



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



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FORTY CENTS



A TASTE OF FRANCE...At the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School French Club fondue party shown, left to right, are: Katie Garibaldi, Jared DuVolsin, Candace Chol and Solagne Singh. Please see a story on Page 3.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES ACTION UNTIL DOCUMENT IS STUDIED AGAIN

Calendar Requiring Teachers to Return During Rosh Hoshanah Draws Concern

Administrators Want Week Off in February, Not Long Weekend; Snow Days This Year Concern Dr. Choye; Superintendent Recommends Opening 18th of This Month, Adding Day in June; Decision on Final Session Delayed

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Times

Board members were unable to come to a decision regarding the school calendar for the 1994-1995 school year at Thursday's meeting. The calendar Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, presented to the board for approval has a starting date of Thursday, September 8, with that day and the following being what she called "single-session" days, or shortened days.

School will end for the year on Wednesday, June 21.

Teachers will start their year, according to the proposed calendar, on the second day of Rosh Hoshanah, Wednesday, September 7, for teachers' orientation and welcome back, Dr. Choye said.

There were divided opinions on the start of the time off for Rosh Hoshanah and the vacation time in

February, she continued. Some administrators wanted a week off in February, instead of a four-day weekend, but that made the year extend too far into June, the Superintendent said. "We've looked at every option," she noted.

"I'm concerned about the September 7 start," said board member Morris H. Gillet.

He noted it puts unfair pressure on the Jewish teachers to attend school, "when they should be in temple."

He added the day was "not a vacation," but a time of religious ceremony for those of the Jewish faith.

Dr. Choye pointed out 25 teachers took the second day of Rosh Hoshanah as a personal day last year, and she anticipated the same number would do it this year.

Mr. Gillet said he suspects there are more than 25 teachers who are Jewish and who didn't take the day off because of pressure to be in school.

Board member August Ruggiero added he thinks, "The absence of our teachers is more important than the four-day weekend in February. I support Mr. Gillet's position."

Mr. Ruggiero suggested making public two different calendar proposals to elicit response, but board member, Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson, didn't support that.

"Dr. Choye has given an educational rationale the public may not understand if she is not there to explain," she said.

She asked Dr. Choye if she has a sense of what the teachers would like.

Dr. Choye responded, "My best judgment is it's best to have the youngsters in two days" for the first week.

"I don't know how clear our concerns are if we wait another month," Board President, Dr. Donald E. Sheldon, told the board. "Dr. Choye has spent a lot of time on this."

Mr. Ruggiero said he would like more time to consider, and the motion to table the matter passed, with Dr. Sheldon and Board Vice Presi-

dent, Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar, voting "no." James L. Martin and Mark W. Koster were absent from the meeting.

In another calendar matter, Dr. Choye and the board discussed the unprecedented event of so many school closures already in the year.

"Never, in seven years of being a Superintendent, have I closed four days, much less six days like here," she said.

There is a state minimum of days in a school calendar year, she noted, of 180 days.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood's school calendar this year allows for 184 days, presumably to have enough snow days built into the calendar so school will not extend beyond the proposed Tuesday, June 21 closing.

Because of using six snow days, she said, two days will have to be added. The only other thing that could happen, she continued, is if Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, "forgives" a day or two.

"She has not forgiven them yet," stated the Superintendent. She may."

Dr. Choye believes the days may be forgiven because school was closed on at least one day because of the possibility of power failures, not actual snow.

"I'm recommending opening school on Friday, February 18, and one day in June," she said.

The 21st day of February, now a vacation, is a legal holiday, President's Day, she said, and school could not open that day.

The board discussed the problems of adding a day to the year, since Project Graduation and the actual graduation ceremonies have been reserved and planned for months.

"What about graduation on Friday, June 24?" asked Mrs. Simpson, and she was told Friday is Sabbath day in the Jewish religion.

"You've got to understand; it's not fair to ask them to make that choice," Mr. Gillet said, speaking of the Jew-

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Students From Distributive Education Club To Assume Positions in Township on Tuesday

Survey of Downtown Business District Also Will Be Made Public at Meeting and at March Breakfast

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

At Tuesday's agenda-setting conference meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council Distributive Education Clubs of America students were in attendance along with their advisor Donald Cababe.

Mr. Cababe is a marketing teacher at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

The students will conduct next week's public meeting. They also will make public their survey of the downtown business district.

Ninety-five per cent of the businesses responded along with 14 per cent of other Scotch Plains residents, they said.

