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Angr Seek Speed Reductions

Just about the entire neighborhood turned out at the Fanwood Borough Council meeting last week, as Midway Avenue residents came to register strong complaints about speed limits. Midway Avenue has long been a source of irritation to homeowners living there, and speeds have already been lowered in the past, to the present 40 mph level. However, the residents want the limit reduced to 35 and would apparently take just about any measures necessary to bring about the reduction.

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt explained to those gathered at the Council meeting that speeds along the road are out of the hands of the borough. Determination of speed limits on Midway, a county road, fall entirely within the aegis of the state Department of Transportation. The state officials decide the speed limit by taking a speed survey, Pollitt said, with the speed limit set at the 85th percentile - in other words, whatever speed 85 percent of the traffic using the road at the time of the survey is the speed limit established. Pollitt pointed out that the Council had tried once before to get the limit down below the current 40 mph and had failed. This time the County Board of Freeholders supports the petition for 35 mph.

There is one frightening aspect of the state survey, Pollitt said, and that is the fact that the state survey could result in an increase rather than a decrease in speeds but the chance must be taken. Pollitt said he didn't know when the state radar survey would be taken, but warned that any gimmickry or tampering with honest testing would result in cancelling out of the survey.

Some of the residents had expressed a desire to alert motorists that the survey was underway, wanted police to issue traf-

fic summonses for speeding in an intense crackdown before the test, etc. Pollitt repeatedly warned the residents that the police must admit that they have caused inordinate action in such cases, and therefore a completely fair and honest speed test is necessary.

The Concerned Citizens of Cray Terrace, Vinton Circle, Terrill Road and Brohm Place wrote to the Council in a petition including 40 names, voicing complaint that the Nature Center which opened officially last Saturday has brought increase in traffic, more noise due to police cars surveying the property, danger to children, increased loitering, etc. Although Environmental Commission Chairman William Kluckas spoke immediately to one issue introduced by the residents - that they had not been fully informed of the center, Mayor Trump announced that official borough reaction would be forthcoming after study of the complaint.

Kluckas outlined an extensive campaign, including personal visits to residents, as part of the publicity. In fact, the only complaint Kluckas said he has received to date was that the center was receiving too much publicity. The acreage is borough-owned property.

Army Engineers Propose Flood Control Program For Town's South Side

As Scotch Plains officials scramble continually to find solutions to flooding problems which plague the north side of the community, the Army Corps of Engineers has come up with an area flood control program for the south side. Although it would have minimal benefit for Scotch Plains, this community would apparently have some input into the \$375,000 required annually for maintenance, interest, and operating costs for the Pumpkin Patch - Robinson's Branch program.

The Army Corps of Engineers submitted its recommendations for the Robinson's Branch improvements at a meeting of officials from Rahway, Clark and Scotch Plains last week. The project involves stream improvements to the upper and lower portions of Robinson's Branch. As explained by Scotch Plains Councilman Larry Newcomb, the Robinson's Branch encompasses "everything that drains south" and it includes several branches, including the chief stream out of Ashbrook, a stream in the vicinity of Winding Brook Way, and other waterways.

Newcomb said in flooding impact, there is very little of real concern to Scotch Plains, since any flooding history on the south side has not been too widespread in scope. The primary financial burden would have to fall upon Clark and Rahway, he said.

The officials from the three communities praised the Army

Corps for its work in mapping out flood control projects. Among the suggestions coming from the officials were three from Newcomb. He suggested that enlargement of the brook where it bypasses the Lehigh Valley Railroad-Bayberry Gardens area be considered while the Army Corps is undertaking other factors of the program, since enlargement of the restriction could be accomplished cheaper when the A.C.E. is on the spot with equipment and manpower. The A.C.E. agreed to consider this.

Newcomb also asked for assurances that the project would in no way increase flooding in the Villa property in Scotch Plains. Stream improvements associated with the project end about 1/2 way through the Villa property, which is ultimately planned for industrial development, and Newcomb wants assurance nothing will negate that intent. He further asked that a bridge be in-

Council Will Hold Public Hearing On School One Property

Army Completes Flood Control Project Draft

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that it has completed the draft of an Environmental Statement on the Proposed Flood Control Project for Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River - Clark, Scotch Plains and Rahway, New Jersey.

