

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1973

15 CENTS A COPY

Town Council Gets Earful Of Flood Control Suggestions

The floods of last August may be but a vague memory to many local citizens, but to the Township Council of Scotch Plains and the flood victims, the problems of coping with disaster-type waters are still very much in the forefront. A melange of resolutions, reports, statements, and letters regarding the subject occupied most of the time of the Council during its meeting Tuesday night.

Councilman Albert Theurer reported that he had accompanied four mayors from adjacent municipalities to Washington last week to discuss flood problems with Congressmen. He was assigned to the trip because Mayor William Kitz was involved in Trenton, discussing another flood control project on Route 22.

Theurer said the group met with local Congressmen and with Tom Dunn, Nixon's Commissioner for Disaster Control, and discussed at length the Small Business Association loans for people in flood prone areas, seeking a reduction in forgiveness clauses and positive action on the bill now before the President. He reported that the Congressmen were most interested and accommodating and expressed their approval of the bill, but expected a veto from the President. Theurer said they urged strongly that people apply for flood insurance before the October 8 deadline. He did not get any indications of an anticipated extension of the deadline, he said.

The Council received a letter from J. Morgan Van Hise, Acting Director of the Department of Defense for the state, acknowledging receipt of the township request that the Army Corps of Engineers hasten flood control studies and plans. Van Hise reported that he had contacted the Bureau of Water Con-

trol in the state Environmental Protection department and had been advised that the Corps study is proceeding on schedule and public hearings on the plans could be anticipated before the end of this year, with study completion scheduled for next summer.

The storm drainage project now underway and long planned on the north side of Route 22 was funded by passage of an ordinance allocating an additional \$360,000 to monies already budgeted for that project. It involves a storm drainage system along the east branch of Green Brook, from Mountainview Avenue to beyond the Little League field. The state is contributing \$1.25 million to the project, which has been delayed for many years awaiting state involvement because the project necessitated running a drainage pipe under a state highway.

Donald Robinson of Myrtle Avenue asked whether there were any accompanying plans to contain the brook on the south side of Route 22. He was told that this particular project is intended to solve severe flooding which has plagued the area of Byrd, Catherine, and other streets which run into Route 22, flooding which originates in Berkeley Heights

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Move To New Municipal Building In Mid October

If you've ever moved a household from one home to another and you think moving a family is an undertaking, just imagine the headaches facing the powers-that-be in Scotch Plains! On October 12, they'll be moving a seat of government, with its multitudinous departments, dozens of employees, hundreds of files, and phones, and they'll be "back in business" at the new Municipal Building next door to the old one on Park Avenue on October 15.

The opening date of October 15 is tentative, according to Mayor William Kitz. An all day move of most departments will begin on October 12, under the direction of Quirk Moving Company of Ramsey. New Municipal Administrator Daniel Allen pointed out that this includes administration, engineering, the tax collector's office, the municipal court, the township clerk, tax assessor, the engineering and building inspector's offices, the treasurer, plumbing inspector, and the Recreation Department. The fire company will continue at its two present firehouses, and the police department will remain in the old building very temporarily.

The moving of the police department will be a separate undertaking, and is an involved move, due to the transfer of the many communications centers and the necessity for an immediate cutover. A police radio antenna still remains to be erected at the new municipal building.

As with any move, whether it

be household or business, some of the old "fits" and some doesn't. Much of the furniture and furnishings will be utilized in the new headquarters. What is not needed will be used where it is needed in municipal facilities. For example, the municipal court chairs and some desks may be utilized if they are of use in the fire houses or pumping stations. There will be new furnishings in the carpeted building as well. Old furnishings not requested by other departments will be up for public auction later.

The move will gather under one roof the departments which had been spread out in several buildings due to lack of space. The Recreation Commission, for example, had occupied a small office in the little gray house next to the old Municipal Building. That house also accommodates the Police Chief at the present time.

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Fanwood Council Amends "Peace And Good Order" Law

Council Studies Municipal Flag Design

Scotch Plains Township Council is considering designs for an official Municipal flag. Mr. George Johnston, Art Editor of Seventeen magazine and former Township Committeeman, has prepared several sketches for the Council to choose from.

Over the last several months the Council has received requests from various organizations to use the official flag in parades or for other ceremonious occasions. Since Scotch Plains has had no flag, the requests have had to be denied. It is hoped that the flag will be ready for dedication by January 1.

Mr. Johnston, as a Township Committeeman, designed the Township Seal.

