



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

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FANWOOD

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## Cannonball House opens for 20th year March 1st



The Osborn/Cannonball House, located on Front Street, Scotch Plains, will reopen its doors for visitors for the 20th year on Sunday, March 1st and the first Sunday of each month for the remainder of the year.

Costumed docents will give tours of the House from 2 to 4 pm.

Admission is free.

## Tentative agreement on teachers' contract

After over a year of widely publicized negotiations, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association and Board of Education have finally reached a tentative agreement on the teachers' contract.

As of press time, final details of the agreement were not available, but will be reported upon in next week's issue of THE TIMES.

## Kindergarten registration is now open for schools

Children who will attend Kindergarten in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools in September, 1992, are now being registered in each of the district's elementary schools. To be eligible, a child must be five years of age on or before October 1, 1992.

Initial registration forms have been given to parents of children currently attending elementary schools in the district. Families who have not yet had a child enrolled in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools can obtain an initial registration form from the elementary school in the attendance area in which the family resides. The form should be returned to the schools as soon as possible. Following receipt of all initial registration forms, the schools will then inform respective parents of the procedures for completing registration.

## Seven candidates for Board seats

Two incumbents and five newcomers have announced their candidacy for three seats on the Board of Education. Local voters will choose two Scotch Plains members and one Fanwood member in the April 28th election.

In Scotch Plains, incumbent Albert Syvertsen is seeking his second term on the board. Other township candidates include Donald Sheldon, Raymond L. Schnitzer and John S. Roberts.

Fanwood voters will cast their pleasure for either incumbent Leonia Reilly, who has served 18 years on the board; David M. Hagan or James L. Martin.

## Fanwood residents voice opposition to monopole

Tempers flared as over 100 residents showed up at the Fanwood Zoning Board of Adjustment's February 20 meeting. Angry residents voiced their opposition to a proposal made by Cellular One to construct a 100 foot monopole at 277 South Ave. on property adjacent to the post office and the Mansion Hotel. The property is owned by The Boyle Company of Union who also owns the Mansion Hotel.

Cellular One is owned by Lynn Broadcasting who in turn is owned by McCall Communications who is the largest cellular communications company in the country. The proposal includes permission to construct a one-story 14x28 foot unmanned modular telecommunications building at the base of the property. A 12x12 foot triangular antenna platform would be located at the top of the pole.

According to Charles Brandt, attorney for the zoning board, Cellular One is requesting four specific variances. The first is a 'use variance.' The area in question is designated as a 'professional office' zone. The monopole and building do not meet 'professional office' zone criteria. Cellular One is asking for 'limited industrial use.' The second variance deals with the exact location of the monopole and building. A 'setback' of 30 feet from the rear of the property line is required in Fan-

wood. Cellular One's proposal asks for a 'setback' of 15 feet. The third variance concerns height. The Fanwood zoning ordinance dealing with height prohibits structures over 35 feet high. The proposed monopole would be 100 feet high. The fourth variance asks for dual use on the same lot referring to the monopole/building proposal and the home that is currently on the property.

Cellular One presented quite an array of expert testimony at the January 16 Zoning Board of Ad-

justment meeting. The experts who testified on behalf of the proposal included a planner, architect, engineer and physicist from Bell Labs. The safety of the radio waves and the technology was explained by the physicist. He stated that there would be no health risk involved.

The February 20 meeting gave residents an opportunity to speak out. Although some members of the crowd became somewhat boisterous at times, Chairman John

Please turn to page 10

## Trenton puts township budget on hold

During the "Address From the Floor" portion of the regular meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council which took place Tuesday evening at the Municipal Building, Township

Manager Tom Atkins announced that because of information not yet received from Trenton, the township budget will not be acted upon for probably three or four weeks. This was in response to a question raised by Ken Anderson regarding the budget process and how citizens could take part in it. It was made clear that the Council will announce well in advance as to when meetings regarding the budget will occur. Councilman Alan Augustine also commented during another part of the meeting that the "Listening Post" was open to any Scotch Plains resident to talk about anything to members of the Council.

In her committee report, Councilwoman Joan Papen stated that the Board of Education election and the vote on the school budget had been delayed until April 28. This action was taken by the state legislature and has become a partisan issue with the Democrats claiming that the republicans have delayed the process in order to change the aid moneys that the state provides.

An ordinance regarding prohibited parking on a section of Morse Avenue near its intersection with Plainfield Avenue was tabled after Ruth Wilson of Morse Ave. complained that the island that had been installed had caused severe traffic problems and that this ordinance

would add considerably to the situation. The council said it would look into it and called for reports both from the Police and Engineering Departments.

However, an ordinance was adopted which calls for no stopping or standing in an area in front of McGinn School. Martha Sides Lathrop of the McGinn School PTA thanked the Council and the Police department for their cooperation in bringing this regulation to fruition and said it was greatly needed for the safety of the children.

Councilman Bill McClintock announced the new library officers. Bill Burke has been selected as president, Diane DiFrancesco as vice president, Paula Criscuolo as treasurer and Ruth Sanford as secretary.

A resolution was adopted making March "Women's History Month" and another resolution made the week of March 1-7 "Foreign Language Week."

Mayor Irene T. Schmidt appointed a Citizen's Advisory Committee to work with Construction Official Robert LaCosta, the Municipal Manager and other Department Heads on compliance with the newly enacted Americans With Disability Act. Those named were Sal Lauro, Chairman, Roy Rusk, Jerold Grupp, Rabbi George Nudel and Bob LaCosta.

## For Your Information

THE TIMES presents the following information so that residents may better understand the workings of municipal government and the terms used.

Planning and zoning are the means by which governments control or affect the growth and development of a community along desirable lines. Zoning is a major tool for carrying out planning goals. A Zoning Board of Adjustment concerns itself with two specific aspects of planning.

The first involves dividing an area into districts or zones --residential, business, industrial, etc. -- and then regulating the use of land and buildings within these zones. The second aspect deals with regulation of building heights, lot sizes, yard dimensions, road widths and other physical elements.

A zoning variance is the permission granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment to "adjust" or "depart" from the requirements of a zoning ordinance. In essence, it is an authorization to a property owner (the applicant) to depart from requirements of zoning regulations in utilization of his property.

A "use variance" is a variance which grants to the applicant use of his or her property in a matter other than that permitted by zoning ordinances. An ordinance is a rule established by legal authority. It becomes municipal local law. It governs matters not already covered, or covered minimally, by federal or state law. Ordinances commonly govern building and zoning, property maintenance, etc.

**FANWOOD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS:** John Celardo, Chairman; John Todd, Vice Chairman; Leslie Borger, Louis Cacciavotolo, Randal Doliber, Kathleen Rice, Warren West\* \*Warren West has excused himself from the Cellular One proposal decision because his place of employment is within 200 feet of the proposed site. Although the Zoning Board has two alternate positions, currently only one person serves in that capacity. Alternate Janice Shacktell will replace Mr. West regarding the Cellular One proposal.