



# THE TIMES



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**IS SPRING NEAR?...** The Osborn/Cannonball House Museum will reopen for the year on Sunday, March 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. The white salt box farmhouse, circa 1760, is located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains. Members of Girl Scout Cadette Troop No. 1 of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will assist the docents in giving tours of the house, which exhibits living in the Colonial and Victorian eras. There is no admission fee to the museum.

## EIGHT EXTRA DAYS RESULTED FROM FREQUENT STORMS; ONLY FOUR WERE PLANNED

# Use of Snow Days to Cause Graduation To Be Rescheduled to Friday, June 24

Board Member Says the Change of Date Will Cause Some Problems for the District's Jewish Students; Superintendent Responds Commencement Ceremony Will Be Finished in Time for Sabbath Observances

By TUCKER TRIMBLE  
Specially Written for The Times

The last day of school for students in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District now will be Friday, June 24, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, said at Thursday's meeting. There have been eight snow days so far, she said, and the current calendar has accommodation for only four.

One day already was made up, she

continued, when schools opened on February 18, but the additional three days had to be found.

Therefore, she said, students now will extend their calendar year to include June 22, 23 and 24.

Should additional snow days occur, Dr. Choye noted, although saying she didn't want to, would take days away from the March break, probably starting with Monday, March 28.

"How are you going to deal with

graduation on Friday?" asked board member Morris H. Gillet, noting the Jewish Sabbath begins on Friday at sundown.

Dr. Choye replied graduation ceremonies would start "earlier in the day," at around 4 or 4:30 p.m. and would be finished by 6 or 6:30 p.m.

Graduation, she said, could not occur a day earlier, on Thursday evening, because the state requires 180 days of instruction must be completed before graduation, and the 180th day is June 24, she noted.

As to Project Graduation, she added, it is scheduled the same evening, Friday, June 24.

The district traded days with Somerville and June 24 is the last available date, she said.

The Superintendent said the dates for final examinations are not set; they'll be adjusted because of the late ending.

Mr. Gillet abstained from the vote, and all other members voted yes.

Board members James L. Martin and Mrs. Kathleen L. Meyer were absent from the meeting.

The board also finalized approval for the 1994-1995 school calendar.

Because of the late Labor Day, Dr. Choye said, and the Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah following immediately after, school will open for students on Thursday, September 8, while school will open for staff on Wednesday, September 7.

Teachers who wish to observe that day as the second day of Rosh Hashanah said the Superintendent can come in on Friday, September 2, so they won't have to take September 7 as a personal day.

This past year, Dr. Choye reported, about 25 teachers took off the second day of Rosh Hashanah, and she anticipates the same amount for the coming year.

New teachers, she said, are being asked to come in September 1 and 2 for orientation.

The last day of school will be Wednesday, June 21, with a long weekend break in February and a week's vacation in April.

There are four snow days built into the calendar, noted the Superintendent.

"I understand why it's this way," Mr. Gillet said, "but I must voice my objections."

Mr. Gillet said he received several calls, and one from a teacher, voicing concerns over the Rosh Hashanah issue.

"I recommend we discuss this as a policy move," he said. "It's an issue

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Four Seek Three Seats On Board

Two Incumbents Joined By a Pair of Newcomers

By ROBERT R. FASZCZEWSKI  
Specially Written for The Times

Four candidates will be seeking the three seats open for Scotch Plains on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education this year.

Joining four-time board Vice President, Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar, and five-time President, August Ruggiero, on the Tuesday, April 19, ballot will be Joseph Sumanski of 2120 Seward Drive and Mrs. Theresa Larkin of 8 Blackbirch Road.

Incumbent, Mrs. Kathleen L. Meyer, decided not to seek another term.

The filing deadline for nomination petitions was Thursday.

Mrs. Dettmar has been a member of the board 12 years, having been elected for the first time in 1981.

When the board had a committee system she chaired the Legislative and Policy Committees, and she currently serves as the Alternate Delegate from Legislative District No. 22 to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

A retired teacher with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Trenton State College in Ewing Township, she taught in Bridgewater, Rahway and Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools and at Jonathan Dayton

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Township Budget to Rise About 6.2 Per Cent; Senate President Promises Full State Aid

Sewerage Authority and Snow Removal Costs Account for Over Half of Budget Increase Over Last Year

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A conference meeting of the Scotch Plains Council was held Tuesday. Thomas E. Atkins, the Township Manager, expects to recommend the 1994 municipal budget to the council sometime in April. Areas which will be closely reviewed include the following: The Capital Improvement Fund, debt service, the Fire Department, the Rescue Squad, the insurance budget, the Plainfield Joint Meeting, the Sewer Authority, the library budget, the Police Department, recreation, the Scotch Hills Country Club and senior citizens activities, and streets and roads, including the expenses from the various winter storms.

According to Mr. Atkins, over \$200,000 has been spent for snow removal this winter.

The Council will meet with the head of the Department of Public Works, Walter De Nizo and Chief of Police, Robert Luce, to discuss the budgets of their respective departments. The Police Department has the biggest budget of any township entity. The Council will also meet with Allan Steinberger, Director of Finance, to discuss revenues.

The 1994 municipal budget totals \$12,339,560. This is a 6.2 per cent increase over \$721,978 over last year's 1993 approved spending plan.

