

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 1.

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1974

15 CENTS A COPY

Plains JP's DEMS Name Announce Three For Candidates Town Council

Scotch Plains Republican Municipal Chairman Pierce De Gross, has announced the candidacies of Alan Augustine, Jo Dobyns and Ronald Katims for

The Scotch Plains Democratic Club Screening Committee has endorsed three candidates for upcoming vacancies on the Township Council.



JO DOBYNS

three vacancies on the Scotch Plains Township Council.

Incumbent Councilman Alan Augustine has served on the local governing body since November 1970. He was first selected in 1970 to fill a one-year unexpired term, re-elected in 1971 and was re-elected again in 1972 as a member of the first council under the new local government.



ALAN AUGUSTINE

of government. During his 3-1/2 years of service he has served as a member of many important council committees and this year was elected Deputy-Mayor by his fellow council members. He, and Mayor Walter Grote, were the original participants in the



RONALD KATIMS

popular "Saturday Listening Post."

Mr. Augustine is President and owner of Augustine Motors, Inc. and Westfield Dodge and served for several years as President of the New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut Chrysler-Plymouth Dealers Association.

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ROBERT E. GRIFFIN

Mr. Robert E. Griffin, Scotch Plains Township Committeeman from 1969-71 was unanimously endorsed by the Scotch Plains Democratic Screening Committee as one of the three nominees from 36,000 voters employed by the Electric Co., Inc. in



ANNE WODJENSKI

Manager in charge of equipment ordering and systems planning and development.

A graduate of Fordham University where he obtained a B.S. degree in Industrial Economics, Griffin also holds a Masters



NOEL MUSIAL

degree in Business Administration and a certificate from the Cambridge Institute for Management Education in the Management of Operations.

A 17 year resident of Scotch Plains, Griffin resides at 583 West Court with his wife Regina and eight children. He has long been active in church and community activities serving as president of St. Bartholomews Parents' Guild, director of the

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School Board Denies Tenure To Mercer

Incumbents File In Fanwood

Fanwood Incumbent Councilmen John Coulter, Charles Coronella and Robert McCarthy today announced their candidacy for re-election to the Borough Council.

John M. Coulter, 4 years Councilman, Borough of Fanwood. Chairman Public Work Committee (3 years), Chairman Health & Welfare (1 year). 9 yrs. Chairman, Board of Adjustment. 20 yrs. Resident of Fanwood. V.P. Marsteller Inc. B.S., New York Univ. Elder, Fanwood Presbyterian Church. V.P. National Agricultural Marketing Assn. 20 yrs. Old Men's Softball League. Active in local fund raising drives for YMCA and other community programs in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

Charles J. Coronella, 3 years Councilman, Chairman Finance Committee Borough of Fanwood. 11 year Resident of Fanwood, 3 years Planning Board. Former member of Executive Committee LaGrande PTA, Young Men's Board of Trade (N.Y.), Junior Achievement, United Fund, Republican Municipal Committee. Communicant of St. Bartholomew's C.C.D. Monitor. B.P. Chase Mahattan Bank. B.S. Boston College. MBA University of Chicago.

Robert J. McCarthy, appointed to fill a one-year unexpired term for Borough Council. 2 yrs. on the Planning Board. 18 yrs. resident of Fanwood. Sales Staff Supervisor, N.J. Bell Telephone Co. Attended Rutgers University. Vice President Fanwood Lions, Past Director, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees. Usher at Saint Bartholomew Church, Boy Scout Committeeman, Troop 111. Active fund raiser for United Fund. 4 years Korean Naval Veteran.

Rabies Clinic

FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Scotch Plains Board of Health is again sponsoring Rabies Clinics for DOGS. A new Rabies Vaccine, which is valid for 3 years will be used for the first time this year. This is for dogs only.

The Board reminds dog owners that a law passed by the State Legislature requires Rabies Vaccination for ALL DOGS. It is important this year that dogs be accompanied by an adult or a child who is able to control his dog.

Dates: Today - Southside Fire House - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
May 4 - Muir School - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
May 8 - Northside Fire House - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
May 9 - Northside Fire House - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Action Draws Angry Response From Many In Community

Harold Mercer, who came to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district as head football coach and health teacher in the summer of 1971, was denied tenure by the Board of Education last Thursday. The dismissal brought forth raging comment and angry response from many parents and sports supporters. Over 200 were in attendance at the meeting. The reaction continued to grow over the weekend, as petitions seeking Mercer's reinstatement appeared in several local stores.

Mercer's current salary for teaching is \$17,500, and his coaching salary is \$1,850. The coaching salary is negotiated separately with the Board of Education. Although he began here as a health teacher, he has been teaching physical education in recent months.

The vote to deny tenure to Mercer, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, Fred Laberge, was approved by board members Leonia Reilly, Peter Britton, Darrell Brownawell, Robbie Mason, Henry Schwiering, and Charles Ferguson. Board member Robert Carlson and Philip Labasi also voted.

The early meeting was a hurried response to a request, Board President Charles Ferguson said. He did not have the time to alert all board members, and he didn't feel the entire board need be present, so he asked Carlson and Labasi to attend, he said. He indicated that the full board had listened to the comments of Carlson and Labasi.

What concerned sports supporters was a delay of a week in board action on the Mercer tenure question.

The board already had a special meeting scheduled for next Thursday, April 25 for the purpose of discussion of last year's community-wide questionnaire on education, and the men sought an additional week to question the evaluation process under which Mercer was judged, to satisfy themselves of the legitimacy of the decision, etc. Labasi said his meeting with the concerned group raised sufficient doubts on the non-renewal issue to justify a delay of a week. Carlson also felt that the best interests of the community would be served by allowing a committee of citizens to pursue the matter to their enlightenment.

Therefore, before the final vote on non-granting of tenure, these two and Boright supported a defeated motion which would have delayed the vote one week.

Mauro Checchio of Acacia Road was one of the vocal objectors. He attempted to express his opinion before the vote, but the public is not permitted comment until the board meetings are completed and adjourned.

"There are no railroad tracks through this auditorium. It aggravates me to see a railroad job!" Checchio said, as the board voted. He noted that the concerned men had wanted the week's delay because "we wanted to be able to back you if you had to let such a man go. I don't think you can say you have made an intelligent appraisal," Checchio said. He criticized the "sterile" system which would not provide an area of judgement for the job Mercer had done in instilling many important principles in the boys he coached.

Alec Molten, who joins Checchio in heading the committee of citizens, noted that they had written letters to each board member asking for a meeting. "We didn't ask for any couple of guys on the side, or secret deals," he said. However, several board members said they had not received the letters. Molten said the group is not finished, and plans to back Mercer in whatever program he chooses to pursue his rights.

"We still feel there is an element of cursory appraisal, a program to eliminate someone who didn't fit the pattern, and I think we all know who creates the mold. We will be back," Molten said.

He predicted that the news of the Mercer dismissal would shatter the morale of the school system. "If there was a credibility gap, you've created a chasm through the untold damage you have done."

"The question is who does the evaluating. We are not responsible for individual evaluations," Mrs. Reilly said.

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge said that in evaluating a teacher there are opportunities for informal conferences in addition to two formal conferences annually. If there are questions regarding teaching performances, these matters are brought to a teacher's attention in February and March. Teachers also have an option to have a

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Board Of Ed Meets Tonite

The Board of Education will meet tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Terrell Jr. High to discuss results of the Community Questionnaire.

After a brief presentation, the board will entertain questions from the audience.

Copies of the questionnaire results will be available for the public at the door.