



MAKING IT OFFICIAL...Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Business Administrator Richard J. Marshall, left, swears in Board of Education members, left to right, Mrs. Lilian M. Dettmar, August Ruggiero and Mrs. Theresa Larkin, at Thursday's reorganization meeting of the board.

ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES CUT BY \$75,000

Scotch Plains Council Okays \$500,000 Cut in School Budget; Fanwood to Give Its Approval

Retiring Teachers Not to Be Replaced in System; Employee Health Benefits to Drop by \$100,000

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Township Council of Scotch Plains Tuesday voted unanimously to approve a cut of \$500,000 in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Budget.

Fanwood was expected to pass a similar resolution last night.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education likewise is expected to approve the cut at a meeting this month.

The Scotch Plains council pledged in the resolution, "This reduction of the school tax levy by \$500,000 will not deprive the school children of this district of a thorough and efficient system of education. \$230,000 is to be cut from the general fund free balance, \$75,000 is to be cut from school administration salaries, \$95,000 is to be saved from retirements in teacher salaries for those instructing the first through fifth grades. These teachers will not be replaced upon their retirements. \$100,000 is to be saved by reducing district payments for employee health insurance premiums for a total estimate savings of \$500,000. Municipal officials of Scotch Plains and Fanwood were required to specify areas where they felt cuts could be made."

The resolution continued, "It is possible an administrative position will be eliminated. State and federal aid to our school district has decreased by \$758,000. It is expected 100 new students will enter elementary school in September. Voters turned down a 2 percent increase in the school budget on April 19, 1993, from \$1,246 to \$1,284. As a result of this vote, the councils from the two towns were required to review the budget and certify a new amount."

The measure continued, "The combined council committees of Scotch Plains and Fanwood met and worked closely with Board of Education members."

While the cut in the school budget was approved unanimously in the township, it was clear it was a difficult process.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papan, stated, "This will not in any way hurt the education of children. The cuts will not affect learning."

Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene Schmidt, congratulated Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. and Mrs. Papan for their help in the process.

Mayor McClintock noted few people will be pleased by the cuts.

"Some people wanted to cut more and others less," he remarked.

During the course of the meeting Police Chief Robert A. Luce con-

ducted an awards ceremony to honor those officers who have served with distinction in the past year.

The department's Honorable Service Medal was awarded to Patrolman Suzanne J. Butler, who tackled and arrested a fleeing burglary suspect on March 31.

Patrolman Mark Zyla received the Life-Saving Medal. He was assisted by civilian honoree, Mrs. Bernadette "Betty" Graf, in saving the life of Captain Biagio Minceo, who had stopped breathing and had no pulse

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School Budget Cut Set to Be \$500,000

Fanwood Officials Report on Agreement on Defeated Tab

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Times

At Wednesday's Fanwood Borough Council agenda session Mayor, Mrs. Linda J. Stender and Councilman Donald S. Kollerjahn spoke to the council about the reduction in the school budget.

Because the budget was defeated at the polls, the council had the task of reducing it, and the Scotch Plains Township Council have recommended a reduction of \$500,000.

"We need a resolution about it," said the Mayor, adding she would have to get together with the school board to specify the exact language needed.

The Mayor said cuts were discussed in the areas of clerical, buildings and ground, the surplus and the two buffer teaching positions on the budget for anticipated increased enrollment.

The agreement reached two weeks ago said the Mayor, allowed for the two buffer positions.

The rest, she said, is coming from the surplus.

That was the agreement that night, she noted.

"There was no great joy in this," Mayor Stender added, and Councilman Kollerjahn noted it is "devastating" to see the results of the reduction of state aid in comparison to the number of state mandates.

The Mayor said she expects to see a greater reduction in state aid each year.

Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald told the council, "It's not a matter of being poor, it's a matter of taking care of your property."

In some cases, he said, private property has been destroyed, and therefore doesn't produce any taxes.

Councilman Bruce Walsh told him he would like to discuss that issue with him someday.

