

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1973

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## Plains Residents Say "No More Blacktop"

Blacktopping, whether its on a gas station lot or in a park play area, is apparently getting a long, hard second look from people in more than one area of Scotch Plains . . . and, if they have anything to say about it, the decision is "No thank you." Richard Matlaga of 2239 Lyde Place spoke to the Township Council Tuesday night about Greenside Park, a small 50 by 100 park at Westfield Road and Greenside Place.

Residents saw activities underway at the park on Monday in preparation for blacktopping, he said. Some called the Municipal Building to question the wisdom of blacktopping under swings, merry-go-rounds and other kiddie rides. The action was stopped temporarily. Matlaga asked that the project be abandoned. Not only does blacktopping provide more run-off of flood waters, but it also is more dangerous than grass for children at play, he said. "Do we want to pave over the whole town?" Matlaga asked.

Mrs. Pearl Bland of Haven Avenue also registered opposition to paving at Haven Avenue. Children hurt themselves much more, she pointed out. Mayor William Kitzs felt the comments worthwhile. While perhaps those with more experience in recreation have good reasons to put forth for blacktopping, it could be that the time has come to take another look, Kitzs said, since over the years the areas of blacktop have increased.

As soon as the Greenside Park residents voiced question, the matter was referred to Recreation Director Richard Marks, and he has contacted residents of the area to discuss the matter.

The Recreation Commission is an autonomous body, the Council pointed out and suggested that Matlaga attend their meeting next Monday. The Council officially registered a request that work be held up until after the Recreation meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Law also oppose blacktopping - specifically a request for permission for expansion of the Citgo station on Route 22 between Willow and Myrtle Avenues which was approved by the Board of Adjustment. The two couples don't want to see any more paving as a part of the improvement.

In recent rains, Myrtle and Willow Avenues suffered severe

damage, the couples wrote. However, with additional blacktopping on Route 22 the runoff would have been much more severe, they claimed, and offered statistics of runoff waters in argument. "Let's not build for once, save what we have," they urged. More floodwaters could result in destruction of homes and possibly deaths.

A new county park in the Martine Avenue extension on the south side of Scotch Plains is the concern of the Junior Woman's Club of Scotch Plains. They claim that when the township deeded land to the county for the extension 25 years ago it was understood that a park would be provided. The Woman's Club claims that the County Park Commission does not plan action at present until there is indication of citizen desires. They asked the Council to join the Jr. Women and Recreation Commission of Scotch Plains in urging provision of additional recreation.

Assessment reports for sanitary sewers in Colonial Drive and Cooper Street and in Terrill Road from East Second Street to Highway 22 will be considered at the September 18 meeting.

Charles Doyle of Cecilia Place asked the Council to reconsider placement of the Civil Defense headquarters in the basement of the new Municipal Building now nearing completion. Doyle said the C.D. headquarters were flooded out of operation at their present site in the old library building on Front Street during August floods. He feels the township should guard against any possibility of a repeat by placing headquarters on higher ground.

Mayor William Kitzs registered doubt that there would be danger of flooding in the new municipal building, due to preventive construction.

## Plains Businessman Is Apparent Homicide Victim

A small olive-green bungalow style home at 940 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains was the scene of an apparent homicide early Tuesday morning. James Purick, 40 was the victim. According to Scotch Plains Police Chief Joseph Powers, the police desk received a report at 8:12 a.m. from John Todd of 716 Field Avenue, Plainfield, which led to the investigation, which is still continuing.

Mr. Todd reportedly arrived at the 940 Raritan Road address where Mr. Purick lived and also operated his own business, Family Tree Service. Todd was an employee of the tree service and he first searched the large property in the rear of the home, seeking his employer. Failing to find Purick outside, Chief Powers said, Todd then entered the home and found Mr. Purick in his pajamas, apparently dead.

Patrolmen Robert Ernst and John Wall responded to the call and were subsequently joined by Detective John Trembicki who is

now handling the investigation in conjunction with the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Dr. Bernard Ehrenberg, Union County Medical Examiner, pronounced Purick dead at 9:11 a.m.

Mr. Purick was a native of Garwood. The couple had occupied the Raritan Road home since May. According to Powers, Mrs. Purick left on Sunday, August 2 around noon to visit relatives and did not return to Scotch Plains until late on Tuesday morning.

The police report that Purick died sometime between 8 p.m. on

## Hearings To Begin On Industrial Subdivision

### They'll Be Listening!

If you've been talking but nobody has seemed to be listening to you all summer long, take heart! They'll have their ears to the ground all over town this Saturday, as two different Listening Posts resume their fall schedules. The public is invited to talk while the following listen:

The Board of Education, which normally holds its L.P. sessions on the first Sat. of the month, moved to this Sat. due to the Labor Day weekend. They'll be in the Choral Room at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 10 a.m. til noon.

