



STANDING TOGETHER... Archdiocese of Newark Catholic high school teachers and their supporters hold a demonstration in front of Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains last Friday in an effort to reverse the archdiocese's decision not to allow the teachers to contribute six cents per hour from their pay toward a supplemental pension program. The organization has planned other events, including a prayer vigil scheduled for today, Thursday, April 30, in support of their position.

Two Appeals Okayed By Planning Board

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specialty Writer for The Times

Two new appeals were heard April 22 during the regular meeting of the Fanwood Planning Board, which also memorialized two resolutions and approved its \$4,290 budget for 1998. A third application on the board's agenda was rescheduled for next month.

First to be heard was John C. Sumislaski of 203 Farley Avenue, whose bid to maintain an existing deck on the rear of his home had been postponed by the board at its regular meeting March 25 because the applicant had failed to give his neighbors 10 full days of notice concerning his appeal.

Last week, Mr. Sumislaski testified that he had built the deck last year without first acquiring the necessary bulk variance. He said he had recently been advised by Fanwood Building Inspector and Construction Official James Silance to obtain board approval for the deck, to ensure that all safety measures had been met.

The board unanimously approved the application after Borough Engineer Richard Marsden stated he had seen the deck and anticipated there would be no drainage problems created by the structure. He also reported there was sufficient space on Mr. Sumislaski's corner lot to accommodate the deck.

The second application scheduled for that evening, submitted by Jared and Theresa Scheer of 34 Poplar Place, was postponed. Mr. and Mrs. Scheer are pursuing a bulk variance to erect a shed on their property.

An incorrect version of the couple's public notice of their appeal had inadvertently been published, and while the correct version was printed the following week, it was less than 10 full days before the public hearing. Board Attorney Robert J. Mega con-

Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Times

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to *The Times* are reminded that copy should be e-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. *The Times'* e-mail address is press@goleader.com. The fax number is 908-232-0473.

Releases, pictures and letters to the editor can also be dropped off at our office located at 50 Elm Street, Westfield or through our mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline, we encourage e-mail or faxed materials.

Sports stories which occur prior to the weekend must be in by the Friday deadline. Weekend sports events must be submitted by noon on the Monday prior to the publication date. Copy must be accepted up to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Copy must be typed, double-spaced, upper and lower case, no more than 500 words in length, and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

For events which are planned months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

Please note that in addition to asking our deadlines, the publication of submittals may be delayed due to space considerations. All submittals are subject to being cut to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.

STUDY ON GROUPING OF STUDENTS PLANNED FOR UPCOMING YEAR

BOE Members Laud Outgoing Colleagues For Years of Service to School District

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specialty Writer for The Times

During its April 23 meeting, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized the efforts of outgoing President Dr. Donald E. Sheldon and his colleague Albert J. Syvertsen, in the wake of the April 21 school elections, which saw Dr. Sheldon defeated in his bid for a third term.

Mr. Syvertsen, a three-term member, had not sought reelection this year. Jean McAllister and Lance Porter were named to their first terms on the board out of a pool of five candidates vying for the two available Scotch Plains seats. In addition to Dr. Sheldon, the other nominees included Thomas Randazzo and Norman A. Ross.

Board member Richard R. Meade of Fanwood was unopposed in his pursuit of a second full term on the board.

Middle School; James Canterbury, 31 years, Evergreen Elementary School and Terrill; Yvonne Whaley, 32 years, Brunner Elementary School; Nora Kelly-Weiss, 23 years,

Park Middle School; Robert Junio, 28 years, La Grande, Evergreen and School One Elementary; Kathleen Sjonell, 10 years, Park and McGinn Elementary; School, and Antoinette

Fahrman, 37 years, Muir and Evergreen Schools.

In addition, Mary Watt will retire after 10 years of service as a member of Terrill's cafeteria staff.

During the meeting, Mr. Ruggiero asked for a timetable regarding the district's planned review of leveling (grouping students by academic ability).

"It was a pleasure to serve with Al for nine years," said board member August A. Ruggiero of his colleague. "He is someone who is very principled, and always balanced the two concerns that every board member should have: students, first, followed by a sincere commitment to keep taxes as low as possible," Mr. Ruggiero stated.

"I always looked to Al to have a viewpoint entrenched in economics, one he firmly believed in," added board member Morris H. "Butch" Gillet. "I respected his opinion even if I didn't agree with it."

Mrs. McAllister credited Mr. Syvertsen as her impetus to run for the board. "When I think of you, I think of intensity and tenacity," she said, "and I feel cheated at the prospect of not having your advice at my shoulder."

Mr. Syvertsen left the board with a challenge: "You have objective people on the board who can take apart any issue," he said. "You should be able to put the pieces back together properly."



TAKING THE OATH... Richard R. Meade, of Fanwood, and Lance Porter, of Scotch Plains, take the oath of office from Matthew A. Clarke, Business Administrator and Board Secretary, during Tuesday's reorganization meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. Looking on is outgoing board Vice President, Jessica D. Simpson.



