

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1974

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## Fanwood Purchases Slocum Property For Borough Use

There once was a time when the old homestead at 75 Martine Avenue, Fanwood was a farm, abundant with tobacco, corn, and flax. There was a time when it was a lovely country hotel, accommodating tired city people desiring to summer in the "country." Of late, it has been the private home of a former Mayor of Fanwood . . . and each year, the property was the site of the annual Fanwood Fire Company picnic for volunteer firemen and their families. Now, the 200-year old building and its five-acre tract will become an official part of the borough of Fanwood. On Wednesday, August 28, borough officials were notified that former Mayor Clarence Slocum had agreed to an offer to buy the property for a new municipal facility.



Fanwood's new municipal property - the Slocum house at 75 Martine Avenue.

Finance Chairman Charles Coronella reported that the purchase price will be \$237,500. Coronella said this was the third bid submitted by the municipality, and the Council considers it a fair price. Council members are very excited about acquisition of the property, he reported. It is the last large size piece of land available within the borough. The borough of Fanwood has long cast an official eye upon the Slocum property as an eventual site for a municipal facility. The prospects became imminent when former Mayor Slocum recently moved from Fanwood and the property came on the market early in July. The Council moved immediately to introduce legislation appropriating money for acquisition of the land, finalizing the ordinance at its August 14 meeting.

The Borough will put down 25 percent of the total price at the closing, which will be scheduled as close as possible to October 1, at Slocum's request. Another 25 percent will be paid in each successive January following the closing. Coronella said the borough will be paying six percent interest on the unpaid balance, which he feels is a very competitive rate in contrast to what would be paid in the market today if the municipality were to borrow from a bank.

Coronella said he and another Councilman, John Coulter, had toured the house and grounds over the past weekend and had been amazed at the condition of the building. It is in remarkable sound shape and has been unusually well maintained, he reported. No determination has yet been made as to whether the building would be used or not as a municipal building, although there has been a groundswell of sentiment in favor of utilizing the building itself if at all possible, in contrast to constructing a new administrative building elsewhere on the property.

The first step toward a determination of how to use the property will be the formation of a citizens committee to study the property and the needs of the mu-

nicipality. The study would be a two-part one, Coronella said. First question to be undertaken would be: "Can we use the Slocum building for anything related to the municipality, and if so, what municipal facilities would be located within the house." Then, the committee would make recommendations as to what would be done with the additional available land.

Citizens who are interested in serving on the committee are asked to notify the Borough Council of their interest in writing, outlining any special qualifications they feel might be valuable to such a committee.

To date, public response to the concept of acquisition of the property has been totally enthusiastic, Council members have reported. Although no public announcement was made before the meeting at which the appropriation ordinance was introduced, word-of-mouth brought out a goodly number of interested Fanwood citizens to spur the Council on in its intent of acquiring the property.

## Jo Dobyns Out Of Council Race

Jo Dobyns, who had been a candidate for a seat on the Township Council of Scotch Plains in next November's elections, has withdrawn from the race. Mrs. Dobyns suffered a heart attack several weeks ago, leading to the decision to discontinue the campaign.

By law, the Republican Municipal Committee will now meet to name a replacement for Mrs. Dobyns on the Republican ticket. That meeting is scheduled for September 5.

Mrs. Dobyns was one of three candidates seeking three vacancies coming up on the Council. Councilmen Alan Augustine, Albert Theurer, and William Kitz are completing their terms, with only Augustine planning to seek re-election. Therefore, Mrs. Dobyns and Ron Katins had been filling out the slate.

## School Bells Will Ring Next Wednesday In Scotch Plains - Fanwood

**EARLY CLOSING**  
For  
Next Week's Issue

Because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday all advertising and news copy must be in our office by noon Friday August 30, 1974

## Paper Drive Will Benefit Raider Band

Paper drive dates for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band for the 1974-75 school year have been announced by Erl Miller, Student Paper Drive Chairman. The first collection date will be Saturday, September 14th. The other dates are October 6th, November 23rd, December 14th, January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 5th and May 10th. All are Saturdays except for the October 6th date, which is a Sunday. Collections will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The deposit site will be in front of the high school on Westfield Road. It would be most helpful if papers are bundled and tied and delivered to the school. However, as in the past telephone numbers will be printed in The TIMES the Thursday before the collection dates for persons wanting their papers picked up.

Proceeds from the paper drives will again be used to help finance the band's participation in the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, Virginia, next May. The students had such an outstanding musical and learning experience in last year's Festival that Mr. Marvin S. Piland, Director of Bands, and the band members are enthusiastic about the prospects of a return visit to Winchester.

