



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 19 NO. 3

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1977

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## Off To Inauguration



James Curry takes a look at his invitation to Jimmy Carter's "People's Inaugural." Photo by Robert A. Luce

Washington's laying out the red carpet this week... and among those who'll be trodding upon it is James F. Curry of Fanwood. Mr. Curry — a thoroughly engaging senior citizen with far more than a hint of Irish brogue and a wit to match — is proudly displaying an invitation to the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale.

Curry is one of the 300,000 U.S. citizens to receive a special bid to attend the inauguration and related week-long festivi-

ties. Curry isn't too sure just how he got on the mailing list, but he figures maybe his name

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## HUD Funds Likely For New Fanwood Bldg.

Joseph Steiner, Fanwood representative to the Facilities Subcommittee of the Union County Community Development Committee, foresees a strong possibility of favorable action on Fanwood's funding request. If approved by a subcommittee, the Fanwood application would be forwarded to the full committee with a recommendation for an OK. It would give Fanwood \$85,000 for a new community building.

Last week, it had appeared that the funds could only be used for a community type of building. While this is still the case, further questioning and investigation now indicates that the HUD funds could be utilized, with matching community funds, for the community portion of a building. Then, the municipality could add to this same building to meet additional needs.

In other words, a building would be built from HUD funds for such community activities as senior citizens, Scouts, training sessions for Rescue Squad and fire company, counseling services, etc. The building would include a large community meeting room. However, the HUD funded portion would not be for municipal purposes. It would not house Rescue Squad and Fire vehicles, a police department, municipal offices or a Council chamber.

Mayor Ted Trumpp foresees that with funds available, the borough can probably combine the two needs and fulfill the desires of all concerned to provide facilities. Trumpp had expressed intent to build a Public Safety Building in his January 1 address. This week, he said that would be possible — storage for vehicles, and police department — from monies now available.

He cited about \$350,000 from surplus for capital projects.

The final committee vote takes place on February 3, with HUD approvals coming in July. Steiner foresaw no problem with planning the building, design work, etc. and felt that, with approval, it might be possible to break ground by October.

Last week, when the Fanwood Borough Council met for its regular January session, Jeffrey Manuel of the Rescue Squad addressed Council with a reminder that the Squad position remains crucial, in light of the fact that a new ambulance arrives in March, with no adequate housing for it now available. Manuel says the Squad is committed to continuing service to Fanwood for the \$1 a year contract which has existed, but repeated a plea for a piece of land, upon which the Squad would build its own facility. "We feel we could put up the building. We have the talents, resources, and have had many offers." He asks \$7,500 from borough funding to get the project started, then eventually turn the building back to Council for \$1. "By the time a larger complex gets off the ground, it will be a year," Manuel said, citing damage to the new ambulance if it has to be kept outdoors.

## Brrr! Sc. Plains-Fanwood Shivers Thru Cold Week

### Decision Posponed On School Closing

The Board of Education will not make any decisions on reduction of elementary facilities at tonight's regular monthly meeting of that body. The decision has been postponed another month. During an agenda session held last Thursday night, it was indicated that the Board will not take up the question of a school closing until after formulation of the 1977-78 budget.

"Is it a postponement or are we eliminating the school closing issue this year?" Board member Richard Bard asked his cohorts. It was suggested that there will be a vote taken and a decision made sometime within the next couple of months.

### Remove Bicentennial Plates

Special bicentennial bicentennial plates, issued for 1976, will be illegal after February 1. Police departments in both Scotch Plains and Fanwood have issued reminders that these plates should be removed by that date.

### Calendar

Thursday, January 20 — Board of Education, regular monthly meeting, Terrill Junior High, 8 pm.

Thursday, January 20 — Fanwood Board of Adjustment, Fanwood Borough Hall, 8:00 pm

Tuesday, January 25 — Bd. of Ed., Committee of the Whole Meeting, Receive-discuss 1977-1978 State Aid figures and budget CAP information.

Wednesday, January 26 — Committee of the Whole Meeting, Budget Work Session.

Councilman Charles Coronella told Manuel that Council is aware of the housing problem and dedicated to finding a solution.

In other actions, Council rejected bids for an animal warden, which came in too high.

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Cheer Up! You Could Be: Crossing Guard, Skating Rink Attendant, Gas Station Man, or Squirrel. They're Colder.

At 6:00 p.m. on Monday night, the thermometer reading on the electric thermometer at Elizabeth Federal Savings on South Avenue in Fanwood greeted homebound commuters with a bleak five-degree reading. Earlier in the day, as those same commuters struggled stationward muffled deep in scarves and earmuffs, the thermometer read 35 below.

Around the corner, across La Grande Park, strings of brightly colored Christmas lights bobbed to light the way for heary skaters. Despite radio warnings of frostbite potential, there were three brave skaters on the ice-rink attendant Bud Hassett and two youngsters. With a pot-bellied stove going inside the warming shed, Hassett chose to skate instead. A hockey enthusiast, he claimed it was warm after a few rounds on the ice.

Earlier in the day, the excessive smoke from the pot-bellied stove led a passing motorist to turn in a "house on fire" report for the corner of Second Street and LaGrande Avenue, bringing out Rescue Squad, Firemen, and police.

Temperatures hovered near zero through mid-week, bringing with them empty streets, stalled cars, chilly houses, and ever-higher fuel bills.

— In Scotch Plains, at the Municipal Building, four or five police cars sat with hoods up on Monday morning, mute testimony to the fact that even police aren't immune to cold weather. Across town, on the south side, traffic piled up for blocks as parents tried to spare kids the rigors of a cold walk, driving them to Terrill Junior High and Coles School. Midway through the school-hour rush, two vehicles sailed into each other just at the Terrill exit, causing even greater jams.

— At Fanwood Hardware, people were looking to buy rock salt and de-icer. The local A&P has been out of rock salt since last week, and the Fanwood Hardware proprietor was telling customers they'd have an impossible time finding any anywhere in the neighborhood. He was also reminding them that changing furnace filters once a month or so in the intensive colds helps keep the heat coming up. Other hardware store requests included scrapers and heating tape for frozen pipes.

— Among the many things freezing this week were traffic signals and fire hydrants. Fanwood Safety Officer Joseph Peterson reported that he had

been awakened from a warm bed at 5 a.m. on one of the chilly mornings, because a light at LaGrande and Martine was malfunctioning due to cold. He got up, out and switched the signal to standby. Peterson also said that Elizabethtown Water Co. checks hydrants daily, and had reported that seven hydrants in Fanwood are frozen — a dangerous situation! As far as accidents go, Peterson said statistics in unusually cold and icy weather are surprising. People tend to slow up and drive



Pearl Carter, a school crossing guard at Westfield Road-Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains has a chilly job these days. "I have to keep walking to keep warm," she said.

Photo by Robert A. Luce



That's Cold! Center of Fanwood — 7:45 a.m., January 18.

Photo by Robert A. Luce

carefully, aware of danger, and therefore there are seldom noticeable increases. However, police

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