

SEEKING UNLICENSED DOGS

The Scotch Plains Police Department began its Annual house-to-house census of unlicensed dogs on Monday, March 19th. Chief Rossi explained that school crossing guards will be conducting the State mandated Rabies Control Program.

During the census, written notices will be presented to each owner of an unlicensed dog instructing them to obtain a license for their dog within 10 days. This written notice should be returned to the Police Department with the new license number on it. If the dog owner fails to obtain the license within the specified time period, a summons will be issued requiring an appearance in Municipal Court.

Health Officer Rick Proctor reminds all dog owners that proof of rabies vaccination must be shown before a license can be issued.

PLAINS LIBRARY CUTS HOURS

Due to budgetary cutbacks the Scotch Plains Public Library will close Friday evenings at 5 p.m. beginning April 20. The regular schedule of hours open is as follows: Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Library will have a book sale on April 7th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This sale is being sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club to benefit the Library's Children's Room and anyone wishing to donate books for the sale may bring them to the Circulation Desk.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES! IT'S "HEALTH FAIR" TIME



The Scotch Plains Health Officer, Rick Proctor, announced that the Township of Scotch Plains will hold its third annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 31st from 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on Westfield Road. Screening tests for Hypertension (high blood pressure) Anemia, Vision, Glaucoma, Rectal Cancer, Oral Cancer, Diabetes and Cholesterol will be provided free to Township residents. The Scotch Plains Health Department will also provide immunizations for Tetanus/Diphtheria, Measles, Rubella and Polio. These immunizations are required for all children attending school. If your child will be starting school next year, you are advised to check to see if they will need any of these inoculations by September.

A special blood test will be offered at the Fair that will detect abnormalities in liver, kidney and blood function, as well as screen for Diabetes and Cholesterol. For this test to be effective, you should fast for 8 hours. This test will also be offered free to Township residents who are considered high risk. These people should be over 40 years of age, overweight, if they have delivered a child over 9 lbs., or if there is a family history of either diabetes or heart problems. Out-of-town residents, or those who are not high risk, can still take the test, but will be billed \$5.00 by the testing laboratory.

Mr. Proctor stressed that these are only screening tests, and do not take the place of a comprehensive medical exam given by your family doctor.

CRUSADE BALL IS PLANNED

The Fanwood Cancer Drive committee will hold a Crusade Ball on Friday, May 4th at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. Residents have volunteered to help the crusade by serving as members of the ticket committee. They include: Larry Andres, Ruth Coffman, Bob Deegan, Barbara Fahy, Bud Haines, Loren Hollembaek, Joyce Mertz, Earl Phillips, Kitty Pultorak, Helene Whitken, Tina Ventimilia, Dennis Yarcheski and Carol Whittington.

Ticket donations are \$30 per couple. Tickets may be obtained from any member of the committee and are limited to the first 150 couples. Seating will be four couples to a table and dancing will be continuous, with only five minute breaks each hour. The \$30 donation entitles each couple to two drinks and one hour of hors d'oeuvres.

SCOTCH PLAINS LIBRARY
1927 BARTLE AVE
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ
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SCOTCH PLAINS

FANWOOD



THE TIMES

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20 CENTS

Will the REAL SP-F school budget please stand up?

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district may make history of a dubious sort in state annals this year - the most confusing, entangled, jumbled budget picture ever to emerge on the New Jersey education scene. Each week brings disclosures of cuts, restorations, and legal appeals. This week is no exception.

On Thursday of last week, the state Board of Education sat in judgement on 45 different appeals from districts throughout New Jersey, all of them seeking reversals on "cap waiver" decisions rendered by State Commissioner of Education Fred Burke. Scotch Plains-Fanwood was among them. Collectively, the 45 districts sought approval for over \$7 million in expenditures, over and above the state-mandated "caps" on school budgets. State law on "caps" applies not to the total percentage a budget is allowed to climb in a given year, but to the increased percentage of taxes necessary to support it. The state Board granted approvals of \$1,575,000 in cap waivers, \$323,373 of it to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district.

To support the budget it planned to present to voters for 1979-80, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education originally foresaw need for a total cap waiver of \$933,000. The sharp increase in tax support was necessary

because there was no surplus left from the current year to apply to next year's budget...and because, following voter defeat of last year's 1978-79 budget, the combined Councils of Scotch Plains-Fanwood cut \$572,000. The \$572,000 was unavailable as a base upon which to build the 1979-80 budget. However, with both Councils and Board of Education appealing the cut to the State Commissioner, a total of \$366,000 was restored to the current year's budget recently under a ruling from Burke. This reduced the need for cap waiver to \$596,000. The state Board's action in granting a \$323,373

waiver leaves the district \$272,627 behind, if the matter were now settled. It isn't.

The two governing bodies, represented by Scotch Plains Township Attorney Lewis Markowitz, plan to appeal the Commissioner's decision on the restoration, as does the Board of Education. The Councils seek less of a restoration, the Board more. The State Board is expected to act today on the restoration matter.

