



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

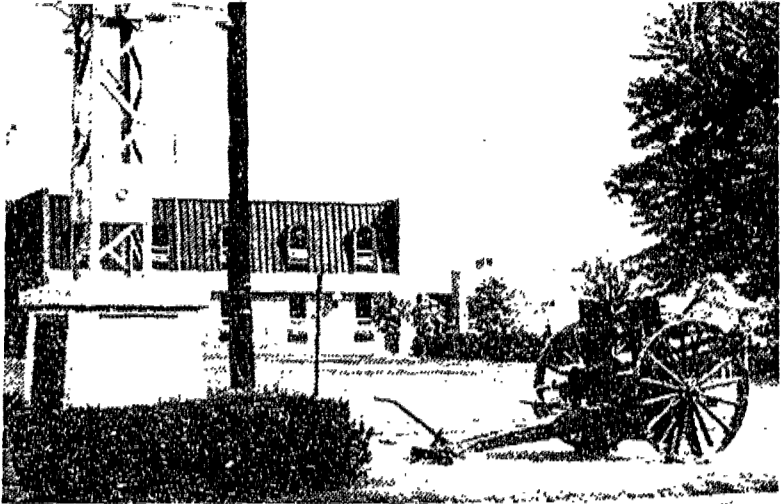
VOLUME 19 NUMBER 33

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1977

20 CENTS

Doomed?



The Scotch Plains Council will soon be faced with a decision — move the monument and the cannon? Eliminate them? Leave them "as is" — they're decisions to be faced when final plans for a passive park are confirmed. Mayor Anne Wodjenski has said that a public hearing will be scheduled for early September when citizens may have a say on the new park.

The Scotch Plains Flagpole — Yes Or No?

Last week, Michael Cunningham, a landscape architect with Paul Frieberg Associates in New York, presented to the Scotch Plains Council his plans for a mini-park design for downtown Scotch Plains. Cunningham recommended that Council consider eliminating the flagpole and cannon, which are now located on the traffic island at Front St. and Park Avenue. Although the architectural firm had been engaged to design only the park, adjacent to the Municipal Building, Cunningham commented on the area as a whole, offering an opinion for tying together the Stage House Village-park area, by providing a paved walkway, which would cut across from the corner of the park, across the traffic island, to Stage House Village.

Cunningham recommended relocating the cannon somewhere else on public property, possibly within the new park. He suggested eliminating the flagpole entirely, removing the memorial plaques on it and placing them elsewhere. The design for the park, which is now on exhibit in the lobby of the Municipal Building for two weeks and will then be shown at the public library, does not show any provision for the cannon or the plaques.

Reaction to a change was immediate. Local historical society members, Mrs. William Elliott and Mr. Charles Detwiller, had joined Council at the meeting with the architect and later communicated their objections by letter. Mrs. Elliott, who is closely associated with the Historical Society and the Plainfield Garden Club, urged that the War Memorial flagpole, and the cannon which is also located on the same traffic island at the intersection, remain intact. "Not only has it a significant meaning to many local residents, but it provides a safety measure in slowing down traffic at this strategic spot," she said. The height and body of the flagpole and cannon provide visibility, whereas the flat, low island proposed would be a hazard. Cunningham had envisioned attractive paving at the corner.

"The island holds a distinctive link with the historical

development of our community, which should be preserved and not torn down," Mrs. Elliott stated. She questioned whether any other place, to which the cannon would be moved, would be appropriate.

"Let's leave well enough alone and save some money at the same time," Mrs. Elliott urged. Despite her objections to the movement of the memorial and/or cannon, she added that the two organizations in which she is active feel the beautification is an important step forward.

Charles Detwiller is also an architect and personally designed the Stage House complex adjacent to the area to be developed. He was responsible for saving the old Stage House, which is pre-Revolutionary, from demolition and replacement by a gasoline station. In addition to many restorations of public buildings and private homes, Detwiller has planned the restoration of old buildings at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut.

Regarding the relocation of cannon and flagpole, Detwiller wrote to Township Manager James Hauser, "I think you will run into major cries of opposition. Many of those engaged in raising funds for that, and their children, still live here."

He, too, cited the benefit of the existing flagpole and cannon

Continued On Page 3

Trumpp To Seek Replacement For Kraus

Mayor Ted Trumpp of Fanwood said he plans to accept the resignation of Robert Kraus as Borough Prosecutor formally, by letter, and name a successor soon.

Kraus wrote to Council, stating that the time had come to look for someone else to appoint as the second prosecutor in Fanwood. Kraus' letter did not specify a date. "It is my intention in making this request now, to give you adequate time to search for my successor," he stated. In his letter, Kraus commended the Police Department, and said working with them had provided him with invaluable professional experience. Their professional competence has increased over the years, he said. He also cited high regard for Judge Melvin Whitkin's judicial abilities.