Approximately 1,200 responses were received, Mr. Cababe noted. Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. included the survey "a terrific job" and "very professional."

The survey would have cost the township thousands of dollars if an outside consulting firm performed the work, Mayor McClintock said.

A breakfast meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, at the Park Place Restaurant in Scotch Plains to discuss the survey's results with local business leaders, he noted.

Michael Locasio, the Co-Chairman of the Downtown Committee, said it is the aim of his committee to upgrade the township by upgrading downtown.

According to Mr. Locasio, if the downtown area is beautified, property values will rise, more people will want to move to Scotch Plains and the area will be more pleasing to the eye.

The following students attended Tuesday's meeting, and the roles they will play at this coming Tuesday's meeting follow their names:

- Gregory Atkins, Mayor McClintock
- Abbey Posyton, Township Clerk, Mrs. Barbara Riege
- Daniel Hall, Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins
- Jeffrey Gander, Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco, the Township Attorney
- Meredith Valenzano, Deputy Mayor Robert Johnston
- Michael Rubuth, Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papan
- Russell Frame, Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene Schmidt
- Douglas Roesser, Councilman Alan M. Augustine

Gregory Atkins is the son of the

Township Manager.

All the students have jobs obtained through the club program at which they work on the average of 15 hours per week.

This is in addition to their school work. There are about 25 active members of the club who compete in national, state and regional competitions.

It is uncertain when Mr. Atkins will recommend the 1994 municipal budget to the council due to uncertain funding from the state.

It is hoped the budget process will begin in April.

If state funding falls short the Township Manager forces a \$100 to \$125 tax increase per household.

A resolution urging the state Department of Transportation to reduce the 40 mile-per-hour speed limit on Lake Avenue will be voted on at Tuesday's public meeting.

After further study the office of the Township Engineer and the Police Department have recommended the 40 mile-per-hour limit be retained.

Residents of the street have been complaining for several years cars do not obey the existing limit. These residents have petitioned the council for the change.

Joseph D. Timko, the Assistant Township Engineer, in a letter dated January 28, released a list of proposed 1994 road improvements.

- Reconstruction of Rankin Road from Lamberts Mill Road to the Winding Brook bridge, including full-depth pavement construction, storm sewers and curbing.
- Improvements to Hoe and Jackson Avenue and St. Ann Street, curbing and a two-inch overlay.
- Reconstruction of Deer Path from Glenside Avenue to Far View Drive, including full-depth pavement construction, storm sewers and curbing.
- The paving of Colonial Drive with a two-inch overlay.
- The paving of Ridgeview Avenue.
- SLURRY SEAL SURFACE TREATMENT
 - North Side
 - Crest Lane
 - Fawn Ridge Drive
 - Rolling Hills Road
 - Tack Circle
 - South Side
 - Highlander Lane
 - Jacobs Lane
 - Marion Lane
 - North Gate Road
 - Quimby Lane
 - Scotchwood Glen
 - Winding Brook Way
- Bayberry Lane
- Black Birch Road
- Buttonwood Road
- Fairway Court
- Gamble Road
- Heather Lane

A meeting with residents of Ridgeview Avenue was held on January 11 to discuss the possible installation of granite-block curbing on the

street.

A special assessment of \$600 based on a 50-foot frontage at a cost of \$12 per foot will be assessed to all residents of the block if the curbing is put in.

The assessment will be payable in a lump sum or over a period of 10 years, it was announced.

A questionnaire returnable by Thursday, February 10, has been mailed to the residents of the street to seek their opinions.

Mr. Atkins also received a letter from Robert Kraus of the law firm of Lieb, Kraus, Grispin and Roth, dated January 24.

Mr. Kraus represents the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Young Men's Christian Association in an effort to change the zoning ordinance to permit its distinctive yellow cube and sign.

The yellow cube had few supporters at the council meeting.

After several minutes of heated discussion the letter from Mr. Kraus and the proposed ordinance were deferred until the next conference meeting. They will be referred to the Planning Board.

It is understood Robert LaCosta, a

Planning Board member, has his own ideas on the subject and has advised the council, though what Mr. LaCosta advises has not been made public.

A resolution honoring Joseph Sackel, who recently retired after 30 years of teaching instrumental music at the Brunner and McGinn Schools in the township will be voted on at this Tuesday's public meeting.

James Morris of Amalgamated Insurance Service, of Westfield will be named the township's Safety Representative to the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund.

Amalgamated is the township's insurance agent.

Mr. Atkins stated police professional liability is an area of concern.

