

# THE TIMES

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## Council Studies Flood Alert System Proposals For Cedar Brook Area

As torrents of rain poured down upon Scotch Plains on Tuesday night, Scotch Plains officials reported upon their most recent studies of the Cedar Brook - one of the community's most flood-prone areas. The Council voted to install a flood alert system in the brook, which runs behind Second Street, along the border of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

It was during the severe floods of August, 1973 that the Cedar Brook overflowed, necessitating evacuation of residents of Cecilia Place and damage to many homes in the brook's vicinity. The floods led to the formation of Concerned Citizens, a group still in existence to press for flood controls. The Concerned Citizens had requested several improvements in the brook vicinity recently, and a township study led to several conclusions.

Township Manager Daniel Allan reported Tuesday that the installation of dams and levees along the brook was not feasible. It could be valuable but the construction would have to be undertaken along the entire length, and in many areas there is insufficient room between brook and adjacent structures.

Similarly, the request for brook widening had to be denied, Allan reported, because of closeness of residential premises - in some areas as close as five to seven feet from the banks of the brook.

The Concerned Citizens asked for deepening - another impractical consideration, since only two or three feet could be dug out or the deepening would jeopardize culverts along the brook, causing eventual washout of the culverts.

Allan said the township engineer suggested modification of the bar grate near the Terrill Road

Plainfield boundary, and it is felt Public Works personnel from Fanwood and Scotch Plains could accomplish the work, but Allan expressed the hope that alteration of the bar grate would not result in increasing collection of debris, which could cause further problems.

Letters have gone out to homeowners in Scotch Plains and Fanwood living adjacent to the brook, reminding them not to store debris along the banks, and warning that summonses would be issued for such practices.

Police Chief Joseph Powers was granted permission to utilize budgeted departmental funds for a tie-in with a Plainfield Police Department computer. The use would run about \$2,000 per year, and would provide Scotch Plains with access to the Plainfield (and eventually a state) data bank. Scotch Plains warrants would be read into the computer. Whenever a Scotch Plains patrol car stops a driver, the patrolman could immediately alert the desk to license plate number and driver, receiving immediate information on both.

Council accepted storm sewer construction in Hill Road, Center Street, Morse Avenue, Bartle Avenue, Forest Road, and the Manor was authorized to execute an application for construction of the Willow Grove sanitary sewer.

## Gannon Dies In Auto Mishap

Joseph A. Gannon, who once served as Democratic Municipal Chairman in Scotch Plains, died on Tuesday, September 3, 1974 after an automobile accident in New Brunswick.



JOSEPH A. GANNON

Gannon, who most recently made his home on Stelle Avenue in Plainfield, was executive director of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and had been returning from a Democratic leadership conference at the Ramada Inn in East Brunswick when the accident occurred. He was pronounced dead in Middlesex Hospital at 12:10 a.m. on September 4.

New Brunswick police report that Gannon was driving north on the Parkway, crossing the Route 18-Raritan River section in New Brunswick, when the accident occurred at 11:20 p.m. Police are still investigating events surrounding the crash, and an autopsy has been ordered.

Gannon served as Municipal Chairman in Scotch Plains from 1968 to 1970, when he moved to Plainfield. He ran unsuccessfully for the Assembly, then became director of the Democratic State Committee.

He had headed his own personnel firm, VIP Personnel of Newark, and before that had negotiated contracts and served as representative of the Communications Workers of America.

Mr. and Mrs. Gannon, who were parents of six children, would have celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on September 4.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Lois, are three sons, Joseph A. Jr., Timothy, and Christopher; three daughters, Mary Louis, Shawn and Amy all at home; three brothers, William and Gregory of Ocean Grove, and Robert of Rutherford; and a sister, Mrs. William Boseski of Jersey City.

Gannon was a native of Jersey City and a graduate of Xavier High School in Manhattan and St. Peter's College in Jersey City. Funeral arrangements are being made by Higgins Home for Funerals in Plainfield.

## Town Council Adopts Bicycle Ordinance

### All Bikes Must Be Inspected & Registered After January 1. \$2 Charge For Two Years

After many long months of perusal and consideration, the Scotch Plains Township Council voted unanimous adoption of an ordinance calling for licensing and registration of bicycles within the township. The legislation is similar to a bike ordinance adopted in Fanwood earlier this year and already in effect in that community. The Scotch Plains ordinance will become effective on January 1, 1975, with all bicycle owners required to have a tag on bicycles indicating that the cycles have been inspected. The Scotch Plains tags will cost \$2 for a two-year license.