In addition to the added winter storm expenses, there was an increase of \$197,000 in the payment to the Plainfield Joint Meeting, a sewer authority. When one combines the \$200,000 recommended adjustment that is necessary for the winter weather along with the \$197,000 increase for the Plainfield Joint Meeting, almost \$400,000 of the \$721,978 increase is accounted for.

When one subtracts the winter weather costs and the Plainfield Joint Meeting appropriation from the total recommended budget increase this year, the budget increase then is really only \$324,978 or 2.8 per cent.

The budget appropriations are inside the cap and in compliance with the law, provided the township Council agrees to approve an ordinance for a 5 per cent increase for inside cap accounts. The cap figure that the state approved this year was 2.5 per cent.

It must be stressed that all these figures and the budget are preliminary. The Mayor, the Township Council and Mr. Atkins will have a lot of work to do between now and April.

Council members were heartened by the release of a letter dated March 1 from Senate President, Donald T. DiFrancesco, to the mayors of the state, which he reassured the mayors that the proposed tax cuts, "...will not result in reductions in state aid to

school districts or municipalities."

The Senate President toes on to say "education or municipal aid need not be touched in order to achieve these critical cuts in the income tax and in the corporate business tax."

Eight residents of Scotchwood Glen have submitted a petition to have a one-way street sign on their circle legalized. Traffic officer, Warren Sockwell, searched the records and found that, although a one-way sign has been posted on the street for many years, an ordinance was never enacted permitting the sign.

Officer Sockwell was assisted by Joseph Tomko of the Township Engineer's office. The matter of the illegal, but necessary, one-way sign will be on the agenda for Tuesday's public meeting for its first reading.

## Scotchwood Glen Seeks to Legalize One-Way Sign On The Circle

Scotch Plains has dropped the idea of obtaining federal community development monies to finance road improvements for Jackson Avenue, Hoe Avenue and St. Ann Street. The town had been previously rejected for the monies based on the 1990 census.

A special census, returnable February 21, was taken. The Department of Housing and Urban Development sought a 100 per cent response from the residents of this three-block area. However, only a 15 per cent response was obtained, and over half of those responding failed to meet the required income guidelines.

Bids for the annual residential spring clean-up are to be received on April 26.

Apparently, the Federal Clean Air Act which, with its employer trip reduction provisions, will not apply to the township.

While public employers are not exempt from this law it is the opinion of Mr. Atkins that the township government will fall into the category of a non-affected employer because the township does not have more than 100 employees at any work location.

The Woodland Estates matter appears settled, for now. The Appellate Division in a 3-0 ruling on Friday declined to overturn a prior lower court ruling giving the go ahead to the project. The City of Plainfield had sought to block the project. Another amended Woodland Estates ordinance will have its first reading at Tuesday's public meeting.

Mayor McClintock will appoint the Reverend John R. Neilson, Rector of the All Saints Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, along with Richard Berry of 16 Waldon Road, Fanwood, to the World War II Commemorative Committee.

Robert LaCosta, the Township Building Inspector, gave the council a tour of proposed interior improvements to his offices as well as the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Adjustment and Engineering Department offices. The proposed improvements will cost approximately \$2,000. Re-carpeting the offices will add about \$4,800 more, and a wall will be taken out adding four feet of space.

## Township's Planning Board Agrees To Modify Brookview Commons Plan

Plantings to Be Lowered, Traffic Patterns to Be Changed for Easier Renting

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board, during its regular meeting last Wednesday, adopted two resolutions and discussed several committee reports regarding senior citizen housing and future development of the municipality's business district.

In its first resolution, the board acknowledged its February 7 approval of a proposal by Frank Colandrea, the

Managing Partner of Brookview Commons at 1985 Route No. 22 West to modify his original site plan, approved in 1985, in order to enhance his ability to rent the commercial building to tenants.

Mr. Colandrea successfully sought the board's nod allowing him to remove plantings between his building and the highway, to be replaced by grass or other low-lying vegetation, giving greater visibility to potential customers traveling along Route No. 22.

The planned modifications also will include an adjustment of existing traffic patterns around Brookview Commons from single-lane to two-way traffic.

Mr. Colandrea determined this revision would allow patrons greater mobility when entering and exiting the building's lot.

The second resolution, proposed by Board Chairman George Tomkin and seconded by board member, Mrs. Maria Sartor, approved a bid by Michael P. Locascio of 1923 Westfield Avenue Associates to retain a chain-link fence enclosing six air conditioning units outside his commercial building at that address.

The board voted to table Mr. Locascio's application following a February 7 public hearing.

Mr. Locascio, whose original site plan was approved in 1986, had sought to modify it through board approval to keep the chain-link fence around the units rather than a stockade model.

Several years ago, Mr. Locascio complied with a board request to enclose the units with a stockade fence, but later replaced it with a chain-link one after determining the former was responsible for a malfunction in one of the units.

The applicant, supported by an area heating and air-conditioning expert who had serviced his units, testified at the hearing stockade fence or decorative screening around the chain-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## 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**  
Just Fill in the Form  
On Page 12  
And Return It to Us!



**IN THE SWING...** Terrill Middle School of Scotch Plains students keep right in step during Friday's dance, which was held in the township facility last week because it was snow-delayed several weeks ago.

Classic Studio for The Times