



SCOTCH PLAINS

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20 CENTS

Board proposes \$15,662,269 '79-'80 budget

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has adopted a tentative school budget of \$15,662,269 for the 1979-80 year. The budget has been submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools for his approval. The county superintendent has also been re-

quested to approve a waiver of \$933,616, which would allow the local school system to exceed state-imposed cap limits on amount of budget increase over the current year.

The budget figure represents a 6.1 percent increase over the budget for the current year.

The percentage of increase, 6.1 percent, is based upon an uncut budget. However, the district is currently awaiting resolution of a budget appeal, pending at the State Department of Education. Last year, when the 1978-79 budget was defeated, the governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood ordered reductions of \$572,616 in the current year's budget.

The request for a "cap" waiver of \$933,000 includes allowance for the \$572,616 cut of last year. If some or all of this cut is restored by Trenton, the "cap" waiver request would be trimmed by the amount restored to the budget.

The tax impact of the proposed budget would be \$1.3 million increase in taxes. Dr. Robert Rader, Assistant Superintendent for Business, estimated that this would represent a \$140 per year tax hike in Fanwood, \$116 in Scotch Plains, upon a home assessed at \$40,000, or 35 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in Fanwood, 29 cents in Scotch Plains. Fanwood citizens support 24.7 percent of school costs, Scotch Plains residents 75.3 percent.

The increase in the tax impact has been at-

tributed to the fact that there is zero surplus available to lessen the tax burden for the next year. School officials have cited increases in utilities, special education tuition and transportation, \$100,000 in debt service and contracted salary commitments as factors in the increase. The salary area represents 80 percent of the total budget.

The current expense portion of the tentative budget is set at \$14,323,229, with capital outlay and debt service totaling \$1,339,040.

Administration representatives have already met with the county superintendent but have not yet received word on either the tentative budget or the appeal for a cap waiver. The district has not yet received indication of when a resolution of this year's cut appeal might be forthcoming from Trenton. If the issue remains unresolved for another couple of weeks, the district will be faced with making decisions and initiating motions to allow schools to continue to operate without the \$572,616 cut for the months ahead. Any staff cuts must be preceded by 60 days notice to affected personnel.

Nat'l YMCA week marked



Even babies have power—especially in the YMCA's Baby Power program! See page 12 for more on National YMCA week.

Council is pro and con on restoration of federal funds

Should Fanwood urge President Carter, Governor Brendan Byrne and other national and state leaders to restore anti-recession funds? The Council was divided on the issue last Wednesday. Councilman Arthur Lundgren introduced two resolutions citing hardships imposed upon communities by Congress' recent failure to authorize funding for the current year. Lundgren's resolutions were approved, but Council was divided in opinion.

Mayor Ted Trumpp and Councilman Loren Hollembaek and Patrick Dunne opposed seeking restoration. "Everybody

thinks it's great to fight inflation...just as long as the funds are taken away from somebody else. The federal government has inflation problems as serious as Fanwood's. If we're going to curb inflation we all have to suffer. I disagree heartily, though I know it means the loss of CETA employees," Trumpp said.

Lundgren's resolutions cited problems communities face in being unable to hire federally-funded CETA employees, limiting vital services. This would result in a slower growth in the economy and possibly a mild recession and increased unemployment, the legislation noted.

Councilman Fank Boyle voted positively. "If they continue to give out the money, I hope we get our share," he stated. Fanwood would lose \$16,814 if Congress fails to restore the money.

Councilwoman Patricia Kuran is liaison to the Board of Education. She reported on a recent meeting with the Board of Education, heralding the effort at improved communication as a positive step, but added that, "I developed a headache," looking at the

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Scotch Plains Council to seek new park design

The new all-Republican Scotch Plains Township Council hopes to effect a re-design of the controversial Village Green park in downtown Scotch Plains. As minority members of the Council, Republicans Alan Augustine and Larry Newcomb had opposed the most recent developments in the park creation during the last weeks of 1978, when the Council was dominated by Democrats.

Now, with support of three new Republicans on Council, an attempt at re-working is underway.

Originally, the park was designed by a professional landscape architect to cover close to two acres adjacent to the municipal building. However, when three rounds of bidding yielded costs at least twice estimates, the

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P.O. honors new King stamp



Photo by Louise A.

The Scotch Plains Post Office held a short ceremony on Monday, Jan. 15 to commemorate the first day of sale of the Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative stamp, which was first issued on Jan. 13 in Atlanta, Ga. On hand for the ceremony were Scotch Plains Postmaster Joseph J. Rein III and Reverend Kelmo C. Porter, Jr., pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

Postmaster Rein presented a plate block of the first Martin Luther King, Jr. stamps sold in Scotch Plains to Reverend Porter stating "Today we are honoring the birth of a great American and man of God. On behalf of the U.S. Postal Service I would like to present you with the first Martin Luther King, Jr. stamps sold in Scotch Plains." Reverend Porter, who resides with his family at 849 O'Donnell St., Scotch Plains, has been the pastor of St. John's Baptist Church for thirteen years. Before coming to Scotch Plains Rev. Porter was pastor of Trinity Temple in Montclair, N.J., where in addition to his pastoral duties was president of the Clergy Club in Montclair. This organization supported Dr. King early in his struggle for civil rights in Birmingham, Alabama. Through this support Rev. Porter became a personal friend of Dr. King. This support and friendship was remembered through the years by Dr. King, who spoke on several occasions in Montclair.

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