It appears a feasibility study will be undertaken to consider offering health insurance by means of a joint insurance fund for municipal employees.

Fortified by lectures given by Mr. Atkins, Mayor McClintock, Assistant Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer and Deputy Mayor Johnston covering their respective job duties the distributive education students will begin the business of government on Tuesday.

Fanwood Planning Board Gives Approval To Scotchwood Automotive and Econo-Car

Eight-Foot by Four-Foot Main Sign Will Be Erected, Plus Smaller Signs for Each Business on the Site

By WILLIAM HAY
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Planning Board awarded approval to two applicants and elected its officers at Thursday's sparsely-attended regular meeting, the first of the new year, which took more than 20 minutes for a quorum to arrive in a freezing rainstorm.

The board's first approval gave the owners of service station and a car rental company located at 233 South Avenue the nod to proceed with the development of their business.

Norman Kaufman, the owner of the property, was the primary spokesman for the businesses and agreed to amend their application to indicate the seeking of several variances.

After a discussion of signage and lighting, the board approved eight-foot by four-foot main sign on a pole, which replaced the sign from the former business at the site.

This sign is well within the 48-square foot limit allowed. The board gave its permission for the sign to be lighted until midnight.

Further, there will be a sign for each business over their respective entries, Scotchwood Automotive and Econo-Car Car and Truck Rental.

Board Attorney Charles H. Brandt, of Westfield, described a "Yes, We're Open" sign as "deceptive," if it is displayed when in fact the businesses are closed, and the board disapproved that sign.

Edward Jastrzebski, the owner of the Scotchwood Automotive, and Kenneth Larson, the owner of Econo-Car, also answered questions from the board.

Mr. Kaufman agreed to provide a water-control basin in lieu of the strict interpretation of the water-control regulations, with which Chairman Karl Eschle conceded are extremely difficult to comply.

Lastly, the board confessed insufficient knowledge of horticulture to give approval of the planned shrubbery, owing to the absence of board member, Mrs. Jan R. Swider, an expert in such matters, and for the 2-4 deciduous trees which are planned for the center section of the property.

Therefore, final approval was conditioned upon Mrs. Swider's decision the shrubbery is acceptable and the Shade Tree Commission's approval of the trees.

The board's second approval was for a minor subdivision at 32 Portland Avenue which would include the building of a two-story, three-bedroom Colonial home with a one-car garage.

Plainfield Attorney Renato Biribin represented Appenov Construction, requesting variances for the size of the lot, 50 by 100 feet, and an increase of eight feet in the depth of the house.

Expert witness Robert E. Eodice, a licensed real estate broker from South Plainfield, testified while the lot does not conform to the requirement of 75 by 100 feet, fully 80 per cent of the lots in that neighborhood are 50 by 100 feet.

Mr. Biribin added the eight-foot increase in the depth of the house would not compromise the rear-yard requirement.

Both variances were approved, with

the board's modification of the side-yard frontage lengths, from 10 feet and 10 feet to 8 feet and 12 feet to conform the lot more with the surrounding dwellings.

Sworn in to new terms were Jeremiah O'Neil, Borough Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald, Thomas Heine, and Maurice Jefferson.

Karl Eschle was reelected as the board's Chairman, and Gregory Cummings was newly elected as Vice Chairman, replacing Mrs. Swider, who declined consideration for reelection, owing to having bought a house in Basking Ridge and her imminent relocation there in March.

Mrs. Ruth Page was reelected as Secretary, and Mr. Brandt will continue to serve as the board's attorney.

DEADLINES HELP PAPERS SERVE YOU

Those preparing press releases for submission to *The Westfield Leader* or *The Times* are reminded all copy should be in the hands of the Editor at 50 Elm Street, Westfield, by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the Thursday on which they wish it to appear.

Leader releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 250, Westfield, 07091, and Times releases to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076, to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the week-end prior to publication, press releases should reach the Editor by Monday of the week of publication at 10 a.m.

Obituaries will be taken until Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For events which are planned weeks or months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

The above deadlines are meant to enable us to prepare your copy carefully.

HOW TO GET THE TIMES

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On Page 10
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UNUSUAL SETTING...The Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains is one of the few municipally-owned golf courses in New Jersey. The clubhouse was the home of John Lacey, a farmer, from 1740 to 1800. It became the Westfield Golf Club in the 1890s and the first black country club, the Shady Rest Country Club, in the 1920s. Tennis star Althea Gibson played golf and tennis at the club, which was taken over by the township in 1964.