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WEDDING PLANNER

See pages 8 and 9.

Scotch Plains Night aids Project Graduation

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission welcomes whole families to take part in an exciting event: a game at the Meadowlands with the Nets playing the Golden State Warriors. Chris Mullin, Tim Hardaway, Billy Owen and others will thrill fans on Saturday, March 28th, starting at 7:30 pm. This is also a "lunch box night," and each ticket holder will receive a coupon which can later be redeemed for a Nets lunch box. Tickets are available at the Recreation Officer, Scotch Plains.

Tickets are only \$16.00 each. If you require transportation, for only \$19.00 you can ride the bus to the Meadowlands, and see the game as well. (Persons under 18 using the bus must be accompanied by an adult.) The best feature of this event, is that a portion of each ticket sold will be donated toward Project Graduation. This worthwhile cause promotes an entire night of fun and games for seniors in a safe, secure atmosphere. So, purchasing a ticket to the Town Night will be twofold--fun for you and an exciting night for seniors, which you helped underwrite!!!

Music Boosters/PTA sponsor dance 3/20

The Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Music Boosters and PTA are sponsoring a "They Shoot Horses Don't They?" dance till you drop event on Friday, March 20, 1992 at the Italian American Hall in Scotch Plains at 8:00 pm.

For your listening and dancing pleasure, the dance will feature the Moonglowers, the SPF Jazz band and a D.J. Refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Tickets for this fund raiser are \$15 per person. For further information and tickets, please contact Ann O'Brien at 756-3079.

United Way needs your help to meet goal

United Way of Scotch Plains' 1991-92 annual fund raising campaign is underway. "We have received approximately 30% of our goal and commitments for an additional 50%" reported Trustee President George Gates. He further wished to assure our community that the local funds raised are in no way affected by or distributed to the National organization. He went on to indicate, that without local support, which the United Way now needs more than ever, the United Way will not be able to support the fourteen local agencies affiliated with the United Way of Scotch Plains to the extent we would like to.

Teachers and board settle long-awaited contract

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood teachers have ratified a two-year contract with the Board of Education covering a period from July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1993. The teachers took the action this past Friday night after the Board had taken a similar action the night before, thus ending negotiations that took over a year to complete. The details will be worked out later.

The last stumbling block regarding a settlement had to do with lunch hours in the elementary schools, grades K-5. It was finally agreed by both parties that there would be an increase of 20 minutes in the instructional day but the length of the teachers' work day would not increase. The lunch hour will still be one hour.

Regarding salaries, the settlement included increases for teachers of 7.9% this year and 7.5% next year. Co-curricular received the same, while aides got 8.9% this year and 8.5% for next year, and the coaches were given a 9% increase for both years. The approximate average teacher's salary will be \$44,264.

Other points in the contract set the hourly rate for summer pay at \$20 for the past summer and \$22 this summer. Also included, after 10 years of service were accumulated sick days of \$45 per day with a maximum of \$5400 for teachers and \$12 per day with a maximum of \$1625 for aides with the maximum being frozen for both years of the contract.

The Board was able to gain an increased deductible in the teachers major medical program of \$200 for a single person and \$400 for a family along with an increased deductible in the dental plan of \$25 single and \$50 family. The teachers must now obtain a second opinion for elective non-emergency surgery, and both a health insurance and dental insurance waiver option are now in place.

There is also a reduction of one sabbatical leave

which means that there will be only three sabbatical leaves with a maximum of two leaves during one semester for the entire school district each year.

Mrs. Leonia Reilly, Board Vice President said, "We're pleased the negotiations are over and

we're sorry that it took so long. While some people have commented on the increase percentage, it is down from previous settlements and very much in line with similar districts."

Elaine Kolker, of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Education Association commented, "We are happy the negotiations have been completed but are disappointed at the length of time it took to resolve the contract. Now we can put all of our energy into what we do best: teaching."

Ruotolo forms county Human Rights Commission

Union County community leaders, elected officials, clergy, educators and students gathered at the Elizabeth campus of Union County College on March 2 for the initial meeting of the newly created Union County Human Relations Commission. Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) was the guest speaker. Attorney General Robert Del Tufo and Union County Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr. also addressed the crowd in the packed theater.

In 1990, New Jersey Attorney General Robert Del Tufo urged each county prosecutor to establish a human relations commission. The function of such a commission being the mobilization of entire communities to address the compelling issues of bias and its impact on local schools, workplaces and community.

Since taking office in June of 1991, Prosecutor Ruotolo has made the creation of a human relations commission in Union County a top priority. Prosecutor Ruotolo and his staff have been working with community leaders to establish a human relations commission whose mission will be to actively encourage, develop, promote and strengthen respect for human rights and cultural diversity among the people of Union County. The commission is comprised of 13 members from the law enforcement, religious, social services and educational community. They will conduct educational programs and study the impact of bias crimes on

communities.

In his remarks, Prosecutor Ruotolo said that "Americans have two paths from which to choose -- the first is one of intolerance and bigotry. The second is the more noble. It is a path which celebrates diversity and encourages people to live in harmony and peace." Attorney General Del Tufo spoke of "people power -- people working toward a common goal...bias and slander cannot be tolerated in our society." DelTufo said "we have to understand and appreciate cultural differences. It is time to put aside prejudice and bigotry. Let us pledge ourselves to a new effort...make life better than it was and as good as it can be."

Sen. Bradley touched upon several subjects including communism, changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, education, the family, democracy and presidential candidates Buchanan and Duke. Bradley stated that the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "offer us a time to look at our future." He spoke of the United States as being a "pluralistic society"

where democracy means participation." Americans can shape their future through their vote," said Bradley.

The senator stressed the importance of education saying "students can put their foot in the door if they have a strong education." He also called for a strengthening of the family unit. In mentioning controversial presidential candidates Patrick Buchanan and David Duke and some of their remarks regarding "foreigners," Bradley stated "today's citizens were yesterday's foreigners." He encouraged all people to "work together to build a better society" stating "differences are opportunities for growth."

Sen. Bradley said "people should not be identified by their ethnicity or race." He spoke of the cultural diversity which contributes to America's greatness. The senator concluded his remarks by quoting the 20th century Pulitzer Prize winning poet Stephen Vincent Benet -- "America--all of these things you are." Senator Bradley called the commission an "enormous positive" and stated it was a pleasure to be a part of its opening session.

Monthly BP Clinic

The Township of Scotch Plains will hold the monthly Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) Screening Clinic on Thursday, March 12, 1992.

The Clinic will be held in the Scotch Plains Public Library Community Room from 4:00 - 7:00 P.M. and is free. The intent of the clinic is to identify new cases of High Blood Pressure. Those persons who are over the age of thirty and smoke or are overweight or have a family history of heart disease or diabetes and have not had their blood pressure checked recently are urged to attend.