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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

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15 CENTS A COPY

School Lunch Practices Vary School To School

With strong urgings that only those who have a real need avail themselves of the service, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education rescinded its lunch restrictions effective November 1 for 90 days. The results vary widely from school to school, with some schools showing a notable increase in the number remaining, others showing virtually little change.

According to Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, the 16 new teacher aides necessary to allow the entire elementary population access to in-school lunch have been found and employed. The 16 new aides are working a two-hour shift, at \$2.25 per hour. The aide tallies shown below include lunchtime aides hired recently for two-hour lunch supervision, plus regular aides assigned to part or all of the lunch hour.

At Evergreen School, which was one of the areas yielding the greatest opposition to the restrictive policy which permitted only certain students to remain, there are now eight paid aides on duty, in contrast to four aides last year. Tallies of children remaining on five fair-weather days since November started indicate that an average of 235 children now stay for lunch. Last year, the status quo was 475 staying daily. There are 552 students at Evergreen School this year, and under the restrictive policy in effect from the opening of school until November 1, only 150 students were qualified to remain.

At LaGrande School the total school population is 340 this year. Only 85 of those students were qualified to stay for lunch when the policy was in effect. Since the start of November, there have been a range of four paid aides on duty, and about 135 children lunching daily.

McGinn School, which has one of the highest elementary student population in the district, does not have a correspondingly high number of children remaining for lunch. There are 586 students attending the school, and during five days this month, an average of 100 stayed for lunch, supervised by three aides in the

earliest days of the month, and five aides by Nov. 12. Of the total student population, 120 live over the limits which had prevailed when the policy was in effect: 1/2 mile for students in grades 1 through 3, a mile for students in grades 4 through 6.

Coles School has 589 students this year. Last week, approximately 330, or better than 55 percent, of the student population ate at school. There were eight aides on duty on each of the five days records were kept. At Coles, 410 of the students live over the limits which had been in effect earlier.

About the same percentage lunched in at Shackamaxon on five days in November: about 255 students from a total student population of 469. At Shackamaxon, 150 live over the limit. The lunchtime aides numbered six.

School One has a high number of students living far from school. 320 live over the half-mile and mile limitations previously in effect. At School One, during five days since the policy was rescinded, about 225 children stayed each day, with four aides supervising. Total population is 560, which rounds out to 40 percent staying.

Brunner, with the highest school population in the district (593) had only an average of 125 (or just over 20 percent) lunching on the five days. The aides began at six on Nov. 5, and were up to nine by November 12.

A spokesman for the Board of Education pointed out that weather was close to ideal during early November, and inclement weather later on in the winter could change the attendance patterns considerably.

Crunch... The Energy Squeeze

There is more than one way to skin a cat, so the old saying goes. In the days and the months ahead, it appears highly likely that the residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will be looking toward alternatives to their present ways of doing things. They'll be car pooling, and they'll be heating by means of fireplaces. They'll be bike riding and they'll be turning off the electric lights. In many areas of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the effort is already underway.

James Hamlette is a case in point. As motorists reduced their speeds to 50 on New Jersey's highways, Mr. Hamlette clipped along at a much slower pace. Mr. Hamlette was traveling cross-town in a white wooden milk truck holding the reins for his team of horses. He has had the blue roan for five years, and her daughter for three and a half years. He acquired the milk truck long before the threat of gasoline shortages, from the former Becker's Dairy Farm in Roseland.

Somehow, the clippety clop of horses' hooves had a very pleasant, reminiscent air about it. Mr. Hamlette is well supplied for the duration of the gas shortages, for he also has a buggy and an

Amish carriage at his home at 757 Jerusalem Road.

Elsewhere in town, the push is on to save watts and gallons. Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge sent a directive to school principals last week, ordering thermostats turned down, from 72 to 68 degrees. Some principals sent letters home, so informing parents, with a notation that children may wish to wear sweaters.

There is no indication of any need to close schools at this point, Laberge said. He reiterated a concern expressed last week, regarding gasoline supplies for the bus contractors who have been engaged to transport students. The immediate concern

Council OK's Proposal For Planters On Downtown Streets

About School Bus Fuel

On Tuesday, an area daily newspaper carried a story on Tri-R Bus Service of Metuchen, reporting that the company, which serves children in three communities including Scotch Plains-Fanwood, was almost out of fuel.

According to Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, Tri-R does not serve any of the public school bus routes. He said it is possible that the company provides bus service for private school bus routes. At one time, the firm did provide buses for public schools here, but is no longer used, the Superintendent reported.

