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## County Board Says Martine Ave. Not To Be Widened

For several years, residents of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood area have been very concerned over the possibility of county widening of Martine-Park Avenue. The majority of residents have expressed their desire that Martine Avenue remain at its present width, preserving the atmosphere and character of the communities through which it passes. From time to time, residents and officials have also expressed fear that the widening of the roadway would bring additional traffic, and that the road would become even more of a north-south corridor than it presently is.

Last spring, the Union County Planning Board held a public hearing for county residents on its 1974 master plan for county traffic. Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents were out in record numbers to protest the plan, which indicated widening of Martine/Park. There were hundreds of residents from all municipalities in the county on hand at the jammed series of meetings held in the County Courthouse in Elizabeth, most of them there to register opposition to widening.

Apparently, the loud voices of objection have paid off. Recently, the Union County Planning Board released a revised plan that eliminates most road widening recommendations. A September 3 public hearing has been planned, and copies of the new road proposals are being sent to municipalities.

Alfred H. Linden, county planning director, said massive public opposition to the recommendations had led to the changes. The planning board of Union County was forced to conclude that "county residents would rather have the inconveniences

and traffic congestion of smaller roads, than face the prospect of losing their trees," Linden said. The planners and engineers at the county level still see the need for widening in many areas of the county, but are aware of the hundreds of people who want to trade convenience for the status quo of trees and greenery, he noted.

Walter Gardiner, county traffic engineer, said the county planners had listened to hundreds at the public meetings, but had been equally surprised at the impressive number of letters received after the November 20th sessions. Gardiner said that, in response to public reaction, county planners had dropped most road widening projects which brought the most vociferous objections. He reminded county residents that the plan is just that -- a plan for future traffic patterns. Adoption does not mean that bulldozers will begin work immediately, he said.

Meanwhile, Scotch Plains officials begin to cast their watchful eyes northward, awaiting

## Quiet Board Meeting Greets New School Superintendent

### Cannister Drive On Saturday

This Saturday, July 26, young volunteers from Scotch Plains and Fanwood will be ringing doorbells all over town, seeking contributions for a Special Olympics Cannister Drive. The goal is to send Special Education children from here to compete in the National Olympics in Michigan.

more information on state intent regarding extension of Route 78. The controversial Route 78 now deadends on Plainfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights, just above Runnells Hospital. The highway, as originally planned, was intended to cut through a part of the Watchung Reservation, taking valuable county parkland. The parkland was in a wooded, undeveloped state, and the possibilities of eliminating any such land in populous, over-developed Union County has brought cries of protest from environmentalists, recreation enthusiasts and those who are inclined against development of park land. Now the New Jersey Department of Transportation, in an unexpected move, has announced that it is considering five possible alternatives to the original route. The original route is now called Route A, and it travels through Berkeley Heights, Summit and Springfield to the north of Surprise Lake, eliminating the area of Watchung Reservation which now houses Watchung Stables. Route G is the alternative of concern here. It travels south of the reservation, and would go through Scotch Plains, Mountainside and Springfield. As detailed on a map, Route G would take Route 78 southward along the west side of Plainfield Avenue. The highway would cut across above Blue Star Shopping Center, cutting south of Diamond Hill Road through the area now occupied by the county park across Route 22. The highway continues, following a path through Mountainside and Springfield, ending at a Route 24 connection in Springfield. The alternate G

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### Registration Dates For High School

The week of July 28 to August 1, has been set aside for Scotch Plains - Fanwood High School guidance department for student registration in Grades 10 - 12 who are new residents in the district. Appointments can be made through the guidance office by calling 889-4677 between the hours of 8 and 3. It is important that each new registrant bring his most recent report card on the day he is to be registered.

### Nagy Urges Use Of Muir School As Central Office Headquarters

In contrast to its high pitched, controversial meetings of recent months, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education found a bit of midsummer respite in the form of a relatively uneventful and quiet meeting last Thursday. Dr. Reigh Carpenter, who assumed the superintendency here earlier in July, was on hand for his first board meeting in an official capacity.



