

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

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## All He Gets In His Christmas Stocking Is A Girl Giraffe!

If you've got a bunch of kids and the bunch of kids have Christmas lists that are ten miles long, just smile, shop, buy everything on the list, and consider yourself lucky. After all - you COULD be Frank Terry. One of his "children" has a Christmas wish, too - and it's no easy gift to find to fit in a Christmas stocking.



TWIGA

Frank Terry owns Terry Lou Zoo in Scotch Plains. In general, he's got about two of everything. Of tigers he has two. Of chimps he has two. Of monkeys he has lots. Of birds he has flocks. Of giraffes, he has one. Poor Twiga is the Christmas problem. All Twiga wants is a girl giraffe.

Acquiring a giraffe constitutes a problem beyond the talents of the Terrys, who are aces at animal acquisition. Although their private zoo houses liter-

ally hundreds of species, getting a female giraffe has them stumped. There was a time when giraffe-getting was within reason. That was four years ago, when Twiga was purchased from the Philadelphia Zoo as a yearling. He cost \$3,500. Giraffes are getting scarcer, however.

The problem isn't that the species is becoming extinct. In Africa and elsewhere where giraffes find their natural habitat, there are plenty. However, the cost to import them is very prohibitive. Only U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved public zoos can arrange for importing, and even these zoos usually have plenty of help in the way of philanthropy from those who can benefit by a tax deduction. That's why you see areas of Turtle Back Zoo, a county facility, earmarked as gifts from banks and wealthy families. Even the Bronx Zoo gets support from the Rockefeller Foundation and other philanthropic groups. Private zoos don't get the contributions simply because donors cannot claim tax deductions for their generosity.

Therefore, poor Twiga is terribly unhappy and frustrated. There are female giraffes in the

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## Plains Council Hears Of Snow Removal Contract Problems

The Scotch Plains Township Council heard a report on preparations for snow plowing Tuesday night . . . an appropriate topic in light of the fact that the first snowfall of the season was most evident outside the municipal building.

According to the report of Township Manager Daniel Allan, it is becoming increasingly expensive to negotiate with contractors to commit their equipment to plowing. At one time, a contractor would agree to outfit his trucks with plows if the township guaranteed him a payment of \$80 per truck whether the flakes fall or not. That basic payment justified the trouble of equipping with plows, and if it snowed, the \$80 was applied toward the hourly contracted plowing job. No more. This year, a \$200 minimum was required.

The negotiations came about after the township advertised for bidders, not once but twice, with nary a taker. On November 20, the Council authorized Allan to make arrangements for negotiations.

The plowing will cost \$20 when contractors work in tandem with town plows, \$22 per hour when they use their own.

The Council approved a variance for a nonconforming use which would permit Mr. and Mrs. John Williams of 347 Willow Avenue to operate a limousine bus-

ness from home. Neighbors turned out at a Board of Adjustment meeting, not to protest, but to speak in favor of the Williams' business.

The Township has applied for a federal and state grant to conduct a program for the purpose of traffic related services, which will be funded from a grant from the federal government for its initial equipment and/or training and thereafter the township would accept financial responsibility for the function of the program of traffic after the federal grant expires. Among the many items contemplated by the police chief under such a grant program would be bicycle safety, traffic safety, emergency safety, etc.

With regard to bicycle safety, the Council received a letter from the PTA Safety Council asking for a bicycle ordinance. Mayor William Kitz said he most strongly approved the concept of a bicycle ordinance, noting that he is often distressed at spotting children riding bikes without lights after dark. He said it may be possible that the local police department might find some points to change, but in general

## Planning Board Nixes Industrial Park Plan

### List Twenty Five Reasons For Their Denial Of Hotly Controversial Variance

The Scotch Plains Planning Board voted a denial for a variance which would have permitted development of a 53-acre industrial subdivision for the south side of Scotch Plains. In denying the application of Valley Industrial Park, the planners released a list of 25 reasons for their actions.

The acreage has long been earmarked for development of industrial ratables along the Lehigh Valley railroad. The proposal which was turned down on Monday night provided for a seven-lot subdivision of the land.

