



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

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FORTY CENTS

OF \$35,319,225 TO BE RAISED IN TAXES IN TWO COMMUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

From Scotch Plains and Fanwood to Decide on Tuesday 10,271,562 Budget to Run the Regional School District

Incumbents and Two Newcomers Seek Three Three-Year Seats on the Body From the Township

By ROBERT R. FASZCZEWSKI
Specially Written for The Times

The 4,418 people who are registered to vote in the Fanwood and the 12,606 registered voters in Scotch Plains will have the opportunity to decide on Tuesday on a proposed 1994-1995 budget for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education totaling \$40,271,562.

Local tax levies total \$35,319,225 or 87.7 per cent of the budget.

The total budget will increase 2 per cent over that of last year if it is approved by borough and township voters, and it will result in a property tax increase of 4.2 per cent.

Also on the ballot will be three three-year positions on the regional Board of Education.

These posts only will be voted on by residents of Scotch Plains because

the seats of Fanwood Representatives are not on the ballot this year.

Polls will be open from 2 to 9 p.m. and polling places, based on those for last November's General Election, are listed below.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 1
Polling place at the Park Middle School at Park Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 2
Polling place at the Scotch Plains Library at Bartle Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 4 and 5 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 3
Polling place at the Evergreen School at Evergreen Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 6, 7 and 8 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 4
Polling place at the Howard B. Brunner

School at Westfield Road in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 9, 10 and 11 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 5
Polling place at the McGinn School at Roosevelt Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 12, 13 and 14 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 6
Polling place at the Southside Firehouse at Raritan Road in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 15, 16 and 21 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 7
Polling place at the Terrill Middle School at Terrill Road in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 17 and 18 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 8
Polling place at the J. Ackerman Coles School at Kevin Road in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 19 and 20 of the Township of Scotch Plains.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 9
Polling place at the Fanwood Borough Hall at 75 North Martine Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 1 and 2 of the Borough of Fanwood.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 10
Polling place at the Children's Specialized Hospital at 330 South Avenue in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 3, 4 and 5 of the Borough of Fanwood.

POLLING DISTRICT NO. 11
Polling place at the Fanwood Memorial Library at North Avenue and Titokson Road in the School District, for legal voters residing within General Election Districts Nos. 6 and 7 of the Borough of Fanwood.

surer.

The candidate also is a 13-year member of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains.

A graduate of the Hoboken Public Schools, he earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees in Mathematics from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken.

An associate professor at Essex County College, he has taught mathematics and physics there for the last 25 years and for the past two years he has been the Coordinator of Physics.

The 21-year township resident and his wife, Mrs. Bonnie Reggiero, have a daughter, Sandra, who attended Middlesex County College in Edison, and a son, David, who is attending Union County College.

Both children are graduates of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.



August Ruggiero Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar Joseph F. Sumanski Mrs. Theresa Larkin

Mrs. Dettmar, the current Vice President of the board, has been elected to that post four times.

She and her husband, Charles Dettmar, Sr., have lived in Scotch Plains 34 years and their children, Charles Dettmar, Jr. and Miss Lynn Marie Dettmar, were educated in the regional district.

The children graduated from Susquehanna and Widener Universities, respectively.

A 12-year member of the school body, Mrs. Dettmar has chaired the Policy, Athletic, Community Relations, Staff Appreciation and Legislative Committees and has served on

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Board of Education Gives Approval To \$40,271,562 Spending Plan

Total of \$34,890,619 to Be Voted on in Tax Levies to Support the Budget

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education gave final approval to its proposed 1994-1995 budget of \$40,271,562, Thursday, which represents a \$797,000 or two-percent increase over last year's budget, which will result in taxes going up 4.2 per cent.

The budget was approved 7-1 following an hour-and-a-quarter-long public hearing at the board's offices in the Evergreen School in Scotch Plains.

The budget includes current expenses of \$38,891,750, capital outlay of \$933,704, debt services of \$178,608 and state and federal programs of \$807,500.

Voters will cast their ballots on the amount to be raised by the local tax levy, \$34,890,619, during the Board of Education elections on Tuesday, April 19.

In addition to the budget, residents will be asked to approve the transfer of the balance of a \$5 million bond referendum which amounts to \$850,000.

The funds are intended to be utilized to finance renovations of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Park and Terrill Middle Schools, the Evergreen School, the J. Ackerman Coles School, the William McGinn School and School No. 1.

Improvements will include "interior and exterior building renovation, bathroom renovation, boiler repair and replacement, replacement of exterior doors, curbing, paving and drainage," according to a copy of the public question.

District officials noted the change would not increase property taxes.

They did say, however, if the referendum is defeated, it could necessitate a much higher expense which would yield higher taxes down the road.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, noted the budget contains a relatively small increase in the tax levy despite the fact the district lost over \$780,000 in state aid.

Assistant Superintendent for Busi-

ness, Richard J. Marshall, said the district lost \$259,617 in transition aid, \$173,000 in pension contributions, \$229,000 in desegregation aid, and \$59,000 in federal aid.

