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THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 15, NO. 48

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1974

15 CENTS A COPY

Kitsz Comp Tree Study, Committee Is Recommended

On January 1, 1974, as part of his inaugural address, Mayor Walter Grote of Scotch Plains named Councilman William Kitsz to undertake a study of the possible benefits of a Shade Tree Commission within Scotch Plains. Kitsz offered his report this week, noting that it marked the culmination of extensive study of effects in the township and similar commissions operative in other municipalities.

Kitsz recommended formation of a form of Shade Tree advisory body. However, he specified that a volunteer committee might better serve community needs than would an autonomous Commission. An autonomous Commission could offer difficulties "because of an independence that could develop - possibly in projects undertaken, contracts awarded, or the possibility of eventual paid personnel," Kitsz concluded.

He favors a volunteer committee as a valuable addition. A Shade Tree group should have responsibilities broad enough to cover all plant material, whether it be trees, evergreens, shrubs or flowering plants, and should also be broad enough to cover all phases of beautification, aesthetic improvement and environmental consideration, he feels.

Kitsz praised the work of the Public Property Department in his formal report, noting that that department has done an excellent job on limited street tree planting, tree maintenance and shrub maintenance in township properties and parks. He feels

that the township is at a point now where there should be more done in the way of beautification and aesthetic improvement.

At present, any work related to installation, maintenance, or removal of dead or hazardous trees on township property or a township right of way is performed by Public Property Department. In a few instances, work is done by private contractors under supervision of Public Property Supervisor. One exception is installation of shade trees in new subdivisions, as required by the Planning Board. Such tree installations are handled by the Township Engineer.

Kitsz's report will be turned over to the incoming 1975 Council for consideration.

Councilman Albert Theurer noted he favors a change in the spaces between curbside tree plantings. Now, the township plants every 50 feet. Theurer says too many trees will create problems, including leaf disposal. He asked the incoming Council to consider a change to every 100 feet.

State Representative To Rule On Issue Of Local SAT Scores

Mrs. Patricia Kuran of Fanwood feels that some members of the administration within the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district have manipulated local Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, deleting some scores in order to make the local district appear to have a higher average. She further feels that misleading information regarding national averages was given her. She therefore sought redress with the state Department of Education and was granted a public hearing last Tuesday.

Lawrence C. Anderson, Director of the Division of Controversies and Disputes, presided over a hearing, held in the Westfield offices of the Union County Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Kuran presented her case, while the school district was represented by high school principal Terry Riegel. David Evans of the high school guidance department, and Mrs. Leonia Reilly, vice president of the Board of Education. No ruling was provided. Anderson will receive documents from both sides in the argument, and will then consider whether he requires further testimony from National Testing Service, a Princeton-based testing outfit which administers the S.A.T. tests nationwide.

According to Mrs. Kuran, she was informed at a parent's liaison meeting in November of 1973 that the graduating class of 1973 scored 448 verbal, 479 math in the national tests. She claims that national norms of 383 verbal, 395 math, were indicated. Later, Mrs. Kuran said, she read that national norms for 1973 were 445 verbal, 481 math. She pressed

for clarification at Board of Education meetings, she said.

She claimed that at a March Board of Education meeting, High School Principal Terry Riegel gave scores of the class of 1973 as 450 verbal, 510 math. She challenged that these scores did not include all those who took the tests.

During Tuesday's session, Mrs. Kuran and Dr. Riegel both agreed on explanations of terminology used in Educational Testing Service reports. The E.T.S. booklet explaining the S.A.T. tests shows a column of scores labeled All Students. This, both agreed, represents a sampling of all high school juniors and seniors in the nation - a broad representation of what scores might be achieved if all students took S.A.T. tests, not just those planning some form of college at some future time. This figure, or test reading, was taken on a controlled sample of students just one time, in 1966 and is not repeated annually. This figure is 383 verbal, 395 math. In contrast, there is an annual

New Ordinance Would Eliminate Beechwood Place Traffic Snarls

30 Years



DOROTHY ROBERTS

A reception is being given on Friday, December 6 at School One by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association for retiring Director of Mathematics in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District, Miss Dorothy Roberts. Miss Roberts has been in the District for thirty years and before becoming a Director was Chairman of the Mathematics Department at the High School.

mean given by E.T.S., labeled "College Bound." This represents the mean score of all students who took S.A.T. tests in a given year. The E.T.S. assumes that all those taking the test are college-bound.