The students are assisted in the paper drives by members of the Music Boosters Association. Mr. Don Mauro is the Booster chairman for the drives.

## Expanded Registration

Registration has been expanded with extra hours for the Fall General Election. Eligible citizens may register from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at:

SCOTCH PLAINS MUNICIPAL BUILDING - August 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4, and at the SOUTH SIDE FIRE HOUSE - September 10 from 7 to 9 p.m.

FANWOOD BOROUGH HALL - August 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4, and at the FANWOOD LIBRARY - 2-4 p.m. - September 10.

## New Teachers (All Replacements) On Staff. Enrollments Down 175. Budget Still In Contention

Start weeding out those high-water pants, moms. Get in a stupor of pencils and erasers, bid fond farewell to the swim clubs and beach houses, and stock up on sandwich bags and Thermoses instead of Kool-Aid and iced tea mix in the next food order. Unbelievable as it seems, those magnificent summer days have somehow rolled to a close - or almost. Next Wednesday is D-Day. Bright and early in the a.m., our kids by the thousands will be scrubbed and awake and on their way into the classrooms of Scotch Plains-Fanwood for another school year.

The formalities first: Opening Sate - Wednesday, September 4. Opening time? At most schools, the usual 8:45 a.m., but there ARE exceptions. At Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, hours are staggered. Seniors report at 8:30 a.m., juniors at 10:30 a.m., and sophomores at 1:00 p.m. (seems somebody's got it in for those seniors, making them get up and out EARLIER than the lovely sophs, but that's the schedule). All high school students will report to the auditorium first for general sessions, followed by visits to home-room and/or guidance counselors. At Park Junior High, the first day is a half-day session. There, seventh graders report at 8:25 a.m., while eighth and ninth graders will arrive at 12:25. For Park's initial day of this school year, there is no lunch or transportation planned.

In contrast to the start of the 1973-74 school year, when many buildings were in a state of chaos due to uncompleted construction work, the schools are reported in very good shape for school opening this September. Dr. Perry Tyson, Acting Superintendent of Schools, looks forward to a year of "settling in" with all the new areas constructed recently. At Park Junior High and at elementary schools where new media centers have been constructed, students and faculty alike will continue to acquaint themselves with the advantages these new areas offer.

The only new areas as far as building goes are three new flexible teaching areas at Shackamaxon School. The three areas have been created out of six former self-contained classrooms, and represent the completion of a three-year improvement program for LaGrande and Shackamaxon Schools.

Although the children are still enjoying those last dregs of summer '74, it's already get-acquainted time for staff and administrators. Orientation has been underway for new teachers this week, conducted by the Office of Instruction. Approximately 34 new teachers are learning the ins and outs of the district. These new teachers represent replacements, rather than new positions. The orientation includes district-wide meetings and smaller meetings with building and departmental representatives, providing new staff with

a full view of the range of resources available to them within the district, and also providing the district administrators with an opportunity to define programs and expectations.

Enrollment projections are based upon a probable decline of about 175 students this year. Broken down by educational level, the decline at the elementary level would be about 130, with the remaining 45 at all secondary levels. This projected drop in enrollment was considered in original planning for the 1974-75 school budget, and therefore six teaching positions had been eliminated before presentation of the original budget to the public last February.

No new teaching positions have been added, Dr. Tyson noted. In fact, it is the personnel area which has the Acting Superintendent most concerned in looking forward to a new school year. The 1974-75 budget is still in contention, and no ruling has yet been forthcoming from state levels regarding the \$969,000 cut made by the Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and the subsequent appeal for restoration of the cut by the Board of Education. Tyson said the administration has basically outlined an approach to starting this school year without the \$969,000 amount, reserving monies wherever possible. However, until a ruling comes from the State Department of Education, there is no way to determine which teaching or administrative slots Trenton authorities may cut and which will stand. Therefore, Tyson said, the school year will begin with existing personnel on hand. Since he cannot second-guess the outcome of the appeal, this is the only possible approach.

No new positions which had been included in the cut budget have been filled. This includes the special education area, where a third child study team and resource room personnel had been planned.

At the administrative level, there have been three major staff changes since last year. Two new principals are busy learning the ropes at their respective schools -- Howard Klickinger, who assumed the principalship of Terrill Junior High, and Chester Janusz, who has recently taken over the reins at Park Junior High School. Dorothy Roberts, who has served as the

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