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Meet Your Friendly Fuel Dispensers

Let's say it's February 21, and you haven't behaved yourself since this heating year began. Your family hasn't done their share by cutting back to 68 degrees. You've used up your allotment and your tank is empty. Where do you turn? You turn to Jeffrey Manuel in Fanwood and to Marge Messemmer in Scotch Plains, but the turning will probably yield no good whatsoever unless you can prove beyond a doubt that there have been changes in your home circumstances to warrant a need for more heating fuel this year.

Mr. Manuel, who is Civil Defense Director for Fanwood, and Mrs. Messemmer, who holds the same title in Scotch Plains, have been assigned the task of procurement of heating fuel where emergencies develop, in concurrence with Governor William Cahill's Executive Order NO. 55. However, the rules and regulations governing their decision-making powers have been very closely spelled out, and their decisions will not be random ones by any means.

According to Manuel, who pointed out that the duty applies only to residential and apartment properties, a homeowner who is out of heating fuel may make application to his Civil Defense Director. A form must be filled out and forwarded to the county accounting for the trans-

action. Manuel said it would be his responsibility to make a determination if the individual can justify a change in circumstances to justify his need. What might fall within this category? Well, for instance, Manuel said a couple who both worked last year and now have a new baby and wife at home all day may no longer be able to lower their thermostats during their working day as they did in the past. Or a family may have added an elderly relative to the household - one who cannot tolerate low temperatures.

The local C.D. Directors certainly wouldn't be in a position to solve the problems of those with bad credit ratings who haven't

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Municipal Approval Not Necessary For Heliport License

A dedicated band of Scotch Plains residents once formed the core of objection to New Jersey transportation laws which permitted creation of helipads and helistops without approval of the municipality in which they would be located. Last week, Governor William Cahill dashed their hopes when he vetoed Assembly Bill No. 456. That bill would have required the Commissioner of Transportation, prior to licensing a proposed heliport or helistop, to obtain a certificate from the appropriate municipal or county authority that the proposed facility is not contrary to provisions of existing zoning ordinances or other laws.

The bill might be said to have originated on the north side of Scotch Plains, for it was residents from Scotch Plains and Westfield who focused attention on a helistop application which they felt would have affected the quality of life in their residential neighborhoods. The homeowners lived in the vicinity of D'Annunzio Brothers, a construction firm on Westfield Avenue. The firm wanted permission for a helistop to enable business executives to avail themselves of leased helicopter transportation. They said the rented helicopters would be used occasionally.

Residents protested both locally and at the state level. The homeowners claimed the noise and hazards of helicopter landing and taking off in close vicinity to their homes violated the serenity of their neighborhoods.

Scotch Plains Councilman, Lawrence Newcomb said at Tuesday's meeting of the Scotch Plains Council, that he will seek to have state Assemblymen introduce another bill which would set some restrictions on such facilities in residential neighborhoods, spelling out limitations on proximity to homes.

Cahill's objections came because the bill could have effectively precluded construction of helistops and heliports in any part of the state regardless of needs of the people. Such a sit-

uation would not be in the public interest and would render the state Master Transportation Plan meaningless.

Cahill pointed out that there are Transportation Department rules governing aeronautical facilities, detailing requirements which must be met before licensing. "The interrelationship between those regulations and local zoning and planning ordinances, while litigating in several instances, can hardly be deemed settled. Further, regulations, existing and needed from the point of view of environmental impact, are also relevant. To date, it has not been resolved that such State regulations as do exist preempt all efforts of local governmental units to exercise control. Perhaps that is a result to be avoided the governor stated.

He continued, "Local communities are entitled to be protected against the visitation upon them of environmental hardships or unbearable nuisances." Similarly, the state should be protected from having its transportation plans frustrated by local law, Cahill said. He expressed his opinion that this is an area in which the Legislature could appropriately act, balancing the interests of local communities and those of the citizenry of the

Laberge - No Plans To Extend School Holiday Vacations

Sees No Present Need For Extending Christmas Holiday Vacation To January 7

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge said Monday that he has no plans to date for making any recommendations to the Board of Education for extended Christmas vacation and/or restricting use of school buildings. Laberge said that as of, early this week, he only knew "what I read in the papers," since a reported state recommendation for extending the Yuletide holidays by a week had not yet reached his level. He assumed the recommendation from Edward W. Kilpatrick, acting education commissioner for New Jersey, had reached only the county superintendent level by Monday. However, Laberge said he has a Superintendents' Round Table meeting with superintendents from Union County on Friday.

