

# THE TIMES

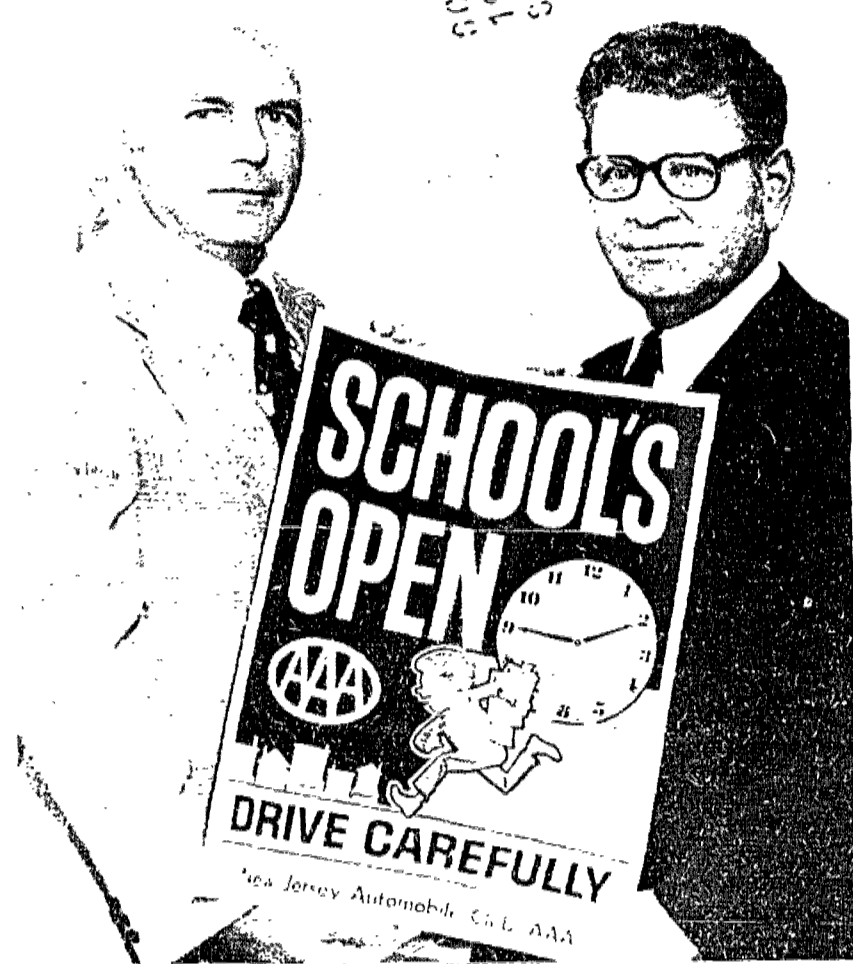
ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1975

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## A Reminder



Matthew J. Derkam, left, President of the New Jersey Auto Club (AAA), presents a copy of the 1975 "School's Open" poster to Scotch Plains Police Chief Joseph Powers.

Local police were especially helpful in posting the timely reminders throughout the community last week, cautioning drivers that the school's opening means more young pedestrians on the streets and cars for extra caution behind the wheel. The New Jersey Auto Club is the American Automobile Association affiliate serving Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

## Hydrant Painters Offered Choice Of Heroes And Locations

Do you think you have an idea of exactly what Eliakim Littell, Captain of the Jersey Blues, looked like in his Revolutionary garb? Have you a mental picture of Aunt Betsy Frazee, reluctantly discussing the giving of her freshly baked bread to British soldiers? If you do have a favorite, you may wish to get on line for the painting of a fire hydrant in the form of a Revolutionary figure. The Scotch Plains Bicentennial Committee, following closely upon the heels of Fanwood's successful fire-plug painting project, has announced a similar undertaking for the hydrants of Scotch Plains.

In Scotch Plains, hydrant-painters are asked to consider emphasizing the painting of people who figured prominently in local Revolutionary history - in contrast to Fanwood, where nationally famous heroes and heroines, such as Betsy Ross, George Washington, etc. have been fashioned from fire plugs. Fanwood already has Aunt Betsy Frazee of Scotch Plains fame, but the suggested list from Scotch Plains goes much further in delving into the history of the immediate surroundings for appropriate people to be created on the fireplugs.

The Scotch Plains Bicentennialists have not only issued a list of people who figured prominently in the Scotch Plains area Revolution . . . they have also included appropriate sites. For instance, William Platt, Captain of the First Regiment of New Jersey and an aide to Washington, lived at 1805 Front Street . . . so a fireplug in that vicinity would make the very best William Platt. Similarly, William Maxwell, a General, was located at an encampment site at Park and Front for six weeks, so the Maxwell plug might also be located in this vicinity. There are suggested spots in many

other areas of Scotch Plains for anxious artists.

Heather Markowitz has been named Chairman of the Plug-painting project. She is joined by Harry Messemer, Fire Chief, and by Mike Venezia, the man who started it all, with the introduction of patterns to the Fanwood Bicentennial Committee. Venezia owns Venezia Hardware on Terrill Road, and became aware of the patterns through one of his paint lines.

Hydrants in Scotch Plains will be painted on a "first come" basis, and applicants are requested to specify the hydrant they wish to paint at the time they receive kits from Venezia Hardware, 511 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains. Painters are reminded to obtain home owner's permission before painting a hydrant which is not located in front of their own homes.

Venezia points out that evenings will be getting too damp to paint. He estimates about a six-week period left before cold weather forces discontinuance. Therefore, prompt use and return of kits is a MUST.