In an effort to maintain a high-quality program yet remain financially responsive, Mr. Marshall said the district reallocated some of the teaching staff.

Two teachers will be removed from the middle-school level and two teachers will be added to the elementary grades. He noted early estimates indicate at least 100 children more will enter the elementary schools.

By terms of taxes, Fanwood homeowners would have a projected tax rate of \$3.56 which translates into an annual increase of \$200 on a home assessed at \$100,000. A home assessed at \$150,000 would see an increase of \$300 a year, if the budget is approved.

For Scotch Plains homeowners, the tax rate is \$3.02 which works out to an annual hike of \$100 on a home assessed at \$100,000 and a \$150 increase on a home assessed at \$150,000 if the budget is approved.

A breakdown of the overall budget

reveals 51.1 per cent is for regular instruction.

Administrative and fixed charges combined make up a little over 18 per cent.

Fixed charges include such items as employee health and dental insurance and pension and retirement contributions.

The only other significant portion is for operation and maintenance of the district's schools, which accounts for 9.6 per cent, and the other instruction category, which encompasses the special education and English as a second language programs. This category accounts for 7.5 per cent of the overall budget.

The budget includes \$20,582,655 for regular instruction, \$3,850,649 for operation and maintenance of the schools, \$7,426,736 for administrative and fixed charges with \$2,983,685 going for other instructional needs, officials noted.

Donald Rosenberg of 79 Montrose Avenue, Fanwood questioned the expenditure of \$1,106,294 which pays for tuition for students not being schooled in the district.

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Woodland Estates Action Put on Indefinite Hold

All Parties to Discuss Less Density in the Development

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The big news from Tuesday's public meeting of the Scotch Plains Council was something that was not on the agenda — the Woodland Estates ordinance, which Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. announced has been tabled indefinitely.

The ordinance, which called for the rezoning of a 6.4-acre site near the Plainfield border to allow for multiple-family dwellings, was to have its second and final reading Tuesday night.

Eight of the proposed 51 units would be reserved for affordable housing and 3.1 acres of the site are in Plainfield.

Attempts will be made with the developer, Robert Kraus, the Council on Affordable Housing and objectors to amend the ordinance ostensibly to provide for less site density, the Mayor said.

The neighborhood objectors were led by John Garibaldi of 5 Short Hills Lane.

Mr. Garibaldi has been fighting the Woodland Estates project since 1987.

On other matters, various reports were given by the council on: The 125th anniversary celebration of the Scotch Plains Fire Department by Councilman Robert Johnston; the Freddy Spencer Memorial Bicycle Race by Mayor McClintock and the upcoming fourth annual John Shippen Golf Tournament by Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene Schmidt.

The 12th anniversary of the Scotch Plains Fire Department will be marked

on Saturday, May 14, with a parade of apparatus from Snuffy's to the Southside Firehouse.

Firefighter Vincent Romano spoke of the plans for the day. He expects 65 to 70 communities to send pieces of equipment. Six hundred forty firefighters as of Tuesday had promised to attend, and more are expected. Bands will play.

Some communities sending units are: Brielle, New Providence, Fanwood, Magnolia, in Camden County; Montville, Quakertown, Cranberry Lakes and Roebbing, near Trenton.

The oldest fire engine will be an 1826 chemical wagon from Washington Township.

There will be a competition and judging of the fire trucks at 8 a.m. in Snuffy's parking lot. All men and equipment there will form a parade to the Southside Firehouse.

The Martine Avenue extension will be closed on May 14 to allow for fire truck parking.

A party will commence at the Southside Firehouse at noon and there will be a cookout among other events. The celebration will conclude at 6 p.m., the councilman said.

The township fire department's recently-delivered Aerialscope truck will be on display. The Aerialscope, which weighs approximately 48,000 pounds, can lift a bucket 75 feet in the air. It is a

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Fanwood Borough Council Debates Proposed Federal Crime Bills

Increased Prevention Praised; Breakdown in Nation's Families Attacked

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Mayor, Mrs. Linda d. Stender, and the Fanwood Borough Council tackled several key issues during the governing body's agenda meeting last Wednesday evening, including proposed national anti-crime legislation and rehabilitative services available to area residents.

Governing body members debated the merits and drawbacks of the proposed \$22 billion anti-crime package currently pending in Congress, which is being touted by the Clinton Administration as a comprehensive program combining prevention, punishment and greater community policing to reduce crime on a national level.

The bill calls for mandatory life sentences without parole for three-time violent offenders, increased use of the death penalty, a ban on semi-automatic "assault" weapons and funding for 100,000 more community police officers, as explained by United States Attorney General, Miss Janet Reno, during a panel discussion in Trenton recently.

It also includes preventative programs such as drug treatment, job training and placement, which also are designed as part of what the Attorney General described as "after-care" services for released prisoners to lessen the number of repeat offenders.

The anti-crime package, which is generally favored by Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, drew mixed

responses from Fanwood officials, among them Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald, who doesn't believe the bill represents a realistic solution to rising crime rates in America.

