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Illegal Loitering Is Costly In Fanwood

Loitering in such a manner as to violate borough law isn't inexpensive in the Borough of Fanwood, as several young people found out on Monday night. Their cases came up during the Monday night session of Municipal Court, with Municipal Court Judge Melvin Whitken presiding. The court considered police charges against five of seven young people who had been arrested in La Grande Park two weeks ago, with findings of guilty in all cases. Robert Spingler and Gary Gerling, both of Fanwood, two of the seven arrested on June 26, requested public defenders to be assigned by the court, the request was denied, and their cases were postponed until two weeks hence, when municipal court meets again.

Kevin Manning of Scotch Plains, was found guilty of failing to leave the playground when he had been warned to leave by Fanwood Police Lieutenant Charles Persson on June 26. He was also guilty of assaulting Persson on the same date. Manning pleaded guilty. Borough Prosecutor Robert Kraus requested an impressive fine in the case, stating that it is the feeling of the state that any assault of a police officer is a serious offense, and the only way to avoid such incidents in the future is imposition of meaningful fines. Manning was fined \$200 plus \$10 court costs and placed on probation for a six-month period on the assault charge.

Judge Whitken pointed out that the incident could have resulted in a jail sentence, but there's a "long summer ahead" and Whitken said he was sure police didn't want small or large confrontations. For failing to leave the park, Manning was fined \$50 and no costs. He is on a separate probation, for three months,

on that count, with the probation applying to the Parks and recreational areas of the borough. If any further violations of borough rules and regulations occur in these locations only, Manning returns to court for resentencing.

Manning was represented by Douglas Hansen of Scotch Plains who asked for court consideration of what he termed an "unfortunate situation" in Fanwood, where he claimed police-community relationships were low.

Kenneth Levine, 21 of Rahway, pleaded guilty on a charge of failure to leave the park when ordered by Persson, and was similarly fined \$50 and \$10 court costs and placed on the same three-month probation applicable to recreational areas, as did Faye Thompson, 18, of Fanwood. Both said they did not know why they had to leave the park, since they were permitted according

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Council Sees New Municipal Facilities In Fanwood's Future

If the "powers that be" have anything to say about it, improved municipal facilities in the borough of Fanwood are a certainty for the future. However, what form those improved facilities will take and where they will be located are two questions which find the leadership of the community well divided in opinion.

Last week, Mayor Ted Trumpp and the Fanwood Borough Council called an informal meeting of members of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, firemen, police, Rescue Squad members, and other civic leaders who have occasion to use borough facilities often. The purpose of the meeting was to detail the information contained in a "Municipal Facilities Feasibility Study" recently completed by the Moore and Tutchins Partnership, Architects from New York. Richard Berry represented the architects at the meeting.

The feasibility study is at least a half-inch thick, including pages and pages of factual information on space available now and estimates for the future. After a very lengthy process of measuring every square foot of available building space now utilized for borough official functioning and after interviews with representatives from every department, the architectural firm initially drew up expansion alternatives, which were then narrowed down to three; a proposed municipal center concept, and two alternate proposals. The study reflects Council opinion as well as that of the architects.

The Proposed Municipal Center Concept, favored by the archi-

tecs as the most desirable for Fanwood needs, recommends that all borough facilities except the library and the Public Works Department be contained in a single location, in a new municipal building which would be built near the site of the existing municipal building on Watson Road. This proposal would require more land than the borough now has - and therefore the proposal calls for acquisition of five pieces of property behind Borough Hall, facing on North Avenue. The properties presently contain private homes.

Under this recommendation, shown in illustration No. 1, additional land would be acquired at the corner of Martine and North Avenues, between Martine and the entrance to the Public Works garage.

Coordinating all municipal facilities under one general location would conserve and strengthen the identity of the borough, encourage a stronger civic image and community participation, and preserve the present park-like atmosphere of the geographical center of the borough, separated from the business center by the railroad, according to recommendations. The proposal involves retaining the Community

Council Votes \$30,000 To Improve Clubhouse At Scotch Hills

Happy Birthday

Sunday is the natal day of "Swinging Helen" Reidy, popular Township Clerk of Scotch Plains. Many happy returns!

Is "Night Train" About To Derail?

"Night Train" is a program especially formulated for the 2,000 junior high students in Scotch Plains and Fanwood this summer. It's a Tuesday-Thursday night activity, co-sponsored by the YMCA and the Jaycees and Jaycee-ettes, and, according to YMCA Youth Director Dick Pollock and many other youth-oriented leaders within the community, it offers a wealth of things to do.

For example, the 75-cent per night admission includes free bus to and from "Night Train" at the Grand Street "Y." Once a junior high kid gets there, he can pick and choose what he wants to do . . . in what order and when. No bosses, no formalities. There's a gym, open all night for basketball, volleyball, etc. There is an air conditioned lounge and a snack bar. There might be a musical program or a movie. Arts and crafts could be arranged if anybody wants. Swims in the pool are included as well.

