



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 28 - NUMBER 48

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

NOVEMBER 28, 1985

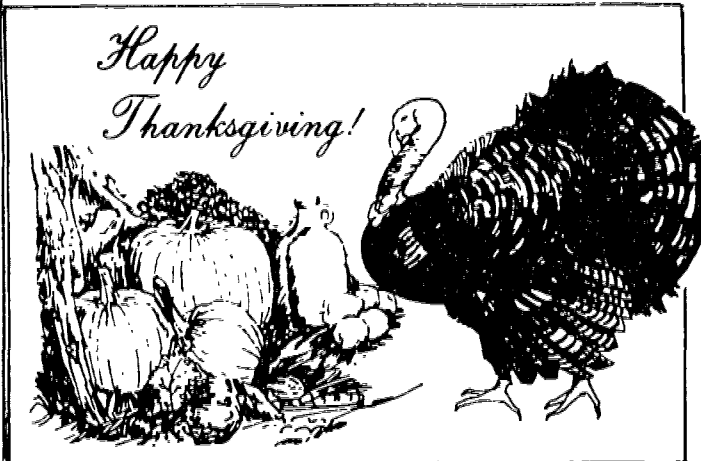
25 CENTS

## SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING AT EVERGREEN



In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, the students of Evergreen School have been contributing nonperishable food items to their Thanksgiving basket. "The children and their families have been very generous to share with those less fortunate in the community", commented Margaret Sylvester, Evergreen's school secretary and organizer of the project.

Pictured with Miss Sylvester are l. to r. Peter DeMarco, Devin Gannon, Kristen Novello and Stefanie Brilinski.



### SPF-ETV SCHEDULE

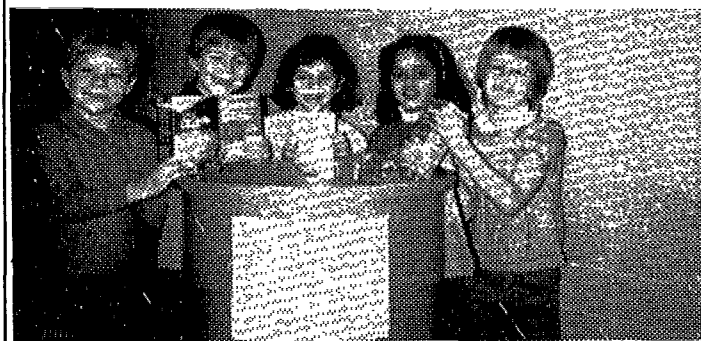
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, November 27, 28 & 29-9:00 P.M. Football vs. Westfield.

Monday, December 2-8:00 P.M. Girls Gymnastics vs. Union Catholic.

Tuesday & Thursday, November 3 & 5-7:45 P.M. Coles School Halloween Parade. 8:00 P.M. Football Play-off Game vs. Linden.

Wednesday, December 4-10:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. & 8:00 P.M.-Vision Arts-Georgette Denlinger interviews painter, Norma Gardner and woodcraftsman, Bill Young.

### BRUNNER SCHOOL PTA DISTRIBUTE HOLIDAY BASKETS



Brunner PTA will distribute food baskets to several needy local families for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. A variety of food items and small monetary donations are being accepted. The voluntary project encourages community involvement and appreciation for what the children have.

Placing their contributions in the "food bin" are left to right: George Kress, Joseph Wesley, Jodie Putzer, Asra Ahmed, and Amanda Podlas from Mrs. Burstiner's 1st grade.

## Bd. of Adjustment approves garden apartment complex

On Monday night, the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment approved the 332 unit garden apartment complex, Lamberts Mill Village.

Construction is not expected to begin until next year due to the time it takes to obtain the necessary government land-use permits. The process could take months, said Daniel Bernstein, applicant's attorney.

Many concerned residents promised to continue their fight against the project. "I am revolted and insulted", claimed Edward Ehrenkrantz, head of the Southside Property Owners Association which is a leading opponent of the village.

