



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 19 NO. 1

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1977

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Mayor Wodjenski Outlines Goals

Ann Wodjenski assumed the Mayoralty of Scotch Plains on New Year's Day — the first woman to serve in such a capacity in Scotch Plains, and the first female to be a Mayor under a Council-Manager form of government in Union County history. However, she wasn't the only female taking the driver's seat for 1977, for just minutes after she was sworn in, outgoing Mayor Noel S. Musial made a presentation of a gigantic wooden gavel wrapped in gay red ribbons — a gift to Mayor Wodjenski from a cohort — Joanne Pappas, who was scheduled to be sworn in as Mayor of Springfield at the same time. Cranford was scheduled to swear in a woman a day later.

Mrs. Wodjenski, after reviewing needs of Scotch Plains, set intergovernmental relations as her first priority for 1977. Paraphrasing the cliché, "No man is an island," Wodjenski stated that "no community is an island; no community can stand alone." In that direction, she will seek periodic meetings between the government and the various levels of government, at home and elsewhere. She will attempt to have Council

set regular meeting dates with Scotch Plains boards and agencies, but also favors going out of town — "especially Fanwood, where a host of opportunities exist whereby both communities can work together to better serve our constituencies."

The new Mayor will try to establish regular sessions with the Board of Education for exchange thoughts, ideas, issues
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Trumpp Seeks OK On Safety Building

Mayor Ted Trumpp plans to seek approval of the Fanwood Borough Council for a new Public Safety building this year. Trumpp announced his intention in his January 1 speech, delivered during government reorganization. As Trumpp envisions it, the building would be on the Slocum property, and the house on the property would be razed. "The limit on what is done in this first step will be the dollars that are currently available for this project and will not require this year additional Borough borrowing," he said. He called the need for municipal facilities the borough's most pressing need.

The major thrust of Trumpp's opening remarks was directed toward the abundance of state-level rulings on expenditures by local governments, and the future with regard to sharing of services by municipalities. The state has imposed a spending cap of five percent on all municipal budgets, the Mayor pointed out, which insures that no Fanwood property can be taxed by any more than a five percent increase this year. However, he points out, the state has mandated that every municipality must now have a full time health officer, building inspector and plumbing inspector by 1978. He noted that Fanwood has, heretofore, been able to manage well with the help of willing citizens who have had expertise and desire to serve in these capacities on a part-time basis for a nominal sum.

One option is sharing of services. It is not in itself undesirable, Trumpp said, but he foresees the possibility of increased costs for essentially the same services. Scotch Plains and Fanwood will meet on sharing of health and building inspection services, the Mayor said, and Fanwood will also investigate arrangements with other municipalities. "Of course, whatever the outcome the loss of local services is a real one. We cannot expect a Scotch Plains building inspector for example to be as concerned with

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Bicentennial Baby

Deirdre Deignan was the first baby born in Fanwood in the Bicentennial Year — 1976. As such, she was feted, partied and photographed. She's one this week, and posed again for a birthday picture as the bicentennial year bows out.



Deirdre's "crowning" was but one of the many bicentennial activities undertaken by the Fanwood Bicentennial Committee. The two co-chairmen, Audrey Martin and Norma Clark, visited the Fanwood Reorganization Meeting on New Year's Day and presented Mayor Ted Trumpp with a scrapbook which reviews all the year's events. Trumpp was also presented with a large, colored photograph of the George Washington fireplug which he and his son, David, painted earlier in 1976.

Who Is He?



The man shown above is wanted in connection with the Dec. 21 bank robbery at Franklin State Bank, 2222 South Avenue, Scotch Plains. Scotch Plains police have provided the following description: white, male, early 20's, approximately 5'6" - 5'9" tall, brown, wavy hair, wearing waist length brown leather jacket, dark plastic rimmed sunglasses, dark hooded sweatshirt under jacket, carrying handgun, possibly automatic. Information should be provided to Detective Lt. Robert A. Luce, Police Headquarters, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Short Session For S.P. Council

Scotch Plains began its official year with a January 3 meeting which was very short in duration. The Council completed its agenda within about a half-hour.

During that time, the Council approved a resolution authorizing the February 8 sale of four municipal properties. They are: 175 Mountainview Avenue, 182 William Street, 2514 John Street, and 2620 Plainfield Avenue. A public sale will be held at 10 a.m. in the Municipal Building.

The Township Council also OK'd a move to seek county approval for a traffic signal at Martine Avenue and West Broad Street. The request would start the ball rolling in what will be a lengthy road to approval. Mayor Ann Wodjenski said she concurs with PTA people and police that a light is much needed.

Final approval was granted to a resolution reflecting new land use laws.

Mayor Wodjenski read a proclamation declaring January 22 National Ukrainian Independence Day.

PATH and State Transit Meet With Local Councils

Representatives of PATH, the state Department of Transportation, and county planning and traffic agencies spent three hours with representatives of Scotch Plains and Fanwood on Monday night, outlining the impact and the future for a PATH rapid transit system here. They addressed themselves to increased parking needs, increases in numbers of commuters, and the possibilities of a changed station location.

Alan Sagner, Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Transportation, indicated that PATH, a link from Newark to Plainfield, was approved three years ago by New York-New Jersey Port Authority commissioners and approved by the state legislature. The state conducted studies of the relative merits of upgrading the Central railroad (then the bankrupt line serving this area), studying three options: a "cosmetic" upgrading, an in-depth upgrading or electrification. After six months of study of alternatives, the state D.O.T. recommended to the federal Urban Mass Transit Agency that PATH would be the best alternative for mass transit in the Newark-Raritan commuting corridor.

Sagner said, "I am not here to say that PATH is not without flaws and that upgrading Conrail is not desirable, but these career people have concluded that PATH is the better alternative." Sagner noted that changing to an upgrading of Conrail

would necessitate going back to the drawing boards and starting over with studies, applications, and environmental impact studies.

Noting opposition from some quarters, Sagner said that Senator Clifford Case, a staunch opponent of PATH in comparison with upgrading of Conrail, is concerned with "Bronxification." However, Sagner said, the communities along the commuter line have built-up communities, already developed, and have destiny over what they want their communities to be, and power to keep them that way.

Nevertheless, in further informational discussion, a representative of PATH told Fanwood-Scotch Plains officials they could look forward to an increase from a current total of just over 500 daily commuters, to 1,000 daily commuters. Today, the local passenger profile indicates that 90 percent of the local commuters live in the two

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Take Office



Carol Whittington, above, takes oath of office for a second term on the Fanwood borough Council. Pat Dunne, her Democratic running mate assumes a Council seat for first time.