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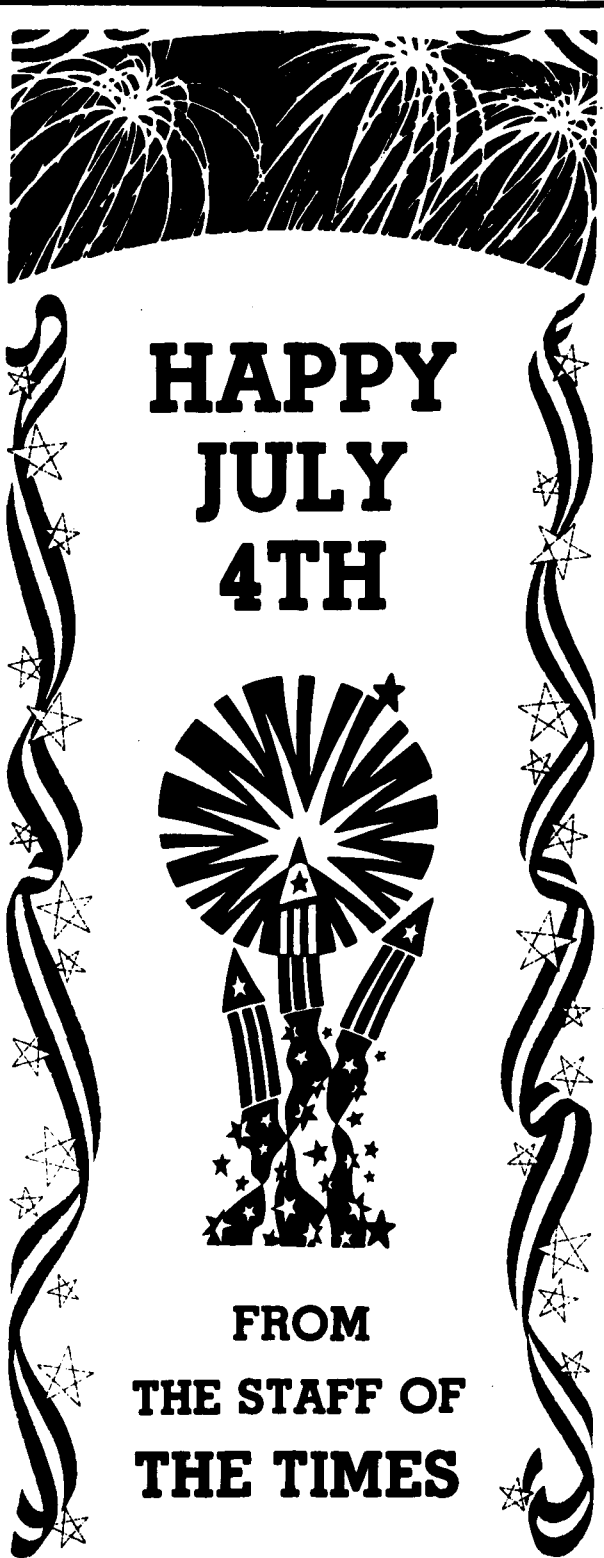


FANWOOD

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**HAPPY
JULY
4TH**

**FROM
THE STAFF OF
THE TIMES**

Borough holds public hearing on "Affordable Housing"

Approximately 50 residents attended a special public meeting held on Wednesday, June 24 to obtain public input regarding the May 6 Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) Fanwood decision. The meeting was chaired by Councilwoman Maryanne Connelly who is chairperson of the recently created housing committee. The two other council members serving on that committee are David Borger and Andrew MacDonald. In addition to Connelly and MacDonald, Councilman Kevin McGonigle and Frank Rossi attended this special meeting.

The Borough must submit a fair share plan and housing element statement detailing various demographics to COAH by August 4. COAH will then review the plan. If it meets with approval the plan will receive substantive certification. According to a COAH spokesperson, this review process can take "anywhere from a few

months to any number of months depending on the complexity of the plan and if there are any objectors."

Councilwoman Connelly opened the meeting by explaining that the housing committee was still in the "evaluation and negotiation stages" and that the committee "has not finalized plans." She also stated that Richard Price, a professional planner, was hired by the Borough to assist in developing plans.

Connelly then turned the meeting over to Jeffrey Kantowitz, an attorney representing the Borough in this particular case. Kantowitz explained COAH's May 6 decision. Essentially, COAH decided that three of the four originally proposed sites were suitable for affordable housing at varying densities per acre.

Site #1 (1.34 acres) located at the corner of Third Street and LaGrande Avenue was deemed "available, suitable and approvable" by COAH at 12 units per

acre. This property is owned by the LaGrande Square Partnership, Robert Rau of Warren and Richard Bower. COAH declared site #2 (2.65 acres) on Terrill Road suitable at six units per acre. This site is owned by Michael McCabe of Middletown. McCabe and developer Patrick Minogue plan to build on this site, according to their attorney, Joseph Murray. On behalf of his clients, Murray recently filed a notice of motion for clarification of opinion with COAH. The purpose of the motion is to obtain clarification that the granting of six units per acre refers to duplex and not single family units.

COAH established a gross density of 10 units per acre on Site #3 (1.2 acres) located on Midway Avenue. This site is owned by the LaGrande Midway Partnership. According to Robert Krause, the attorney representing both the LaGrande Square Partnership (Rau and Bower) and the LaGrande Midway Partnership, Bar-

bara Steinfeld of Wat-chung is the principal (50 percent) owner of Site #3. The remaining 50 percent ownership is comprised of seven individuals. The North Avenue property, Site #4 (1.4 acres) owned by Robert Rau was excluded from the Borough's fair share plan for low and moderate income housing.

The second major decision issued by COAH concerned Fanwood's fair share number. Fanwood's precertified number was 87. Although Fanwood vigorously fought for a zero number, COAH established Fanwood's fair share number to be eight. This number was arrived upon after COAH received Fanwood's crediting documentation for rehabilitating nine substandard housing units. Borough attorney Dennis Estis stated that the Borough had spent "a great deal of time and money" fighting the zero number issue and at times COAH appeared "unbending. This appears to be a

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The 'Kuran Copper Beech'

At a testimonial given in her honor in June 1991, former Mayor Patricia M. Kuran requested that in lieu of a gift, a special tree be planted on Borough Hall property. She asked



Trees are the kindest things I know, they do no harm, they simply grow.

that the tree be a Copper Beech.

Last week Council President Maryanne Con-

nelly kept that promise, presenting Mayor Kuran with the tree which is now planted in front of Borough Hall. It is the only Copper Beech on the grounds.

According to tree experts, you cannot mistake a Copper Beech for any other tree. The clear, smooth, taut gray bark of the trunk contributes to the tree's beauty. The name "Copper Beech" is somewhat misleading since the leaves are actually a deep purple from spring through fall.

Thoreau referred to the long, thin, sharp-pointed buds of the Beech as "the spearheads of Spring." This valuable tree will not only add beauty to the well-groomed, charming grounds of Borough Hall but is strategically located to replace a mature Linden tree which is in decline.



Fanwood Council President Maryanne Connelly presents former Mayor with the "Kuran Copper Beech."

DINING GUIDE

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