



THE TIMES

SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY
1927 BARTLE AVENUE
SCOTCH PLAINS, N. J. 07076



Serving Scotch Plains and Fanwood Since 1959

USPS 482300
Second Class Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, March 24, 1994

Published
Every Thursday

232-4487

FORTY CENTS

SPENDING PLAN WOULD INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES BY 4.2 PER CENT

Board of Education Votes to Approve Tentative Budget Totaling \$40,271,562

State Transition Aid Has Been Reduced by One Third for 1994-1995; Increase Attributed to Salaries; Two Middle School Teaching Positions Reallocated to Elementary Schools for 'Buffer' Due to Enrollment

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education voted 7-1 on Monday to approve a tentative budget for the 1994-1995 school year totaling \$40,271,562.

The total combines current expenses of \$38,891,750, capital outlay of \$93,704, debt service of \$478,608 and state and federal aid of \$807,500.

This represents an increase of two per cent over year's budget of

\$39,474,359, Richard J. Marshall, the Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Business said, although property taxes will increase 4.2 per cent.

Local tax levies total \$35,319,225, or 87.7 per cent of the budget, he continued. In addition, 8.7 per cent comes from transportation aid, special education, bilingual aid, transition aid and aid for at-risk pupils.

These figures remain constant from last year's, except for a drop in transition aid, from \$778,869 to \$345,938. The 3.6 per cent balance is from tuition, miscellaneous state and federal aid and free balance.

"We lost one third of transition aid," he noted.

"This budget is basically a no-increase budget," Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye said, adding, "It combines a high quality of instruction with reasonable fiscal responsibility."

"The increases are for salaries only," she said.

Dr. Choye told the board one way to meet the needs of the schools is to either increase funds or reallocate them.

"We reallocated them," she said.

The Superintendent reported two teaching positions in the middle schools will be eliminated, and those teaching positions reallocated to the elementary schools as buffer positions because of increase enrollment.

Every sixth grader will get the same program, she said, and there will be no change in the concept of team teachers.

"No child will be shortchanged," she stated.

"I am happy to support this budget," said board member August Ruggiero. "Our Superintendent has recommended a budget which maintains educational services to students, but is about \$850,000 below the state cap. New initiatives are provided for by offsetting reductions. Total local taxes for the school budget will increase by only 4.2 per cent, even though the cap would have allowed

an increase of 4.88 per cent. Deductions in state aid of over \$900,000 include \$433,000 less in transition aid and the elimination of the \$499,000 desegregation grant. After

applying \$377,000 from free balance, the total budget is actually going up only two per cent, or \$797,000." "As in previous years," he continued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Centennial Unit Seeks Borough Memorabilia

The Fanwood Centennial Committee, which was appointed by the Borough's Mayor, Mrs. Linda S. Stender, is developing a program which will mark a year-long celebration of the borough's 100th birthday in 1995.

The purpose of the celebration will be to cultivate pride in Fanwood's history and its legacy as a preferred residential community in which to live and raise a family.

The committee has been meeting and reviewing a wide range of events and activities that would involve the interest and participation of all Fanwoodians. The committee wants to tap into the reservoir of information and treasured artifacts that are in the possession of residents or members of their families who no longer reside in Fanwood.

Of special interest to the committee are historical pictures, documents and news articles that provide insight into bygone periods of the borough. As an example, the committee recently gained access to the original ballot box which was used in the voting which decided the formation of the borough.

If anyone has memorabilia or knowledge as to where it can be located, please contact the Fanwood Centennial Committee Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Ann Tabek, at 322-5067 after 6:30 p.m. or telephone the Fanwood Borough Hall at 322-8236.

Miss Beverly Sills Stars At Overlook Luncheon

Opera Singer to Help Raise Funds for Auxiliary

A talk by none other than Miss Beverly Sills, the star of the operatic stage and a spokeswoman for the arts, will be the featured attraction at the annual Overlook Hospital Auxiliary Spring Luncheon, scheduled for Friday, April 8, at The Hilton at Short Hills.

Auxiliaries and their guests will hear the operatic superstar, arts award-winner, author and philanthropist describe her triumphs and disappointments on the road to world-wide prominence.

