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# THE TIMES



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## Real Estate Signs A "No, No"



Photo by Robert Luce

Real estate signs carrying commercial identification or promotion of firms are now a "no, no" in the borough of Fanwood. The Borough Council recently enacted legislation limiting the type of real estate sign which can be placed on Fanwood properties. Only owner signs, indicating "house for sale, inquire within" or listing a telephone number can now be used. Those bearing identification of realty companies are no longer permitted.

## "For Sale" Signs Challenged

These commercial real estate signs are a "no, no" right now in Fanwood. Last month, the Borough Council enacted legislation prohibiting commercial signs in the borough. A group of 11 Scotch Plains-Fanwood realtors had petitioned for the ban on commercial signs, citing a desire to "keep Fanwood beautiful." Now, the Plainfield Area Board of Realtors has threatened to challenge the ban. The Plainfield claim says that the U.S. Supreme Court has rendered decisions which make the ban illegal. Fanwood Council members feel the ban will withstand court scrutiny, and plan to await further action from the Plainfield Realtors.

## Planning Board Denies Wiener King Request

The Fanwood Planning Board voted last week to deny a request from JED Associates to establish a Wiener King fast-food restaurant on South Avenue, between the Walker office building and Church used car lot. The Board voted preliminary approval to subdivide the property, as requested by JED Associates, but then denied approval of the site plan for a restaurant of that nature at the location, and also denied requests for variances for signs which would have been larger than permitted by law.

JED Associates asked that two lots between the office building and the used car company — one 100 feet in frontage, the other 50 feet wide — be reversed in position, so that the 100-foot lot would be next to Church's instead of next to the Walker Building. This was favorable to the planners.

The question of a fast-food operation brought extensive testimony. Patrolman Howard Jarvis testified for the police department, as Traffic Safety Officer. Jarvis visited several other Wiener King establishments located on highways elsewhere in New Jersey. He said

that, in his view, they were not as active or as large in volume as a Burger King or a MacDonald's. Jarvis also presented data on traffic patterns and accident history in the area, including the busy parking lots of A&P and Hubbard's Cupboard.

At the request of the Planning Board, Police Chief Tony Parenti spoke on the possibilities of a Wiener King becoming another gathering spot for youth

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### Calendar

Tuesday, August 16 — Scotch Plains Township Council, monthly meeting, Council Chambers, 8:30 pm.

## Afraid Of Lightning? You're Not Alone!

Last Friday's severe thunder and lightning storm here scared plenty of people. It also scared at least one dog. Police in Scotch Plains reported that a large white German shepherd, who was alone in his Harding Avenue home, became so frightened of the intense storm that he crashed right through the front picture window, then made his way north to Route 22, and crossed the highway in traffic and rain.

Meanwhile, at home across Rte. 22, Patrolman Howarth was taking care of his pre-school children while his wife was out shopping. He had the wooden front door open, with a jalousied storm door projecting the house during the rainstorm. Suddenly, Howarth noticed a visitor at the front door — the large German shepherd, rearing against the door and pawing its way into the house. Howarth quickly closed the main door to avert an unexpected visitor.

Roxdane Kennels picked up the panicky animal, and by the time he was delivered to headquarters for pickup by his family, he was very much at home, shaking hands, and wagging his tail at his friendly police force.

## Trumpp Favors Consideration Of Solar Heat

Fanwood Mayor Ted Trumpp wants to investigate the possibilities of solar heating for whatever building plans the Borough may come up with. Trumpp said he had read during the past week that President Carter's energy plan provides funds for municipal buildings, nursing homes, and schools to receive grants for provision of solar heating in renovations. Trumpp expressed hope that the same principles may apply to new construction, and that the municipality may be fortunate in obtaining some type of grant for the new heating approach.

"Besides the initial grant, the long-range savings would be very desirable," the Mayor stated. "Over the life of the building, a solar heating system could really save taxpayers' dollars, particularly in light of ever-increasing oil and energy prices."

## Meeting Cancelled

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Education — an agenda session of August 11, and a regular monthly meeting of August 18 — have been cancelled.

## S.P. Council Debates New Park Design

The Scotch Plains Council spent last Thursday evening debating over arbors and trellises, kiosks, and used-brick crosswalks. The Council members met with Michael Cunningham, an architect with the landscape architectural firm of M. Paul Friedberg. In question were designs for the new passive park, which will adjoin the municipal building. Initially, the designs and accountments were received with favor by Council. However, reality hit in the form of costs.

Financial figures for the mini-park had been set at \$150,000. However, the park as designed by the firm, would run \$76,000 over that figure if the park is to include all the extras and enhancements provided in the plan. Mayor Anne B. Wodjenski pointed out that the additional costs cannot be borne by the taxpayers. Cunningham assured her that the architects will work closely with the Council to buy the most possible for the dollar. He planned to submit a "shopping list," identifying what the various park components cost, so that Council can cull out those which they feel cannot be financed at this time.

Cunningham's design showed a grassy amphitheater area, below ground level, near the intersection of Park and Front Streets. It features terraced steps, built of concrete risers, topped with either brick or grass steps. On regular work days, people who work in the area could come to eat lunch along the terraced steps. It would lend itself to special events as well. Cunningham envisioned it put to use for fashion shows, plays, and all sorts of cultural events. Originally, a skating rink had been discussed for this part of the park. Mayor Wodjenski said elimination of skating was a concession in order to retain the passive nature and avoid prob-

lems which could accompany skating.

One of the dominant eye-catchers in the park would be a canvas-roofed flagpole arrangement. An adjustable canvas top could be wrapped and adjusted in any number of ways — to form a backdrop for a dramatic presentation, a fashion show, etc. The unit could also be used as a bandstand. Lighted flagpoles atop the canvas and poling structure would provide a decorative opportunity for the community, for the flagpoles could be decorated in accordance with the season or the event taking place. Halloween, Christmas, spring, all would provide decorating possibilities.

As Cunningham planned the small park, the existing war memorial monument, which is now located on a traffic island at Front and Park, would be replaced by a monument within the park itself. Cunningham indicated that leaving the monument where it now stands is aesthetically undesirable. He cited an overhead traffic light, huge pole, and monument at the island location. Moving it would be much more attractive, he said. The area from the edge of the park toward the traffic island space would be paved in old brick, he suggested.

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## Dodgeland Donates Van To Scouts



Dodgeland President Donald Toresco, left, presents van to veteran scoutmaster Harry Casterlin, Plainfield, in support of current Camp Development Program for the Watchung Area Council-Boy Scouts of America. Participating in the presentation is David E. Collins of Johnson & Johnson, general chairman of the Program to raise \$750,000 for camp improvements. See article on Page 5