There will be a minimum donation of \$3 for each hydrant pain-

## Citizens Debate Need For Tennis Courts

### Council Plans Study Of Health Board

The Scotch Plains Township Council is debating the merits of a move to downgrade the status of the township Board of Health from an autonomous Board to an advisory committee. Board of Health members received letters from Municipal Manager James J. Hauser, Jr. last weekend, alerting them to the discussions taking place.

Under its current status as a Board, there are three employees: a part-time health officer, a part-time plumbing inspector, and a full-time sanitarian. The health officer is Joseph Mottley. In addition to his part-time duties for Scotch Plains, Mottley is also full-time health officer for Westfield. The dual role has occasioned considerable question recently, since Scotch Plains and Westfield are at opposite ends of the pole in a controversy over the Westfield Conservation Center, a recycling area on Lambert's Mill Road in Westfield, abutting Scotch Plains neighborhoods. There are many who question a possible conflict of interest situation for Mottley, representing as he does the two communities in the dispute.

Scotch Plains is 2,000 people short of the minimum 25,000 in population necessary to qualify for state aid for a full-time health officer. However, combining with another community might make it possible to obtain such assistance.

Among the opponents of autonomous status for the health body is Councilwoman Ana Wodjenski, liaison to the Board of Health. She says the result is confusion, lack of communication and inefficiency. She favors a downgrading, which would make the body advisory, with the township manager then empowered to make decisions and hire personnel.

Such a move could come about through an ordinance and a vote at Council level. No official move in that direction has yet been made.

ted, and painters may decorate only the hydrant assigned to them. The painters may choose their own heroes or heroines, with a request from the Committee to try to honor local heroes first. Venezia is to be informed of the choice, and each hydrant will be appropriately lettered with the name chosen, with lettering of names to be done by the Art Committee following completion. When a hydrant is completed, the paint kits are to be returned to Venezia's hardware, with accompanying information on which hydrant is completed and ready for lettering.

The sets of paints are not to be lent or borrowed. Those interested are asked to phone Venezia, 322-8133, to reserve.

IDEAS:

### Number And Location Of Additional Courts Studied

Does Scotch Plains need more tennis courts? If so, is Kramer Manor Park the most desirable location? If not Kramer Manor, then where? Scotch Plains residents debated the pros and cons during a lengthy public hearing, scheduled by the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission on Monday night.

The Commission has under consideration a plan for submitting application to Green Acres for one-half the costs of four more courts, tentatively at Kramer Manor. In addition, consideration will be given to including court lighting and practice backboards in the application. Previous Green Acres bond issues provided matching funds for acquisition of property, but the most recent issue also permits grants for development of existing recreational land areas.

The plan, as outlined by Richard Marks, Supervisor of Recreation in Scotch Plains, would be to build four more courts, abutting and to the north of the four which already exist at Kramer Manor Park. The practice wall would be constructed behind the eight courts, in the eastern portion of the seven-acre park.

Close to 100 people were on hand to discuss the issue. Among them were tennis enthusiasts in ample number. The tennis players and many other citizens concurred that more courts would definitely be utilized. Players told of the frustrations of arriving home around 6 p.m. at night and driving from Kramer Manor courts to those at Green Forest Park, to those at Brookside, attempting to find an available court for an hour's play.

Players pointed out the problems associated with the current tennis "boom." Children are taking up the game in record numbers, according to Mrs. Grace Bischoff, who was instrumental in obtaining over 300 signatures requesting more courts in a petition she submitted to the Township Council last spring. She said enrollment in Recreation Commission sponsored clinics has jumped 90 percent in two years, and teams are on the increase, including both school teams and Recreation teams.

Mrs. Jan Solondz, who runs an annual youth tennis tournament, said she had 70 entries for tournament play this year and had to scramble around for courts.

The increase in popularity created a condition whereby one resident went to the courts three times last weekend, and despite going 40 minutes in advance in hopes of obtaining a court, she was unsuccessful.

One resident pointed out the income being derived from tennis enrollments - a figure which would increase with more courts. Another noted the preponderance of organized recreation for children, citing needs for more adult activities.

While there was virtually no argument about potential use for more courts, there were debates on other issues: is this where

all developmental recreational funds should go? Is Kramer Manor the appropriate location? Are lights a necessity? What would be the environmental impact?

Lee Williams of Washington Avenue, a resident of the Kramer Manor area, said he has four sons, and they and most of the children in the neighborhood do not play tennis. They favor basketball. They need more basketball stanchions, Williams said. He asked the Commission to fix up Kramer Manor Park so neighborhood children can have fun there.

Tatt Gray, also of Washington Avenue, said, "I like tennis, but you've got the pews in the wrong church." Tennis courts should be spread to other parks and areas of Scotch Plains, while improvements should be made to Kramer Manor. He suggested bike trails as well as basketball courts.

Other residents of the Kramer Manor area also argued for better recreational facilities there for kids. At present there is one basketball stanchion in the parking lot. Marks said another is planned. He mentioned that McGinn School nearby also has play space. Lee Warren of Evelyn Street said more and better defined parking areas are needed in the park, to get cars off the streets, where they constitute a threat to children.

Several residents of Scotch Plains argued favorably for Kramer Manor as the site for more courts. Only one supervisor for courts would be necessary if the eight courts are located at one spot, it was noted. Furthermore, people seeking court space would be saved from skipping around town looking at various locations. If another site were to be considered, William Mason of Oxford Road mentioned the possibility of the area behind the southside firehouse on Karitan Road.

About lights? A lighting expert spoke on the matter. Appropriate lighting would require 32 lamps on nine or ten poles. He said such lights can be appropriately screened, so that they do not affect homes and so that light spillage reaches only

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## Paddle Tennis Sessions Are Available

The YMCA of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is offering free paddle-tennis sessions during September.

For a free hour-long trial, and to arrange a free lesson, telephone the pool building - 889-8880.