Of particular relevance to her audience of predominantly hospital volunteers will be not only her fundraising record as the National Chairman of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, but also her personal advocacy of the vital need for compassion, service and research on behalf of those disabled by birth defects.

The mother of two children suffering from genetically caused disabilities, Miss Sills is a crusader for greater public awareness of the urgent necessity to increase funding for medical research and study of gene therapy. In the last 12 years, Overlook Auxiliary fund-raising endeavors have resulted in well over \$3 million in contributions to Overlook Hospital include:

- \$500,000 for the new Child Care Center for children of hospital employees.
- \$100,000 for two Mobile Intensive Care vehicles.
- \$400,000 for a Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) scanner.
- \$250,000 for the Center for Community Health.
- \$750,000 for the renovation of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



BEST IN SHOW...Mrs. Mary Hovanec, whose oil painting titled "Coastal Hideaway" won Best in Show in the recent Members' Annual Indoor Show at the Scotch Plains Public Library, is shown before her work. The exhibit was sponsored by the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association. For further information about the club, please telephone 322-4877.

Council Tables Woodland Estates Project Because of Many Citizen Objections

Matter to Be Heard Again by Council on Tuesday, April 12

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

While there were other items on Tuesday's agenda of the Scotch Plains Township Council, those matters paled in comparison to the Woodland Estates issue. The well attended public meeting saw the rezoning of the Woodland Estates tabled by unanimous vote until the next public meeting of April 12.

Approximately 60 vocal objectors attended the meeting led by John Garibaldi of 5 Short Hills Lane, Scotch Plains. Mr. Garibaldi has been fighting the project for years and was also represented by counsel, Jerald Baranoff, associated with the firm of Frizell and Clarkson of Metuchen.

Mr. Baranoff had represented Mr. Garibaldi in what up till now has been a losing fight to quash the development, or effect change in it.

The ordinance which was to have had its second and final reading last night proposes the re-zoning of an

area near the Plainfield border for multi-family dwellings. Eight of the proposed 51 units would be set aside for affordable housing. There are 6.4 site acres in Scotch Plains with 3.1 acres in Plainfield.

Plainfield recently lost a court fight in their battle against the project. The Appellate Division found the site suitable for such development.

In response to a question from Mr. Garibaldi, Township Attorney, Donald T. DiFrancesco, stated there are no plans to appeal the decision of the appeals court.

Mr. Garibaldi wanted to know why Scotch Plains went against a 1986 recommendation of an independent planner, retained by the town, who found the site unsuitable for Mount Laurel housing. He urged the council to withdraw the ordinance, stay the process, or amend the ordinance to withdraw the site from the fair housing requirement.

At the least, Mr. Garibaldi wants 40 units built rather than the proposed 51. Scotch Plains has fulfilled its Mount Laurel requirements, according to Mr. Garibaldi, and this development need not be built. He stressed over and over again that the issue is one of "density" and not affordable housing.

Mr. Garibaldi opened his remarks with a history of the proposed development dating back to 1986. He went on to raise what he and other objectors termed "quality of life" issues, including specters of traffic congestion and added run-off. He wanted to know the exact size of the tract which he said has been variously described

as being between 5.5 and 9 acres.

After researching tax maps and other records Mr. Garibaldi wanted to know just what current homes will be affected by the construction. Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. replied, "We will check this out prior to a final vote."

Mr. Garibaldi took issue with past comments attributed to council members which he said gave the impression that the council had no choice but to pass the ordinance at the direction of the State's Council on Affordable Housing.

"Council has controlled its destiny throughout the entire process," Mr. Garibaldi said. He wanted assurances that existing homes not be demolished. The Mayor stated that originally 80 units were proposed for the site.

Mr. Garibaldi made the point there was no written developer's agreement and, in case of a conflict with the ordinance, a subsequent developer's agreement would prevail. While Mr. DiFrancesco admitted there is no written developer's agreement, he said that at the stage of the proceedings this is not unusual.

The Town Attorney stated further that the plan cannot be modified as the state council would not agree to it. Council members stressed the re-zoning of the Woodland Estates property was not voluntary and that the state council forced their hand. Mayor McClintock and Mr. DiFrancesco said only the developer, Robert Kraus, can change the plan.

