



THE TIMES



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TOWNSHIP AND BOROUGH AIDES PARTICIPATE IN THE BICENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

Officials From Former Township of Westfield Predict More Cooperative Ventures at Every Level of Government

J. PEYTON
Westfield Leader and The Times
...in the East decline of running a municipality community to rise, the next 100 years could see some dramatic changes in Westfield and surrounding communities.
These changes, however, may not compare to what took place in the last 100 years.
Last Wednesday, officials from Westfield and the other six municipalities that once were one township, having broken off from the

Elizabeth town tract in 1794, took part in the Westfield Bicentennial Symposium at the town's Roosevelt Intermediate School.
The other six communities, namely Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Garwood, Clark and Plainfield all were once part of Westfield. The event was sponsored by the Westfield Bicentennial Commission.
Westfield Mayor Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr., the host and moderator for the two-hour program, explained slowly these communities began to separate and form their own municipalities.

The first to split was Clark in 1804, followed by Plainfield in 1847, including what is today Fanwood and Scotch Plains.
Fanwood was formed from sections of both Plainfield and Westfield in 1878.
Fanwood, Mayor Boothe said, was "carved out of the middle of the township, Westfield, and what was left as the Township of Fanwood was re-named the Township of Scotch Plains."
The next community to secede was

the Borough of Mountainside in 1895.
The last area to break away from the former Township of Westfield was Garwood in 1903, just 15 days after Westfield changed its form of government to become what is today the Town of Westfield. Garwood was formed from sections of Westfield and Cranford.
In discussing the topic for the symposium, "Where Should Our Municipalities be 100 Years From Now?" Mayor Boothe made reference in his opening address to New Jersey's setup of government which includes state, county and municipal government.

regionalization, shared services and interlocal agreements.
She said, "These are ideas which have come."
Each of the representatives on the panel spoke on how they envision the next 100 years of their community and the county. Many discussed shared services to save money. Some see the county as a government entity radically different or even phased out.
Clark Mayor Robert Ellenor said he sees the structure of government staying the same in 2094.
In an effort to save money and keep taxes down, duplication of services will be eliminated, he noted.
The main change Mayor Ellenor sees over the next century will be on the county level.
He said county government will become a coordinator for communities in the county to deal with each other without the expensive cost of another bureaucracy that duplicates many of the municipal services. He said this has begun already with the state's takeover of the county courts system.
Henry Kita, City Administrator for Plainfield, added he believes the municipalities will begin to share or regionalized services.
Mr. Kita believes purchasing, pub-

lic works, the waste-flow system and the school system can be regionalized. He believes police and fire services will be the last services to be combined.
Scotch Plains Councilwoman and former Mayor, Mrs. Joan Papen, said, in an effort to save money while providing high-quality services, Scotch Plains and Fanwood regionalized their school district.
Scotch Plains also has a service agreement with Rahway for health and nursing services, and Westfield has such an agreement with Fanwood, Mountainside and Garwood.
Scotch Plains and Fanwood share a senior citizens bus and recently began to share the post of court administrator to save money. The two communities also share parks and recreation services.
Scotch Plains has joint vacation bus trips with Mountainside, Summit and New Providence, while Scotch Plains also shares public works department equipment with Fanwood, Mountainside and Cranford.
She said Scotch Plains and Fanwood also have an agreement for their sanitary sewers and street lights. The engineering department in Scotch Plains works with the county department as well as the other communi-

Representative R. D. Franks Fields Many Questions at Town Meeting

Scotch Plains Residents Concerned About Health Care, Crime and Budget

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times
Representative Robert D. Franks held a well-attended town meeting Tuesday prior to the conference meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council.
Representative Franks called the 24 town meetings conducted thus far as "important exercises in democracy."

situation and retain an individual's right to choose a doctor or keep their own coverage," he stated.
Moving onto crime, the Representative said, "It affects us all. We resolve disputes through violence. We must send criminals an indisputable message."
On the economy, the Representative labeled New Jersey's 7.9 per cent unemployment rate "unacceptable" and he said, "We must invest in the creation of new jobs, since business is the source of all our jobs."

