

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1974

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## Police Bike Inspection Dates For Scotch Plains

As Fanwood goes, so goes Scotch Plains - at least when it comes to bicycle inspections and registrations. As Fanwood ties up the ends and attempts to round up the remaining cyclists who have not yet registered their bicycles, Scotch Plains police are busily setting dates for a similar program scheduled to commence in Scotch Plains this week.

To date, four locations have been selected as sites for inspections and registrations. The first will be held at Brunner School on Saturday, September 28. The others are slated for School One (Willow Ave.) on October 5, McGinn School on October 12, and Coles School on October 19. Hours will be 9 a.m. to noon.

The school locations have been chosen as central sites, and do not indicate that the inspections and registrations will be limited to students attending those specific schools. Any citizen may register at any one of the inspection locations.

A fee of \$1.00 will be charged for a one-year license. Each child will be provided with an opportunity to display bicycle riding skills and knowledge of hand signals.

In order to expedite adult licensing, adult bicycle owners (16 years and over) will be served at a separate table.

A further effort at speeding up the waiting lines will be made via an advance filling out of pertinent forms. The necessary

forms will be sent in advance to the schools to enable each child wishing to register a bicycle to do the advance paperwork. However, each bicycle must still be brought to the registration site.

In the event of rain on any of the dates established, additional rain dates will be announced and those involved will return to the appropriate school.

According to Sergeant William Bedson, the effective date for the ordinance is January 1, 1975. After that time all cyclists in Scotch Plains must have bikes licensed to comply with law. Bedson said the inspections were being done now to take advantage of autumn weather, since the program must be done outdoors.

The police will be assisted by Optimist Club and PTA members as well as several private citizens who have volunteered.

The ordinance applies to all bicycles with wheel frames of 20 inches or more. However, parents may have smaller wheeled vehicles such as training-wheel bikes, velocipedes, etc. licensed to deter theft if they so desire.

## Scotch Plains Joins 59 Communities With Bicentennial Status

Richard L. Camisa, Project Officer, State of New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Commission, presented Mayor Walter Grote and the citizens of Scotch Plains with a certificate of recognition and a Bicentennial flag on behalf of the National ARBC at the September 19th meeting of the local Bicentennial Committee. The certificate states that Scotch Plains is officially recognized as one of the nation's Bicentennial Communities.

"This certificate was not easily obtained," said Mr. Camisa. "Scotch Plains is one of 60 communities so designated out of the 568 in the State, one of 1,250 in the nation. It indicates dedicated work on the part of the township toward taking pride in their heritage, by forming a broad-based committee and submitting an outline of intended programs that fit the national standards. Such activities provide us with a living and human way to celebrate the past and help us understand the future," he said.

Mayor Grote accepted the certificate for Scotch Plains and the other councilmen, all of whom were present, and asked acting Township Manager Shirley Capone to arrange framing and display in the lobby of the new Municipal Building. Helping the Mayor in the display of the new flag, to be flown at all Bicentennial functions, were Lori Schmidt of Girl Scout Troop #260 and Mark Gannon of Boy Scout Troop #37. It will be run up the Liberty Pole on October 16, announcing the arrival of the stage during the mail run for the Union Council Colonial Festival.

Mayor Grote and Councilman Al Augustine, a member of the

Sons of the American Revolution, were first to sign for their copies of the book "Under the Blue Hills, Scotch Plains, N.J.," being published by the committee in cooperation with the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Co-Chairman Mrs. Leonard Sachar noted that the book is available at a special pre-publication price of \$4.00 through the Township Clerk's Office, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

The Bicentennial Committee adopted the motion to prepare a proposal to be presented to the Township Council for a Village Green Memorial Mini-park on the open area adjacent to the Municipal Building and the town-owned Cannonball House. The proposal will ask that the park be readied by the 4th of July, 1976, when ceremonies will be scheduled to commemorate service men of all past wars.

The Committee will send a letter to the N.J. State Library, pointing out the mistakes in their new map, Battles and Skirmishes of the American Revolution in New Jersey. The Battle of the Scotch Plains, which in Revolutionary times was referred to as the Battle of the Short Hills, took place from Oak Tree,

## Board Of Ed Plans To Involve Citizens In Ad Hoc P.R. Committee

### Meeting Audience Questions Entertainment, Auto Expenses

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education began the new school year with a bid to involve the community in some facets of its activities through an ad hoc citizens' committee. As announced by Board member Mrs. Leonia Reilly, the ad hoc committee would operate from October 15, 1974 through February 15, 1975 and would concentrate on three areas: 1) approaches whereby the Board of Education could better communicate its deliberations to the public, 2) improvements in presentation of information to the public regarding curriculum and curriculum changes, 3) dispensation to the community of information on how the budget building process is effected.