Under the terms of the Scotch Plains ordinance, it will be unlawful to ride or propel a bicycle in Scotch Plains without a registration tag. A bicycle board will be created under the ordinance, and shall include four members - one a representative of the police department, the other three citizens named by the Mayor with Council approval.

Violators under the age of 18 would be reprimanded in writing from police to parent or guardian on first offense, and on second offense the juvenile would be required to appear before the Police Safety Officer and the bicycle board for discipline. Violators over 18 will be subject to suspension of registration and to prosecution and fine of not more than \$25.

On a blustery, rainy night, only one citizen appeared to voice views on the bicycle registration. Meryl Smith of Fenimore Drive objected, stating that citizens are already being registered and licensed to death. "Next we'll be licensing tape recorders, television sets, and other items that could be stolen," he said. He felt the ordinance would add to bureaucratic costs or, if registration is handled by police, would occupy them when their time could be better spent elsewhere. Identification decals are removable and therefore Smith felt they would not help larceny problems one bit. He felt permanent serial numbers affixed to bikes at purchase were a better identification method.

All Council members indicated that they had wrestled at length with consideration of a bicycle ordinance and had raised many of the same questions Smith did. Mayor Walter Grote indicated, however, that the positive aspects outweighed Smith's objections.

## Registration Expanded

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.

He said the township hopes to recruit volunteer help in inspections and registration, as Fanwood has done.

Grote said he has a file of letters of complaint from citizens objecting that the ordinance hadn't been passed before summer.

The \$2 fee is exactly what is required to defray costs of implementing the legislation.

Councilman Alan Augustine said his overriding concern is

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## Will Discuss School One Rezoning

The Scotch Plains Planning Board will hold its next public meeting, Monday, September 16, 1974 at 8:15 p.m. at the Municipal Building on Park Avenue, according to Michael Cornacchia, the Chairman. A public hearing will be held at which time the Planning Board would invite views and comments of the citizenry as to the proposed recommendation for re-zoning of the Public School #1 property on Park Avenue.

The Planning Board shall recommend that the approximately 200 ft. fronting on Park Avenue be re-zoned B1. The rear portion fronting on Forest Road is recommended by the Planning Board to be zoned R3A for 150 ft., leaving a 50 ft. strip along the boundary of the Quick-Chek property to provide a buffer and also to provide a driveway access to the main portion of the school site. This would allow the property to be divided into two house lots, each 75 ft. in width.

The public is asked to attend this hearing and state their opinions as to the re-zoning of this public property.

The Subdivision Committee will make their recommendation on the preliminary application of property owned by DeWitt D. Barlow, Jr., 1081 Rahway Road, Scotch Plains, Lot 8, Block 316, two lots.

The Site Plan Review Committee will make their recommendations on the application of Smuffy Pantagis Enterprises, 245 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, Lot 1, 7, 8, 12 and 16, Block 17, proposed alteration; and the application of Anthony Triano, Glenview Manor Tavern, 2376 North Avenue, Lot 4, Block 210, continuation of existing facilities with new expanded parking area.

## Police Say They Have 125 Abandoned Bikes, Plan October Auction

"Come and get 'em" is the cry of Sgr. William Bedson of the Scotch Plains Police Department, as he surveys the lineup of about 125 abandoned bicycles which have accumulated since last year. Bedson, who is traffic safety officer in Scotch Plains, is seeking owners who may have lost their bikes and have failed to ask Scotch Plains police if they've been found. Bedson is attempting to "connect" as many bikes with owners as possible before he schedules another annual police auction sometime in October.

It seems amazing in this day of constant bike thefts that the police could have amassed such a collection . . . but Bedson says the failure of people to really seek a lost bicycle may sometimes be attributed to the ease with which insurance claims can be made and checks sent to replace the stolen or missing bike. He also suspects that many of the bicycles may have been stolen in neighboring towns such as Westfield and/or Plainfield, where residents may have contacted their own police but not those in other communities.

"That's the beauty of a bicycle registration system," the Sergeant said. "Once several towns have registration systems, police can simply check with each other to compare notes on missing and stolen bikes."

Of course, a really good form of identification is required in order to get one of the 125 bikes at the police department.

Bedson says he would be happy to consult with kids who have lost bicycles, but he would require parents, a serial number, a bill of sale, or some other good identification before he'd yield one of the bikes to a claimer.

The collection includes a wide range of quality and condition. Bedson says at the moment he's got quite a few very good 10-speed bikes, some sturdy no-speed bikes, and some pretty junky specimens. "However, even the ones that are not so hot belong to somebody," he said, "and it would be nice if people would try to find their bikes if they've lost them."

## Listening Post

The Scotch Plains Township Listening Post will be held this Saturday from 10 A.M. till noon in the Council Chambers.