# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANW

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## It's Official

The official badge of the Scotch Plains Bicentennial celebration was presented by Mayor Robert E. Griffin by Mrs. Dominick Di Francesco and Mrs. E. L. Terry, Jr., Chairman of the Evening Membership Department of the Scotch Plains Woman's Club and E.M.D. Representative to the Bicentennial Committee respectively.

The badge, in the form of a decal, is being sold by the Evening Department as a community project to help benefit the Bicentennial Committee. In the town's colors of royal blue on gold, the badge was adopted on September 18, 1962 by the Township. The crest of the badge is taken from the center section of the Township Seal, and is the wellknown Scottish Thistle used in the Royal Badge of Scotland. Encircling the thistle is the Scottish belt. The logo was chosen in honor of George Scot whom "Scotsplain" was named. Today the badge becomes a conscious manifestation of our civic pride and a declaration of our freedom.

The decals can be purchased for $1.00 each in local stores in Scotch Plains and Fanwood and from members of the Evening Membership Department of the Scotch Plains Woman's Club.

# Carpenter Trying To Meet School Budget Without Staff Cuts

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reigh Carpenter hopes to provide the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education with a detailed plan for meeting the deficit in the school budget for the current school year. That deficit has been estimated at varying figures over the past couple of weeks. Carpenter said the Board of Education members have addressed themselves to any number of possibilities for making up the anticipated deficits, but to date no definite approach has been agreed upon.

The local district will receive $197,138 less in state aid than had originally been anticipated. In addition, the district will be lacking $88,000 which it had planned on from state aid for debt service, but Carpenter said it is his hope that the State Legislature will clarify its position on the debt service area, reinstating such aid, since Carpenter feels moral commitments had been made in the past. Over and above the state aid cutbacks, Carpenter said the Board and administration anticipate deficits in accounts over which they have little control. He cited fuel, electricity, an unexpected jump in telephone bills due to the recent switchover to message-unit billing on commercial accounts, jumps in tuition paid to other districts for out-of-district placements, and big increases in legal fees due to an over-increasing backlog of pleas, appeals, suits, etc. These accounts might provide an additional couple hundred thousand in budgetary deficits, he said.

Foreseeing these deficits, Carpenter freezes budget purchases on September 15. All expenditures other than these already approved must pass Carpenter's desk for approval until the budget crisis is resolved. He has been receiving only about five orders a week for approval, he said.

Conservation of heat is an area in which the new Superintendent has already taken action. Heat will be set at 65 degrees during the regular school day. It will be turned to this level one hour before school opens each morning, and it will be turned down to 60 degrees an hour after school closes in the afternoon, remaining at the lower 60-degree level for evening activities at schools.

Carpenter hopes to make inroads in overtime work, and has ordered that substitutes for clerical personnel be approved.

Staff cuts is the one area Carpenter wants to avoid in reducing costs. He noted that teaching contracts mandate that staff must be notified 60 days before being laid off, which would mean that any staff cuts initiated now would become effective in early February. Therefore, the only savings realized would be half-year salaries. Since the lowest paid teachers would undoubtedly be the ones to be laid off in such an economy move, savings would be minimal, considering that the newest teachers make around $10,000 annually - or $5,000 for half a year's work. It would take a huge number of staff cuts to make a dent in deficits, Carpenter noted.

Carpenter addressed the question of a return visit by state evaluators, who recently visited Scotch Plains-Fanwood High and decided to pay a return visit for evaluation purposes next spring. Carpenter stressed that the high school has not lost certification or renewal. The certificate for renewal of state approval has been postponed until next Spring, and Carpenter said he has already written to County Superintendent James Clancy seeking written confirmation from him that there has been no loss of certification.

Committees are already working at Scotch Plains-Fanwood

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# Fanwood Boro Council Studies Restrictions On Motor Bike Use

## Proposal Would Limit Use Of Bikes On Main Thoroughfares

The Fanwood Borough Council will consider legislation restricting motor bike use in the borough. During an agenda-setting session of the Fanwood governing body Monday night, it was indicated that Police Chief Anthony Parenti favored amending the bicycle safety ordinance to include a section on motor bikes.

