



THE TIMES



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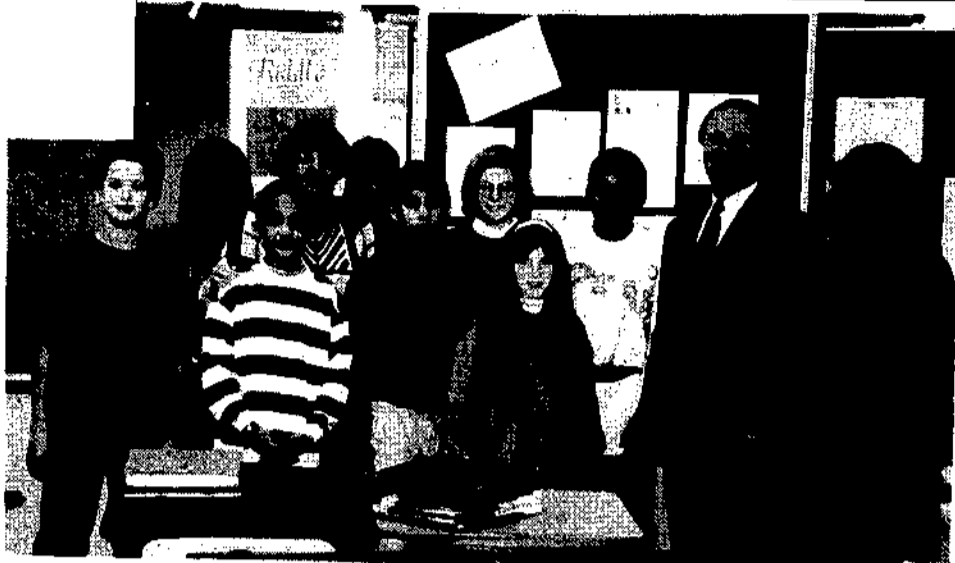
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FORTY CENTS



CAPITAL VISIT... Representative Robert D. Franks visited the seventh-grade United States history classes of Mrs. Judy Lasher and Mrs. Rita Selesner at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains. After studying the Constitution and government, the students were interested to learn first hand what the Representative does each day. He explained his role in the United States House of Representatives and addressed the students' concerns. He brought to Terrill Middle School a flag that had been flown over the Capitol Building in Washington and presented it to the officers of the Student Council.

Public Service Will Release Details Of Terrill School Power Line Survey

Effect of Electro-Magnetic Fields Is Uncertain, But Study Has Been Requested

Residents of Scotch Plains living near the Terrill Middle School and residents of Fanwood sending their children to the school will be able to get some idea of the effect of electro-magnetic fields from power lines that run near the school from a survey conducted by Public Service Electric & Gas Company under a request from the New Jersey Board of Regulatory Commissioners.

The results of the survey, which was requested by the board of the electric utility for all schools within 100 feet of electric power transmission lines with 69 kilovolts or higher voltage, will be released to the general public by the Commissioners near the middle or end of this month.

According to the Utilities Liaison

Manager for Public Service, Robert McCourt, he will give a presentation to residents of the township next month or in April, after the survey is released.

Terrill Middle School, which has an enrollment of 434 students in the sixth through eighth grades plus its staff, is adjacent to the Public Service Metuchen transmission line right-of-way.

Located in the right-of-way are two 138,000-volt lines on a single row of steel towers.

Another 26-kilovolt distribution supply circuit is part of a pole line located along the transmission lines.

At the time of the survey, on a hot summer day in July, according to portions released by Public Service,

one line of the 138-kilovolt unit was not in service, possibly affecting the survey results for that day.

Because of the time the study was made, according to the utility, the transmission lines were not carrying a "typical average load" and a calculation from the actual readings was adjusted to allow for the average magnetic field exposure which would be expected to take place during school hours.

There are no conclusions drawn in the report about the safety of the levels of exposure to the magnetic fields by children and staff members, and few experts in the field agree what "safe" levels are.

There are no state or federal guidelines on safe exposure levels, although California has adopted requirements for a minimum distance between schools and power lines, according to utility firm officials.

Much of the controversy surrounding power lines first came to the fore about two years ago when two groups of researchers in Sweden said their research data indicated electro-magnetic fields similar to those generated by power lines and other electrical equipment could be a cause of cancer.

