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Realtors Ask Ban On "For Sale" Signs

Eleven local real estate firms have joined forces in preparation of a petition seeking a ban on "Real Estate For Sale" and/or "Sold" signs here. The petitions, signed by representatives of the eleven firms, will be presented to the governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood at future Council meetings.

In submitting the petition, the realtors acknowledged that For Sale signs do provide the firms with a lot of prospects, although they state that very few people actually buy the home the sign is on. However, the realtors feel the signs are unsightly and detract from the appearance and the quality of the community.

The petitioning realtors say that they have attempted to keep the commercial signs to a minimum in the past, but a recent rash of "For Sale" signs all over the communities has led them to an awareness of the need for a controlling ordinance governing signs in residential areas.

"We could only hope to have you imagine the looks of Fanwood and Scotch Plains if we all put signs on all of our listings - our only means of defense," the realtors state in their petition. Fanwood already bans "Sold" signs.

In the neighboring community of Westfield, the zoning ordinance specifically addresses itself to commercial real estate signs. Within the residential zones of Westfield, one free-standing sign announcing that the premises are available for sale or for rent is permitted. The sign shall not exceed four square feet in area, and may contain only the words, "For Sale," or "For Rent," and a telephone number or words "Inquire Within," thereby banning the use of the "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs as a means of promoting any one specific realtor.

Similarly, in Westfield, any subdivision approved by the Town Planning Board may carry one free-standing sign not exceeding 24 square feet in area. That sign may remain in place only until residences have been constructed on 95 percent of the lots in the subdivision or after 95 percent have been sold by developer or realtor, whichever period is less. In no case may a subdivision sign be permitted after two years have elapsed from the time the first sign was erected.

Signs for subdivisions and signs identifying homes for sale or rent in Westfield must be set back ten feet from the front property line.

The local realtors have cited the Westfield code as an example of desirable legislation, and request that similar laws govern the local communities. The group has offered its services in an advisory capacity in the drawing up of the ordinance.

The eleven firms represented on the petition are: H. Clay Friedrichs, Inc., J.A. Brown, Burke Agency, Charles B. Clark Co., Crestview Realty, Koster and Magee, Peterson-Ringle Agency, Calvin M. Schwartz, Wisner Realty, James Hewitt, and Di Dario Agency.

The realtors are urging concerned citizens to join them in their plea for controls.

Fanwood Taxpayers To Get Questionnaire On Municipal Building

Fanwood Picnic THIS Saturday

For the past couple of years, Fanwood has held a townwide picnic following the Memorial Day Parade each year. The picnic tradition will continue this year, but the date is a bit adjustable. Instead of just after the Memorial Day Parade, the picnic date has been set for NEXT Saturday, May 31. When this paper was asked to publicize the annual event, wires somehow were crossed and we publicized the picnic for last Saturday.

This week is picnic week, and there will be all kinds of activities taking place. There will be mini-bike rides and pony rides, sausage sandwiches and hamburgers, cake walk and a family square dance. Around noon, all the small people from preschool, kindergarten and first grade will take part in a kiddie muster. All these children are invited to bring along the noisiest pots and pans and the loudest drums they can find, and they'll bang away with pot, spoon or whatever other makeshift noisemaker.

Their escort will be the Fanwood Colonial Guard, a group of fife-and-drummers from among the youth of our community. The Guard was organized by Mrs. Joan Dugan and is directed by Miss Robin Dugan.

For wonderful eats, friendly faces, and plenty to do and see - including a Fanwood talent show - come along to LaGrande Park this Saturday for a festive start of summer, 1975!

teaching many local children and has shared her knowledge of modern dance with the youth of the community.

Mrs. Maria Labasi was chosen for the honor by her fellow clubwomen in the Scotch Plains Junior Women's Club, of which she is Community Improvement Chairman, and First Vice President. Mrs. Labasi holds membership in UNICO and is a trustee of the Community Fund.

Mrs. Caroline Perkins founded the League for the Educational Advancement of Registered Nurses in March, 1974. She helped to organize the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Thrift Shop, is a past president of the Jayceettes and an Associate member of Two Worlds.

From the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Polly Kremer was the member recommended for Woman of the Year. Mrs. Kremer was editor of the "Know Your Town" brochure published by the league. She is advisor in Practical Politics for the State League of Women Voters and is active as a member of the Scotch Plains Planning Board. Mrs. Kremer was elected to a three-year term as Director representing Union County to the Board of

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Citizens Advisory Committee To Review Recommendations Of Engineering Firm

This week, every taxpayer in Fanwood will receive in the mail a questionnaire regarding the proposed municipal building slated for construction on the recently acquired Slocum property.