Recycling Center Open On Saturday

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees' monthly recycling drive will be held as usual on the third Saturday of the month, Saturday, November 17th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fanwood Train Station, south parking lot. Magazines, newspapers, cans and bottles will be accepted. Newspapers and magazines should be tied in bundles. Clear and colored bottles should be separated and metal rings and caps removed from them. Labels need not be removed from bottles. Assisting the Jaycees this month are members of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Cabana Troop.

DEADLINE CHANGE

Because of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday the deadline for news releases in our November 21st issue will be tomorrow, Friday, November 16.

is that the companies get gas. Township Manager Daniel Allen of Scotch Plains has ordered a thermostat cutback in the municipal building. There are blower fans in each office of the new building and the heating system is still being balanced out, after which guidelines will be established for zone heating. Meanwhile, Allen has requested employees to exercise caution and good judgement, turning off lights in conference rooms and lounges not in use.

The exterior lights at the new building are on automatic timers, scheduled to turn on at dark and to go off at 11 p.m. However, Allen notes they will be looked at with an eye to possibly reducing the hours of lighting. In other areas of the township,

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Junior Woman's Club Would Sponsor Beautification Program

The Township Council of Scotch Plains decided to accept a gift of redwood tubs to be planted and placed along the curb in the downtown business area . . . but there were some reservations on the part of the Committee, and the redwood tubs will number just ten for starters, and the project will be strictly a pilot one until experience proves that planters will be successful.

The donors are the members of the Scotch Plains Junior Women's Club. The club will undertake the enhancement of the business area as a Civic Improvement Project. According to Mrs. Marie Labasi, club members have been investigating civic planters and have been pricing the various forms of planters for many months. The club finally decided upon a redwood tub, banded with brass strips. Initially, the club will pay for the ten test installations, with the tubs costing \$25 each. The club will also pay for plantings, which will be evergreens with seasonal flowers to be added next spring and summer.

Mrs. Labasi said the club had been advised that the tubs should last ten years under normal wear conditions, and that low yews and taxus would be in scale with the size of the pots.

Mayor William Kitz is a nurseryman by profession, and he had some reservations about the type of pot under consideration. He praised the clubwomen highly for their interest in beautifying the community, but he wondered whether a larger pot which would be made of concrete or tile would hold more dirt and retain more water during the hot summer months. Kitz felt that above-ground redwood pots would dry out so quickly during the dog days that they might require twice-a-day watering. The cost of assigning a public works department employee to the watering could become prohibitive, Kitz felt.

The Council and Mrs. Labasi discussed various maintenance alternatives. For the time being, the township will assume watering and maintenance chores, but the Junior Women will investigate involvement of the businessmen, Girl Scouts, etc.

Kitz asked Mrs. Labasi to keep a file on time and costs on the project, since it could be of value and it is possible that the time might come when the township would assume such an undertaking.

Councilman Albert Theurer pointed out that such expressions of interest keep Scotch Plains growing and expanding.

In other business, the township council passed a resolution amending the local municipal budget to reflect the addition of \$61,120 - the amount to be received by the township from State Law Enforcement Planning Agency - for the funding of RESOLVE. RESOLVE is a Red

Cross sponsored program which will be designed to provide professional help directed toward the various problems confronting youth: vandalism, alcoholism, juvenile delinquency, drugs, etc. The \$61,120 will pay the salaries for professional staff, the township of Scotch Plains will contribute the building, and the Red Cross assumes cost of utilities, supplies, etc. The RESOLVE project will operate from 1834 Front Street - the same building originally donated by the township for the former DARE Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Education program which was in effect here for a year.

The township awarded a bid for trimming and removal of shade trees to low bidder Family Tree Service of Scotch Plains. Low bidder for eleven different storm sewer projects was Murano of Florham Park, at \$22,480.

Three businessmen approached the township in regard to improving their own off street parking facilities and coordinating their off-street parking and traffic flow with that of the township. The three businesses about the new parking lot which will replace the old municipal building. The businesses are members of the Park Avenue Improvement Committee, and are National Bank of N.J., Park Pharmacy, and Calvin M. Schwartz. The manager and Council will study the suggestion.

The township of Scotch Plains went on record in support of a resolution originating in Irvington, calling for repeal of the state law which prevents pharmacists in the state from substituting a generic name drug for a higher priced brand name drug.

A request from the Historical Society for ten steel stanchions

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And Such A Little Tiger

Municipal employees in Scotch Plains seem to be accident-prone of late. First, Chief Powers did a brave deed in going to the rescue of a woman being attacked at Blue Star Shopping Center, and ended up with a broken elbow. Next, Township Clerk Helen Reidy did another brave deed - ushering a tiger cub around on a leash - and she also is on the mend. The cub and Helen tripped over each other and Miss Reidy is now in a cast, with a broken foot.