The statement has been sent to interested federal, state and municipal agencies in the area. Single copies are available to organizations or interested individuals upon request from New York District, Army Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Police Will Confiscate Mini-Bikes

The Scotch Plains Police Department has for some period of time been trying to get the cooperation of our Residents in keeping Mini-Bikes off of our Streets as they are unsafe for this type of operation.

As recently as August 22, 1974 we advised that the Statutes covering these Violations would be strictly enforced. Despite this Notice the Complaints still continue to come in.

Commencing this date therefore all Violators apprehended will be duly Cited along with their Parents who will be held responsible for their actions and the Bikes will be confiscated and towed in at the owners expense. No further Warnings will be issued.

Public Meetings Will Consider School Budget

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is planning two public meetings for the purpose of exchanging information and opinions on the 1975-76 school budget. These meetings will be held on Monday, September 23, 1974 and Tuesday, October 1, 1974 at 8:00 p.m. at Terrill Junior High School. I urge all Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents to attend these meetings so they may become well informed on the school budget.

cluded into the Tussell property. There is now a small bridge there, but the widening would necessitate a larger bridge. Some Clark residents questioned the need for the bridge, since it represents \$450,000 to \$500,000 of the funds not provided by federal sources. However, Newcomb said it is important to Scotch Plains that the land not be landlocked, and the A.C.E.

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DeLuca Urges Former School One Site Be Rezoned For Senior Citizen Housing

After five months of discussion, study, hassle and argument, the first step toward eventual sale of abandoned School One property on Park Avenue was taken this week. The Scotch Plains Planning Board voted in a split vote to recommend to the Township Council that the zoning designation of the property be changed from P (public) to a B-1 (business) and R3A (residential) designation. Now the Council must hold a public hearing, as the Planning Board has done, before the final zoning change can be made. Mayor Walter Grote indicated Tuesday that he hoped the matter could be brought before the Council as early as possible, hopefully by the October 1 meeting of the Council.

School One was replaced by a new school on Willow Avenue last Spring, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (owners of the property) named a blue-ribbon panel of citizens to study the site and to recommend the zoning designation which would realize the greatest value to the board in an eventual sale. The group came up with a suggestion for B-2 (business) and R3A (residential) whereas the Planning Board's study of the matter yielded the B1 designation suggestion. B2 is a zoning for business, whereas B1 allows offices, professional buildings, etc. However, in any of the zonings, any potential developer may seek a variance from the Board of Adjustment for a different construction purpose.

The Planning Board session was a heated go-round. Thomas DeLuca, who was formerly on the Board of Adjustment and has been active in Democratic circles, was very vocal in support of senior citizen housing for the property. Mr. DeLuca said senior citizen housing is needed for those who cannot afford private housing in Scotch Plains. He felt the senior citizens would bring business to the shops in the center of town if they had living quarters nearby.

DeLuca criticized the B1 zoning, stating that although it allows business, it also specifies an exception permitting construction of garden apartments. DeLuca charged that the Planning Board was concerned with most money for the land rather than best use.

It was indicated to DeLuca that the Planning Board is not

involved in the financial picture, since any monies realized from the sale are already committed to athletic fields and other improvements long promised for Park Junior High School.

The Planning Board did consider senior citizen housing, and in fact such housing was recommended in a report commissioned by the Planning Board and executed by professional planners Boorman-Dorram. However, although that report suggested senior citizen housing, federal funds for such housing have dried up. Under federal subsidies for such housing, it could be anticipated that rentals in the \$150 range might be available. Without the federal assistance, the least expensive rent possible would be around \$250. In the absence of the federal aid, such zoning is not considered practical. Boorman was on hand Monday night, and stated that as recently as two weeks ago, there were indications that new funds may become available, and Planning Board members noted that if such a change were made in federal policy, the zoning change could be considered at the Council level when public hearings are held there.

DeLuca, who was ruled out of order several times, arose after the vote and accused the board of not doing its job.

There were four aye votes on the issue - McCann, Cornacchia, McLaughlin, and Johnston. Three abstained - Linn and two Council

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Juniors Will Wash Cars

Are you looking for a convenient place to have your car washed before the cold winter months make this impossible? Well, if you are, or you just want to help the Junior Class of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, come to it on Saturday, September 21, 1974. The car wash will be held at the Chevron Gas Station on the corner of North and Herfield Avenues, Scotch Plains. It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The donation will depend on the car, small, medium, or large, \$1.00, \$1.50 or \$2.00, respectively. This money will be used for future Junior Class activities. So, start fresh and clean this fall with a clean car for a good purpose. See you then!

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.