Before convening for their regular agenda meeting, the council held a special meeting to vote on a resolution concerning permit parking at 245 LaGrande Avenue.

Chief of Police Anthony J. Parenti told the council, "We identified the problem, and offered a solution" about permit parking.

Authority for the parking was given through Trenton, he said.

Because permit parking at the train station is full, the Chief studied the municipal parking lot at LaGrande Avenue and decided the parking there was "vastly underutilized."

Chief Parenti is requesting the use of 30 of the available 101 parking spaces for permit parking for commuters.

Prices would be \$25 for a month, which the Chief pointed out could mean an additional revenue of \$9,000 for the borough.

Borough residents still would pay only \$15 per month to park at the train station, he stated.

An additional nine spaces near the Carriage House, said the Chief, also have been requested for auxiliary daily parking.

Residents who want to use these spots could come into the Police Station, pay for the day's parking and leave the receipt showing on the dashboard.

The Chief anticipates these spaces will be used by those residents who infrequently visit New York City.

He also polled merchants in the

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Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. Dettmar Again Head Board of Education

Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. Dettmar, Mr. Ruggiero Take Their Oaths of Office

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Times

Acting as temporary Chairman of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, school Business Administrator Richard E. Marshall on Thursday swore into office newly-elected Board member, Mrs. Theresa Larkin, and returning members, Mrs. Lilian M. Dettmar and August Ruggiero, at the organization meeting.

The board then unanimously re-elected Dr. Donald E. Sheldon as its President.

"It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve again," said Dr. Sheldon. "In looking at the coming year, we'll be as busy as we've been in the past year."

Mrs. Dettmar also was unanimously re-elected as the Board's Vice President.

The Times was named an official publication for all district official legal and public notices along with The

Art Exhibition, Auction to Aid All Saints' Church

The Ross Art Gallery will host a fine arts exhibition and art auction on Friday, May 20, at All Saints' Episcopal Church of Scotch Plains. The previews will begin at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church and its community outreach programs.

A wide selection of works from artists, including Chagall, Wyeth and Erté among many others, will be featured, all custom-framed and matted. Opening bids are less than traditional gallery prices, providing an opportunity for the novice or experienced art collector to satisfy their tastes affordably, a spokesman for the auction said.

The gala will begin at 7:30 p.m. with previews. Wine, cheese and champagne punch will be served and followed by coffee and dessert. A highlight of the evening will be a musical presentation by noted pianist, Miss Mia Venezia. The auction will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 per person and \$15 per couple and are available in advance by calling 889-8278 during the day and 889-8466 in the evenings and on weekends.

All Saints' Church is located at 559 Park Avenue.

Terrill and Park Honor Rolls Included On Page 10

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE CHANGED

The Scotch Plains Township Council has announced several changes in its meeting schedule for June.

The regular meeting previously scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, has been canceled.

At the session on Tuesday, June 7, the conference meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, the Listening Post in the Mayor's Office at 8 p.m. and the regular meeting in the downstairs Council Chambers at 8:30 p.m.

Official actions to be taken by the council will be voted on at the regular session.

Courier-News of Bridgewater.
Named as the auditors for the 1994-1995 school year was Suplec, Clooney and Company of Elizabeth for the annual fee of \$22,400.

In response to questions from Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Marshall noted this fee is a \$1,000, or a 4.6 per cent. increase over last year.

Under the circumstances of having to deal with the new Gap forms, and the differences in the budget structure, he said, "It's a fair price."

The firm was unanimously approved, with Mrs. Larkin abstaining. Casper P. Boehm, Jr., was approved as Board Attorney, with his contract to be negotiated by the Board President.

"We get more than our share of value for the dollar" with Mr. Boehm, said board member Mark W. Koster. "I'm opposed to this because we should bid it out," board member James L. Martin stated. He asked how long it had been since the position had been bid out.

Mr. Ruggiero told him Mr. Boehm was hired 17 years ago, and "is recognized across the state for his expertise. We're fortunate to have him."

