

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 14, NO. 30

SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1973

15 CENTS A COPY

## Board Releases Data On School Lunch— Waits Tuesday Public Hearing

The Board of Education will conduct an informal public hearing next Tuesday night at Terrill Junior High to provide citizens with a forum for expression regarding their desires on the subject of school lunch. Two nights later, on Thursday, August 16, the Board hopes to adopt a district-wide policy regarding in-school lunch at the elementary level, which policy is expected to encompass the reactions of the community.

Heretofore, the Board has not had a specific policy on school lunching, and the stay-for-lunch customs have been more or less up to the will of the student and/or the parent. At one or two elementary schools a specific effort has been made to encourage children to go home wherever possible, and at these schools the students lunching in the classroom has been lower in percentage than in other schools. No schools have cafeterias or rooms specifically set aside for serving or eating of food, nor would they next year. Students would eat lunch at their desks, and then use playgrounds and possibly multi-purpose rooms for a recreational period.

Considerable furor has been registered during the past year over the lack of supervision and safety standards due to a lack of aides to watch children during lunch hour. During the past year, a very few aides oversaw many children daily.

How many students would stay for lunch next year? According to Board figures, if completely free policy were adopted, there would be 450 staying of a total population of 550 at School One; 450 of a total school enrollment of 525 at Brunner; 250 of 525 at McGinn; 475 of 525 at Evergreen; 200 of 300 at LaGrande; 375 of 440 at Shackamaxon; and 450 of 500 at Coles. The estimates represent the number of children who would stay during good weather. Figures go higher in rainy, snowy, icy, or very cold

weather. At present, a total of 25 aides have been supervising lunching students: 3 at School One; 3 at Brunner; 4 at McGinn (1 for Special Ed. classes); 4 at Evergreen (1 for Special Ed.); 5 at LaGrande (2 for Special Ed.); 3 at Shackamaxon; 3 at Coles. The aides work four-hour shifts, and are involved in clerical and other teacher-assistance areas for the remainder of their shifts. The total cost for the 25 aides has been \$40,950. However, it is felt that reasonable supervision would demand the addition of 37 more aides for next year if the status quo lunch policy were to be continued. This would cost \$101,550, or an additional \$60,600.

The Board is studying many alternatives, including continuing the existing open-door policy, eliminating virtually all in-school lunching, and various modifications which fall between these two extremes. To allow students in grades 1 through 3 who live more than half a mile, students in grades 4 through 6 who live over a mile, special education students and legally transported students to eat in school with adequate aide supervision would cost a total of \$62,240 for 38 aides.

The Board seeks public opinion in a decision regarding this matter, and urges citizens to attend the two meetings next week, both to be held at Terrill Junior High at 8 p.m.

## One Week Ago Today— All Time Record Rain Drenches Community

### In The Aftermath

\* The American Red Cross has opened a headquarters to provide assistance for flood victims in Scotch Plains. The office will be in the meeting room of the Scotch Plains Library, and will be open for business from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily. All flood victims are urged to avail themselves of the Red Cross help, in the form of food, clothing, bedding and drugs such as insulin, digitalis, etc., which residents may have lost in the flood.

\* The Small Business Administration will set up an office at 147 North Avenue, Plainfield, for businessmen who wish to make application for loans and/or grants in the wake of last week's flood.

\* The Scotch Plains Road Department should be called for pickup of flood debris. All debris must be placed at curbside. Immediate pickup will be provided for foodstuffs lost in the floods. Food for discard should be placed in plastic bags.

\* Scotch Plains' clean-up operations have been about 90% completed so far as picking up flood damaged possessions of the residents of the Township. The Road Department has also cleaned all catch basins of silt and debris in the flood damaged areas. Calcium chloride has

### Mayor Calls Meeting Of All Department Heads To Study Necessary Emergency Action

Scotch Plains and Fanwood barely attracted a line or two of newsprint last Thursday and Friday, as torrential rainstorms deluged Central Jersey with anywhere from seven to nine inches of rain in a morning. Why? Because so many other towns fared so much worse than Scotch Plains and Fanwood. In a way, the two communities were among the more fortunate in the area, sustaining some damage, yet spared the deaths and intense destruction which occurred in some nearby communities. However, such comparisons provide little solace to those who have suffered deeply. There are many here who will long remember the effects of the short rainstorm.

As mop-up activities were underway early this week, household effects in a horrifying disarray of wet, soggy mess were evident at the curbside in scattered areas of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The heavy rainfall caused foundations to collapse on 13 Scotch Plains homes, filled basements to the rafters in many locations, upturned a Volkswagen in the brook above Route 22, stopped traffic on dozens of streets, played havoc with records and stock stored in base-

been applied to the streets to control dust.

Every effort is being made to clean up all the flood damaged material without delay to avoid health problems. If anyone has flood damaged goods, which has been placed along the curbs, and it has not been picked up by next Tuesday, a call should be made to the Municipal Manager's office (322-6700) and the material will be picked up shortly. However, as much material as can be placed on the curbs by this weekend as possible so that the pickup can be speeded, thus avoiding any possibility of health hazard.

The Township's Vac-All will be picking up silt from the gutter lines in order to avoid stirring up the dust by sweeping, following which the sweeper will sweep and the streets affected will be flushed.

ments of Park Avenue businesses, necessitated evacuation of many families, demolished the Civil Defense headquarters in the old library on Front Street, etc., etc., etc.

The dollar figure for losses to only township property has been set tentatively by Scotch Plains at \$118,500. This does not include private losses to businesses and residences. Some of this figure has already been spent for debris clearance in homes which lost foundations. However, homeowners must arrange privately with contractors for new foundations.

Chief Joseph Powers of the Scotch Plains Police Department "knew we were in trouble" as early as 7:40 a.m. last Thursday. He spotted the rain accumulating in his own street, then checked Route 22, and found it already impassible eastbound. He ordered the night shift of police to stay, blocked off Route 22 in both directions as a starter. Within less than an hour, by 8:30, Powers said there was so much water everywhere that the police didn't know where to start.

At 8:25 a.m., the police couldn't even get a car up to check on the Green Brook Flood Alert System, but most communities along the brook were already well aware that trouble was on the way. The

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No, it's not the Mississippi. It's Second Street, corner of Hunter Avenue!



As always, the Park Avenue business district took a weather-beating!