The Scotch Plains Town Council will hold court during the same hours, 10 to noon, in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Avenue. Prior to the regular meeting, they'll hold a private hour-long session with Concerned Citizens on the subject of flooding from 9 to 10 a.m.

### Teachers Back To School With No Contract

For the first time in the history of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, the teaching staff returned to the classroom for the start of a school year without a signed contract. During the last public meeting of the Board of Education, nobody in the audience questioned the status of the contract and/or Board/teacher negotiations.

Negotiations began in November and, for the first time, both Board and teachers were represented by professional negotiators at the bargaining table. The current contract remains in effect until such time as a settlement is reached.

### Cholera Shots

Scotch Plains health officer Joseph Mottley urges that anyone planning a trip to Italy or North Africa get their Cholera shots in advance. He noted that since the recent outbreak of the disease all countries in Europe and North Africa are requiring Cholera shots for anyone who has been in Italy.

Monday night and 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning. They have information that someone spoke with Purick at 8 p.m. on Monday night.

An autopsy performed by Dr. Ehrenberg confirmed death due to a gunshot wound in the head. No gun was found at the scene.

### Clark Planning Board Rejects Proposal To Extend Terminal

The Scotch Plains Planning Board expects to begin hearings on an application for a subdivision which would eventually lead to the development of the industrial area of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, an area which has been designated for future industrial growth in the Scotch Plains Master Plan. The Planning Board now has copies of the newest application from Vilco, Inc. and Valley Industrial Park, and hearings are anticipated to begin during the regular monthly meeting of the planning body on the third Monday of September.

The Clark Planning Board has already turned down an application from Vilco, Middlesex Water Company and Valley Industrial Park which would have extended Terminal Avenue in Clark, providing an access road to the industrial subdivision. The Clark board ruled only on the street extension application, since the land to be developed lies almost completely within the Scotch Plains boundaries. It was the opinion of the Clark Planning Board and many Clark residents who voiced their opinions at two public hearings, that the proposal would create severe traffic congestion and hazards at Terminal and Westfield Avenues, Terminal and Central Avenues, and Lake Avenue and Cellar Avenue.

The Clark denial was also based upon an opinion that "excessive burden" would be placed on that community's police and fire department, creating extra cost to the township while producing ratables in Scotch Plains.

It is legally possible for the prospective developers to appeal the Clark denial.

According to Scotch Plains Planning Board Chairman William Franklin, the Scotch Plains planners have been awaiting approval of the plans by the state Water Policy Commission before proceeding with municipal consideration. The application therefore had been dormant since March, awaiting the Water Policy ruling which was received recently. The Water Policy Commission permit details what stream improvements, encroachments, bridges, etc. should be incorporated.

The layout had to be redesigned, Franklin said, and the newly prepared subdivision application has now been received.

The plans involve 50 acres in Scotch Plains and one-half acre in Clark, with the industrial park to be divided into seven industrial lots with frontages on Cellar Avenue in Scotch Plains between the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks and the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River.

Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage has questioned the effect of the proposed park upon recently announced plans by the Army Corps of Engineers for alteration of the route of Pumpkin Patch Brook along the Lehigh Valley tracks. The plans are part of a flood control project by the Army.

### Citizens Petition Council

The Committee of Concerned Citizens, a group formed in the aftermath of August floods, has filed a petition with the Township Council of Scotch Plains, outlining a program they'd like to see in effect for the future.

The petition seeks establishment of an emergency relief fund for provision of adequate housing, food and medical attention for the suffering, a realistic civil defense program manned, directed and equipped to efficiently carry out rescue operations and evacuation of all endangered persons, equipping of Public Works and Fire Departments to enable them to perform emergency pumping and cleanup operations quickly, and another emergency relief fund to obtain professional help in repairing all structures hazardous to occupants.

In addition, the Concerned Citizens' petition asks that all waterways through the township be clean and free of clogging materials and be cleaned regularly. Coordination with other communities on flood control backed by Federal and State Aid, and pressure on the Federal Government by going directly to Capitol Hill were further requests.

The final requests in the petition sought budgeting for the above in future township budgets, and participation of residents in formulation of future programs.

### Have You Registered To Vote?

Voter registration hours are as follows:

FANWOOD  
Daily Monday through Friday,  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sept. 6, 13, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 -  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Registration books close  
Thursday, Sept. 27, 1973

SCOTCH PLAINS  
Daily Monday through Friday,  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 6, 13, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 -  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Registration books close  
Thursday, Sept. 27, 1973.