



SCOTCH PLAINS

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## When It Snows...

This is the winter that will possibly set records for cold temperatures. It's also turning out to be a winter of snowstorms. There have already been three decent-sized snowstorms, which have brought out the plows and the sanding trucks ... and every prediction points to more ahead. For kids, snowstorms are a source of unrestrained delight — usually a holiday from school, with lots of opportunity for sledding at good hills at Scotch Hills Municipal Golf Course and at every little rise or mound in the neighborhood. For homeowners and employees, there is often much less enthusiasm. Snow means plowing, shoveling,



Snow is lovely, as it drifts and swirls around some of the more scenic spots in Scotch Plains-Fanwood. It's fun, for the sledders at Scotch Hills. It's a horror for the Public Works employees in the two towns, who work through the night trying to get streets back to normal.

Photos by Reflections

dangerous driving. However, for pure out-and-out problems, the Public Works Departments of Scotch Plains and Fanwood are the source of the loudest groans when the pretty white flakes start to fall. Snow, for them, means a round of very hard work.

Ray Manfra is the Fanwood Superintendent of Public Works. Whatever the hour, he's alerted by the police department just as soon as there is two inches of snow on the ground and snow is continuing. It's the same story for Fred Lombardo.

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## Fanwood Seeking All-Purpose Building

Initially, it was announced that the Borough of Fanwood was applying for Union County Community Development Revenue Sharing funds for construction of a Rescue Squad building. That application for \$80,000, it was later said, was revised to include a health care building at \$110,000, which would provide Fanwood with space for health offices, dental clinics, etc. However, early this week, it appeared that the borough application seeks funds for a community building, which would be used for clubs, Scouts, Senior citizens, etc. — but not for a single one of the needs outlined by borough officials time after time.

The borough needs new accommodations for police, fire, rescue squad, and municipal offices, and attempted to build a new building on the Slocum property last year to house all these facilities. That building went down on a referendum, after which Fanwood applied for the total costs of a duplicate of that building under federal Public Works funding. In case the Public Works funds didn't come through — and they didn't — the community sought funds from the C.D.R.S. as well.

Fanwood's bid from the Union County Community Development source is for \$85,000. It would provide a multi-purpose and health care building which, according to Fanwood C.D.R.S. representative Joseph Steiner, would cost a total of \$172,700 for construction and

one year's operation. Steiner noted that the \$172,700 includes \$20,000 for equipment already owned by the borough, and \$20,000 for land. If the borough provides free borough land, land costs would not be necessary. Steiner said only the building — construction, grading, architecture — would cost \$100,000.

Mayor Ted Trumpp was asked why Fanwood seeks such a building, when it will not help any space needs. He replied that he had not known that such a building could not be used for any municipal facilities. He had thought it could be two-story and police offices could be located upstairs.

Meanwhile, the Fanwood Rescue Squad continues vocal and determined in its push for

## Budget "Cap Ceilings" Headache For Budgeteers

### Residents To Meet On PATH

Homeowners from the vicinity of Terrill Road and North Avenue are planning a meeting to investigate the potential impact of PATH commuter service, and its associated parking and traffic problems, upon the community of Fanwood. They have reserved the Fanwood Community House at the railroad station for the evening of January 27, and plan open discussion. All citizens of Scotch Plains and Fanwood who are interested in the PATH issue are invited to attend the meeting.

### Dance Marathon

The Fourth Annual Round-the-Clock Charlie Newman Fund Dance Marathon will be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 8:00 p.m. on January 29 until 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 30.

Students from the high school, junior highs, and Union Catholic will be dancing for a total of 20 hours. The dancers are sponsored by friends and neighbors, who pledge a certain amount for each hour of dancing.

There will be door prizes awarded, including a stereo system. Celebrity guests will be on hand — including Jim Kerr and Howard the cab driver.

### Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 13 — Regular agenda session of Bd. of Education, Bd. Administrative Offices, Plainfield Ave., 8:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 13 — Regular caucus meeting of S.P. Township Council, Rm. 204-206, S.P. Municipal Bldg., 7:30 pm

Monday, Jan. 17 — Regular monthly meeting, S.P. Planning Board, Council Chambers, at 8:15 pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 — Regular monthly meeting, S.P. Township Council, Council Chambers, S.P. Municipal Building, 8:30 pm.

its own facility. The squad wants to build its own building, funded by its own fund drive, but wants the borough to donate a piece of Slocum property. The

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Municipal budgeting can certainly be compared to household budgeting. The man of the house made \$25,000 last year ... and this year he'll make \$26,500, let's say. However, the family expenditures have increased far more than what's left of that \$1,500 raise, after taxes and deductions. So it is with the governments of Scotch Plains and Fanwood ... and the school district as well. However, the three public agencies have a new twist in their budget building sessions this year — the state-imposed "cap ceiling" on spending, and it is creating headaches.

Scotch Plains may now increase its appropriations for 1977 by only five percent. To arrive at that figure, they may increase appropriations by, the budget builders figure total appropriations, then exempt state aid and other revenues that have matching appropriations, as well as the reserve for uncollected taxes and the debt service portion. What remains may be increased by only five percent. In Scotch Plains, the figure of increase will be about \$155,000.

Does this mean that town taxes will increase by exactly five percent for 1977? No. Revenues come into the picture, too, and whether revenue go up or down determines whether taxes for municipal purposes go up or down from the five percent appropriations ceiling.

Township Manager James Hauser and Treasurer Dennis O'Neill painted a grim picture of

trying to meet public expenses under the cap ceiling limitation. Salaries represent a major chunk of municipal spending. Logically, they should be held at five percent to remain within the five percent cap. However, the township is already committed to six percent more for Public Works, on a three-year contract.

As a matter of fact, the entire Scotch Plains "cap" is already spent, according to Hauser and O'Neill, in three areas: known increases in utility costs, health and liability insurance, and state pension fund increases.

Hauser expressed strong irritation at the state imposed cap, because, in his view, there is no corresponding effort at the state level to control spending to a five percent ceiling. He notes that while the state feels free to impose the cap, the state's own

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## Scotch Plains Takes Westfield To Court

Scotch Plains Township Council has filed formal court complaints against Westfield officials in yet another move to eliminate what Scotch Plains authorities feel are hazardous health conditions at the Westfield Garden Recycling Center on Lamberts Mill Road.

In a dual action this week, Scotch Plains filed complaints in the Westfield court charging that Westfield officials are violating their own community's air pollution ordinance, and in the Scotch Plains court, claiming the same authorities are violating Scotch Plains' water pollution legislation. The affected officials are Westfield's Mayor, Council members, Public Works Administrator, Business Administrator and Engineer.

Scotch Plains took the action swiftly this week — without awaiting word of any resolution of a recent consent judgement presented to Westfield by the Attorney General of N.J. Last year, Scotch Plains had filed suit with the Attorney General seeking state intervention. A consent judgement seeking commitment from Westfield to meet specific conditions was filed recently. Scotch Plains Manager James Hauser doesn't know

whether Westfield has complied or not.

Why the fast action? "Some major conditional changes must have occurred there in the past three weeks," Hauser said. He said the health department and his own office have been deluged by a virtual epidemic of complaints of serious respiratory discomfort. "We're averaging ten calls a day — people claim they're choking," he said.

Complaints are not new — just more frequent and severe, Hauser said. Since the center opened three years ago, homeowners who live in Scotch Plains but adjacent to the Westfield Center have complained of odors from composting leaves — odors so strong they are no longer able to use pools, patios, yards and outdoor living areas. Others have claimed significant

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