



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 19 NO. 5

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1977

15 CENTS

## A "New" Heating Source



Here's one approach to "alternative" heating sources... Snuffy's has resurrected three old pot-bellied stoves from their storage rooms. Here's hostess Lee Labenski, trying to keep warm.

## Local Officials Gear Up To Enforce Governor's Energy Legislation

If the energy crisis becomes severe enough to necessitate shut-off of gas or other energy sources to private homes, Scotch Plains is ready. Township Manager James Hauser outlined measures being taken here to insure compliance with Governor Brendan Byrne's emergency legislation, requiring cutbacks in heat.

Hauser said the Civil Defense personnel of Scotch Plains have readied a plan for evacuation and housing of residents who lose home heat. The township is now in a position to provide shelter for up to 24 hours. During this week, residents requiring housing would be

located at Scotch Hills Clubhouse, and over weekends, when the clubhouse is often reserved for social activities, the people would be moved to Green Forest Park.

Hauser said residents who eventually may require such

Continued On Page 3

## Good Turnout For PATH Meeting

Two weeks ago, several homeowners from Fanwood expressed concern over the possible impact of PATH commuter service upon the community. They arranged a community meeting — an informal session, at which residents could discuss the new service and discuss ways to oppose it if they saw fit. On a frigid zero-degree night last Thursday, approximately 70 people turned out for the session. Walter Appel of Scotch Plains — an originator of the "Stop PATH" group, addressed the gathering.

Related article on PATH Station locations on page 5.

Appel is a strong opponent of the PATH subway system. He outlined his four major areas of opposition:

1) Cost. Appel cited the \$16 million-per-mile costs as absurd. He noted that the federal government now favors consolidation of the railways of the

northeast, whereas PATH represents a completely new kind of commuter service, not compatible with other lines.

2) Isolation. Once PATH is built here, the cars will be unable to travel on any other regular rail lines because they are incompatible due to size and propulsion.

Continued On Page 2

## S.P. Community Fund Holds Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Scotch Plains Community Fund will be February 7, 1977, at 8 p.m. in the Scotch Plains Public Library Meeting Room.

Anyone who has contributed to the Fund during the current campaign is a voting member and invited to attend.

New Trustees will be elected. The nominees include: Mr. George Kuhn, local CPA, Mr. Donald Foster, Editor of the Times, Mr. Gayle Hanna, Personnel Director of Bergen Community College, and Mrs. Bernard Silbernagel of the Christian Education Department of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

The Agencies we help to support include three recent additions: Contact-We-Care, the telephone listening service, Resolve, and Union County Psychiatric Clinic. Remaining on our roster are: Youth and Family Counseling Service, Jewish Community Center, N.J. Assoc. for Retarded Citizens, United Family and Children's Society, Red Cross, YMCA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Rescue Squad, CYO, Two Worlds and Cerebral Palsy, bringing our total to fifteen agencies.

## Health Officer Notes School Absence Rate

There is excessive absenteeism in Union County schools, according to the state health department. Scotch Plains Health Officer Melvin Kramer said the absentee rate in the local district is also above normal. Kramer said that Park Junior High had the highest rate — 18 percent — of absenteeism on Wednesday. Kramer and school officials are monitoring.

Kramer asked parents to help inhibit spread of germs by keeping children at home when they evidence symptoms of illness, and by asking children to cover mouths when they cough or sneeze.

Kramer said he has not yet gotten identification of the illness now going around.

## GOP Meeting Postponed

The Fanwood Republican Club's regular February meeting has been postponed for a month. The regular March date will be in effect.

## S.P. Library

The Scotch Plains Library will remain open on its regular schedule.

## School Budget For SP-F? Try, Try Again Tonight

Does Scotch Plains-Fanwood have a tentative school budget yet? Welllll — the Board of Education thought it had voted, 5-3, on Tuesday night to OK a budget which would have held spending at exactly the "cap" ceiling imposed by the state. However, due to a parliamentary oversight, the 5-3 vote was never actually taken.

The Board wrangled for four hours. Close to midnight, in the 50-degree Terrill Junior High auditorium, the first vote on a tentative budget was taken. That vote was on a total budget of \$13,352,955 for current expense, \$84,400 for capital outlay, \$1,217,132 for debt service. The first vote was 4-4. Board president Darrell Brownawell is out ill, so Robert Carlson presided. He joined board members August Ruggiero, Larry Andrews, and Edward Spack in approval of this first consideration, which was over the "cap" by \$213,003 — with the difference to come from the surplus realized at the end of last year. Board members Vincent Shanni, Richard Bard, Thomas Fallon and Frank Festa voted no, so the 4-4 split negated the vote.

Second round. Richard Bard suggested the Board consider adopting a tentative budget of \$13,139,952 in current expense (capital and debt service to remain the same). In other words, Bard was suggesting a budget without dipping into surplus — right at the cap ceiling. The audience assumed this represented a swing over on Bard's part, and a subsequent 5-3 vote. Not so. Ed Spack voted against the reduced amount, which then yielded another 4-4 vote.

Finally, Spack asked for a reconsideration. Under Robert's Rules, the Board should have taken first a vote to determine whether it wanted to reconsider Bard's motion, then followed up with an actual vote on the budget revision he had proposed. Only the first vote to decide whether or not to reconsider was actually taken. Therefore, it's back to the cold auditorium again tonight for a second go-round. Brownawell is expected to be absent for a while.

What is the impact upon educational programs? Using the surplus would have allowed the following to be included, which will now be excluded:

**NEW EQUIPMENT:** interscholastic athletics, girls, \$1,000; district administration, \$10,000; maintenance of grounds, \$1,742; expanded cafeteria program, \$17,000.

**REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT:** girls interscholastic equip., \$4,000; boys' interscholastic equip., \$4,000; district administration, \$7,000; mainte-

nance of grounds, \$6,000. **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS:** boiler cleaning and inspection, \$8,500; fuel oil tank cleaning, \$1,000; roof repairs, \$5,000; electrical inspection, \$750; equipment rental, \$1,500; major maintenance projects, \$23,625. **LIBRARY BOOKS, \$30,000. STAFF SALARIES, \$91,886.**

With such a last-minute decision: there were no immediate identifications of where a \$91,886 cut in staff salaries would be made.

Even before removal of the surplus, there were cuts incorporated in the budget. Seven teachers were cut in K through 6, due to declining enrollments; two foreign language teachers at seventh grade, which eliminates seventh grade language at both junior highs; three other teachers, all at secondary levels, due to declining enrollments.

Further reductions include two high school teachers, one elementary physical education teacher, two secondary school custodians, and three teacher aides — two at the senior high, one for Special Ed.

From the audience, there was extensive comment on the cut of the physical education teacher, with parents praising the effectiveness of Project Active — a P.E. program at

Continued On Page 2

## Walt Baby Love At SPFHS



Walt Baby Love, a disc jockey for WNBC, did a great job publicizing the SPFHS Dance Marathon Sat. night. It benefited Charlie Newman — former football player injured three years ago. Walt did a guest stint here Sat. nite. See our inside pages for a full page of Marathon Shots!