Strong objection came from residents of Clark, who protested that some Clark homeowners would suffer from truck noise and from the possibility of flooding. The Clark Planning Board had also turned down a proposal to extend Cellar Avenue in Clark as an access road.

Among the reasons listed by the Planning Board of Scotch Plains were the concerns of the Clark residents. The local planners also opposed the developer's plan to substitute the Clark continuation of Cellar Avenue with a dead end road, stating this would be unacceptable because length would be excessive for the type of road.

Valley Industrial Park did not provide sufficient information on

road access, the two bridges necessary for the subdivision, the layout, and other necessary documents, it was said.

The planners emphasized their concern that the area be developed along with other south side tracts zoned for industry. However, such subdivisions must comply with local zoning ordinances.

The developers may reapply for another variance, according to Planning Board Chairman William Franklin.

Two new eateries were considered. Action was deferred on a proposed Burger King on the Route 22 property formerly occupied by Ray's Sport Shop. Revised site plans will be inspected.

A Board of Adjustment variance for parking is required before action can be considered on Stewart's Root Beer, proposed on a Route 22 tract east of the Burger King.



From the Staff of THE TIMES

## Board Of Ed Meets Tonite

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight at Terrill Junior High School auditorium, 8 p.m. The staff report which is presented at the opening of the meeting will be entitled: "Twas the Night Before Learning," a program concerning children with learning disabilities.

Committee reports will include two new policy recommendations - one concerning board community relations, the other the duplicating of public records.

The Board plans to act on the senior high school open lunch and open school day policies, both of which have been in effect on trial during the fall.

Changes in school policies will be considered to effect savings in fuel and gasoline.

The superintendent will report on a search for a junior high school principal and an administrative intern.

he felt the idea to be worthwhile. The request has been referred to the township manager and the Chief of Police and Safety department.

The Council voted to retain Elson T. Killam Associates as consulting engineers to prepare the plans and specifications for the construction of the Lamberts Mill Road Meter Pit.

Scotch Plains was invited to be host town in the Central Jersey July 4th Celebration for next year, with the Mayor of Scotch Plains acting as grand marshal.

The township had advertised for bids for two 1000 GMP Diesel powered combination fire pumps, but a single bid was received. Upon recommendation of Manager Allan, the bid was rejected and the township will readvertise.

## Board Of Ed. Acts On Fuel Conservation

The Board of Education, which has already moved to extend the Christmas holidays until January 7 and to lower heat in all schools, will consider further measures tonight in an effort to save additional fuel and gasoline.

Among the possible actions to be considered at this evening's regular monthly meeting will be further lowering of temperatures when school is in session, from the present 68 degrees down to 66 degrees, and a reduction at night from the 63 to 65 degree range now in force to lower.

In addition, there will be a request that staff and students eligible to drive form carpools to and from work wherever possible.

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge said it is not anticipated at this time that there will be any reduction in community use of the schools, although groups using the facilities will have to live with the temperatures.

Staff will be asked to review field trips and to determine those which are necessary as course adjuncts. Other field trips would be eliminated.

The Environmental Group of Scotch Plains-Fanwood has urged that the Borough of Fanwood supply bike racks in the business district. The Chamber of Commerce will be contacted as one possible source. The bicycle racks would permit locking and avoiding throwing bikes down on the ground, Mrs. Judy Wrubel

told the Council. Mayor Trumpp agreed.

Going skiing? Maybe you can share-a-ski-ride. Anybody who plans to drive to a nearby ski area and would like to share his car, or anybody who'd like to hitch a ride, is invited to use Bowcraft on Route 22 as a screening area. Bowcraft will refer you to the driver and/or the rider from their bulletin board, you'll make the contacts and discuss costs, and Bowcraft invites you to use their back parking lot as a place to leave your own car when you've successfully hitched a ride to Great Gorge, Vernon Valley, etc.

Mrs. Carol Rodely has asked the Fanwood Council to investigate possibilities of a bus loop around Martine and Terrill Road. Mayor Trumpp indicated there has been talk of a private carrier providing some service in this area.

## DEADLINE CHANGE

Because of the Christmas Holiday our deadline for next weeks issue will be tomorrow, Friday, December 21.