NEW LEADERSHIP... Theresa Larkin and August A. Ruggiero congratulate each other following their appointments to the posts of Vice President and President, respectively, of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on Tuesday night.

Mr. Ruggiero Appointed New BOE President

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specialty Writer for The Times

During Tuesday night's reorganization meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, Business Administrator and Board Secretary Matthew A. Clarke administered oaths of office to Richard R. Meade of Fanwood, who begins his second full term, and to freshman board member Lance Porter, a resident of Scotch Plains.

Newcomer Jean McAllister, also of Scotch Plains, was unable to attend the reorganization meeting. She will be sworn into office on Monday, May 4.

In other business, the board approved the nomination of August A. Ruggiero as President for the coming year. This will be Mr. Ruggiero's sixth term as board President, and his 18th year of board service.

The board also elected Theresa Larkin to her first term as board Vice President. Mrs. Larkin is beginning her fifth year of board service.

Board members also established meeting dates for the coming year. Agenda sessions are held the second Thursday of every month, with regular public meetings taking place the fourth Thursday of the month, with exceptions noted on the annual notice of regularly scheduled meetings.

The public portions of both meetings begin at 8 p.m. Meet-

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'Centre Boulevard' Idea Sparks Mixed Views Within Township

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specialty Writer for The Times

Members of the township's Downtown Development Committee (DDC) joined the Scotch Plains Township Council Tuesday in defending the proposal to add the name "Centre Boulevard" to the municipal roadway currently known under three different names — East Second Street, Westfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue.

Councilman Robert Johnston stated, "This overlay of the name 'Centre Boulevard' was only intended to give an identity to the downtown business district."

The DDC has also recommended hanging banners and posting welcoming signs in the business district. Ray Pardon, a committee member and President of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association, said, "There has been a tremendous amount of input from the entire community on the naming, sign design, the colors and so forth."

Councilman Martin Marks, also a member of the DDC, emphasized that the street naming measure "is not a mandate" for residents or businesses to change their current street addresses. He likened the effect to New York City's Sixth Avenue, also known as "Avenue of the Americas."

Councilman Marks said, "Businesses and residents will have the choice to use either name. Your mail will still arrive and the police, the fire department and rescue squad will still be able to find your house."

Westfield Avenue residents Thomas and Marie DiNizo said they believed the addition of the name Centre Boulevard would only confuse an admittedly already confusing situation of one street bearing three names in the township.

Mr. DiNizo claimed he would gather objecting residents' signatures for a petition by the time the council votes on the measure after a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 12.

"We're afraid that five years from now, everyone will say, 'Let's just change the name to Centre Boulevard,'" Mr. DiNizo added.

DDC member and local Realtor Vi Brown spoke in favor of the new street name, saying, "This is a booming town. A lot of new people are coming into town and it's confusing to have a street with three names. It will be a lot easier to get people in and out of town with one name."

"We have the same problem with Lake, Martine and Park Avenues. And we want other businesses to come into our town," Ms. Brown added.

Generally, a healthy business community has been found to stabilize or even increase property values in a town. Mr. Pardon, who also owns Nuts n' Plenty, added, "We believe the business districts are an important part of any community."

Councilman Marks described the combined efforts of the committee,

the Business and Professional Association and the council as an attempt "to develop and enhance an already thriving downtown."

Another Westfield Avenue resident, Rose Rossi, spoke before the council and simply called for the "cleaning up of the town." She angrily claimed that decorative planters in the downtown were being used for "disposal of garbage."

On a separate matter, the council recognized the Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad as it begins its annual fundraising drive. Squad President Dan Sullivan demonstrated the use of a \$6,000 piece of "talking" medical equipment, used to restart a human heart with electrical charges.

"Ten people are walking around like you and me in this town today because of this machine — the defibrillator," he said. Mr. Sullivan also congratulated seven-year squad volunteer Jean Lozowski on her "high"



KEEPING THE FAITH... The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Ministerium will lead members of the community in the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer next Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. on the Village Green in Scotch Plains. Pictured, left to right, are: Peggy Cowan, Donald Wussler, Judy Wussler, Scotch Plains Mayor Joan Papan, Pastor Michael C. Seaman of the Terrill Road Baptist Church in Scotch Plains, Pastor Mayor Maryanne S. Connolly, Carol Hahn and Pastor Kevin M. Brennan of the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains.



HELPING OTHERS... School One Elementary's second-grade Brownie Troop No. 392 in Scotch Plains recently met to prepare "baby bundles," which are packages of assorted infant care items, to be sent to needy babies in South America. Pictured, left to right, are: Samantha Bush, Rebecca Bush, Emily Nering, Nyanna Quoi, Ashley Carafango, Kristin Lambertsen and one of the troop's leaders, Lois Bush.