

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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Our Gang



Coles School children today were treated to an "Our Gang" movie on the subject of pedestrian safety. "Care in crossing streets" was the theme of the movie. The "Our Gang" club members adopted a slogan of "1, 2, 3 Go," stressing the need of looking all ways before attempting a crossing. Safety Officer Sgt. William Bedson of the Scotch Plains Police Dept. spoke of his job and how he hoped that he related in a positive way to the children he deals with.

L. to R. above are Thomas Keiser, Joseph Ettore, Mary Frances Malone, Courtney Schael.

Plains Residents Question Future Leaf Disposal Sites

About 75 residents from the northeast quadrant of Scotch Plains turned out at the Scotch Plains Township Council meeting on Tuesday to question the future plans for leaf disposal in the township. The residents, represented initially by Frank Anderson of 2539 Smith Street, said a recent order that the township close the present Lake Avenue site has led to rumors of plans to locate a similar facility in their neighborhood. They raised five points of objection: lowering of market values of homes; increases in traffic with potential danger to children and adults; air pollution and odors; a breeding ground for rats, rodents and vermin; and serious water drainage problems.

Township officials outlined recent problems with leaf disposal. At the present time, the township dumps leaves at two sites. One is on Lake Avenue, and is township-owned property. The other is leased on a yearly contract, and is located on Smith Street. Recently, the state ordered the closing of the Lake Avenue site, after inspecting it. The site was not licensed. It has been used for six or seven years. The licensing requirements was instituted by the state in the spring of this year, and officials indicated some question as to whether or how the township had been alerted to the new requirement. The township pleaded its case at the state level, and was given permission to continue to use the unlicensed Lake Avenue site only until the end of the current leaf-collection season. The township will run its final collection during the week of December 8, which means that the Lake Avenue site will be cleaned up, then permanently closed sometime after December 15.

Actually, the Lake Avenue site is filled anyway, according to Mayor Griffin. It had been anticipated that the facility would not

be used beyond this year.

Regarding future plans, the Mayor said such plans were indefinite, since the township is in the position of looking for another site, and does not now own property which could be used.

Councilman Walter Grote said that last year, the township attempted to acquire property on Fanwood Avenue through condemnation proceedings, with an eye toward a leaf disposal site. That purchase is still tied up in legal proceedings. When and if the legal situation is settled, the township would hire an environmentalist, Grote said. The environmentalist would stake out the site to determine its feasibility for leaf disposal. In order for a property to be used for leaf disposal, there must be a suitable spot for filling, he said.

When residents from the northeast area questioned why their neighborhood is being considered, Grote said the township would prefer to find a spot on the south side of town for dumping of southside leaves. Economically, it is more desirable, so that trucks do not have to haul cross-town, but at the present time no such sites are available. Leaf disposal is a very pressing prob-

Fanwood Municipal Building Cost May Reach \$1.3 Million

Final Fall Leaf Pick-Up

Starting Monday, December 8th, 1975 we will be making our last leaf pick-up in Scotch Plains.

All branches, limbs, rocks or other foreign material in leaf piles will not be picked up.

No Surplus For Schools, Griffin Says

If the Board of Education receives approval on a referendum for its state-aid deficit of \$197,000, the funds will have to come from levying of additional taxes. Mayor Robert Griffin stressed this week that the Township Council had placed into current accounts for this year's budget, surplus available at the end of 1974. This was done in order to defray the tax burden.

"I would like the public to understand . . . that this Council in 1975 put into current accounts surplus anticipated in 1975 of \$775,000 out of an anticipated surplus as of December 31, 1974 of \$884,860.04. That left an anticipated surplus of \$109,680.04. That surplus, if it can be maintained in spite of the fact that this township has been reduced in certain categories of state aid by approximately \$86,000, would be used next year to reduce taxes," Griffin stated.

lem, costing the township thousands of dollars annually, Grote noted. The state ban on burning enacted several years ago, has had a two-pronged result, he stated. Fewer people now suffer the effects of air pollution and resultant asthmatic problems, but town governments are faced with acquiring space for disposal in a manner satisfactory to residents.

Councilman Noel Musial said there are other alternatives under investigation. The township is considering the possibilities of trucking leaves to an out-of-town, county station. However, the resultant expense of hauling

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Mayor Trumpp Hopeful That Actual Total Costs May Fall Below The Estimated Figure

It appears likely that Fanwood may have a three-winged municipal building in its future. Conceding that there will undoubtedly be many changes between now and the time of construction, Fanwood officials nevertheless indicated general approval for the concept of a three-pronged building, designed by the J. Robert Hillier Group, a Princeton architectural firm.

Financial figures discussed at a work session last week indicated that the total outlay, including building, site work, and land, may run in the area of \$1.3 million. However, following the meeting, Mayor Ted Trumpp said he had questions about several areas of expenditure and/or sources of aid which may bring total costs well below the \$1.3 million mark.

The new municipal building, as designed by Hillier architects, would be located on 148,000 square feet of the Slocum property. The property was bought by the borough last year, with the intention of using the land, and possibly the old Slocum home, for municipal purposes. However, studies of the house indicated that it would need extensive foundation and structural improvements for use as a public facility. A citizens study group unanimously abandoned the idea of utilizing the old house, and recommended tearing it down and building a new facility. Consequently, the old home at 95 North Martine Avenue would be torn down prior to construction of a new building located near the Martine Avenue frontage. The design in an attempt to preserve green space, according to Steven DeRochi of the Hillier Group. He noted that saving of trees and retention of land on the slope toward Russell Road for recreational use were strong considerations in building design.

The three-pronged building is bi-level. It would have sloping rooflines and a cupola allowing natural light at the center point of the three wings. The main level would house administrative personnel, police and fire rescue squads - with each of these three units of municipal life occupying a different third of the building.

On the main floor, administrative offices would occupy one wing. Floor plans indicate space for a clerk's office, a treasurer's office, a building department, an administrator's office, a Council room, vault, reproduction room, and a health department. This is a single-level wing. Land is unexcavated below the first floor in the administrative wing.

Straight ahead as one enters

the building from the main entrance on Martine Avenue would be the police department wing of the building. On the main floor, space is indicated for an 80-seat meeting room for Council meetings and court room, offices for Chief, Captain and secretary, a records room, an identification room, a Civil Defense headquarters room, and small accommodations for evidence, arms, and a dark room, as well as a violations bureau desk.

Downstairs in this same wing, some space is for police use, some for use by fire company and Rescue Squad. In the police area, there is a training room, locker room, a juvenile room, storage, etc. This downstairs area also includes a 55-seat meeting room to be used by emergency services and by police, a kitchen, mechanical room and a Civil Defense office.

In Wing Three, a single-story area is designed to house fire and rescue apparatus. The fire engine area is designed with four bays, the Squad area for two ambulances.

According to Hillier, the three-winged building was chosen because it would appear as a "low, quiet building nestled in the trees." He said officials had favored this design over others in past work sessions.

Whence the \$1.3 million price tag? The building itself is estimated at \$675,000. Site work is estimated at \$156,000, design fees at \$69,000, police communication equipment at \$50,000, furnishings at \$50,000, and a 10 percent contingency at \$93,000. The land cost \$237,500.

Trumpp cited some of his questions concerning costs. He raised the question of how much of the \$93,000 contingency fee would be actually needed. He also questioned what income might be realized from the sale of the present municipal building site, jointly owned by municipality and fire company, to defray building costs. He further questioned what might be available in the way of federal and state funding. Police communications gear, for example, may be funded in whole or in part by

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