter will be referred to the Township Engineer for further study.

Mr. Norman Ross, a resident who recently moved into Scotch Plains, thanked the Councilmen for inviting him to come to the "Listening Post" and discuss his concern about his property being reevaluated, as stated in his letter to the editor in last week's "TIMES." Mr. Ross stated that he now understands that recently purchased homes are not reassessed as such. He also publicly acknowledged the concerned manner in which the council handled the situation. He

complimented the "Listening Post" as an excellent place to come for residents to air their complaints.

Another resident residing on Old Lake Avenue complained about the way the county is handling the extension of Martine Avenue. She stated that the contractor was trespassing on her property and destroying trees and bushes. The Councilmen requested Township Manager, Mrs. Capone, to contact the County Engineer to help resolve the problem.

Other concerns and complaints heard were drainage problems on Union Avenue, pot holes on Myrtle Avenue, questions on the new zoning ordinance and tarring conditions on the Green Forest Tennis Courts.

In addition to the Councilmen, Township Attorney James Walsh, Township Building Inspector James McCann and Township Manager Shirley Capone were also in attendance.

Raids Net Seven In Plains And Fanwood

Chief Joseph Powers of the Scotch Plains Police Department announced on Tuesday morning that an investigation into the illegal sale and use of drugs in the local area had resulted in several arrests. After investigation by members of his department, an early morning raid was conducted on Monday, May 7 in cooperation with the Union County Narcotics Strike Force.

The investigation was conducted over several months, and the Monday raid involved 48 police officers from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield, Mountainside, Linden, Summit and New Brunswick. They were armed with search warrants.

The following people were arrested by Scotch Plains Police officers Lt. Robert Luce and De-

TECTIVE Carl Sicola: Paul Montalbano, 23, of 555 School Place, Scotch Plains; Richard J. Morrelli, 19, of 1989 Mountain Avenue, Scotch Plains; Joseph Palmero, 18, of 1090 Mary Ellen Lane, Scotch Plains; Kim Powell, 20, of 24 Cleveland Avenue, Scotch Plains; all arraigned

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School Board Schedules Half Day Sessions

Schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district will be on half-day sessions for four days in the weeks ahead. Three half-day sessions have been scheduled in order to permit principals and staff to become oriented to the revised budgeting process and format to be introduced for the development of the 1974-75 budget. The three afternoons set aside for staff workshops in the new budget building process are Monday, May 14, Thursday, May 24, and Tuesday, June 5. Another single half session at each school is for in-service training.

On those days, morning kindergartens will attend school from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m.; afternoon kindergartens from 10:45 to 12:45 p.m.; grades one through six, dismissal at 12:45; junior high dismissal at 12:30 and senior high dismissal at 12:39.

Every child in the district will receive a letter of explanation from Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge. The letters to the parents were distributed earlier in the week.

According to the Superintendent's letter, changes at the state level will result in devel-

opment of a modified program budget format for 1974-75. "While planning is a continuous process throughout the year, much of the final work in developing budget recommendations has been done in September and early October for the following school year. To provide the necessary time for planning as the district moves from the line item to the program budget format, the initial steps in developing recommendations for the 1974-75 budget will be completed during May June of the current school year."

Gas Shortage Threat Stirs Local Reaction

Hatfield To Seek County Chairmanship

Richard P. Hatfield, Jr., Scotch Plains Republican Chairman, will not be a candidate for re-election to that



RICHARD P. HATFIELD, JR.

post in June. He will instead be a candidate for Chairman of the Union County Republican Party when the 900 member County Republican Committee meets on June 12th to elect officers for the ensuing year.

Hatfield was first elected local G.O.P. Chairman in March 1967 succeeding Mrs. Ruth Scott who had resigned and has been re-elected at the last six annual Scotch Plains Republican Committee meetings. His successful record includes seven consecutive election victories, notable among those the record plurality of Bill Kitsz and Al Theurer in 1969 after a narrow defeat in 1968 and the big primary win in 1970 by Walter Grote. Last year G.O.P. sweep of all five council seats under our new form of government will probably be remembered as the biggest victory of all.

He is a lifelong resident of Scotch Plains and Fanwood and graduated from the local high school. Long time residents will remember his father, Richard Sr., who served as Mayor of Fanwood in the 1950's and was also a Union County Freeholder. Dick resides at 12 Colonial Drive with his wife, Pat, daughter Elizabeth and son, James.

