

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 14, NO. 25

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1973

15 CENTS A COPY

## Fire Guts Park Ave. Cleaning Business

A fire of unknown origin caused extensive damage to the front portion of Norge Coin Op Dry Cleaning and Laundry at 519 Park Avenue on Monday evening, July 2. The fire broke out at about 11:45 p.m., according to Scotch Plains Fire Chief Harry Messemer, and was brought under control by about 30 men from Company One, within an hour. Three hours after the start of the fire, salvage and overhaul operations were complete.

Chief Messemer said the major portion of the damage centered around the dry cleaning racks and area. The roof fell in, protecting the washing machines and dryers from more extensive damage, he pointed out.

The Norge operation is run by Harold Westmerer, and the building is owned by Adams Corporation of North Plainfield.

There were no estimates of total damage on Tuesday morning, but Messemer said an investigation of cause and damage was already underway.

The chief said he expected that the owners of the dry cleaning business would set up a temporary office for turn in of dry

cleaning tickets, and citizens will be alerted regarding the location of such an office.

Next door, Alfonso's Restaurant, which opened only last February, was damaged by smoke and heat, while the pizza parlor was damaged by smoke. An employee said the restaurant and pizza operation had lost a full week's food supply. Tablecloths and napkins, floor, walls and paintings had a film of soot on them. The restaurant is closed temporarily, and a spokesman said it would be back in business as soon as the cleanup can be arranged.

## School Administrators Give Back Some Extra Pay

"Thanks, but no thanks" might well be the message of the administrators in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. They're "giving back" some extra, overtime vacation pay in advance!

Some weeks ago, the Board of Education authorized payment of additional two weeks salary to many administrators within the district who would be unable to take their regular vacations this summer in the interests of an involved new budget preparation. The administrators, who are 12-month employees, regularly have a month's vacation, and under the Board vote, would have received two weeks salary to make up at least in part for an on-the-job summer. According to Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, the extra payments could have tallied close to \$30,000.

However, the administrators have decided that the extra work

involved in Program Budgeting falls within the regular responsibilities of their positions, and have therefore declined the offer of additional pay.

Program Budgeting will go into effect formally in 1974-75, but the \$11 million line item budget for 1973-74 is being recast into the district's forty programs, in a programmatic format. The preparation of two budgets is a completely new experience for all personnel in the district, and has required extensive work, both in the area of record keeping and education of staff to the intricacies of the new approach.

## School Costs Are Detailed In New Budget Approach

By the 1974-75 school year, the Board of Education (and the general public as well) will have a much more highly detailed picture of exactly how much it costs to educate in any specific area of the program of the local school district. The answer lies in programmatic budgeting - a new approach to budgeting which will become fully effective here a year from September. A status report was released at last Thursday's Board of Education meeting.

The Board has had study committees considering the concept for three years, and the governing bodies have registered their support for a new concept of budgeting annually when they have had to consider budget cuts following defeats.

The introduction of programmatic budgeting is not a change-over, since state law still dictates preparation of the line item budgets which are used throughout the state now.

The budget for next year's school year, which totals \$11,528,732, is being recast into the forty programs of the district now, and the Board of Education will receive a detailed report on the recast within a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, preparations and educational sessions are pro-

ceeding, directed toward compiling the 1974-75 budget in programmatic form. It is an involved procedure, which will require many administrators to spend the summer months at budget considerations this year. It has also necessitated considerable effort during the past months, when educational sessions have been held in each school building and a building-by-building program budget personnel survey has been conducted to determine staff assignments by category.

A core group of administrative supervisory personnel has been serving as an action group on criteria, formulas and processes necessary to the budget approach. In addition to meetings of the

## Board OK's Package For Administrators

### Board Names New Band Director

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has announced the appointment of Marvin S. Piland as Teacher of Instrumental Music and Band Director at the High School. Mr. Piland comes to Scotch Plains after four years as Band Director at Handley High School in Winchester, Virginia.

A graduate of East Carolina University, Mr. Piland received both Bachelor and Master of Musical Education degrees from that school. Upon his graduation from East Carolina, he was voted the most outstanding senior in the School of Music. He has also attended Vandercook College and has studied Marching Band Techniques under A. R. Casavant.

During Mr. Piland's four years as Band Director at Handley High School, the Marching Band grew in size from sixty-four members to one hundred twenty, and was ranked in the top quartile at the State Marching Festival in Williamsburg, Va. in 1972. Other ensembles conducted by Mr. Piland have received top ratings in various competitions.

Mr. Piland was organizer of the Northern Virginia Regional Junior High School Clinic in 1972 and the Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's Association Solo-Ensemble Festival in 1973. His college instrumental proficiency was obtained in clarinet and saxophone.