DR. REIGH CARPENTER

The future role of Muir School arose, with Joseph Nagy of Fanwood urging the board to make a decision on whether Muir is to be used or not as a central office headquarters. Nagy said the board is vacillating on the question, that a lot is left unanswered, and that in its present state the former elementary school on Plainfield Avenue is adequate in terms of heating ducts, rest room facilities, etc. Nagy accused board president Richard Bard of failing to exercise leadership on this issue because he is "challenged by Festa and Shanni." The reference was to two other board members, Frank Festa and Vincent Shanni, who have had strong questions regarding proposed expenditures for the updating of Muir. Festa, in particular has been outspoken in criticism of expenditures to convert Muir from school use to office headquarters.

Nagy urged that the board make a final determination of whether to use Muir or not, and to decide what would be done with the building in the event that it would not be used for offices.

Bard said that he is personally confident that Muir will remain as board headquarters, and that once all the argument simmers down, it will be an adequate facility. The building will be habitable and completely heated in September, Bard said. Acknowledging the need for restroom facilities, he indicated he hopes to see "dramatic changes" in number of such facilities.

Bard told Nagy that he is not intimidated by any board members, "regardless of what side they are on."

The board had been scheduled to vote on extending to fifth and sixth grades the new report card format now in effect in grades

one through four. However, Carpenter reported that the administration recommended tabling the vote and retaining existing report cards in grades five and six, until the administration and board receive citizen input and evaluations relative to the new formula.

Carpenter reported 134 enrollees in summer school, the first such sessions sponsored by the local Board of Education. Of the 134, 130 are taking at least two courses. There are 13 tuition-free students, who indicated inability to pay. The school will operate at approximately a \$2,300 deficit this year.

Robert Carlson, who is board liaison to Fanwood Borough Council, said Mayor Trumpp of Fanwood has indicated interest in having the citizens committee now studying new municipal facilities in Fanwood sit with Board representatives to discuss the possibility of joint facilities for Fanwood and Board central office accommodations.

In discussion of goals and objectives for the district, Board President Bard indicated that he expected to get all board members together soon for creation of goals and objectives. Michael Lauten, president of the Scotch Plains - Fanwood Education Association, asked if staff would be involved in formulation. The response was in the affirmative.

The Board adopted a new policy entitled "Board-Superintendent Relations," specifying board belief that its primary function is to develop policies under which the Superintendent and staff shall operate, and that the Superintendent, as chief administrative officer of the district, shall be free to manage various phases of the complete school program without interference, providing all policies are administered properly and efficiently. Furthermore, according to the new

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### Public Hearing

Fanwood Disposal Service has filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utility Commissioners for an increase in rates for residential solid waste collection in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

The public hearing in this matter shall be held on Thursday, August 7th, 10 a.m., at the office of New Jersey Board of Public Utility Commissioners, 101 Commerce Street, Newark.

## State Reminds Local Districts On Equal Opportunity Program

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Equal Educational Opportunity, has recently reminded school districts throughout the state of their duties in the area of equal educational opportunities. The reminder has necessitated several state-mandated steps which must be taken so that an effective Affirmative Action Program is implemented, following guidelines and within specific time limits.

The designation of an Affirmative Action Officer was mandated. Philip Geiger, who is Assistant to the Superintendent and handles personnel and public relations matters, has been named the Affirmative Action Officer. The district was also ordered to adopt a resolution of Equal Educational Opportunity and to file it with the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. Internal and external public relations is to publicize the resolutions of Equal Educational Opportunity and the naming of the officer.

The district is also ordered to survey present minority and female employment by department and job classification, under direction of the Affirmative Action Officer. A specific, measurable, attainable hiring and promotion goal system is to be set up, within three target dates, in each area where under-utilization of minorities and females are identified, with such plan to be filed by November 16, 1975.

The implementation of specific programs to achieve these goals and timetables is to be approved by the State Education Department, and an internal audit and

reporting system must be established.

In addition to the obvious effects of the new resolutions and state rulings, upon district hiring practices, there are specific regulations in many areas of board dealings. For example, henceforth, the district must notify all subcontractors, vendors and suppliers in writing of the Affirmative Action resolution, requesting appropriate supportive action on their part. Union officials must be similarly notified and invited to cooperate, and employment agencies, both public and private, must be notified. All advertising in the district must include a statement of district status as "An Equal Opportunity Employer - F/M".

The district is ordered to conduct special training sessions for members of the Board of Education, administrative, management personnel, faculties and others regularly to sensitize them to the kinds of employment barriers and stereotypes which hinder equal employment opportunity in the system.