Laberge points out. The vital importance of the classroom teacher, both in planning the educational programs and identifying resources needed for implementation of programs led the Superintendent to the recommendation for the workshop sessions.

The dates for in-service training at the various schools are as follows, with time schedules the same as listed above: Evergreen, Muir, Brunner - May 7; High School - May 10; McGinn and Shackamaxon - May 15; La Grande - May 16; Coles and School One - May 21.

Say Situation May Result In Rationing, Price Increases

Will YOU be driving around at will by the middle of the summer, or is it likely that you'll be confined to the house, with an empty gasoline tank staring you in the face? The threat of a gasoline shortage looms, if one reads the newspapers or listens to television. There are suggestions of \$1 per gallon, gas rationing, etc. What's the situation locally? We have interviewed several gas station owners, a housewife reacting to the threat, and a economy car dealer.

Pat Lindsey of Fanwood is taking the threats seriously. She and her husband Chet drive two big automobiles - a station wagon and a 1965 Cadillac. They're tall, and so are their children, and they appreciate the comfort of stretching room in larger cars. However, the Lindseys own horses and steer which they keep in Mercersville, necessitating frequent long drives, they have many commitments around the local area requiring car use, and they're really beginning to take a long, hard second look at the two big automobiles. They've been shopping around in the showrooms of the economy car dealers with mixed emotions.

Pat Lindsey figures the gas shortages are a sure thing in her future, particularly since she read that the stamps for gas rationing coupons are already etched out. The logical answer might be purchase of a smaller economy car - or would it? The Lindseys' two cars run well and get good gas mileage, and they are wondering whether they'd get noticeably lowered mileage on a newer car with emission controls. Their dilemma is shared by hundreds of worriers who are visiting local service stations, discussing their concerns with station owners.

Hank Piekarski, owner of Fanwood Citgo, sees some indication of a shortage ahead. He's been notified that he'll probably be cut back by two percent of his last year's total. Effective May 1, there was a penny-per-gallon increase, wholesale and retail, bringing Citgo prices to 38-9/10 for regular and 42-9/10 for premium. He's supplied by the bulk plant in Linden, hence the small cutback. He feels some north Jersey Citgo stations supplied by local distributors may feel a slightly more severe pinch. Piekarski has heard reports of gas sales limited to 10 gallons, \$2 worth, etc. in the local area, but so far he's having no problems supplying customers.

Neither is Cush's Chevron Station at the corner of Park and Martine Avenue. No price increase here. Apparently no shortage coming, either. Cush's has been alerted by Chevron suppliers that the station will receive a "ration" henceforth. The monthly ration will equal the monthly average pumped at the station over the last six months, plus a 5,000 gallon per month cushion. The station operates right from Chevron Oil, hence the generous allotment providing for what the station needs, plus. Prices here are 39-9/10, 42-9/10

as they've been for four or five years.

Plantation Shell is a busy station on Route 22 in Scotch Plains. George Sampson, the owner, says

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Redistricting Grips Liven Board Meeting

The renewal of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Listening Post Saturday, May 5th, was attended by residents from two areas that are being redistricted in the recent rezoning plan. They used the opportunity to express concern over their children's safety traveling a major thoroughfare to school.

A group from Marion Ave. rezoned from LaGrande School to McGinn School, questioned the increased distance and whether children would be allowed to eat lunch in school.

Joseph Parry, Board President, in opening the meeting, explained that the Listening Post was not a public meeting, but was rather for the purpose of exchanging information. In that vein, various Board members noted that no assumptions could be made regarding the elementary lunch program, inasmuch as there is not now a policy. There was an indication that this would be a concern that the Board would be facing in the near future.

The Marion Ave. representatives proposed a realignment which would rezone them back into LaGrande School and place portions of Paterson, Willoughby and Russell Roads into School #1. This plan hinges on the busing of children north of Route #22 to McGinn School. They emphasized in their presentation that this proposal was not necessarily the only one which they backed, but merely offered it as an alternative to the one adopted by the Board in March.

Residents of Montague Ave. had similar concerns of safety explaining that their children would be forced to cross Park Ave. because of rezoning to School #1.

Board members speaking individually thanked the residents, who numbered about 30, for attending and promised a final statement on redistricting for the May 17th Board meeting. The next Listening Post will be Saturday, June 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Choral Room of the High School.