

Special Spring Real Estate Section...Page 11 - 18

DECA-NO.1 AGAIN



High School Principal, Dr. Terry Riegel greets the school's DECA Chapter as they triumphantly returned from their State Conference held in Ocean City. On display is the trophy awarded the local Chapter for winning 1st Place as New Jersey's Outstanding Chapter of the Year in Distributive Education. This marks the 6th time in the last eight years that the group has won this award. (See story page 9.)

GOP, DEMS URGE VOTE

In a move believed to be unique in Fanwood history, the Republican Club and the Democratic Club have issued a joint statement urging all registered voters in the Borough of Fanwood to make an extraordinary effort to vote on the school budget on April 3rd.

Mrs. Michelle Buckwald, President of the Fanwood Democratic Club and Mr. Erik Hursh, Fanwood Republican Club President, found a consensus among their respective club members that some action be taken to combat the voter apathy which has become tradition in local school elections. The desire for a strong, but neutral, action resulted in the decision to issue a joint statement.

Fanwood voters turn out in significant numbers only for presidential elections-with the exception of the referendum on the Municipal Building in 1977 when 70% of the registered voters went to the polls. One result of such marginal participation is that no decisive message is delivered by the voters. Often, fewer than 20% of the voters make the decision affecting almost 70% of the local budget. Without a clearcut mandate from the voters, decisions about the level of educational spending remain contentious.

The joint statement concludes with a request that, after casting their own vote on April 3rd, voters take the initiative in reminding their neighbors and friends to get out to vote.

OPERA WEEK HERE



Mayor Alan Augustine of Scotch Plains (R), is shown with Mr. Walter Schonwald, representing the Jersey Lyric Opera Company, proclaiming the week beginning April 2nd as "Opera Week" in Scotch Plains. Mr. Schonwald, treasurer of Jersey Lyric Opera Company, announced that final preparations are underway for the April 1st performance of "Il Trovatore" at Terrill Jr. H.S. in Scotch Plains. Guest artist, Metropolitan Opera Tenor, John Carpenter, will sing the title role for the Jersey Lyric Opera Company's production. For tickets call 889-2189.

STAY OFF SLOCUM SITE

Fanwood officials have issued a plea for cooperation from Fanwood parents in keeping children off the Slocum property at 95 North Martine Avenue. A new municipal building is currently under construction. Some construction materials have been stolen or damaged, officials point out. However, they are more concerned with the safety factor. Heavy duty construction equipment on the site represents potential danger to children playing there.

Fanwood officials have issued a plea for cooperation from Fanwood parents in keeping children off the Slocum property

Reminder
School Board Election
April 3rd - 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.



SCOTCH PLAINS

FANWOOD



THE TIMES

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 13

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1979

20 CENTS

State Board adds \$102M to '78-'79 school budget

The State Board of Education voted last Thursday to restore an additional \$102,260 to the \$572,000 cut from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school budget for the 1978-79 school year. This \$102,260 restoration comes on top of a \$366,493 amount ordered restored by State Commissioner of Education Fred Burke.

The latest restoration represents a reversal of Burke's decision on the budget cut. Following Burke's restoration of \$366,493, the local Board of Education sought appeal of the ruling at the State Board level. The Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood were also represented in the State Board appeal proceedings. The Councils cut the \$572,000, and sought to have their position upheld, while the Board sought restoration of more money than Burke had managed.

The action by the State Board eliminates the need for most of the severe cutbacks in staff and programming which had earlier threatened the final months of the school

district. A total of 114 staff members-professional and non-professional had been alerted to the possibility of layoffs in the event that the district had to live within the framework of a budget reduced by \$572,000. With

the two restorations, the district now must operate with \$103,247 less than required during the current year. Most staff will be retained and the extra-curricular cutbacks which had loomed will no longer be

necessary. The spring sports program will be reinstated.

Next Tuesday, voters go to the polls to register votes on the proposed \$15,493,476 budget for the 1979-80 school year. Originally, the ad- Continued on page 3

Fanwood man named V.P. of U.S. Boxing Assoc.

Robert W. Lee, a resident of Fanwood and a Scotch Plains native, was recently elected to the vice presidency of the United States Boxing Association, during the annual association convention in Miami Beach. Lee is currently serving as deputy Athletic Commissioner of New Jersey, working under the state Athletic Commissioner and former heavyweight boxer Jersey Joe Walcott.

"Bobby" Lee outlined some of the intricacies involved in boxing and in his own new post. "We (the state of New Jersey Athletic



ROBERT LEE

Continued on page 19

Police Chiefs react on Supreme Ct. rule

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered an opinion which bans random license-and-registration spot checks of drivers by police officers. The decision resulted from a Supreme Court appeal, in a situation wherein a Delaware driver was stopped for a license spot check, an officer smelled marijuana in the car, and the driver was subsequently arrested for possession of marijuana.

Henceforth, random spot checks by police who stop drivers without reason would be illegal. Local Police Chiefs Anthony Parenti and Michael Rossi reacted. Rossi said that, although he has not yet studied the opinion in depth, it would obviously hamper police work somewhat. He plans to reevaluate the local situation in light of the latest ruling. "It takes away some powers we have and from a police standpoint, will restrict us."

Fanwood's Chief Parenti challenged Supreme Court thinking. "It would have been proper if the Supreme Court had decided the situation represented illegal search and seizure and the charges on marijuana possession had been dropped," he stated. The ruling prohibiting spot checks is a

disservice to the general driving public, Parenti feels. In New Jersey, drivers must carry licenses, registrations and proof of insurance. The New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles estimates that there are over 600,000

unlicensed drivers on the roads. With an estimated four million drivers in the state, Parenti points out that the chances of being hit by one of the unlicensed drivers is high, Parenti feels - in fact, he's been hit by an unlicensed driver himself. The driver who is hit suffers injury, and financial loss as well, the Chief stated.

Road blocks for license-

registration checks are permitted. They cause severe traffic delays, frayed tempers, extensive police time and wasted energy, Parenti feels.

Rossi was questioned regarding police procedures before the recent ruling. "I cannot speak for the average officer," Rossi said, "but I

Continued on page 3

Sign here, please, Congressman!



Congressman Matt Rinaldo adds a message to the arm cast of First Class Scout Don Wirth of 2125 Alden Ave., Scotch Plains, during a visit of Scotch Plains Troop 130 to the nation's Capitol. The scouts paid for the trip by raising \$2,200 selling newspapers and tackling odd jobs. Wirth broke his left arm playing football-but didn't let that stop him from making the trip.