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THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

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Listed in Post Hears Gripe on Flooding, School One Weeds

Questions about the towns progress on storm drainage and flood control again highlighted this months Listening Post at Scotch Plains Town Hall last Saturday morning. However, adding to a new element to this months Listening Post, presided over by Councilman Alan Augustine, Lawrence Newcomb and Mayor Walter Grote, were the comments of several citizens implying inaction by the school administration was contributing to poor conditions along the Cedar Brook. Debris in the stream from school maintenance operations, breakdown of the banks from unsupervised school children playing in the stream bed and huge ragweed growth on the new School One property were mentioned.

One concerned citizen arrived displaying an almost five foot growth of ragweed that he had cut from the School One property that morning, and he said this was after repeated calls to the school system about this health hazard. He requested the Health Inspector check the situation. A second citizen living in the School One area said "The School Board is trying to punish the citizens, saying you were naughty you voted down our budget so we're not going to spend money on things like weed control."

Because there were extensive flooding along Route 22 during the September 3 storm, there were several questions relating to progress of the construction work along Route 22. Councilman Newcomb reported that while the engineers report the project adjacent to Route 22 is almost completed, it was only partially operational September 3. Unfortunately completion of this second phase of the towns flood control project for the East Branch of the Green Brook will be delayed slightly because of some minor damage the Tuesday storm did to the drainage system.

On a constructive note, one citizen suggested the town obtain

a rain gauge. During the recent rains this citizen called several local, county and state officers to inquire how much rainfall we had received in Scotch Plains. Except for one county official who said he could tell her next week how much rain we received this week, none was able to assist her in this area. Councilman Augustine said the town would check on what is involved in obtaining such a gauge.

In another area, one citizen inquired about garbage collection on a Holiday. Her collector did not pick up on Labor Day, nor did he make a make-up collection later in the week. With the advent of the many Monday Holidays this puts an unfair burden on a large segment of the town. Mayor Grote said he would ask the Municipal Manager to look into this, however, the Mayor did say that under a New Jersey law passed about three years ago, regulation of garbage collectors is primarily the responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission.

Besides the three Councilmen, Mrs. Shirley Capone of the Managers Office assisted at the Listening Post.

Coronella Plans To Introduce Another Code Of Ethics

Councilman Charles J. Coronella announced late last week that he plans to introduce a revised Code of Ethics at the September 11 meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council. After several months of hassle, the Borough Council had voted, on a split vote, to defeat an earlier Code of Ethics.

Initially, Councilwoman Carol Whittington had brought before the Council a Code of Ethics back in January. That legislation was referred to the Borough Attorney and revised before eventual presentation to the Council, where it was argued for several meetings. Volunteer members of borough service organizations such as the Fanwood Fire Company and the Rescue Squad had taken issue with the code as initially presented, feeling that some of its provisions would deter volunteers from offering their services to the borough.

"The revised Code of Ethics defines a code of conduct for and is directed toward elected officials and certain salaried positions which have discretionary powers," said Coronella. Specifically, the four positions covered under his version would be Treasurer, Tax Collector and Clerk, Assessor and Building Inspector. The proposed code will also include provision for voluntary inclusion of other of the Borough Boards, Commissions or Bodies, whether paid or unpaid. As with the code introduced in June and rejected in August, the ordinance would create a Citizens Advisory Committee for the purpose of investigating alleged conflicts

The primary purpose of the proposed Code of Ethics, according to Coronella, is to further promote public confidence in the respect for Borough officials through a mutually agreed upon standard of conduct.

Coronella said he anticipated a full discussion of his version of the Code of Ethics at the Monday agenda meeting. He expressed confidence that the code would receive full Council support. The voting in August cut across party lines when Coronella, who is a Republican, joined his Democratic cohorts Councilwoman Whittington and Councilman John Swindlehurst in supporting the defeated code.

School Board Says No Word On Budget

Candidate



ROBERT E. JOHNSTON

The Scotch Plains Republican Committee met last Thursday and selected Robert E. Johnston of 422 Evergreen Blvd. as the third candidate for this year's Township Council election. Johnston replaces Mrs. Richard Dobyns, who withdrew because of ill health, and joins veteran councilman Alan M. Augustine and political newcomer Ronald Katims on the G.O.P. slate.