Kraus was severely reprimanded by the Supreme Court earlier this year in a case involving his representation of Leon Iarussi, who owns the Lemon Tree Beauty Shop in Fanwood.

Sidewalk Laws Amended

The Borough of Fanwood, blessed with large shade trees and plagued with questions about who is responsible for repair of sidewalks damaged by tree roots, amended its ordinance on shade trees last week. The amendments clarify responsibilities.

Henceforth, no person, firm or corporation may lay or repair any sidewalk or pave any street so as to injure public shade trees, without consent of the Shade Tree Commission. (Trees which have been planted by the borough, between sidewalk and street, are considered "public" rather than private shade trees.) If sidewalk repair becomes necessary, and the damage is attributable to growth and expansion of the root system of a public shade tree, it is the responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission to trim and treat

Continued On Page 3

S.P. Council Receives \$43,853 For C.D. Center

Several years ago, when the Scotch Plains Municipal Building was constructed, township officials applied for federal funds for the Civil Defense portion of the building. This week, Mayor Anne Wodjenski announced that, at long last, \$43,853 had been received for said purpose.

Mayor Wodjenski praised the efforts of Nick Migliaccio, who resigned recently from the post of Civil Defense director, due to a business transfer to Kentucky. The Mayor and other members of the Council noted that Migliaccio had been responsible for the township acquisition of the funds, for he had spent over two years filling out all appropriate forms, amassing details, and following up on the project. The headquarters occupies a large portion of the basement, and includes provision for housing of citizens in the event of a disaster or emergency, as well as storage space for all types of Civil Defense supplies, a meeting headquarters for coordination of borough forces in emergencies, etc.

In other action, Council gave final approval to an ordinance, appropriating \$17,000 from capital improvement for stabilization, clearance and maintenance of streams for the department of public properties. The funds will go toward maintenance of smaller streams, to prevent flooding in sudden storms.

Another ordinance approved Tuesday sets \$5,000 from capital improvement for construction of a new basketball court behind Muir School on Plainfield Avenue. The basketball court,

to be located on public property owned by the township, will be an addition to the neighborhood, it was noted, and will provide recreational opportunity close to home for children there.

Council gave final approval to an agreement with the Scotch Plains P.B.A. for wages, hours, benefits, etc.

A resolution was approved, providing legal assistance for two police officers, Richard Palentchar and Herbert L. Erholm, who have been accused of assault and battery by a New Brunswick man. A Scotch Plains attorney, Robert Kraus, was engaged to represent the two patrolmen.

Two new ordinances were introduced, each concerning flood control. One amends the existing zoning code, to establish flood control measures, the second regulates encroachments and land use in flood hazard areas and set storm drainage requirements, primarily to comply with the regulations of the federal government.

Stop street signs will soon be placed at three Coles Avenue intersections, following passage of a resolution authorizing them. The Stop signs will be on Coles, at intersections of William, Victor and Warren Streets.

Resolve Still Homeless

Resolve, the community counseling service for youth, almost had a new home last week — a private residence at 45 First Street in Fanwood. The quarters would have been rented from United National Bank. The bank had originally acquired the home in hopes of razing it for a parking lot. Denied that use by the borough, the bank had agreed to rent the building to Resolve, if all homeowners in the one-block neighborhood agreed. However, two objected, and the bank withdrew its request to the borough to grant permission for the use.

Mayor Ted Trumpp found it "very unfortunate." He said neighbors had objected strenuously to a parking lot use of the property and he had hoped the Resolve use would be a good solution. The building is adequately maintained structurally, Trumpp said, and only requires repairs because of a burst pipe during last year's cold spell. Resolve had been willing to do that, Trumpp said.

The area is zoned residential, and the Resolve use would be of a professional nature.

Trumpp and Councilwoman Carol Whittington asked that if anyone knows of a rental property in a business-

professional zone which would be suitable for Resolve purposes, to contact them.

Council squabbled along political lines last Wednesday, over an appointment of a temporary intern who would develop job descriptions, update the Table of Organization and evaluate key positions in the borough. Mayor Ted Trumpp initially named John M. Fietkielwicz of Union. However, the two Democrats on Council, Carol Whittington and Patrick Dunne, protested that the job should go to the only other applicant — James Davis Junior

Continued On Page 6

Index

CHIT CHAT	10
CLASSIFIED	28
CONSUMER AFFAIRS	30
EDITORIALS	4
LAW ENFORCEMENT	16
LEGALS	25
NUTRITIONAL VIEWS	21
REAL ESTATE	24
RELIGIOUS SERVICES	17
SERVICES	29
SPORTS	19
THEATRE REVIEW	14
YMCA	20