Councilman MacDonald placed the blame for nationwide crime statistics on the gradual breakdown of the traditional family structure in America since the 1960s coupled with what he described as the government's continued maintenance of a dysfunctional welfare system.

Fellow Councilman Donald S.

Kolterjohn called the proposed package "a noble idea," but also felt certain aspects of the plan are too "oversimplistic and unrealistic" to be.

Several other council members expressed support, however, for the bill's plan to combine preventative and enforcement tactics.

Mayor Stender and council members also briefly discussed correspondence regarding Union County's Multi-Jurisdictional Rehabilitation Program, coordinated by Planners

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Application by Parker Causes a Controversy

Neighbors Object to the Widening of the Driveway

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Sparks flew during the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment's regular meeting last Thursday as the owner of Parker Greenhouses at 1325 Terrill Road continued his bid for partial site plan approval to widen the driveway of his establishment.

The proposal is opposed by some neighbors of the nursery as being disruptive to the quality of life in their residential area.

The Parker application originally was heard by the Zoning Board on September 2, when owner Steven Parker of Watchung sought to apply for the driveway variance either through the New Jersey Right-to-Farm Act, which entitles applicants meeting the state's criteria to have appropriate farming provisions and amenities, or through a conventional use variance applying to anyone planning additions or expansions affecting setbacks, sideyards and driveways.

Mr. Parker's site plan, which underwent some revisions last December, calls for broadening the existing driveway, which now measures 25 feet at its widest point, to a 30-foot operating width.

It also includes plans to widen the mouth of the driveway on Terrill Road from 40 feet to a tentative 86.5 feet, although the Union County Planning Board may revise that figure to 60 to 65 feet or less since Terrill Road is a county road, officials report.

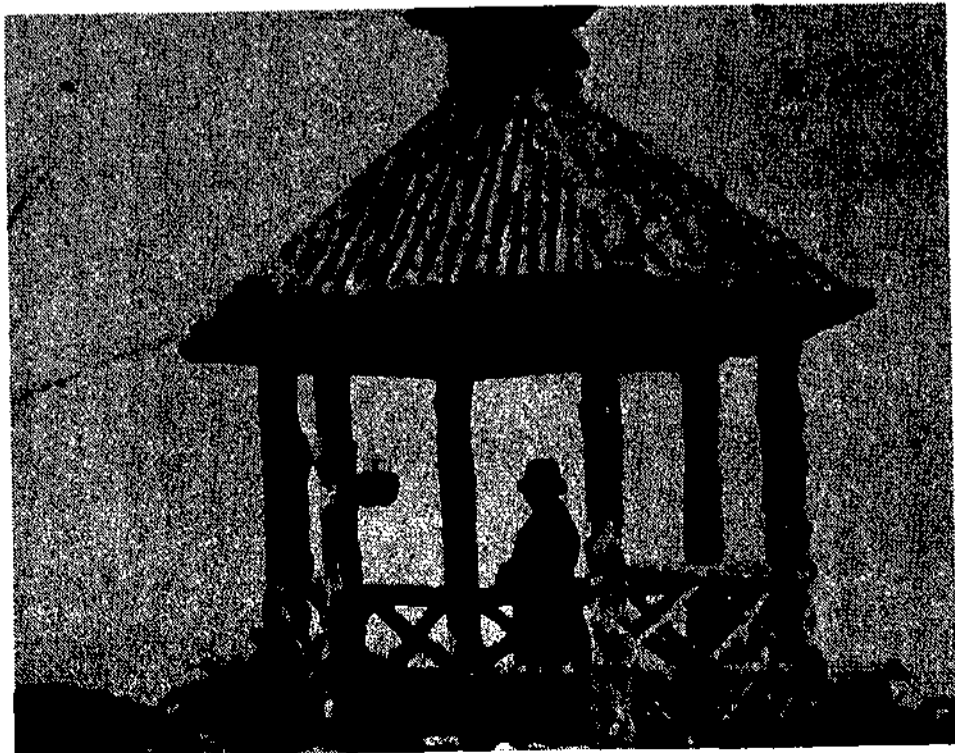
The applicant testified he wants to expand the driveway in order to provide improved access for tractor-trail-

ers delivering merchandise to his establishment, which specializes in the planting and selling of trees, plants and landscaping supplies.

The driveway is not presently wide enough to accommodate large vehicles turning from Terrill Road onto the property without encroaching onto traffic in the opposite lane, according to the nursery owner's traffic expert.

The expert, Robert J. Nelson, an Ocean Township licensed professional engineer with traffic safety expertise, reported widening of the driveway would provide a "smooth

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OVERLOOKING THE LANDS...A summer house, gazebo, on the estate of Dr. J. Ackerman Coles in Scotch Plains is shown in this photograph, which dates from around 1876.

PLAINS COUNCIL TO ACT ON BUDGET

The Scotch Plains Township Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 19, at 8:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to introduce the 1994 local municipal budget.

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.

County Still Forced to Accept
State Inmates, See Page 2