ing, a local sewerage authority, the officials said.
Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins pointed out for the last four years the average tax increase has been \$27 per home.
Surplus funds are being used to hold down the budget increase, but for the above-mentioned reasons, the budget increase would have totaled 1 to 2 per cent, he said.
About 97 per cent of Scotch Plains homeowners pay their taxes on time, Mr. Atkins noted.
The council heard a report from Police Chief Robert Luce, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Walter DiNizo, Mrs. Joyce Garbinski, Mrs. Josephine Ford, Mrs. Marion Yotcoski and Mrs. Laura Botto also were on the committee, which issued a comprehensive report on employment and employee policies.
The report will be bound and given to each current employee and new employee.
Chief Luce termed the report "very professional."
Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papen, said the report was "a great idea."
Mrs. Judith Babinski, the Assistant Township Attorney, in a

"One constant question is whether we, as citizens and taxpayers, can afford and should continue to have in New Jersey municipalities of many small units of local government — 567 statewide, 70 in Bergen County alone, 21 in this county, plus over 600 school boards and districts and countless special districts and authorities for sewerage, solid waste, parking, toll roads, sports complexes and so on," the Mayor noted.
During her remarks as the keynote speaker for the evening, Mrs. Harriet Derman, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, spoke on the complex system of municipal aid, which many mayors throughout the state are concerned will be significantly less this year causing property taxes to soar.
"To the first mayor of Westfield municipal aid from the state probably meant a letter of advice on parchment from the Governor. To the Mayor of Westfield in the year 2094, municipal aid hopefully will mean a different system than what we see in 1994," Mrs. Derman said.
She explained towns should not have to compete against each other for municipal aid, adding the administration of the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, wants municipal aid to be formula driven on a system that is more in tune with the population and economics of 1994 than 1984.
The Commissioner said aid needs to be more predictable, so municipal leaders can better figure out their budgets in advance.
In addition to municipal aid figures which were released following the Governor's State-of-the-State address last month, Mrs. Derman said municipalities can expect to "look forward to" \$195 million in discretionary aid.
Mrs. Derman said as towns look to cut costs in the years ahead several buzz words will be evident such as

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By the end of the month the Representative will have visited every municipality in the district in his 15-month tenure as United States Representative.
In his tenure as Matthew J. Rinaldo's successor, he has received 38,000 letters, he said.
The legislator passed out a comparison of the six health care plans before the Congress and President Clinton's plan.
The lawmaker foresees a new national health plan which would be a composite of the various plans pending in Congress.
According to Representative Franks, the big questions center around accessibility and affordability of care.
"We have to get a handle on the

Illegal immigration also is a growing issue, he noted.
The legislator went on to say welfare must not be "self-perpetuating."
The lawmaker than fielded questions from the audience on health care, lobbyists, the need for a balanced budget, crime, drugs, gun control, term limits for elected officials, the budget deficit and foreign affairs.
While the audience had a low opinion of Congress, they seemed to have a high opinion of Representative Franks.
At the conference meeting after Representative Franks' visit, it was revealed the council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 19, at 8:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers to introduce the 1994 Municipal Budget.
A public meeting on the budget would then be held on Tuesday, May 24.
A tax increase of 5 per cent is envisioned over last year. This would mean additional taxes on an average home assessed at \$114,000 would be \$45 for the year due to municipal government expenses.
Two thirds of the increase is due to the unusually harsh winter weather and its associated cleanup costs, costs of road repairs from the storms and a \$200,000 sewer bill to the Plainfield Joint Meet-

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Clean Community Day April 23 in Fanwood