Another report, by the New York Public Service Commission in 1987, suggested some link, based on statistics, between the fields and some forms of childhood cancer.

Mr. McCourt reported the Public Service data, compared to those in studies done by Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, shows the ranges in the area served by Public Service to be within typical ranges in the rest of the country.

Because of the low incidence of cancers such as lymphoma and leukemia in the general population it is hard to research the effects of the magnetic fields on the incidence of disease, according to the utility.

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Martial Arts Academy Has Permit Renewed

Owner Agrees to Conform to Previous Guidelines

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specialty Writer for The Times

Three public hearings were the focus of the Scotch Plains Zoning Board of Adjustment's regular meeting last Thursday, which also marked the official beginning of new member, Mrs. Paulette Coronato's tenure on the board.

Mrs. Coronato, a former member of the Scotch Plains Planning Board, was named to her new position on January 25.

In the first public hearing, Vincent Chung, the owner of Chun's Black Belt Academy at 505 Terrill Road, was granted renewal of a temporary operating permit to maintain his business at its present location.

Mr. Chung, who took over the ownership of the school from former proprietor Tony Yu last year and also is an instructor, agreed to continue operating the school during hours previously approved by the board and to limit advertising on the premises to one free-standing sign and one printed sign in a window of the school.

Norman N. Greco, the owner of Greco Steam Carpet Cleaning, a residential carpet cleaning firm and janitorial service located at 2566 Plainfield Avenue, was awarded permission by the board to maintain a free-standing sign with a two-sided facade on the property, which would advertise the business to passing motorists.

Mr. Greco, accompanied by his attorney James B. Flynn, explained during last week's hearing the 6.5 foot by three foot sign conforms to the dimensions of other commercial free-standing signs in the vicinity.

Finally, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hines of 3 Karen Court successfully applied for a variance allowing them to build an extension onto their residence as living quarters for their adult son and his family.

The younger Hines family members are planning to move in to assist Mrs. Hines, who told board members this arrangement was necessary due to her health problems.

Board members, while sympathetic to the family's circumstances, were concerned the proposed extension, while conforming to municipal setback requirements, would constitute a two-family residence.



SHOWING THE SPIRIT...Members of the Fanwood Flyers, a Scottish dancing group, entertain during last weekend's Scottish Night at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church in the borough.

COVERAGE DEEMED ADEQUATE BASED ON EXPERIENCE

Council of Fanwood Decides Against Increasing the Insurance Protecting Borough Officials

Joint Fund Already Provides for \$2 Million; State-Mandate, State-Pay Backed; Ordinance Explored Requiring Cars to Be Parked in Driveways After Snow

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specialty Writer for The Times

The consensus of the Fanwood Mayor and Borough Council at their agenda meeting Wednesday was the existing coverage of \$2 million in liability insurance for the borough's public officials is adequate.

Under the new Suburban Joint Insurance Fund Fanwood joined this year, Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, explained the public officials already receive \$2 million in coverage, up from \$1 million last year.

An increase of \$1 million would cost the borough \$4,098, and an additional \$2 million would cost \$5,688.

"It seems like expensive coverage to me," Mayor, Mrs. Linda Stender, said. "We don't have to go for it."

"This is not the same as last month," Borough Attorney Dennis Estis told her, speaking of when the council voted to increase the borough's general liability insurance from \$10 million to \$20 million.

He asked Mrs. McGovern if Fanwood ever had a claim against a public official.

"I don't think so," she responded.

The Mayor said she thought the \$2 million already provided by the joint fund probably is sufficient. "I would recommend we not go for it," she said.

Council President, Mrs. Maryanne Connelly, agreed. "I don't think we need it in this case."

"Whenever you buy insurance, you have to decide, where you draw the line," Mr. Estis noted.

The Council also agreed to support the League of Municipalities on state-mandate, state-pay, whereby the borough would receive funding from the state when mandated.

"This is an important issue for municipal government," said the Mayor.

She pointed to the proposed new law, "1, 2, 3, You're in," in which someone convicted three times of felonies involving weapons would go to jail for life.

"We like the idea, but somebody has to pay for it," she said.

The Mayor noted commendations from the public outweighed complaints about snow removal.