Mr. Piland is married. His wife, Jeanne, is an operatic Mezzo Soprano.

core group, there have been numerous meetings of the full administrative staff to deal with information necessary for them as budget managers. Consultants have been involved in the many meetings.

Last month, the Board of Education received a report of the program structure, identifying the instructional programs, instructional support programs, pupil support programs and operational support programs in the district. The total was 40 programs.

In other actions, Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge announced that LaGrande School will not have the transitional first grade originally planned for that school because of enrollment increases there. Evergreen School has had the only transitional first grade in the district during the past school year, and a second will be introduced in September at Brunner.

The Board received a request from the PTAs of Cole and McGinn Schools seeking a policy on school lunch supervision. The Board expects to establish

Continued On Page 5.

### Contracts Are Out, Teachers' Salaries Still At Impasse

The administrators of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school no longer have a "contract" with the school district. Effective with this year's salary agreements, approved by the Board of Education last Thursday, the administrators operate under what is called a "memorandum of agreement." The memorandum of agreement was arrived at after negotiating sessions at which the Board was represented by a three-man team headed by Peter N. Britton and including Joseph Parry and Philip Labasi.

The memorandum of agreement represents a "departure from the normal contractual agreements of the past," Britton said. Part A of the memorandum endorses the management team concept, while Part B spells out a salary plan based on the 75th percentile plan. All in all, the package adds up to an average total increase of seven percent. However, individual salaries were not yet available. The memorandum was approved by Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Mason, Messrs. Schwiering and Ferguson. A no vote was registered by Labasi, McCormick, and Parry.

Britton said the management team concept may be novel to the local district. He did not know of its application elsewhere in the state. It is typical of industry, and was arrived at as a joint concept from both Board and administrative negotiating teams. Britton said the Board wanted to distinguish the administrative salary settlement from others, and therefore agreed upon the "formal agreement between parties without the stipulation and wording usually associated with legal documents."

The agreement spells out precisely the responsibilities of the superintendent and his role in regard to other administrators.

In other areas of negotiation, Board member Charles Ferguson announced that the Teamsters have reached agreement. This local covers custodians. The guides range: Head Custodian Class I starting at \$8,400, going to \$10,600; Head Custodian Class II starting at \$7,600 going to \$10,400; Assistant Custodians and Groundsmen starting at \$6,500 and going to \$8,900; Matrons starting at \$4,500 and going to \$6,025; Bus Drivers starting at \$7,000 and going to \$9,800.

The negotiations with the teaching staff have been at impasse since last month. However, Ferguson reported that a mediator, appointed by PERC met with the two negotiating teams last week, from 7:30 p.m. until 2 a.m. without result. Ferguson noted that the Board had offered \$254,000 in additional salary to the teachers, equaling a 5 percent raise for the teaching staff, "which is far above the 1.7 percent offer announced in newspapers," he said.

The Board and teachers were at a \$700,000 difference at the point of impasse, he said, and that figure is far beyond the budget and ability of the community to pay. Impasse was declared

by the Board of Education because there was "little or no movement" on the part of the teachers during negotiation, and the board couldn't negotiate without movement. The mediator was scheduled for another meeting here on Monday of this week.

The offer made by the Board to the secretaries was rejected, it was reported. At the time of the Board meeting, the offer had been turned down by the negotiating team for the secretaries and it was unknown whether the secretaries had acted on it as a body. The negotiations in this area are "at a stage which could be called impasse," it was reported.

The Superintendent, Fred Laberge, gave a report on progress of the building renovations at LaGrande School, while Board Secretary Michael Klick reported on progress of the new building program.

Laberge said renovations at LaGrande School will total \$40,000 - which is \$10,000 more than had been budgeted for this year. However, the fiscal year ended this month with a balance in both current expense and capital outlay areas of the budget, allowing for provision of the additional \$10,000. The \$40,000 will not allow for total completion of the finished product at LaGrande. It will provide for breaking through of walls, making classrooms useable, etc., but another \$30,000 will be needed in next year's budget for completion of the LaGrande work.

Klick said the building program, which encompasses four school additions, improvements at Park Jr. High, and a new elementary school, is 80 percent completed. "We still continue to be optimistic and we look forward to the opening of all additions by September," Klick said. All work at Park won't be fully completed by then, he added.

Klick further noted that the administration is putting together a vandalism comparison for the fiscal year which just ended, but meanwhile pointed out that the totals for the month of June were far above last year's June totals, particularly at the elementary schools. Board member Lee Reilly asked whether increased lighting might be beneficial. Any number of thoughts were under consideration, Klick said, including lighting, guards, electronic surveillance, etc. and when the tally is completed he expects it will include some recommendations for changes.