The ad hoc committee will be open to all citizens, whether adults or high school students. Although there were reservations expressed by some board members regarding the possibilities of effective operation if size is unlimited, Mrs. Reilly said the Public Relations Committee which she heads felt there was no appropriate way to limit size without accusations of selectivity. Perhaps the ad hoc committee could subdivide, with separate groups considering the three major foci of interest, it was suggested.

Citizens wishing to participate are asked to make their wishes known by contacting Mrs. Reilly at Board of Education offices, Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Increased participation and public awareness was the thrust in other areas of discussion during the monthly Board session last Thursday night. Mrs. Robbie Mason, who heads the Policy Committee, said that committee has under consideration opening agenda meetings to the public. In a further public relations step, the Board scheduled a public meeting for Monday, September 23 at Terrill Junior High, with a second to follow in October, both designed to permit citizens to express their priorities and desires regarding public education before the budget - building process for the 1975-76 school year begins.

Board of Education meetings are now preceded by a half-hour public comment session, a further attempt at providing for public input. In the two months it has been effect, citizens have been permitted to comment - but not to ask questions - on agenda items. Henceforth, questions will be accepted on areas not covered in the agenda.

Two citizens questioned board spending policies in the area of auditing. The board will pay the auditing firm it normally uses an additional fee of \$2,500 for study and implementation of a uniform accounting system in all 14 schools for special activities and school funds. It was explained by Board President Charles Ferguson that the auditor, in addition to his regular contractual duties at \$7,000 annually, was asked two years ago to devise a method for uniform procedures and education of employees in its use. The auditor performed the task, but implementation was not considered de-

sirable in mid-year two years ago, nor was it advisable last year when Program Budgeting was involving staff in a new accounting system. Now the time is ripe, Board President Charles Ferguson said. Monies are not in the jeopardy list in contention on this year's budget but were budgeted for a year ago.

Board members were divided in their feelings on payment of a car allowance for Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, who has been resting at home since a heart attack in June. Laberge receives \$840, as do five other administrators, as an annual arrangement for car payment. While most board members felt the car allowance falls under the heading of an annual arrangement, Philip Labasi and Walter Boright voted in the negative, feeling they could not justify \$70 monthly for car use in the superintendent's absence.

Another member, Robert Carlson, said he would generally with Boright and Labasi, but it has been the practice here to make lump sum payments rather than per mile payments, and he recommended that the Policy Committee establish a formal position on personnel use of cars. Ferguson said he acknowledged the negotiability of the annual car stipend, but would like to see a solution come from both policy and negotiations committees.

Thomas Fallon of Chip Lou Lane, Scotch Plains voiced his opinion that the amount seemed high for "administrators who should be in town administering," and said payment should be made for business trips only, on a per mile basis.

Board President Ferguson reported that the superintendent remains at home recuperating. Further information on a possible date of return should be forthcoming when Laberge has a medical checkup in October, Ferguson said he would generally agree with Boright and Labasi, but it has been the practice here to make lump sum payments rather than per mile payments, and he recommended that the Policy Committee establish a formal position on personnel use of cars. Ferguson said he acknowledged the negotiability of the annual car stipend, but would like to see a solution come from both policy and negotiations committees.

### New Hours For

### FANWOOD ASSESSORS

MON. 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
WED. 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
FRI. 9:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

## Do You Know Your Old Buildings?

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Bicentennial Committee is currently making arrangements for the placement of ten historical markers on historical homes in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community. The project, to be coordinated by Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., Co-Chairman, will be undertaken with the assistance of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees.

The ten sites selected to date are: Terry Well, 1451 Rahway Road; Frazee Homestead (Terry Lou Zoo); Baptist Parsonage; Stage House; DeCamp Burying Grounds (Lamberts Mill Road); Old Y.M.C.A.; Cannonball House (1840 Front Street); Frazee-Lee House (Black Birch Road); Half Way House (1851 Old Raritan Road); and 13-Star House, 1391 Old Raritan Road.

The committee is still in need of assistance, and anyone interested in helping is asked to call Mr. Detwiller, 756-6813 or Mr. Lindner, 889-5037.

Plainfield-Scotch Plains, both in the Ash Swamp and towards the Bloody Gap, with flanking movements to Westfield. The battle is placed in the Morris-town area on the map. A special meeting with a speaker will be held in November to clarify the location of the battle and to emphasize its importance.

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