An Account Manager with the N.J. Bell Telephone Co., Johnston has lived in Scotch Plains for nine years with his wife Sally and three daughters, Beth 17, Laurie 15, and Amy 9. He was long active in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Jaycee affairs, serving as a director of that group and as a Junior Achievement advisor and General Chairman for the Miss Union County Scholarship pageant.

Johnston currently is serving as a member of the local Planning Board, a Midget and Pony League referee, and is a Vestryman of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

Fund Hits 22% Of Goal

The Scotch Plains Community Fund has gotten off to an early and very promising start for its 1974-75 fund drive as announced by the fund's Board of Trustees. A total of 809 families in our community has responded (including 130 new donors) to the drive to reach 22% of the Fund's goal of \$45,000. 5,636 of the 6,445 residents in Scotch Plains have not as yet made a donation which indicates that our goal will be reached with ease if every resident participates.

A second mailing has been sent out, and the Board of Trustees urges each resident to respond soon by making a contribution or pledge as large as his "heart and bank balance" will allow. "Let's demonstrate our pride in our community by not only reaching our goal but exceeding it!" Your generous tax deductible gift can be sent to the Scotch Plains Community Fund, P.O. Box 381.

State Department Of Education Says Matter Is Still Under Study

The Board of Education (and the governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood as well) are still in the dark regarding exactly how much money will be available for use in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district this year. Although schools are open and functioning, no determination has been forthcoming from state education authorities in Trenton regarding the contested 1974-75 school budget.

A spokesman at the New Jersey Education Commission, Department of Controversies and Disputes, indicated the status of the local appeal was "in process - no news right now."

The governing bodies trimmed \$969,000 from the budget after it was soundly defeated in February, and the Board of Education took advantage of the opportunity to appeal that decision at the state level. Both parties were heard from and provided extensive documentation of their opposing positions early in July, and Board President Charles Ferguson said he had hoped that a determination would be made at the state level sometime in August. He still had heard nothing early this week, and had no idea of when a decision might be expected. The procedure normally followed calls for a report to be furnished to local officials from the hearing officer, outlining his position and his recommendation to the Commissioner of Education. The two governing bodies then have a 15-day period in which to react to that report. They may not present any new evidence, but attorneys for both parties may check accuracy of facts and furnish information in case of disagreement.

Meanwhile, how is the district coping with a \$969,000 chunk of its budget unavailable? Ferguson said administration and staff are reserving expenditures in all areas. For instance, Ferguson said, supplies ordered are only bid at 75 percent of what is actually needed, so the district is holding back in that area.

No new staff is being added. In fact, the schools opened with a drop of six in total teaching staff - a decrease made to reflect dropping enrollment figures for this year. No new personnel are being added at the present time. Ferguson said the Board is not hiring a third Child Study Team which had been included in the defeated budget. When and if the Board gets approval for the third team, "we'd begin to look for personnel," he indicated.

"So far we're fighting an uphill battle," the Board President

District No.	Total Residences	Residences Responding
1	497	30
2	488	30
3	216	25
4	395	38
5	368	48
6	282	23
7	373	47
8	347	50
9	380	39
10	268	37
11	311	50
12	339	33
13	298	45
14	251	46
15	226	52
16	384	44
17	249	48
18	259	46
19	248	39
20	266	39
	6,445	809

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 - September 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4.

FANWOOD
BOROUGH HALL - September 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4.

Burglars Show Preference For Silverware

Over the last couple of months, at least six southside Scotch Plains households have been burglarized, with silver flatware as a common item taken by the thieves. In the six cases, burglars have taken other non-silver items as they have rifled through the homes, but have singled out silver tableware leaving other decorative silver items such as coffee services, vases, etc. behind.

Chief Joseph Powers said this week that in general silverware is no longer a common item for burglars to take. From time to time, a community may have a rash of silver thefts, but in general burglars usually take less identifiable items such as televisions, money, stereos, etc. He said he is inclined to believe that the six thefts are related.

Four have occurred in a single southside neighborhood, two others in other locations within Scotch Plains.

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