Residents Urged to Make Borough Litter-Free

The slogan for Earth Day 1994 is "Support What Supports Us."
In keeping with that spirit, Fanwood is planning its fifth annual Clean Community Day on Saturday, April 23.
Mayor, Mrs. Linda Stender, commented: "This year's Earth Day slogan reminds us we all have a responsibility to keep our streets and highways litter free. Litter not only is unsightly and unhealthy, it ultimately ends up polluting our waterways and oceans.
Residents should become "pick-up partners" and join this community-wide effort to make the borough litter free not only on April 23 but all year long. Business owners once again will be asked to pledge their cooperation in keeping their property clean.
Volunteers will assemble at 8:30

a.m. on Saturday, April 23, at the South Side parking lot of the Fanwood Railroad Station.
Earth Day T-shirts, gloves and garbage bags will be furnished to all participants and refreshments will be provided by local merchants upon completion of the cleanup.
The project is being organized by the Fanwood Clean Community Committee in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and is funded by the Clean Communities Grant, which the borough obtained from the state.
Volunteers are asked to notify Department of Public Works Director Raymond Manfra in advance of their intent to participate by telephoning him at 322-7404.
However, any volunteer who just shows up will be welcomed.

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.

Scotch Plains Planners Approve Subdivision of Rahway Road Site

Narrow Width of the Driveway, Sewer Systems Cause Discussion

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specialty Writer for The Times
The Scotch Plains Planning Board climaxed a three-hour public hearing Monday with its approval of an application by a Middlesex County developer seeking to subdivide 5.7 acres of property at 1251 Rahway Road on which he plans to build four single-family homes in addition to the one residence already on the site.
In a bid originating in 1988, Joseph Hamrah of Edison sought the board's approval to develop the land, described by Planning Board Chairman George Tomkin as "the most rural, rustic area of Scotch Plains," distinguished primarily by its heavily wooded and rolling landscape.
The applicant required no variances for his proposed development, but the matter nonetheless warranted a public hearing because of the scope of the project and because Mr. Hamrah had asked for several waivers which were within the board's jurisdiction to approve or deny.
Mr. Hamrah's proposal includes a common driveway with a 22-foot width leading into the development, which would branch off into separate driveways for each of the residences within the complex. The development primarily fronts Rahway Road and also a small section of Locust Avenue.
Among the waivers which Mr. Hamrah sought, and which were addressed by Town Engineer C. Stephen Kinsey in a March 17 memorandum to the Planning Board, were the proposed elimination of a curbing requirement for the main driveway, originally planned to facilitate traffic and stormwater control as well as maintenance of the pavement.
Mark Daniels of The Daniels Engineering Group of South Plainfield,

an expert witness for the applicant, testified curbing of the driveway would necessitate the removal of a substantial portion of earth adjacent to the pavement as well as some mature trees near the driveway.
The applicant also sought a waiver from having to widen Rahway Road, for the same reasons, prompting a lengthy discussion among board of-

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BLOOD PRESSURE WILL BE CHECKED

The Township of Scotch Plains will hold its monthly hypertension, high blood pressure, screening clinic on Monday, April 11.
The clinic will be held in the Scotch Plains Public Library Community Room from 10 a.m. to noon and is free.
The intent of the clinic is to identify new cases of high blood pressure.
Those who are over the age of 30 and smoke or are overweight or have a family history of heart disease or diabetes and have not had their blood pressure checked recently are urged to attend.

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EASTER TREASURE... Three participants in Fanwood's Easter egg hunt on Saturday count their eggs, hoping they'll "hatch" into a prize.



FOR THE GOLDEN AGERS... Once again the media Center of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was filled with veteran members of the community recently when the Student Government Association held Senior Citizens Day. The visitors enjoyed getting to know their student partners for the day as well as attending classes, riding a school bus and being treated to lunch. The event also included a "Name That Tune" contest conducted by school musicians.

Airport Noise Meeting Tonight

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Citizens Against Aircraft Noise will present a review of the Port Authority's study of a proposed ocean route for aircraft around the New York Metropolitan Area today at 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Scotch Plains Library.