

SAILING, SAILING OVER THE LAGRANDE RINK!



Children ages five thru nine participated in one of the summer highlights at LaGrande Park, a sailboat regatta. The winners were: Front row left to right Sharon, Abby Frank, and Shannon Dowd. Second row left to right Jackie Holst, Kevin Ewing, Mark Kirshenbaum and Wendi Wowchuck. Back row counselors Janet Keating and Joy Hendrick.

FIREMEN TO SPONSOR FLEA MARKET

The Fanwood Fire Company will sponsor a flea market on Saturday, August 11th, 1979, at the north side of the Fanwood Railroad Station. Rain date will be the following Sunday.

Over the years, the Flea Markets have attracted dealers and bargain hunters from not only New Jersey, but the surrounding states as well. The Fanwood Railroad Station is readily accessible and plenty of parking is available within proximity of the station. Booths offering a multitude of items will be open from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Admission, as usual, will be free, and there will be refreshments and lunch for sale.

There are still spaces available. Dealers should contact Dale Authur at 755-0275, or Randy Klimek at 322-6439 after 6 P.M.

There will be a free drawing for 1 fire extinguisher and 1 smoke detector. Fill out coupon on page 6.

P.D. GETS 4-WHEEL DRIVE



Sergeant William Bedson inspects the Scotch Plains Police Department's new four-wheel drive vehicle.

Usually the month of August brings to mind heavy rains, traffic delays, flooding and many other related problems that the Scotch Plains Police Department has been facing for the past several years.

This year, however, they will have a brand new piece of equipment on hand to help cope with those problems. A 1979 GMC 4-wheel drive vehicle, equipped with a winch, heavy duty bumper and other necessary emergency equipment has been added to the Department.

The idea for such a vehicle first came to Chief Rossi during the severe winters of 1977-1978 when the heavy snowstorms made patrol practically an impossibility on many occasions.

Now, however, no matter what the weather conditions may be, the Department has a vehicle that can traverse any area and has the ability and equipment to clear any road that may be blocked for one reason or another.

During non-emergency periods, the vehicle will be used as needed by the patrol units.

Traffic Safety Officer Sgt. William Bedson, who is in charge of all police vehicles and driver instruction, is now in the process of training all personnel in the use of the vehicle and its emergency equipment.

The potential of this vehicle is unlimited, stated Chief Rossi and the Police Department is grateful to the Township for making it available to us.

Date Changes for School Sports Physicals—
See page 12.



SCOTCH PLAINS



FANWOOD

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Arson suspected in blaze at Scotchwood Pharmacy

An early morning fire on Tuesday August 6 caused extensive damage to stock stored in the basement of Scotchwood Pharmacy in Fanwood. Arson is suspected in the case, according to Fire

Chief Frank Mertz.

A water-flow alarm was activated by the sprinkler system and transmitted to police headquarters at 2:17 A.M. Police and fire personnel arriving at the scene

found that a break-and-entry had occurred through a rear window. A working fire was underway in the basement.

Mertz reported indications that the fire had been set in three different basement

locations. The Union County Arson Squad and Detective Charles Persson of the Fanwood Police Department are investigating the case.

Although there was no structure damage or actual fire damage on the main floor, Mertz said it was filled with smoke, and firemen had to chop two holes in the flooring to release basement smoke. Smoke was also reported in adjacent buildings.

The fire was brought under control by a combination of the sprinkler system and fire hoses. Some firemen were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene by members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

The pharmacy was open only for the filling of prescriptions later in the day on Tuesday.

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Board is unanimous in denial of townhouses

The Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment, with five of its seven members present and voting, unanimously voted to deny Makor, Inc. permission to construct 37 townhouse units on Old School One property on Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. The decision ended five months of hearings on the application.

Makor, Inc. offered a high bid of \$180,000 in 1976 to acquire the building at a public auction held by the Board of Education. However, the Makor, Inc. purchase offer included contingency clause that the firm would complete the purchase only if permission were obtained to construct apartments of the land, which Makor planned to clear by tearing down the old school building. Hence, the Board of Education has remained the official owner of record during the ensuing time.

After the public auction was held, the old school, designed by noted architect Stanford White, was placed on state and federal landmark registers. Because the placement came after Makor's first application for apartment development, Board of Adjustment attorney Anthony Rinaldo advised Board of Adjustment members that the historic preservation aspect should not color their consideration of the case.

The variance for the 37 townhouses was denied on the following grounds: density - the zoning laws limit such apartments to 12 per acre, while the Makor proposal provided 21 per acre; zoning required two parking spaces per dwelling, but the townhouse plan provided some of the spaces in garages, which may not count as full parking spaces; lot coverage requirement is for a maximum of 20 percent coverage, while the Makor proposal would have covered 23 percent; townhouse units should have a maximum of 6 units per building while these had 16.

The proposal would have provided 26 one-bedroom units, each with a den, and eleven two-bedroom units, each with a den. Board of

Adjustment members had raised question regarding the possibility of renters converting the dens to additional bedrooms, which would provide greater density. Makor's attorney, Daniel Bernstein, volunteered that there has been precedent for Boards to impose restrictions for policing of buildings to disallow such conversions, but Board member Gerry Meola raised

objections to such an approach. Today's modular furniture and hideabeds would make it difficult to detect such usage and a building superintendent could not be cast in the role of a policeman to unearth such illegal usage.

Meola, who introduced the resolution for denial, also raised questions regarding the

Balloonist demonstrates his skills at LaGrande

Early risers were in for a treat as they passed LaGrande Park in Fanwood on 8 A.M. on Tuesday morning. A beautifully colored hot air balloon slowly filled with air, and carried aloft above the park its proud owner, Jim Mount of Fanwood and LaGrande Park staffers Kerry Thomson and Susanne Terry.

Jim Mount of 200 Second Street in Fanwood is one of the growing legions of balloon enthusiasts. He brought his craft to the park to provide kids with a close-up look and an education in ballooning. Mount gave a play-by-play description as he prepared his lovely pale green, brown, white and yellow balloon for ascent. He drew enthusiastic cheers when the balloon filled and he climbed into the traditional leather-trimmed wicker basket and left the ground.

Mr. Mount has been "ballooning" for seven years. He spotted his first balloon about seven years ago, as he was returning to his Martinsville home from Pennsylvania. The balloon he then observed, wafting across the Pennsylvania countryside, caused him to follow it right off the road and he was "hooked." His first ballooning was done with a club in Tewksbury Township, which numbered among its enthusiasts the much-publicized balloonists Malcolm Forbes. He was so enthusiastic that, before moving to Fanwood he undertook a business - a "balloon park," where people could come for balloon-

ing lessons. That project's been abandoned and he now soars for fun and sport and also has an advertising agency, Looking Up Advertising, Inc., through which he does promotions. He's recently been engaged by a Summit Buick dealer and by Truck Stop '78 for promos, and has others "in the wind," as he appropriately phrases it. Mount's also a representative for Barnes, a balloon

manufacturer. When does Mr. Mount fly? "Whenever the spirit moves him." Ideally, that occurs when winds are at ten miles per hour or less, but he's flown in less ideal conditions, too. Higher winds result in faster landings and longer distances. Early mornings before the winds start are particularly nice times to balloon, he feels.

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Colorful hot air balloon "casts off" from LaGrande Park in Fanwood. Photo by Reflections