Mr. Martin replied his comments were not a reflection of Mr. Boehm's abilities.

Mr. Boehm was approved, with Mr. Martin voting against, and Mrs. Larkin and board member Albert J. Syvertsen abstaining.

The board approved Mrs. Eleanor Young as Treasurer of School Monies for the 1994-1995 school year.

Mr. Marshall explained the position is a requirement by law.

Also approved were the banks designated the official depositories for school funds and banks used for investment purposes, with Mr. Ruggiero requesting the board's right to add to the list at any time.

Selected to serve on the County Educational Services Commission's Representative Assembly was Mr. Syvertsen.

The commission runs five schools for educationally and physically handicapped children, Mr. Syvertsen told the board.

Describing the work as "heart-warming and heart-rending," Mr. Syvertsen noted tremendous strides have been taken in providing help to the handicapped.

Hearing on Parker Greenhouse Expansion Draws Protests Over Width of Driveway

But Many Residents Say Business Has Provided Employment Opportunities for Youth

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Zoning Board of Adjustment continued its public hearing last Thursday on a controversial site plan application by Parker Greenhouses to widen its existing driveway, a proposal which some of its neighbors oppose as being too commercial for a residential area.

Steven Parker, owner of the 14-acre property at 1325 Terrill Road, is seeking board approval to widen the mouth of the main driveway from 40 feet to a proposed 86.5 feet and for related renovations to enable tractor trailer operators delivering merchandise to be able to navigate the driveway without encroaching on opposing traffic along the busy Union County road.

The board's Site Plan Review Subcommittee, after hearing testimony during the board's April 7 meeting from Mr. Parker and his representatives and remarks from neighbors opposed to the application, hammered out a comprehensive list of recommendations designed to accommodate both sides as much as possible.

These recommendations include proposed installation of a gate across the main driveway 30 feet in from Terrill Road and locked during non-business hours to prevent drivers from letting their rigs idle in a gravel front lot currently accessible from the driveway but which would be blocked off

by the gate during the night.

Noise and fumes from rigs parked overnight on the property while drivers wait for the business to open have long been a bone of contention for some residents within a 200-foot radius of the nursery. The truck's heating and air conditioning units are

kept operating to preserve perishable merchandise until it can be unloaded.

Subcommittee members also recommended that the main driveway not be widened to more than 60 feet to keep it congruous with the residential flavor of the neighborhood but still broad enough to ensure traffic

safety. They also suggested the driveway and front lot be lined with granite block curbing to prevent truck wheels from possibly making ruts on the surrounding lawn.

Mr. Parker's attorney, John Lynch, urged the board, however, to stick with the proposed 86.5 foot width, based on a recommendation from Union County Planning Board Engineer Steven Koo that this measurement was necessary, so trucks making right hand turns in or out of the premises would not cross over the center line of Terrill Road or into the path of another vehicle on the opposite side of the driveway.

This evaluation was determined using a 40-foot tractor trailer as a test case, the attorney said.

Mr. Parker and his attorney agreed to several of the board's other recommendations, including:

- The parking lot have residential lighting.
- A proposed free-standing sign be illuminated by shielded lights to be turned off at 9 p.m.
- The existing sidewalk will be renovated.

The proposed front gate prompted much debate regarding how to deal with cross-country drivers who show up at Parker Greenhouses during early morning hours when the business is closed, since they will be prohibited from parking on the street. Several neighbors expressed concern that drivers, with no access to the nursery premises, would be traveling local streets with their large vehicles.

Board member Jeremiah P.O'Neil, suggested a sign on the front gate listing business hours of operation could also, as a courtesy to the truck-

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GOOD OLD SCHOOL DAYS...Third-grade students from Mrs. Joanne Maiuro's class at McGinn School in Scotch Plains recently visited the Clinton Museum. The trip was a culmination of their unit on Frontier Life. They are shown in front of an 1890 schoolhouse, dressed in apparel of the time after spending the morning simulating a settlers' classroom.

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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.