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SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## No new neon signs for Scotch Plains

There will be no neon signs permitted (at least for the time being) in Scotch Plains. The Township Council unanimously passed an ordinance over the very strong objection of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chamber of Commerce Vice President Steve Steinberger. The ordinance prohibits any new neon signs from being used by any local business establishment until a full review of the situation is done early in 1993.

Councilwoman Joan Papen said that the objectionable signs were "popping up like mushrooms" and that if the trend continued, downtown Scotch Plains would have a "Coney Island facade." Councilman George Brown stated that he was initially against the ordinance but later when he realized what was taking place, opposed the pro-

liferation of "garnish signs." In answer to Steinberger's remark that the ordinance would reduce competition, Brown noted he thought the signs were not competitive but merely just brought about more signs.

In rebuttal to Papen's comment about keeping the town "colonial" in appearance, Steinberger said East Second Street wasn't colonial now, and he surmised that neon signs were good, brought in business and kept Scotch Plains from looking like a ghost town.

Councilman Alan Augustine disagreed, feeling that the signs would dampen the town's image "as one of the finer residential communities in the country". Mayor Irene Schmidt and Councilman Bill McClintock added their support for the ordinance which they hoped would help to make

"downtown something we all can be proud of."

During the meeting, which took place this past Tuesday evening at the Municipal Building, Brown announced that a mailing would be going out to all residents regarding the airplane noise

problem. Included in it will be two postcards which residents will be asked to send to Governor Jim Florio and the FAA to show that the FAA report is wrong when it surmised that the noise affected only a limited amount of

*Please turn to page 15*

## DECA sponsors Decoration Contest

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter is sponsoring its 12th annual Holiday Home Decoration Contest for residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Many awards will be given including trophies for the top winners from each community. Any outdoor decoration of homes, lawns, trees or windows can be included in the contest. Judging will be based on the decorations that best

convey the spirit of the holiday season. Residents may enter their homes or their neighbors homes in the contest by calling the Scotch Plains Recreation Department at 322-6700 or the Fanwood Borough Hall at 322-3236. Please leave the name of the person or family entering the contest, the address and phone number. Judging will take place December 26 - 30, so entrants are asked to leave their lights on during those evenings.

