



SCOTCH PLAINS

FANWOOD



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FANWOOD  
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# THE TIME

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## THE NEEDY IN OUR MIDST...

Within our affluent community, there are the less fortunate - those who will not be able to enjoy as joyful a holiday as most of us...without your help. Below are listed six children (from two families), who are in need this Christmas. Their names have been submitted by Scotch Plains Welfare Director Don DiNizio.

**Family One:** A father has been out of work for several months and is physically unable to work. He started one job, but couldn't keep it because of involvement with chemicals. He's awaiting temporary disability, but hasn't yet begun to receive payments.

Names have been changed to protect anonymity. We provide sizes in basics, but you can add appropriate "treats":

**Jimmy, 8 years old:** Would like clothes (size 10 pants, size 2 1/2 shoes) and any of the treats and treasures any eight-year would enjoy from Santa.

**Betsy, 11 years old:** Size 10 girls' clothes, size 4 1/2 shoes, and anything else your heart desires.

**Johnny, 12 years old:** Shirts, size 12, pants, size 12, shoes 5 1/2.

**Family Two:** A local mother in a single-parent household is trying to keep afloat on a gross weekly paycheck of \$160. She doesn't qualify for welfare...but the going is rough. She has three children:

**Laurie, 10 years old:** Wears size 14 or 16, and a size 9 shoe. (Plus "goodies")

**Bobby, 14 years old:** Pants 30" waist, 36" lgh; small to medium shirt; 13 shoe.

**Debbie, 17 years old:** Girls size 20 pants, 36-38 tops, size 10 shoe.

Contributions will be collected and distributed by Mr. DeNizio from his office at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building.



### Santa Comes to Scotch Plains

this Sat. at 8:45 am  
See pp. 12-13 for infor.

WRITE TO SANTA!



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Jaycee-ettes are eagerly awaiting your children's letters to Santa. There are special mailboxes at the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Post Offices for the letters. Mail early and the Jaycee-ettes will answer each one with a return address. Mailing their letters are: (left to right) Jeffrey Frank, Coulbourne Smaldone, Santa Claus supervising David Heine.

## What is the state of the SPFHS public school district?

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Howlett outlined for the Board of Education the current state of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, in a very comprehensive and detailed report which encompassed all facets of the school district operation. Howlett, who has served as Superintendent here for one year, provided in-depth data on enrollment figures, staffing, substitute teachers, special education programs, staff absentee rates, pupil attendance, minimum skills, testing results, etc. His product — a 42-page document — has been made available to governing bodies of both communities and is available to the public at all school offices and both public libraries.

Howlett sees the "State of the District" report as an historical documentation of the district at the end of the 1978-79 school year. Excerpts from the report will be published in series form in future issues of *The Times*.

In his introduction, Howlett takes a reflective approach as he traced his first year in his post. His conclusion is visionary, citing goals for the current and future years.

As background Howlett outlined the state of the district when he arrived, citing lack of resolution of a school budget, need for a cohesive central office administrative team (four of the six members were new employees) and the need to develop "a positive and harmonious tone in the community which had been beset within an extended period of turmoil and

## Plans five buildings on Plainfield Avenue

Joseph D'Annunzio of D'Annunzio Brothers, a construction firm at 2435 Plainfield Avenue in Scotch Plains, has submitted to the Scotch Plains Planning Board plans for the subdivision of site into five separate building lots. The lots would house five light industrial buildings.

The issue arose before the planning Board on Monday, but was postponed until December 17 because several of the notifications to adjacent homeowners were returned to sender by the Scotch Plains Post Office, thereby not reaching homeowners within the legally required ten days.

The property which is four-and-a-half acres in size, is presently zoned for the use anticipated by D'Annunzio. Therefore, no variance is required. At present, the site houses D'Annunzio Bros. office building and storage areas for heavy construction equipment.

Under the plans outlined,

acrimony that affected all elements of the school community and had led to a rather negative public image" of district and communities as well.

There is now a feeling of satisfaction that much success was realized in meeting the challenges, Howlett noted. Budget uncertainties brought tensions and anxiety throughout much of the year, but was eventually resolved.

The administrative team, completed with appointments of Dr. Robert Rader as Assistant Superintendent; Board Secretary; Dr. John Nolan as Director of Personnel Services; and Mr. Jean Poquette as Administrative Assistant was very soon fun-

tioning as a cohesive unit. The ill health of Dr. Perry Tyson, Assistant Superinten-

dent for Instruction, brought his retirement and the sub-

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Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Howlett outlines report as Board President Leonia Reilly and Vice President Ed Spack listen.

## Apt. tenants seek town aid in maintenance/rent

Approximately 30 tenants from Bayberry Gardens and Scotch Plains Gardens appeared before the Scotch Plains Council on Tuesday night to seek assistance and a rent control program. Robert Fleming, treasurer of the newly formed Scotch Plains Tenants Association, presented to Council a lengthy list of alleged complaints and situational comments at Bayberry Gardens on the south side of Scotch Plains. He said the organization represented at least 75 tenants.

Recent rent increases were one cause of concern. One tenant challenged that her rent increased unreasonably and she was given only twelve days to decide to renew her

lease at the higher rent.

Another, Valeria Kelly, who is the secretary of the new Association, claimed that in her four-unit building there has been no heat and no hot water and that health officials from Scotch Plains have had to be called.

Among the complaints included on a list submitted by Fleming, in addition to the excessive rent controls, were: inequity in increases among identical apartments, chronic lack of heat and hot water, leaking roofs, mold and mildew infestation, rodent and termite infestation, water leaks, cracked sidewalks and stairways, unavailability of maintenance service in emergency situations, etc.

Mayor Alan Augustine indicated that the governing body considers all residents - both homeowners and tenants - as part of the municipal family. "We are endeavoring to be as responsible as the law allows through proper channels of law," he stated, "and hopefully we can do something to make your lives better."

In other actions, the Scotch Plains Council approved a contract with municipal employees.

## Nelson is named Sergeant

Marshall Nelson, a nine-year veteran with the Scotch Plains Police Department, was appointed a sergeant at this week's meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council. "This is not an average routine promotion," said Chief Michael Rossi. "Marshall Nelson is an exceptional, intelligent, dedicated police officer. He is one who will form the nucleus of the police force of the future."

Nelson has received ten commendations - six from within the local and state

Council tabled action on a bid for new sidewalk installation on Terrill Road between Laurie Court and Kevin Road. The sidewalks would cost somewhere between \$6,500 and \$7,000. Council wishes to investigate further. One Terrill Road resident registered opposition to the installation, stating that only six or seven children live on Laurie Court and must walk to Coles School. He questioned why either the sidewalks weren't extended further, to serve students on the north side of Kevin on Terrill, or why they are necessary at all.

He felt students could walk down Laurie (where they already walk in the street, he said) and could cross Terrill at Laurie, walk on the opposite side of Terrill on sidewalks as far as Kevin, then cross over with a crossing guard at both corners.

Councilman Alice Agran noted that the sidewalks are recommended by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Council, but Council too has further questions.

Council members had high praise for two resigning

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police organizations and four from civilian personnel.



MARSHALL NELSON