Mr. Garibaldi went on to state the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Egg Hunt Set For March 26 At Town House

Bean-Guessing Contest, Face Painting Planned

This year, the Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Town House at Green Forest Park located on Westfield Road. The activities will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 26. This is a new location; previously it was held at Brookside Park. All local children are invited to attend.

There are three separate hunts planned for three different age groups. The youngest, aged 1 to 3, will go first; next, those aged 4 and 5, and following those aged 6, 7 and 8.

Also planned, for a nominal charge, is a jelly bean guessing contest, pictures with the Easter Bunny and face painting. Members of the club will sell fresh baked goods and refreshments.

The Scotch Plains Fire Department will be there for the children to examine the equipment.

In case of inclement weather, there will be a candy distribution and bake sale inside the Town House beginning at 10 a.m.

The Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club would like to thank the Recreation Commission for donating candy and the Scotch Plains Fire Department for supporting the hunt.

FANWOOD TO HOLD EASTER EGG PARTY

A spokesman for the Fanwood Recreation Commission announced the commission's annual Easter Egg party will be held on Saturday, April 2, at the Fanwood Firehouse behind the Municipal Building.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. The program is for the following age groups: 4 and 5 year olds, 6 and 7 year olds, 8 and 9 year olds and 10 and 11 year olds.

In addition to the prizes given at the Easter Egg party, there will be prizes given in the egg-decorating and bunny-drawing contests for the same age groups.

Prize categories in the egg-decorating contest are the most original, most decorative and the prettiest.

Prize categories in the bunny-drawing contest are the most original, the prettiest and the cutest.

All entries for the egg-decorating and bunny-drawing contests must be made between 9 and 10 a.m., on April 2.

Handbook Offered By Women Voters

Each year the League of Women Voters of New Jersey publishes the *New Jersey Citizen's Handbook*, which contains governmental information for citizens.

The book has information for citizens on how to communicate with elected officials at the national and state levels and with state executive branch officials, as well as comprehensive listing of New Jersey municipalities with national Congressional and state legislative districts.

The structure of New Jersey county and municipal governments, as well as that of the New Jersey court system included is along with a month-at-a-glance calendar with voter-registration, tax-deadline and election dates.

Westfield Area League of Women Voters is offering the handbook for sale at \$2 by telephoning 654-8628.

Fanwood's Board of Adjustment Marks 500th Session in History

Hunter Avenue Couple Receive Permission to Add Onto Their Residence

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Zoning Board of Adjustment marked the 500th regular meeting of its history on Thursday with the adoption of a resolution memorializing its decision last month to approve a variance application for a borough couple seeking to enhance their home.

The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cianciotta of 90 Hunter Avenue, were granted permission by the board to erect a first- and second-story addition onto the rear of their

home following a public hearing which was held on February 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Cianciotta, whose application was supported by testimony and evidence during the public hearing, want to build the addition onto their two-story frame dwelling in order to provide more living space for their family.

The first floor of the new section will contain a recreation room and an eat-in kitchen, while the upper part of the addition will encompass two new bedrooms, according to the board's resolution.

The couple required a variance since the planned addition to the principal structure of the house will have a sideyard setback of 12 feet from the adjoining property line, in violation of the Municipal Code, which mandates a sideyard setback of 15 feet.

Jewelry Store Vote Tabled, See Page 2

The addition will create an extension four feet wider than the existing structure on one side, which the applicants had maintained was necessary due to the location of existing rooms as well as the functionalism of the new section.

On the opposite side of the home is a driveway and to extend the structure in that direction would "cause problems with the ingress and the egress of vehicles" to the rear of the applicants' property, board members had determined following last month's public hearing.

No property owners within 200 feet of the residence, which by law must be notified before a public hearing on such matters are held, voiced any objections to the planned addition or the deficient sideyard setback.

Officials concluded the addition will enhance the appearance of the Cianciottas' existing home and the proposal would have "no adverse af-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



CURTAIN TIME...The choir from the 1993 production of *The Choice*, as presented by the Evangel Church Singers and Players of Scotch Plains, is shown. This year's production will open on Sunday, March 27. Please see a story on the religious news page.



Miss Beverly Sills

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 weekend 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!