

BUDGET DOWN BY 141 VOTES; PERRY, LARIVIERE, REILLY WIN BOARD SEATS

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15 CENTS

A Springtime Apartment



If you know a nice wren, who's looking for a nice wrenhouse, to raise a nice family of wrens, send her along to this lovely new apartment, recently constructed on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, in front of a certain realty office.

Board To Study Cheerleader Issue

Decisions on the cheerleading squad at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School have been held in abeyance by the Board of Education, pending an investigation of the legality of the selection process. Dr. Reigh Carpenter, Superintendent of Schools, acting at the direction of the Board, is heading the investigation. After many rounds of discussion with administrators, staff, and parents, Carpenter said on Monday that he plans to submit a report to a new Board of Education, following elections on Tuesday.

Final decisions on a new varsity cheerleading squad had been made at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High early last week. Many black parents sought opportunities for discussion with the superintendent following the tryouts, to discuss allegations of rigging and unfair selection processes. A group of approximately 150 black students and parents also appeared at the regular monthly Board of Education meeting last Thursday to protest publicly. The black parents seek new tryouts. The Board's action, in holding the completed tryout results in abeyance, also covers tryouts of all cheerleading, color guard, flag squad, and twirlers at all school levels within the district.

At Thursday's meeting, one parent, Marion P. Jones, claimed that black girls signed up to compete for cheerleading slots with an open mind, but she claimed judges were not fairly chosen, and the selection was fixed in advance, with judges having been given specific numbers of candidates who should win. "We don't mind losing fairly," Mrs. Jones said.

Mrs. Jones said that school principal Dr. Terry Riegel had stated at discussion sessions that he had not observed discrimination in the school, but Mrs. Jones claims it definitely exists.

James Mason, an English teacher at the school, also addressed the Board, calling himself the positive evidence of fixed elections. He said Karen

McDermott, advisor to the cheerleaders, specifically asked him to serve as one of the ten judges because she needed a black judge. Mason claimed the advisor told judges who she wanted on the squad and gave specific numbers of competing candidates. Mason said judges included the advisor's sister and he said that if McDermott could attempt to influence him, she could certainly influence a member of her family.

Ray Hilliard, another black parent, said that all students involved in tryouts felt they were unjust, prejudicial, and illegal.

The black parents anticipated receiving an answer by Monday of this week. Consequently, the black students and parents turned out in even larger numbers at a special meeting of the Board, held Monday night, but Superintendent Carpenter said there had been a mistake made in assuming the issue would be resolved, or recommendations made. Carpenter had met with administrators, the advisor, Mr. Mason, and others, but still had some data-gathering to do, and was not ready with a report to the Board Monday night. The Board did allow an informal discussion session with the concerned parents, after official adjournment. Hilliard spoke again on Monday, stating that the entire issue could have been avoided, and having black parents go through this type of

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Walter Van Hoesen

Walter H. Van Hoesen, 79, who had lived in Fanwood for 77 years, died on March 17 at Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains. Mr. Van Hoesen, retired chairman and president of R.F. Downing Inc., U.S. Customs Brokers and International Forwarders, lived at 90 Martine Avenue, Fanwood.

Mr. Van Hoesen was born in Brooklyn in 1897 and came to Fanwood in 1897 with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Van Hoesen. They made their home at 145 North Ave. where he remained until his marriage in 1921 when he built a home at 83 Farley Ave.

He graduated from Old School One in Scotch Plains and then attended Plainfield High School where all Fanwood children were sent. Upon his arrival in Fanwood there were only 350 residents, mostly along North and Martine Avenues. Active in local affairs Mr. Van Hoesen



was head of the election board for many years. At that time registration was made by a house-to-house canvas. There was of course only one board. He was twice the Democratic

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Egg Hunt On April 9

The Fanwood Recreation Commission Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9. Further details will be forthcoming in local papers and flyers, outlining times and directions for egg and picture contests.

ATTENTION KIDS

There is a FREE

GREAT ADVENTURE

coming

Details on page 24.

Election Returns

Voters went to the polls in rather sparse numbers on Tuesday, as driving rains had an obvious impact on voter-turnout for Board of Education elections. The electorate downed the budget by a very small margin — 141 votes — and chose Edward Perry, Bob Lariviere and Leonia Reilly as candidates for three-year seats on the school board.

The total vote on the current expense portion of the budget was 1279 no, 1138 yes. On capital outlay, there were 1241 yes votes, 1124 no. The defeated budget now goes to the combined governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The Councils will receive the budget within two days. They have 15 days to arrive at a decision as to what the final budget amount will be.

Superintendent of Schools Reigh Carpenter said he will recommend to the two Councils that they schedule a public input session, seeking citizen reaction to what the final budget figure will be, and to determine areas of the budget to be cut. The Councils make a determination of the final budget figure, after defeats, but are not permitted any authority to say where cuts should be made. The Councils have the option of either cutting the budget or leaving it as it was presented to the electorate.

Once the Councils set a figure, the Board of Education has the option of choosing to live with the figure determined by

the governing bodies, or challenging cuts by an appeal procedure to the state Commissioner of Education. Both choices have been selected here in past budget defeats.

"Now, with governments and Board of Education operating under the Sunshine Law, I think the Councils should meet as a joint group with the public," Carpenter said. He felt there was a very strong political influence in the Scotch Plains defeat of the budget. Mayor Anne Wodjenski had urged the Scotch Plains electorate to oppose the budget in her municipal budget message, which was distributed two weeks before the election. Other members of the Scotch Plains Council were vocal in their criticism of the budget. Scotch Plains voters downed the budget in seven of eight election districts, yielding a total vote of 958 no, 790 yes on the current expense portion.

Traditionally, the Borough of Fanwood has provided stronger negative voting patterns in

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Parade Will Go "Backwards" This Memorial Day

After many, many years of a traditional Memorial Weekend parade for Scotch Plains-Fanwood, tradition will change just a bit this year. Don't be confused, folks. Line up on your curblines on Monday, March 31 — Memorial Day. Line up an hour later than usual... and if you used to look right, watching for the parade to come along, this year look left, or vice versa.

Into each life, some change must fall, and this year the parade will be going "backwards." In other words, it will originate at the monument at Park Avenue and Front Street in Scotch Plains, and travel south along Park-Martine, ending at LaGrande Park, Fanwood.

In past years, the parade originated with memorial services and placement of wreaths to honor war veterans at the Fanwood Memorial Library, then went north, to Scotch Plains. The new parade route has been arranged to accommodate the Fanwood Community Picnic, which is fast becoming a tradition itself. The Recreation Commission-sponsored activity, chaired by John Philips of Fanwood, features day-long entertainment, contests, pony rides, old-fashioned games, refreshments, etc. Although the parade will officially end at the park, Philips said the Veterans of Foreign Wars, sponsors of the parade, will conduct memorial services at the library some-

time during Memorial Day morning.

The parade will begin at 10 am in Scotch Plains, preceded by services at 9:30 am. Philips said there have been some indications of possible interest on the part of Scotch Plains, in joining in co-sponsorship of the Memorial Day community picnic. While no decisions or commitments have yet been made, Philips said discussion will be held on this issue.

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