"All students" is neither current or anything to measure your students against, Mrs. Kuran claims.

David D. Evans, the guidance counselor who gave the presentation at the November liaison meeting, said he gave charts showing the 1973 class scores. That class scored 448 verbal, 479 math, Evans said. The reading represented the senior class mean provided by E.T.S., he said.

Riegel and Evans both said that copies of the explanatory booklet were available to parents, but that at no time were parents directed to a specific column or a national average. Riegel emphasized that at the liaison meeting he stressed that comparisons should not be made. No meaningful or fair area of comparison can be determined, he said, because of such variables as the numbers who take the tests. Locally, Riegel noted, all high school students who could ever want such S.A.T. scores are encouraged to take the tests as a form of good future planning. Therefore, the local mean represents not only those who plan to attend college immediately after graduation. Therefore, the local mean is not a valid comparison of the mean of nationwide students taking the tests.

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Home Owner Reaction Brings Promise Of Amendment To Permit One Side Of Street Parking

The Scotch Plains Township Council doesn't want traffic snarls on narrow Beechwood Place, especially in the event of the need for emergency vehicles to get through the street. Therefore, the Council passed an ordinance to ban parking on Beechwood Place full time. However, the Council also does not want snarls from its citizenry, so, after hearing negative reaction from several Beechwood Place homeowners, Mayor Walter Grote promised to introduce an amendment which would restrict parking to one side of the street. He'll introduce the amendment at the first meeting in the New Year.

The Beechwood Place parking-stopping-standing ban was a part of a package ordinance, recommended by the Chief of Police. Additional provisions included "no parking" at any time on Evergreen Boulevard, east side only, from Mountain Avenue to Westfield Road and on Parkview Drive, north and east sides, from Coles Avenue to Evergreen Boulevard. Although the five Council members were in agreement with the objections voiced from Beechwood Place residents, a Council majority chose to act upon the ordinance in its entirety on Tuesday to clear the books for the New Year and the incoming Council. Therefore, adjustments will come later, to reflect the homeowners' desires. Two Council members, Albert Theurer and Alan Augustine, voted no on the ordinance.

Before the formulation of the ordinances, a public meeting was held with neighborhood residents concerning the parking bans.

Parking is banned on school days in a section of Kevin Road near Coles School. Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., parking, stopping and standing is prohibited from Terrill Road to Aberdeen Road on school days.

In other year's end matters, Council approved the transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License from Anthony Triano, trading as Glenview Manor, 2376 North Avenue, to Seymour's Inc. with stipulation that a parking lot must be completed and an attendant must be provided outside to supervise patrons.

Councilman Albert Theurer, who was named by Mayor Grote at the beginning of 1974 to investigate additional bus routes in Scotch Plains, reported disappointing results. Theurer had worked with a group of high school students earlier in the year, pressing state officials for extension of an existing bus route into Scotch Plains from its present run through the mountain communities of Berkeley Heights and New Providence. Earlier, the possibility of providing a loop around Scotch Plains along Martine Avenue and Terrill Road appeared promising. Such a route would provide bus service to schools on the south side of Scotch Plains

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Rinaldo Gets Committee Assignment

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- House Republican leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz.) today named Congressman Matthew J. Rinaldo (R-12th Dist., N.J.) to the influential Committee on Committees. It is responsible for making Republican committee assignments in the 94th Congress.

The 43-year old Rinaldo, who was re-elected to a second term by a two-to-one margin, will represent the Republicans in the House from New Jersey. Rinaldo will have the power to cast three votes in the selection of committee assignments for all Republicans throughout the country.

Under the new rules of the House, which were adopted this past year, the Republican Conference and the Democratic Caucus will meet in separate party meetings to elect floor leaders and ranking committee members for the 94th Congress. The meetings will take place between December 2 and December 20, according to Congressman Rhodes.

In announcing Rinaldo's selection, Rhodes acknowledged that it was unusual for a Congressman with only one term of service to be appointed to the Committee on Committees. But Rhodes said that Rinaldo's stunning victory in a swing district with only 20 percent registered Republican voters had added considerably to Rinaldo's stature in the party. In addition, Rhodes said that Rinaldo's experience in public office at the county and state levels also qualified him for the appointment.

Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by the Scotch Plains Township Council will be held as usual on the first Saturday of the month, December 7. The Board of Education will schedule no Listening Post sessions until further notice.