Today is the final deadline for local Boards to finalize their budgets for presentation to voters on April 3. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board will meet tonight, in hopes of acting on its budget.

However, if legal delays ensue, the local budget vote may have to be postponed beyond April 3 and a special date set for an election here.

At a public hearing on the budget, held on Monday, March 21, Board members pointed out that, without full restoration in all areas, there is a possibility that the district would be required to operate at a figure \$500,000 below "maintenance." The original budget prepared by the administration was already \$200,000 below maintenance. Such a condition would result in: no improvements in programs; larger class sizes,

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Rake or Bag? Fanwoodians will have choice this year

Fanwood residents will step right up and take their choice - whether to bag next autumn's leaf fall or rake into curbside windrows. Later next fall, after the bulk of the autumn collection has already reached ground, they may also register their choice - bag or rake - in a referendum on the fall election ballot.

The Fanwood Borough Council awarded bids last week for purchase of leaf bags. However, the contract does not indicate a resumption of the mandated leaf

bagging which caused a furor in the community last fall. According to Mayor Ted Trumpp, the citizens will be provided with free leaf bags, but they won't be forced to bag.

Trumpp and other Council members have expressed pleasure with the results of last fall's mandated leaf bagging. Fire company and police department officials heralded the enforced approach for its safety factors, which included easier passageways through streets and an enormous reduction

in leaf fires. The Public Works Department, too, was enthusiastic. The removal of the bagged leaves was found to be much easier, and the department members noted more frequent cleanup of local streets. Environmental and health factors had been cited by the department in urging the bagging.

However, some residents had complained repeatedly to Council about the increased time and effort required to bag. Included among the complainants were some homeowners with large properties and some elderly homeowners.

Trumpp said the referendum would be more of an opinion poll than a means to a return to mandated bagging. Fanwood officials will continue to urge citizens to voluntarily cooperate with the bagging approach. It was found cheaper to collect bagged leaves than curbside windrows.

in borough funds. A "medium" cost estimate provided by architect Richard Berry was set at \$62,000. The Council had indicated that

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Momentum grows to spare the Carriage House from demolition

The Fanwood Borough Council held off on a vote for demolition of the Victorian Carriage House on the Slocum property, amidst indications of community concern with efforts to save the small, gingerbread building. Last month, Council representatives had indicated that the little building might be razed. Budgetary limitations and higher than anticipated estimates on restoration had been cited as factors under consideration by Council.

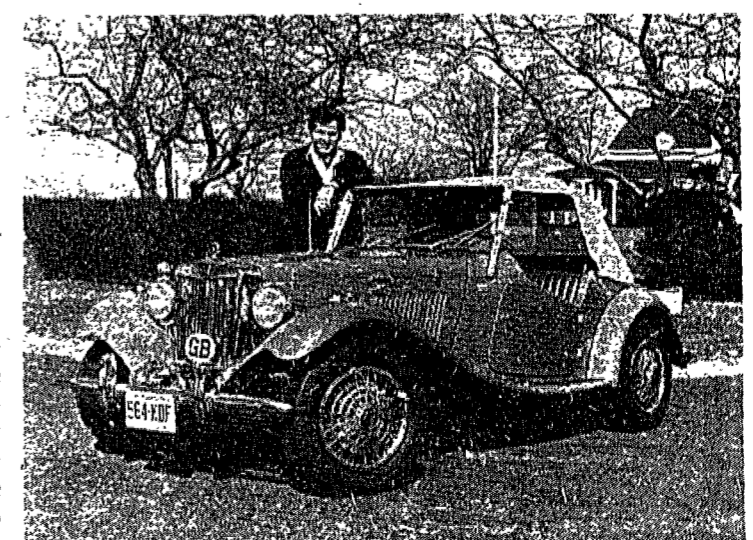
Councilwoman Patricia Kuran, who has taken a particular interest in saving the structure, reported that various agencies and private citizens had contacted her to indicate interest in supporting a restoration. Among them was the regional chapter of the League of Women Voters. The League has been looking for a central site in this area for establishment of a hands-on children's

museum. League representatives have pointed out that the Fanwood location would be convenient for League volunteers from Westfield, Plainfield and other neighboring central Jersey communities.

The Jaycees have also ventured interest, as has the local Fanwood-Scotch Plains Art Association and historical devotees. The concerned parties have been invited to attend a meeting on Saturday, March 31 at Borough Hall to discuss means toward the funding of a restoration. Attendees will tour the interior of the Carriage House during the meeting.

Mayor Ted Trumpp said he planned to investigate the possibility of additional funding from HUD Community Development Funds. HUD funds totalling \$26,000 have already been committed to the project. Originally, the Fanwood Borough Council had planned to add \$28,100

MiGi-a new car in town



A 1952 MG - built on a Volkswagen body - latest thing for spring drivers (see story, page 12).