



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

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25 CENTS

SERVICE LEAGUE DONATION IMPROVES FANWOOD PARKS



Left to right - Lindsay Jespersen, Christine Boyle, Katie Santo, Mark Santo. The generosity of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League made it all possible.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE TIMES MOVED UP TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Because of the Labor Day holiday, deadline for copy for the September 5 issue of THE TIMES will be moved up to Friday, August 30, 2 p.m.

WSPF-ETV SCHEDULE, CHANNEL 34

August 26 - 8 P.M. Scotch Plains Council's hearing on Mt. Laurel II decision.

BUS TOUR WILL VISIT HYDE PARK

The Watchung Hills Chapter of Women's American ORT is sponsoring a bus tour to The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York, on September 4.

The tour includes a seven course gourmet lunch at the Institute's Escoffier Restaurant plus admission to the Vanderbilt Mansion and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate and Library. A luxury air-conditioned coach will be used for travel.

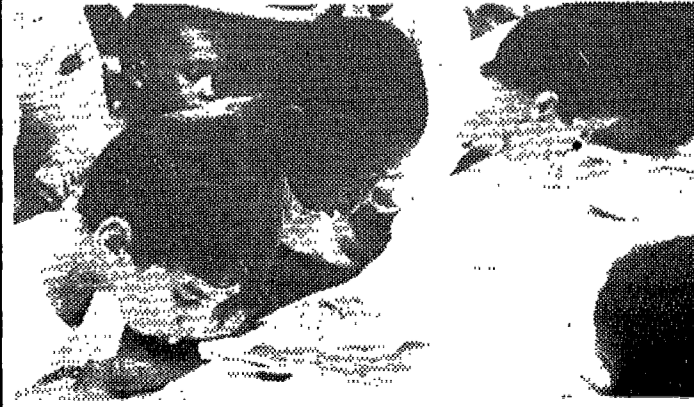
The tour fee is \$45 per person. For further details and reservation information call Bernice Levinson at 322-8792.

'85 SUMMER SEASON FINALE



Scotch Plains Recreation Counselors and children take part in various contests and games at Brookside Park, scene of 1985 summer season program finale.

The commission also reminds residents that space is still available for the bus trip to Great Adventure on September 7. The bus will leave from the Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, at 9:00 am and return at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$13 per person and children must be accompanied by an adult.



Bd. of Education votes to extend busing for school year

by Sharon Pachler For the time being, problems that drew 90 parents to a June Board of Education meeting have been resolved. At the close of the last school year, quite a number of families were informed by a private bus company that their routes had either been abruptly discontinued or, for others, that rates had at least doubled.

Michael Lane parents were told that after new measurement had been taken, an error in distance was discovered and so their children no longer qualified for free public busing. Residents caught in these situations turned to the Board of Education for assistance in June where they were told it was a township problem. Scotch Plains Town Council said that

decisions on this matter belonged to the Board of Education. Acting independently, resident Mariette Zeck had little difficulty locating a bus company in Piscataway that would transport children at a reasonable cost. Parents, facing huge rate increases or no available private bus, were somewhat satisfied, but still they wanted to know why better prices had not been actively sought by salaried Board personnel.

At last Thursday's Board of Education meeting, Sara Waters, a spokeswoman for this group of parents since June, raised two important questions: why, in light of the ease with which a less expensive bus company was obtained, the

Board had been accepting unopposed bids. Board Secretary Richard Marshall responded by saying that the FBI had been notified of this minimal competitive bidding in the past. Unanswered was Waters second question - why hadn't they been told this was going on? Through the efforts of Senator Donald DiFrancesco and these involved

parents, the Attorney General is investigating the lack of competition among bus companies. The Michael Lane residents who suddenly found their children without free transportation because of re-measurement were angered by, among other things, insufficient notification of their ineligibility. At Please turn to page 4

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Curbing & busing highlight Fanwood Council meeting
by Sharon Pachler A bond ordinance was introduced at last Wednesday night's Fanwood Council meeting which would increase appropriations for curbing along Forest Road by \$10,000. This increase came as a response to the receipt of bids at \$12.50 and \$18 per foot. September 5 has been set as the date for a second round of bidding on this project. If prices offered go beyond \$10 a linear foot, the maximum amount Council has promised it would cost, residents on Forest Road will be contacted.

Councilman Alfred Lindgren introduced an ordinance supporting a Senate bill to decrease the minimum mileage limit for public busing. Lindgren, liaison to the Board of Education, feels this bill "is in the best interest of the children of Fanwood." Council endorsed the ordinance as a "realistic approach" to the problem of transporting children who live a considerable distance from schools.

Lindgren added that although this is not a major problem in Fanwood, "it means a great deal to south side Scotch Plains children and should be supported."

Councilwoman Barbara Swindlehurst, reporting for Public Safety, noted a decrease in crime in the area. Part of the information she relayed from Chief Parenti mentioned the fact that thefts of electronic equipment from automobiles appear to be concentrated in the north west quadrant of the borough.

Included in the business covered that evening was an ordinance passed by Council to ensure Fanwood's continued participation in the Community Development Funding Program. In the past, this program has provided the borough with, among many other things, a senior citizen bus, ramps for the handicapped, and aided the downtown redevelopment project.



P.E. Peterson, former co-owner of The Peterson-Ringle Agency and Peter J. Degnan, president of Degnan Boyle Realtors, shake hands on the occasion of the acquisition of the agency by Degnan Boyle as William A. Boyle, Degnan Boyle chairman of the board and manager Pinky Luerssen look on.

Degnan Boyle, President of Degnan Boyle, a leading residential real estate organization with offices in Northern New Jersey, has acquired The Peterson Ringle Agency, 350 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Previous owners P.E. Peterson and David E. Ringle operated the of- by Peter J. Degnan, Please turn to page 3

Negotiations Update

Negotiations between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the Education Association, which includes district teachers and aides, continue this evening, Thursday, August 22, with state appointed mediator, Joe Weisblatt. Negotiations, which began in early March, bogged down in June and because of the lack of progress, the Board sought the assistance of a mediator to assist in a timely resolution. Mr. Weisblatt was not appointed until early August, at which time the Board and teachers resumed negotiations.

Dorothy Ericsson, Chairperson of the Board Negotiating Committee stated, "We're coming to Thursday's session prepared to stay all night if need be, in order to get a settlement. We're hoping that the Teachers' Team is as concerned as we are to reach agreement." Although Mrs. Ericsson described the Board's last offer to the teachers as quite fair, she declined to disclose details until after this evening's session.