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ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

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## Petition Calls For More Tennis Courts

There is a definite lack of tennis facilities in Scotch Plains, Grace Bischoff told the Scotch Plains Township Council on Tuesday night. She represented 261 fellow tennis buffs who have recently signed a petition requesting four more courts to be built adjacent to the existing courts in Kramer Manor Park.

Mrs. Bischoff said a total of ten courts in Scotch Plains serve 3,400 badge holders. Regular court time is reduced by tennis team practices and by lessons and clinics, she indicated. A group of approximately 30 players were in attendance Tuesday night. Mrs. Bischoff said they had also attended a recent Recreation Commission meeting. The Commission indicated that construction would fall within the realm of the Township Council.

According to Mrs. Bischoff and the petitioners, the choice of Kramer Manor was made only because the players felt this would be the least expensive place to add courts, because there are fewer trees to be removed, there is adequate parking, and space. A further request in the petition seeks a study of future tennis needs, including lighting of some courts and practice areas for beginners.

Sid Keoughan followed Mrs. Bischoff. He offered charts, showing tennis facilities either built or budgeted in neighboring communities. Westfield had 18 now, eight of them lighted. An additional 12 are planned. Plainfield has 20, eight of them lighted.

Keoughan said adult tennis instruction has increased from 199 in 1972 to 287 in 1974, and tournament entries have jumped from 126 in 1972 to 287 in 1974.

## Fanwooders Return 1279 Questionnaires

The Fanwood Borough Council has tallied returns of its questionnaire on the possibilities of a new municipal building, and has found that a majority of respondents see the need for improved borough quarters.

The survey was mailed to 3,500 property owners. Of the 3,500, 1,279 responded, (a 36 percent response) with 870 of them acknowledging the need for improvement over the small old building on Watson Road which houses Council chambers, fire department, Rescue Squad, and police. The sampling was a good one, borough officials felt. Tallies were made by the League of Women Voters.

There were 359 who did not agree that a new facility is needed, while 26 percent had no opinion. Forty percent, or 517 property owners, registered favor for Plan 1A. Plan 1A calls for construction of a new municipal building on the Slocum property, to house all municipal services within the same building. In contrast to some other options which have been discussed at three public hearings, Plan 1A provides the same setback from the street as now exists at the old home. The house would be razed to provide space for the new facility, under 1A.

Another 49 percent (517 property owners) do not agree with the Plan 1A choice. Concern over costs was evident in many responses. 327 of these 632 are opposed to all six plans of-

Junior tennis instruction tallied 417 in 1972, 815 in 1974.

A third speaker recommended investigation of Green Acres funding.

Dominick DeCuollo addressed Council, complaining that his raise as plumbing inspector was only three percent, whereas other township employees got 7 percent. Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski said she had complained and was disgusted with the Board of Health on this question. She said the Board of Health had divided the yearly raise between Health officer Mottley and DeCuollo.

Thomas DeLuca of Jacobs Lane then questioned how Mottley could serve the interests of Scotch Plains citizens on the issue of Westfield's Environmental Center on Lamberts Mill Road, since he splits his time, serving Westfield in the same capacity.

Mayor Griffin said this is a complex issue, and the township is seeking a top expert to study the environmental effects of the Lamberts Mill facility.

An ordinance to post speed limits on Sky Top Drive was tabled, and police, Council and residents will meet on the issue. The county is trying to set higher speed limits there. Residents cited years of complaints on the dangerous curves on the quarter-mile stretch.

ferred. All of the plans fell within a price range of \$730,000 to \$832,000.

The Council is well aware that the survey indicated concern over costs. There were strong objections from many respondents on the issue of any potential tax increases.

The municipal complex will occupy three of the five acres of Slocum property. The remaining two acres would best be used for park land, in the view of 57 percent of the respondents. Other suggestions for use included a town pool, nature center, a museum, senior citizen housing, apartments, and industry. One respondent thought the two acres should be used for dog walking.

## Attorney Fees Draw Fire In Plains Council

For some months, Scotch Plains Councilman Walter Grote has been vocal in his objections to the monthly bill list, citing a \$60 hourly fees for non-retainer items by the new township attorney as the reason for his objections. Last month, municipal manager James Hausher

## Plan Public Hearing In Scotch Plains On Future Of Route 78

### DEMS Plan Listening Post Number Two

Want somebody to listen to you? Step right up, take your choice.

Heretofore, there has been a regularly scheduled Listening Post on the first Saturday of each month to provide Scotch Plains residents with a chance for informal conversation and questioning of their Council members.

Now, there will be not one, but two, different informal sessions per month, and they'll be rather political in nature, since one will be manned by the two Republican Councilmen in Scotch Plains, the other by the Democratic majority.