Paper Drive On Saturday

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Music Booster Association will hold its first monthly paper drive of this school year on Sunday afternoon, September 23rd. Proceeds of the drive are used to support activities of the high school Raider Marching Band. Members of the band provide the major portion of the manpower for the paper drives. Because of the band's participation at Saturday football games, the first two collections must be held on Sundays.

The deposit site will be in front of the high school on Westfield Road, Scotch Plains. Members of the community are requested to deliver their old newspapers to the school between 12 noon and 6 p.m. Anyone who cannot deliver their papers to the deposit site may telephone 233-0538 or 233-8972 prior to the drive or on Sunday to have their papers picked up.

Last year, proceeds from the paper drives helped finance the Raider Marching Band's participation in the Annual Memorial Services Parade in Baltimore, Md., and a subsequent visit to Washington, D.C. This year, Marvin S. Piland, Director of Bands, has applied for participation in the Appleblossom Festival in Winchester, Virginia, next May. If the band is invited, over one hundred fifty students in the Marching Band, Honor Guard, Color Guard, Twirlers and Flag Squad will participate in the trip.

Action Aimed At Curbing Noise, Drinking And Disorderly Conduct

LaGrande Park was a scene of contradictions this past summer for, as the teen and post-teen crowds outside the fence grew, the youthful attendees at the organized park program dropped off. For months, the area at the corner of Second Street and LaGrande Avenue has been the gathering spot for dozens of young people. They talk, sit atop car hoods listening to radios, trot back and forth across the street from car to car, and drink alcoholic beverages at the site.

During the summer months, the group averaged 30 to 40. Two weekends ago, Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt reported he had counted 70. They had transported a couch to the area outside the park and some were sitting on it drinking. Last Friday night, heavy rains kept most citizens indoors, but even then, three of the "regulars" stood on the corner beneath a single umbrella, drinking from a bottle.

The Borough council made some additions to the borough's "peace and good order" ordinance last year in an attempt to cope with the problems which the group has occasioned for park users and neighbors. They acted again last Wednesday night to add further restrictions to the ordinance. The additions cover quite a range, and deal with weapons, assisting police, drinking, noise, fireworks, litter, parking, disorderly conduct, and indecent exposure.

A special meeting will be held by the Council on September 26 for a public hearing on the amended ordinance introduced last Wednesday.

The amendment prohibits carrying, using or possessing cannon, gun, pistol, revolver or firearm of any description, shotgun, rifle, airgun, B-B gun, gas-operated gun or spring-operated gun, pea-shooter, slingshot, or heavy. Exceptions include weapons used in necessary self defense, by public safety officers or the military, toy cap pistols. Fireworks are only allowed with permission of the Council, to religious, fraternal or civic groups, with discharge handled by competent operator.

The ordinance forbids drinking of intoxicating liquors in public places and streets, and in motor vehicles not on private property. It also prohibits drinking on private property without the consent of an owner. Heretofore, drinking was prohibited in the park under Recreation Commission rules, but there was no prohibition for street drinking. Pollitt noted that when he observed the playground corner, there were cases and half-cases of beer on street and car hoods. Being publicly intoxicated is also banned.

The proposed new ruling further forbids radios operated so as to disturb the peace, or audible at 100 feet, from 11:00 p.m. to 7 a.m.; indecent exposure; littering and parking cars in front

of or on private property, drives or right of way without owner permission.

Two areas of the amendment come to grips with a problem which arose early in the summer when a Fanwood police officer was assaulted by some youths when attempting to apprehend them. The amendment forbids throwing, placing or depositing of stones, glass, sticks, litter or dangerous substances in public places or at cars, houses, buildings or fences; and resisting and opposing police either to hinder performance of duty or to inhibit an officer making an arrest. The law dictates that no one shall refuse or neglect to assist an officer when required to do so by the officer.

In a public safety report, Pollitt indicated police calls were up by 280 calls over last August, to a total of 775.

Councilman Stephen Ritter issued a request from the Health and Welfare Committee for care of pets, including cats as well as dogs. The Council received complaints about cats, and Ritter suggested that, although there are no plans to license them, owners might attempt to keep them indoors at night.

Action was postponed on two recommendations for restaurant approvals from the Board of Adjustment. Both suggested parking changes and one or two other conditions. One would permit a restaurant serving liquor at 15-19 South Avenue, the other would allow a smaller restaurant without liquor at 133 South Avenue. These will be considered

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Have You Registered To Vote?

Voter registration hours are as follows:

FANWOOD
Daily Monday through Friday,
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sept. 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. 13, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 -
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Registration books close
Thursday, Sept. 27, 1973.