The packet which will accompany the four-question survey will include a statement from Mayor Ted Trumpp summarizing the Council's actions to date regarding the Slocum property and data on tax impact, plus a rationale of need for a new Borough facility. Further, each household will receive a copy of the Citizens Advisory Committee's report and recommendations to the Council. A summary of construction costs of the several options examined by the Advisory Committee will be included.

All questionnaires will be mailed out no later than May 30, and are to be returned by June 30 in the return envelopes provided.

The decision to proceed with the questionnaire was agreed upon at meetings of the Finance Committee, the Mayor and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

On June 4, a public hearing will be held at Borough Hall at 8:00 p.m. It has been suggested by Council that inasmuch as the letter containing the questionnaire and the background information will have been received at each home prior to this date, the June 4 hearing should serve to answer additional questions.

The Citizens Advisory Committee members will be present on June 4, and will be prepared to review the detailed recommendations and findings they received from the engineering firm of Benoist and Goldberg. This firm was engaged to provide the Advisory Committee with options for construction of a municipal facility at 95 N. Martine Avenue. The engineers came up with eight possible construction approaches.

Initially, when the Borough purchased the Slocum tract and home last summer, it had been felt that it might be possible to use the Slocum home, possibly adding on to it, as a municipal facility. However, detailed structural studies indicated that the building foundations could not support use for administrative and/or meeting use, and the Citizens Committee unanimously voted against this consideration.

The Finance Committee and Mayor Trumpp have now selected approximately 24 architectural firms to whom letters will be sent by May 29. The firms were chosen on the basis of letters of solicitation received from them, prior experience with them by the Borough, or some general knowledge of the firms. The firms are being asked to send,

if they have an interest, by mid-June. In their responses, the firms are being requested to supply data on the credentials of their principals, pictures of recent work and disclosures of any affiliations they may have.

A sub-committee chaired by Mr. Robert Thayer of the Citizens Advisory Committee will screen all data received. The sub-committee will then recommend not more than five nor less than three firms to the Council. The Council will then begin personal interviews with the architectural firms in order to select one for the Borough's building program.

The Council is becoming involved in the process of architect selection without commitment to a defined building program. It will only be upon completion of the public hearings and receipt of the questionnaires that the Council will make a final determination of the type of facility, if any, Fanwood will undertake.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Councilman Charles Coronella, will continue to hold the prime responsibility to develop reasonable courses of action and make responsible recommendations to the Council.

Town Officials At Conference

Deputy Mayor Noel Musial, township building inspector Jim McCann, and Senior Citizens Advisory Council members William Bahrey & Don DeNitzio attended the Princeton University conference on Housing for the Elderly. The conference, co-sponsored by the Princeton University School of Architecture & Urban Planning, the N.J. Dept. of Community Affairs, the N.J. Society of Architects, & the N.J. chapter of the American Institute of Planners, explored design criteria in housing for the elderly.

A report on subsidized housing in New Jersey was presented by a sociologist and an architect detailing the special problems faced by the elderly. Deputy Mayor Musial, an architect, said he was impressed by the research showing one of the most important criteria for project location was the availability of the site to activity points within the town.

The Senior Citizens Advisory Council will report on the feasibility of a Senior Citizen Housing project in Scotch Plains to the Town Council by Sept. 1st.

"Women Of The Year" Awards Go To Ten In Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Ten women from Scotch Plains and Fanwood were given the official designation of "Women of the Year" in ceremonies conducted at the reviewing stand during the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 24.

The awards were made in behalf of the Mayor and Council of Scotch Plains in conjunction with "International Women's Year," proclaimed by President Gerald Ford and International leaders for the 1975 year. Appropriately, a woman Council member, Councilwoman Anne Wodjenski, presented the certificates to the women, who were chosen from the membership of the organizations with which they are most involved.

Leading the list in the Number One slot here was Mrs. Bertha McGinn, a highly respected citizen of the Scotch Plains community who has made dozens of contributions to the quality of

life through her years of residence. Mrs. McGinn was chosen for the special honor of Mrs. Scotch Plains. Her election came from the membership of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. of which she is a charter member. A former member of the Board of Health, she is the Scotch Plains representative on the Psychiatric Clinic of Union County. Bertha McGinn is the widow of the late Dr. William McGinn, a beloved general practitioner who served much of Scotch Plains for many years. McGinn School is named for him.

Mrs. Mary Ann Moore was elected by Evergreen School PTA, of which she is Junior Safety Officer and Safety Chairman. Her willingness to help at all times and to open her home to all who need her were qualities cited by her fellow PTA members.

Mrs. Sheila Glor is a member of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council and is active in all aspects of Scouting, both on the local and Council level. Her artistic talents have been applied to

Board Of Ed. Will Meet

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold a special public meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 1975, at 8:00 p.m. at the Park Junior High School, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.