"Democratic Response" is the name of the newcomer. Mayor Robert Griffin announced Tuesday that the Dems had decided to introduce a monthly session with a different format because they have been displeased with the effectiveness of the Listening Post.

The Democrats plan to provide a report each month, giving an updating on the status of current programs and projects, in addition to providing taxpayers with an opportunity to inform themselves on concerns.

The "Democratic Response" will hold court in the Municipal Building on the last Saturday of each month. The Listening Post has always been held on the first Saturday. Democratic Response begins on the last Saturday in August - time is 10 a.m.

There was registration of concern over future use of the Watson Road site. Also, many who answered expressed question over architectural style to be used for the new building.

A choice of architect is in the works, and a Citizens Advisory Committee group studying architectural choices has narrowed down the field to six under consideration.

Mayor Ted Trumpp saw the response as a "fairly good mandate" to go ahead with plans for a new facility. Officials have expressed hopes of groundbreaking by March 1, 1976, with completion a year from that time.

submitted to Council a report listing fees and retainers paid to attorneys in several other municipalities.

This week, Councilman Noel Musial raised strong objections to Grote's pursuit of the attorney-fee issue. Musial presented verbally a seven-page account of retainers and fees paid to attorneys in communities in all parts of the state. Musial noted that Hausher's report had been made available to the press last

### Local Officials Complain Community Not Notified Of Proposed Scotch Plains Route

Route 78 strings along through the mountain communities, then stops dead up in Berkeley Heights near Runnells Hospital. It has long been expected that the route would continue through a portion of the Reservation. Now that route appears to be in question. Recently, and unexpectedly, the state Department of Transportation listed six possible alternative routes - one of them through Scotch Plains and following Route 22.

After complaints from local officials that the township was never even alerted that it could be affected by a new route, state officials have scheduled a public hearing here on August 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Scotch Plains Council Chambers.

The Scotch Plains Council registered formal objection to the proposed path and to the lack of advance information in a resolution passed on Tuesday night.

In other actions, Council introduced an ordinance which limits parking on portions of Park Avenue, Westfield Avenue, East Second Street and Bartle Avenue and establishes restricted parking on an additional portion of East Second.

Parking is already restricted on portions of East Second closer to Park Avenue. The new legislation would continue the two hour restriction further down, as far as Willow Avenue, with hours of restriction from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Some businessmen were on hand for introduction of the ordinance, which will have a public hearing in August.

Sal Lamastra, one of the businessmen, said some other businessmen encouraged their employees to park in front of other business establishments all day, thereby necessitating the restriction.

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## Planet Venus Will Put On Show In July

While we can only imagine the beauty of the goddess Venus, we will all be able to see the radiance of her planet, beginning July 21.

According to Prof. Patrick J. White, director of the Sperry Observatory at Union College, the planet Venus is orbiting closer to the sun and steadily increasing in brilliance. By July 21, she will reach one-third the brightness of the moon and maintain that glow for over one month. In celestial jargon, Venus will reach a magnitude of -4.2, Prof. White noted.

Venus will be clearly visible to all sky-watchers, Prof. White reports. Viewers will be able to see Venus low in the western sky beginning at sunset and continuing for about an hour-and-a-half. Venus will maintain this brilliance until August 27 when her orbit takes her behind the sun and out-of-sight.

In early September, she will reappear for the convenience of early risers. Venus will be nearly as bright as ever with a -4 magnitude during the early morning hours, Prof. White said.

"This is the most vivid appearance of the planet Venus and none of us should miss seeing it," Prof. White commented.

To enhance one's visual experience with Venus, Prof. White reminds the public that Union College continues to conduct regular Friday night viewing sessions at no charge at its Sperry Observatory. Weather permitting, Amateur Astronomers, Inc., the organization which jointly operates the Observatory with the College, assists the public in viewing through the 10-inch refractor and 24-inch reflector telescopes, among the largest in New Jersey.

For additional information about the upcoming appearance of Venus, Prof. White added, the public may call "Sky News," Union College's tape-recorded celestial information number. Those with questions may simply dial 276-STAR.

month before the Scotch Plains Council had had a chance to study it in depth. He said Hausher's list was only a partial report and did not include enough municipalities to represent a conclusive position.

Township Attorney Louis Markowitz prepared the report read by Musial. Musial pointed out that there are many ways to compare fees paid to attorneys, and that one must consider the services rendered by each municipi-

pal attorney under the terms of his retainer contract. Different municipalities compensate their attorneys in different ways, Musial noted.

A detailed report on the information presented by Musial will be included in next week's issue.