A recently enacted state law legalizes the motor bikes, and does not call for registration. Parenti has informed Council that state law requires only that operators be 15 years of age. Parenti feels motor bikes will pose a safety problem for borough children, replacing minibikes as a status acquisition for youth. Motor bikes are bicycles with motors attached. Some are commercially bought, others are homemade, and they may be driven at speeds up to 25 miles an hour.

The amendment facing Council on Wednesday night would prohibit operation of the motor bikes on all major thoroughfares, which includes both county roads and state highways. The law would require annual registration for $1, and would mandate the wearing of helmets. Hands would have to be on the handlebars during operation, batteries on battery pack models would have to appropriately encased, to avoid the danger of acid leakage from batteries.

## Survey On Elementary Progress Report

The Fact Finding Committee of the Joint PTA Council has worked since the beginning of September with Dr. Perry Tyson, Assistant Superintendent For Instruction, to develop a survey to determine parent preferences on the elementary school progress report. The survey will include questions on both the old and new report cards and the upcoming parent-teacher conferences which will include for the first time standardized test results. The survey will be distributed to parents during their child's individual conference in the one through sixth grade levels. The results will be forwarded to the Board of Education.

The Fact Finding Committee is a new special commitee which was formulated by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Joint PTA Council lsst spring. The aim of the committee is to gather and distribute objective information about the school system. The committee is comprised of five PTA members drawn from several schools in order to be representative of the community. The commitee members for the 1975-76 year are: Mrs. Ruth Gastel, Chairman, Mrs. Evelyn Whitehorn, Mrs. Ann Lipnick, Mrs. Jean Polzo, and Mrs. Penny Francis.

Fanwood is considering several possibilities for application of monies from a $1.5 million grant to Union County, under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 16 Union County municipalities will share the grant. Among the ideas being considered for Fanwood's application is the possibility of moving the Slocum carriage house to another site. Community leaders are also considering applying for funds to aid in the natural resource inventory currently being undertaken by the Environmental Commission. A ditch-digging machine which would be available to borough residents to aid them in digging rear-yard ditches for drainage reasons may also be a request, according to Councilman John Swindlehurst, who is the borough representative to the county group.

Swindlehurst also mentioned consideration of a detention basin for Fanwood. This is not to be confused with another detention basin being considered for joint benefit of Scotch Plains-Fanwood -Plainfield, and to be located possibly at Park Junior High and or School One. The Fanwood basin under consideration might be located at Forest Road Park, Swindlehurst said

## Council Seeks Grant For Design Services

Scotch Plains will seek $44,000 in funds from the Architectural and Environmental Arts Program of the National Endownment for the Arts, under a program called "Cityscale." Council approved a resolution introduced by Councilman Noel Musial last Wednesday night, during the regular monthly meeting of the governing body, held a day late due to elections. "Cityscale" is a program which focuses on elements in towns and cities which enhance the human scale of a community. "Cityscale" projects assist communities in improving their visual character.

Musial anticipates that such a Cityscale grant would be utilized for the design of the "little elements of our cities and towns that have an imporant value, often neglected. If the character of our living places is to be better than the mere sum of all the parts, every piece must be given sensitive attention," he said. Musial, who is an architect himself, cited benches, street lights, signs, plantings, paving, screenings as potential basic ingredients for a "humane and comfortable" community.

"Cityscale" does not provide the materials or the construction. The goal of "Cityscale" grants is to help communities plan for actual implementation by assisting in the design and promotion stages of projects." Musial said he envisions the central business district and the land adjacent to the Municipal Building as areas which might benefit from such a grant.

## Stage House New Ownership

The Stage House Inn, a popular and historic holstelry in Scotch Plains, experiences a change in ownership and in menu this week. Former owner Peter Kooluris has sold the Inn to a partnership of John Ferrara, Jr., Jim Ferrara, and Michael Henig.

During the changeover period, the Inn will be closed for a short time. It opens Friday evening, without a sandwich menu - and then provides full offerings on Saturday.