



SCOTCH PLAINS

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## FAN. FIRE DEPT. ASKS RESIDENTS TO "ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT"

During and after a snowstorm, fire hydrants are often difficult to locate because they are either covered by the snowfall itself, or by the plowing and shoveling which follows the storm.

In the event that a fire should occur, valuable minutes would be lost while the responding firemen try to locate the hydrant and then connect their hoses to it. This delay in getting water to the fire would result in unnecessary damage and in increased risk to the firemen.

After the recent "Blizzard of 83", members of the Fanwood Fire Department spent approximately 70 man hours clearing the hydrants of Fanwood, so that they would be available in the event of a fire.

The Fanwood Fire Department is asking that residents adopt the fire hydrant in their neighborhood and make sure that after any snowfall, the hydrant is clearly visible, and is dug out so that not only can the firemen get to the hydrant, but so that all of the hydrant ports are thoroughly cleared so that hoses can be connected to them if it should be necessary.

If at any other time, a resident should observe any problem with a hydrant that could affect the firemen's ability to locate or use a hydrant, they are asked to notify the Fire Department by calling the Fanwood Police Department, at 322-5000.

If every resident helped by adopting the hydrant in their neighborhood, the job of the fire department would be greatly helped, and these residents would be helping themselves, their neighbors and their community.

## DECA STUDENTS AND THE PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN ON "FANWOOD FACTS"

DECA students Denise Aversa, Marc Sorkin, Steven Davis, Gregory Muller and Mark Swindlehurst will be the guests of Fanwood Mayor Patricia Kuran on the "Fanwood Facts" show for March. Some of the history, past projects and goals of DECA will be described by Aversa, Sorkin and Davis. The current project, repainting the first floor interior of the Fanwood Railroad Station, will be discussed by Muller and Swindlehurst.

In the final segment of the show, S.P.-F. PTA Council Vice-President Kristi Hawkins will explain the concept behind the purple ribbons tied around trees and poles on Martine Ave. and Second Street, and the attempt to heighten public consciousness during National PTA Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.

"Fanwood Facts" will be shown on Suburban Cablevision's Channel 3 Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. and again on Tuesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m.

## FREE BP SCREENING

The Fanwood Board of Health will conduct a free blood pressure screening from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 15, 1986. The program will be held at the Fanwood Municipal Bldg., Multi-purpose Rm., 75 N. Martine, Fanwood, N.J.

## S.P. LISTENING POST

The monthly Scotch Plains' Listening Post will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Park Avenue.

## SPF-ETV SCHEDULE

The following programs will be aired at 11:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 27 - Wrestling vs. Linden.  
Friday, February 28 - Boys Basketball vs. Hillside.  
Monday, March 3 - Channel 34 News.  
Tuesday, March 4 - Wrestling vs. Piscataway.  
Wednesday, March 5 - Battle of the Minds #10.  
Thursday, March 6 - Boys Basketball vs. Hillside.  
Friday, March 7 - Wrestling vs. Piscataway.

## Arson is determined cause of Mama Rosa's explosion



by Audrey Lipinski The awful aftermath of the explosion at Mama Rosa's Restaurant.

Photo by Jim Hoelzel

A massive explosion has condemned the that leveled Mama Rosa's Italian Restaurant and ordered its demolition.

Police Capt. Biagio Mineo said two officers were on routine patrol checking Riffy's Tavern, on Front Street, when someone came running up to report the explosion.

An investigation determined the blast was deliberately set, said Sgt. John Langan, of the Union County Arson Task Force.

The Union County Arson Squad was assisted in its investigation by the Scotch Plains Police Department and agents of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The investigation revealed that natural gas was fuel for the explosion that took place, and was introduced by deliberate, premeditated criminal acts that circumvented standard security procedures for the safe operation of the natural gas system utilized in the restaurant.

No one was injured in the 2:41 a.m. blast which demolished two thirds of the restaurant. The front section was damaged beyond repair. In the rear of the building, collapsed walls buried a red van while debris hung from surrounding trees. The restaurant's front door was found across the street.

Township Building Inspector, Robert LaCosta,

declared an arson case.

Windows were shattered out of 30 buildings on East Second Street and Park Avenue, including the public library.

Tony Acocella, of Tony's Pharmacy, said "The front windows of my store were completely blown out. It definitely had a negative effect on my business. I'm sorry to see the restaurant gone."

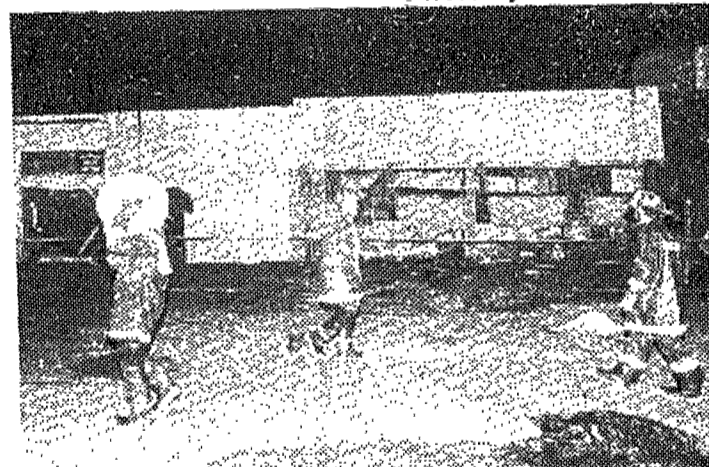
Alex DePace, proprietor of DePace Barber Shop found his bathroom completely destroyed and his cash register smashed from the sudden impact.

"I hope to be in operation today," said DePace.

Evelyn McCormack, an employee at Lady Leslie's, said the blast shattered a front window damaging several displays.

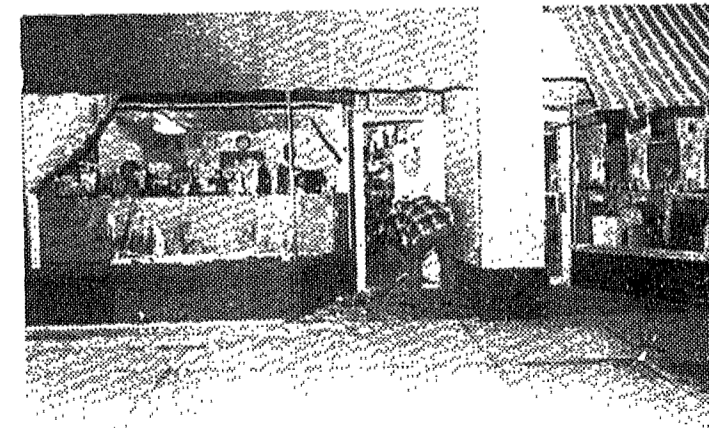
Fire Chief Harry Messemer said his department received the call at 2:45 a.m. and responded with 23 men from the Northside Fire Co.

"We couldn't put the fire out until the gas company came and shut off the main line," concluded



Fire Department investigates debris after Tuesday morning's explosion.

Photo by Jim Hoelzel



Heels and Soles Shoestore owner, Rocco DiFrancesco, shovels up remains of store front windows.

Photo by Jim Hoelzel

department to extinguish the flames.

Ron Reisman, Public Relations Manager from Elizabeth Gas Company, said the company received the call at 2:45 a.m. The crew arrived on the scene at 3:13 a.m. and cut service at the curb at 3:45 a.m., enabling the fire

Reisman said. "There were no breaks in the main gas pipe, none in the sewers or within the ground around 516 Park Avenue."

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