Complaints about snow and ice removal at the schools fall under the jurisdiction of Scotch Plains, she said.

There are nine building and groundsmen assigned to the schools alone, she noted, which is the equivalent of Fanwood's entire borough force.

The council discussed the possibility of an ordinance to ensure cars are parked in residents' driveways after snowfall.

"This is an ongoing issue," said the Mayor, "when driveway space is not used. Street parking really slows down the cleaning process."

Mrs. Stender pointed out it's unfair and costly to have cars on the street

during snow removal, because when they do move they leave a mess behind them, which must either be cleaned up or endured.

"I'm not too sure what we can do," she said. "Once there was a proposed ordinance saying if you don't have room in your driveway you had to park in public parking."

"I agree with the philosophy," said Councilman Louis B. Jung, "but someone could be sick or on vacation," and not be able to move

"It frustrates me no end people don't park in their driveways," she said.

Although Mr. Estis told the council budget numbers would not be available before April, Mrs. McGovern confirmed the cap is 2.5 per cent.

"We can go to five per cent with an ordinance," she said. Any more would require a referendum, "but you don't want that," she stated.

The council also again discussed the matter of having to pay for ordinances for interlocal agreements.

Agreements between counties only need resolutions, Mr. Estis pointed out, and ordinances cost money.

"This would save New Jersey \$100,000," he said.

Mayor Stender said she contacted state Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco and Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger about the matter, and "They indicated a willingness to sponsor that legislation."

Mrs. Connelly received an agreement from the council approving mural painting by students in the downtown area. This will coincide with "purple week" she said, which targets drug and alcohol awareness.

The murals will be painted over glass windows on Saturday, February 26, she said.

Long-range plans of the students include a permanent mural to be painted somewhere in the borough.

Scotch Plains already has agreed to one on a recreation building, Mrs. Connelly reported. She asked the council to consider sites for the mural.

"Whatever we can do to support these students is a good idea," she said.

Mural Painting By Students To Be Allowed Downtown

the car off the street.

Mr. Estis told the Mayor, "The minute you start making exceptions, the ordinance gets overturned. If we get three inches of snow you are required within some period of time to remove your car from the street. That's the kind of thing you're talking about."

The Mayor requested Mrs. McGovern to get sample ordinances from neighboring municipalities.

Fencing Dispute Tabled For Air Conditioners

Owner Says Stockade Type Causes Malfunctioning

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board held two public hearings during its regular meeting Monday, both involving local commercial establishments, and also memorialized three resolutions confirming applications which were approved by officials last month.

Board members voted to table an application by Michael P. Locascio of 1923 Westfield Avenue Associates to modify his original site plan and allow him to retain a chain-link fence around six air conditioning units outside his commercial building on the site.

The board, which approved Mr. Locascio's original site plan in 1986, recommended several years ago he enclose the air-conditioning units with a stockade fence.

Mr. Locascio complied, but replaced it with the chain-link model last year after determining the stockade variety interfered with proper functioning of the units.

Mr. Locascio said although he preferred the chain-link fence remain unadorned to ensure maximum circulation for the units, he indicated he would be willing to install natural climbing plants as decorative screening if the board felt it would be aesthetically beneficial.

The applicant, along with his attorney, Robert H. Kraus, testified their investigation of air-conditioning units throughout Scotch Plains revealed only a handful were enclosed by any type of fencing at all, and none were surrounded by the stockade variety.

Mr. Locascio also presented, in support of his argument, a large poster displaying color photographs of more than 30 different air conditioning units on township properties, none of which exhibited a stockade fence.

Wayne Ortlepp, a heating and air conditioning contractor with Ortalis Engineering of Plainfield, who had

serviced one of Mr. Locascio's units after it malfunctioned, attributed the problem to "high head pressure" caused by the stockade fence preventing air from properly circulating within the mechanism.

He added any kind of vegetative growth used as screening for the units likely would cause interference with air flowing from the units through the chain-link fence and concurred with Mr. Locascio the fence would be better left unadorned.

Board members asked Mr. Locascio and his attorney if the malfunction could have been caused by any other factors, such as the proximity of the units to one another or an error in certain parts of the mechanism.

Mr. Ortlepp, however, continued to maintain the unit breakdown most likely was caused by restricted air circulation.

The board, which retained VTS, a

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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.

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