Michael Masciale, member of the board, was the only dissenter in the 6-1 approval. "In good conscience, I do not feel the current site plan is foolproof. We cannot take a chance when the welfare of the citizens of Scotch Plains is at stake", claims Masciale. His comments were appreciated by the public who attended the meeting.

This decision ended a five year battle that began with a December 22, 1980 board decision to rezone the property known as

Amberg Farm, from industrial use to residential.

Residents object to the project because the construction would ruin the wetlands environment, increase flooding and clog

traffic. They also admit that the property may have some historical significance.

Jolen Realty claimed that the project would not increase flooding or

damage the area in any way.

The location of Lamberts Mill Village will be between Lamberts Mill Road and Winding Brook Way in Scotch Plains.

## LCDR Checchio receives Topcat of the Year award

Lieutenant Commander Mark Checchio was the recipient of the 1985 "TOPCAT" award. His superior performance in the fighter community during the past year ranked him "top choice" among those competing for this award.

LCDR Checchio was born March 10, 1952 in Scotch Plains, NJ, the son of Mauro and Portia Checchio, former mayor of Scotch Plains. Following high school graduation from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, he reported to the United States Naval Academy where he graduated with honors and was commissioned an Ensign in June of 1974.

LCDR Checchio immediately entered flight training and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in August 1975. He reported to Fighter Squadron ONE



Returning from their flight in the F-14 TOMCAT are LCDR Mark Checchio (right) and Naval Flight Officer (NFO).

TWENTY-ONE at NAS Miramar for replacement RIO training in the F-4 "Phantom II".

His first duty assignment was with the "Hellcats" of Fighter Squadron ONE NINETY-ONE at NAS Miramar where he completed a nine month WESTPAC cruise aboard USS CORAL SEA. Upon return, VF-191 was decommissioned and he was ordered to VF-124 for transition to the F-14A "Tomcat". In February 1978, he reported to the "Aardvarks" of Fighter Squadron ONE ONE FOUR at NAS Miramar where he deployed to the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean aboard USS AMERICA.

LCDR Checchio reported to Navy Fighter Weapons School as an instructor in June 1980. While at "Topgun" he implemented the Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST) program and was chosen for reassignment to pilot training.

In November 1981, he reported to Pensacola, Florida for pilot training and received his wings in May 1983. He reported to Fighter Squadron ONE TWO FOUR for replacement pilot training in the F-14 Tomcat. His next duty assignment was with the Screaming Eagles of Fighter Squadron FIFTY-ONE. While with VF-51, he deployed to WESTPAC and the Indian Ocean aboard USS CARL VINSON.

LCDR Checchio is a "superstar" whose individual achievements during the past year, both on the ground and in the cockpit, make him uniquely eligible for this prestigious award. Mark is serving his first tour as an F-14 pilot following pilot transition training. Prior to that, he served as a RIO in F-4's and F-14's and as an instructor RIO at Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN).

During the squadron's recently completed

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## Leaf disposal plagues Township of S.P.

by Sharon Pachler

Falling leaves can be lovely. They mark the season, add crispness to the air, crunch to the step. But this Autumn they became a nuisance as ever increasing piles of leaves clogged roadways, making travel hazardous for both motorists and pedestrians in Scotch Plains. By late November in past years, leaf collection was well underway with Public Works crews depositing leaves at either the Environmental Center on the north end of town or the Martine Avenue Extension site on the south end.

Last year, however, neighbors around the Martine Avenue facility complained of odor and the Department of En-

vironmental Protection responded by closing the temporary leaf storage areas. Mayor Gabriel Spera reacted to the D.E.P.'s move by appointing a Solid Waste Advisory Committee in January, 1985. The Committee, in turn, made two recommendations to Council: encourage the County to find a regional location for leaf composting or place containers on lightly trafficked streets.

The first recommendation received no County back-up and the second was unanimously rejected by Council on October 17. Council members felt that traffic safety factors, potential for fires, and

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