The state recommendation suggests adding a full week to the Christmas holiday, which is now set for December 21 to January 2. Following the recommendation, children would not return until January 7. Laberge said that so far he cannot see the need for extending the vacation and making up the time later in the school year. In his judgement, hysteria seems to be gripping some school districts with regard to threats of a fuel crisis. It would be unwise to make any moves in haste, until a more positive determination is made of the degree of scarcity, he pointed out. He looks to the oil companies for increased production of fuel oil instead of the "40 percent of total production that goes into plastics, since oil companies get a greater return there."

The state recommendation further called for conserving energy through curtailing use of schools at night by 50 percent, without sacrificing major programs for vocational and adult high education. Laberge also indicated no plans for such curtailment here at the present time. The suggestion of any possibility of curtailment of night time use of buildings brought protest from recreational leaders. Scotch Plains Recreational Superintendent Richard Marks said recreation should continue to flourish and recreation here is dependent to a great degree on use of schools. In Scotch Plains, four basketball leagues are underway - midjet, pony, teen and men's - with over 500 people participating. They occupy school buildings four nights a week, utilizing gym space at Brunner, the high school, and Terrill Junior High. Park is actually "home base" for Scotch Plains recreation teams, but repairs underway there have temporarily curtailed use of that building. Scotch Plains girls use a school for basketball and volleyball and boys practice on Saturday mornings.

The adult school does not begin to occupy the same numbers of people as recreational programs, Marks points out. He feels schools should definitely cut heat, kids should wear an extra layer of clothing on the basketball court, but close the schools? No, sir, in the opinion of Marks it would be a terrible blow. This

is a time when recreation leadership should rise to the challenge of providing activity on the local level, and the small amount of heat and light needed to run recreational programs in school buildings wouldn't create a crisis, he feels.

"I see 70,000 people at Shea Stadium, and they have to use transportation to get there, and light for the stadium and I cannot justify closing schools for kids' recreation programs," the director said.

Ed. Lambertsen, Director of Recreation for Fanwood, offered similar figures for participation of children in night time school recreational activities. The Fanwood Recreation Commission sponsors two nights of boys Fanwood Youth Organization basketball, one night of girls' basketball, all at Terrill, and a night for men at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. This involves over 240 boys, more than 100 girls, and an average of 40 men a week.

Saturday Is Community Blood Bank Day

Mayors William Kitz of Scotch Plains and Theodore F. Trumpf of Fanwood gave their support to the Jaycees Annual Community Blood Bank. In a proclamation, just signed, both Mayors proclaimed December 8, 1973 as Community Blood Bank Day in the Township of Scotch Plains and the Borough of Fanwood.

Jaycee President, Dr. Anthony Sartor, stated that this annual drive typifies the creed of the Jaycees that service to humanity is the best work of life. In the seven years that this service organization has coordinated the Blood Drive with the Plainfield Chapter of the American Red Cross, over 1,000 pints of blood have been donated.

The Drive will be conducted at Park Junior High School on Saturday, December 8 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For further information or to make an appointment, call 322-2370 (Andrew Montgomery, Jaycee Co-Chairman) or 889-1789 (Tony McCall, Jaycee Co-Chairman).

Paper Drive On Saturday

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band will conduct a paper drive on Saturday, December 8th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The deposit site will be in front of the high school on Westfield Road.

Proceeds from the drive will be used to help pay for the band's participation in the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, Virginia, next May. Anyone who cannot deliver their papers to the deposit site may telephone 233-3685 or 232-2444 to have their papers picked up.

Another Act Of Vandalism

There are whopping vandalism activities, seemingly every weekend, primarily within the schools and other public buildings of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. These total thousands of dollars of destruction. Then there are the somewhat smaller, but no less annoying and horrifying violations of neighborhood children.

Scotch Plains Councilman Walter Grote found one this past week. The Councilman had occasion to be in the vicinity of the Clover Lane Bridge, that cute little red covered bridge at the end of Clover Lane, behind the Terry Lou Farm. The bridge is a copy of the type of covered bridges one sees throughout the state of Vermont. However, Vermont seems to be able to keep covered bridges for decades, while Scotch Plains is having trouble keeping one of only a few years.

Councilman Grote found slats knocked out of the bridge sides by the dozen, and guard railings leading onto the bridge knocked out. He inquired around and has found some information regarding possible offenders, and has passed the information along to the police for investigation.

Final Leaf Pickup To Start Today

The Scotch Plains Road Department will commence its fourth and final leaf pick-up December 6, 1973 and will continue until the whole Town has had a final pick-up. weather permitting.