Guess how many junior high kids came to "Night Train" this week on Tuesday night? Eight. Attendance was about the same at the previous session. The sponsors are baffled. The eight who attended are baffled, since they feel it is great. However, if attendance continues at this low level, the ambitious program will have to be abandoned.

The "powers that be" are giving it three more chances. If attendance hasn't picked up considerably by July 19, it'll be derailment for Night Train 1973. Anybody who is interested is welcome to come and go as they wish, every Tuesday and Thursday, and if bus transportation is desired from anywhere, a call to the Grand Street YMCA will insure that provision.

House as it now functions, the Public Works garage as it now functions, provide additions (\$275,000) to the library at some time in the future, and construct a new Borough Hall.

The new Borough Hall building recommended would house the municipal offices, fire and police and Rescue Squad. The old building would be demolished. The preliminary estimate for the new building would be \$910,000.

The first alternative involves acquiring the already existing

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Other Ordinances Provide Funds For Public Works Building Expansion, South Side Sewers

The Scotch Plains Township Council introduced legislation on Tuesday night which would provide \$30,000 in improvements to the clubhouse at Scotch Hills municipal golf course on Plainfield Avenue. The ordinance, which will have a July 31 public hearing, would provide for new flooring, walls and ceiling in the back portion of the building, a large area which has been unuseable in recent years because of lack of floor support. The area of the kitchen and foyer that connects the ballroom and rear room to the area to be reconstructed also will be remodeled.

Scotch Hills has been a focus of the Scotch Plains Women's Club this year, with club members pressing for improvements and reconstruction to the historic old building which once was a farmhouse. The building is sizeable, and has been used for meetings and public events by clubs and organizations as well as by golfers. It has many interesting historic facets which were pointed out by local architect Charles Detwiller in a tour this spring. Detwiller is known for his restoration work on old buildings both locally and in Mystic, Connecticut.

Another new ordinance would appropriate \$19,500 from capital improvement to amortize the loan obtained from the federal government for the southside comprehensive sewers, while a third ordinance vacates public rights in a parcel of land conveyed to the township to widen the municipal right-of-way known as Morse Avenue. Another new ordinance sets \$80,000 for expansion of the main public works building on Plainfield Avenue. All have July 31 hearings.

The Township Council heard from a spokesman representing homeowners from Chapel Road, Farmingdale Road, Grenville Road, Lake Avenue and Little Falls Way, supporting the ordinance approved on Tuesday which would provide \$18,000 for preliminary engineering for sanitary sewers on these streets.

The residents said their septic systems are 20 years old, and are located in a shale foundation, and they are urgently in need of the sanitary sewers. The Council passed four other ordinances in addition to that for the sanitary sewers. One transfers rights of way from one side of a property to another in Gamble Road, with easement to be used for a sanitary sewer. Another sets \$33,000 from capital improvement for preliminary engineering for Section 17 of Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River, while a fourth adds \$3,000 to monies already budgeted for computer equipment to be purchased from Union County. A final ordinance clarifies the general improvement status of the interceptor sewer and pumping station approved in a 1970 ordinance, the clarification being necessary for state and federal grants.

Donald L. Marsh of Massachusetts wrote to the Council, announcing his intention to seek a "long term relationship with communities" in a cable television franchise which he would like to own and operate in Scotch Plains. He said he would welcome communication with civic administrators. His letter was referred to the Council.

The Council approved the naming of five men to the fire department. They are Donald J. Stauder, Joseph Racioppi, Jr., Andrew A. Imperial, Russell J. Francisco, and Arthur G. Schlumpf.

The Council received a letter from Robert Lee, asking for a favorable consideration to his suggestion that Farley Avenue Park, the first park ever established in Scotch Plains, be renamed Venezia Park. The name would honor George Venezia, who died recently. Venezia served as Secretary to the Recreation Commission for many years, and headed the Recreation program here.

Permission was granted by the Council, under a Board of Adjustment recommendation, for United Methodist Church, 1171 Terrill Road, to allow Little Flower Montessori School to use classrooms in the church for a non-profit pre-school at the Methodist Church.

Wow, What A Piece Of Paper!

Larry Nilsen, a 13-year old from Fanwood, will soon be reaping the rewards of his curiosity. Larry saw a stray piece of paper in his driveway on July 5, reached down to see what it was, and discovered a check for \$100! The check was one of hundreds supposedly dropped near V.I.P. Honda on 7th Street in Plainfield on July 4.

The check-drop was a promotional stunt arranged by V.I.P. on the anniversary of their opening one year ago. Checks of many denominations were dropped, with young Mr. Nilsen's being one of the higher denominations. He planned to cash it early this week, and to buy an English racer bicycle.

Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nilsen of 367 South Avenue, Fanwood.