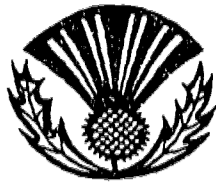


November 3
1977

your home and car ready for Winter?
See Pages 15-18



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 44

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1977

20 CENTS

Halloween



Diane Chieffo of 603 Terrill Road, Fanwood, came to the Fanwood Halloween Parade in appropriate seasonal attire — as a pile of autumn leaves, and rake to help with the job at hand! See other local costume prize-winners inside!

Scotch Plains Council

The Scotch Plains Township Council gave unanimous approval to introduction of a new bicycle ordinance Tuesday. It will be up for a public hearing, and final vote on November 15.

The ordinance calls for a one-time mandatory registration of bicycles, which is free of charge. In the former ordinance, bicycles had to be re-registered every two years, at a charge of \$1. Tags will be issued by the Police Department, between 8 and 4 on weekdays, and at other pre-announced times.

The penalties for violations are also changed from the original bicycle ordinance. In a previous ordinance, violators appeared before a Bicycle Review Board. Now, the newly introduced legislation outlines a series of steps, which includes warning letters from the Police Department, on up to appearance in Juvenile Court for those under 18, and in Municipal Court for over 18. First-time violators receive reprimands in writing from the police, and further violations are referred to court, with accompanying penalties of not more than \$50 and/or impoundment of offender's bicycle for not more than 14 days, or both, for each offense. Impounded bicycles are surrendered to owner after

the period, and if not claimed, are sold in public auction six months after seizure.

Bicycle owners who have previously registered bicycles are not required to re-register unless ownership is transferred.

It would be unlawful, under the proposed law, to operate a bike in public without an affixed registration tag. The object of the ordinance would be to promote safety, prevent thefts, identify owners and assist in recovery of lost or stolen bicycles.

Councilman Robert Griffin, who had been an outspoken opponent of the initial ordinance, calling it unenforceable, said the new version is vastly improved, and "something I can live with." Griffin thanked the Bicycle Safety Council for their efforts in reviewing bicycle legislation and developing an ordinance satisfactory to the Council.

Mayor Ann B. Wodjenski also expressed satisfaction

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Monument Designer Relives SP History

by Jacqueline Ostberg

During the bicentennial celebrations of 1976, and again during the local battle re-enactment staged here in June, 1977, Scotch Plains took steps to memorialize the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. One of the highlights of the recent bicentennial was the construction of a war memorial, on the grounds of Ashbrook Golf Course on Raritan Road. The 1976-77 memorial honors the men who died during a Revolutionary skirmish on the south side of Scotch Plains. This wasn't the first war memorial in town, however. Mr. Arthur Smith of Plainfield, a 97-year old man, brought to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society memories of another war memorial, the flagpole erected on the Front Street triangle between the Stage House Inn and municipal property, back in 1918. Mr. Smith, who designed the memorial flagpole, was guest speaker at the October 25 meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historic Society.

Mr. Smith spoke to the members and guests about his early recollections of Scotch Plains. He said that he first became aware of our town when, as a young lad, his father took him by horse and sleigh over to Scotch Plains to see the horse races from the top of Coles hill. The fastest horse, he recalls, was owned by J.B. Cleaver, a lay preacher at the Baptist church. He also remembers the great Fourth of July celebrations held on the grounds around the Stage House Inn. "It was a grand turnout for such a little village," he said. A platform

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Arthur Smith, the 97-year old designer of the Scotch Plains War Memorial Flagpole at Front and Park, revisits the scene of his earlier efforts.

Committee O School Closing

The Ad Hoc Citizen's Committee for the Consideration of Closing a School(s) in September, 1978, has completed its assigned task and has submitted to members of the Board of Education copies of its report. The report and the committee findings will be made public tonight, at a public hearing to be held by the Board of Education at Park Junior High School at 8 pm.

The Committee included 21 members, of which 19 reported to meeting regularly and showed up to vote on the final report. They received their charge back in May, 1977, and have met at least 15 times on a regular weekly basis, with additional meetings as necessary, in order to comply with the charge given them. It was: study and evaluate the present board study on school closing; study and evaluate ramifications of any school closing; and make recommendations regarding the above, plus any other pertinent information, to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

The Board asked that the group submit a majority and a minority report, if there was need for both. There was, according to Committee Chairman Louis Barash.

Barash underlined the extensive study undertaken by the Committee, which included parents, senior citizens, architects, plumbers, engineers, etc. They gathered very detailed information on enrollments in the district, past and present; retention ratios (the percentage of students the district retains, from one grade to the next); birth rates; staffing patterns in schools; vacant class space; and financial considerations.

In addition, the Committee had a separate real estate sub-committee, to consider the impact of closing a school in the different areas of the community. The real estate group gleaned information from various area realtors to assist them in forming opinions and conclusions.

The entire Committee also utilized source material from

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Anniversary Time!

The "new" TIMES, under the guiding hand of Publisher Don Foster, is a baby still ... as we celebrate a first birthday. It's growing yet, in many ways. During the past year, there have been changes — hopefully for your reading pleasure. We've introduced theatre review information, cartoons, material from the kids in our community, more pictures.

This week, we make our most significant change to date — a six column format. Within the expanded column space, we hope to continue to bring you improvements in news presentation.

As we've grown in this year, so has our reading public. The subscription list has increased every week. We continue to invite your input, in the form of ideas for materials you'd like to see, letters to the editor, and reaction to our news.

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Thursday, Nov. 3 — Bd. of Ed. Hears Report, Ad Hoc Committee on School Closings, Park Jr. High, 8 pm.

Bd. of Ed. Budget Work Session, 9:30 pm, Park Jr. High

Sunday, Nov. 6 — Bd. of Ed., Committee of Whole, Budget Work Session, admin. Bldg.

Monday, Nov. 7 — Fanwood Borough Council, Agenda Session, Borough Hall, 8 pm.

Parents Liaison Committee, SPFHS, Multi-Purpose Room, 8 pm.

Tuesday, Nov. 8 — Election Day, VOTE!

Wednesday, Nov. 9 — Fanwood Borough Council, Monthly Meeting, Borough Hall, 8 pm.

Vandalism Tolls On Mischief Night

Police from both Scotch Plains and Fanwood have indicated that Mischief Night "pranks" have taken severe tolls in property damage here. On Sunday night, October 30, there were 26 automobile windows broken on vehicles parked on Scotch Plains streets, primarily in the vicinity of West Broad, Elizabeth Avenue, Algonquin. Similarly, in Fanwood, Police Chief Anthony Parenti reported that seven car windows were shattered, on Helen Street, Robin Road, and Coriell Avenue. Parenti said it appeared that a blunt instrument, perhaps a baseball bat, was used on the windows. Parenti said similar window breaks took place in Westfield, and it is felt the same person may have been involved.

Chief Michael Rossi also reported, from Scotch Plains, that there were two young adults apprehended and charged with setting leaf fires on both sides of Acacia Road. The two, Dexter Vandermeiren and Gregory S.

Michael, were charged with failing to give a good account of themselves and were in possession of gasoline and matches when apprehended. The fires occurred after midnight. Three house breaks were also reported from Fanwood, which Parenti said appeared to be the work of youngsters.

"These are no longer childish pranks," Parenti said. "We feel that these actions are the work of young adults, 18 and up, not of young children."

There were windows broken at several schools, including Terrill, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and McGinn School. In Fanwood, damage to private homes was minimal. Police said there was only one reported case of a home being "egg-ed".

One Scotch Plains resident experienced burns on her hand, when she attempted to remove a container of muriatic acid from the gasoline tank of her automobile.