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THE TIMES

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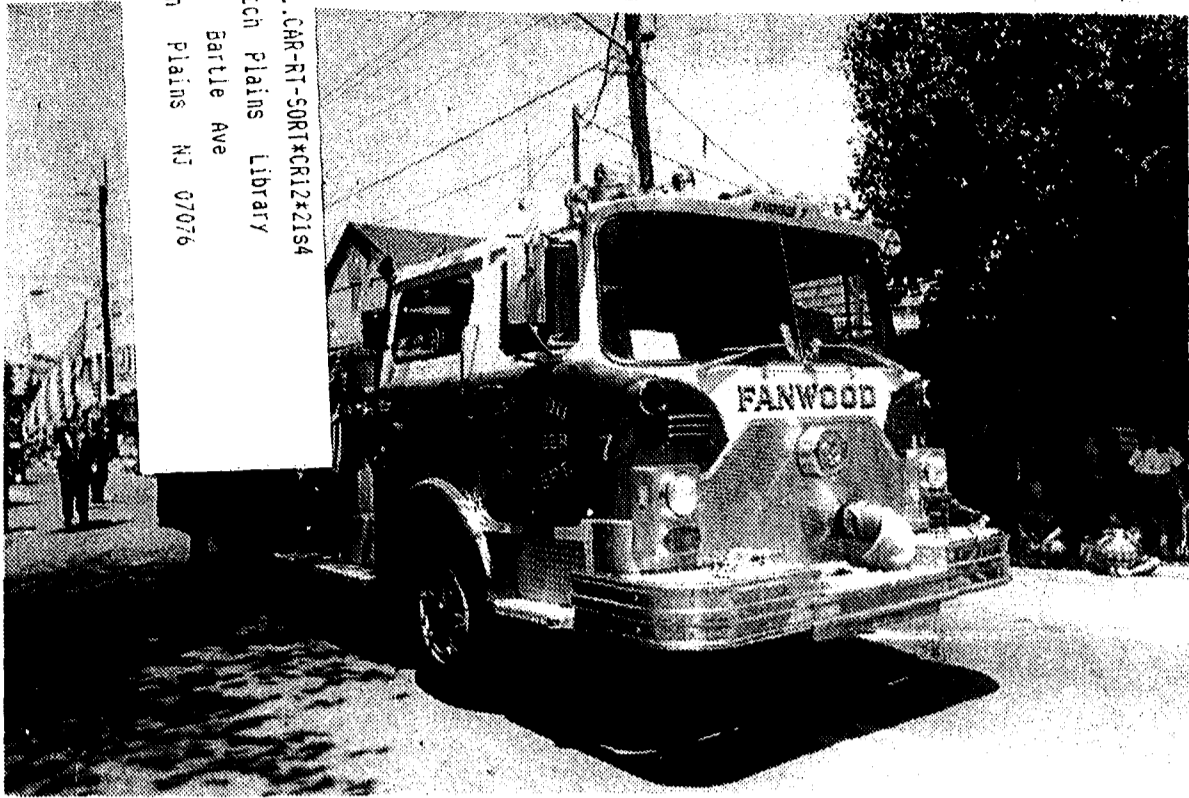
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BROTHERS ON HAND...Members of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department drove their truck in the parade honoring members of the Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department Saturday.

BOARD MEMBER JAMES MARTIN RESIGNS Action Teams Give Reports On Proposals to School Body; Minorities and Technology Backed

Superintendent Endorses Discussion on the Return To Committee System for the Educational Unit

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Times

Ten Action Team leaders presented to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on Thursday the specifics of their plans.

The presentation is the result of nine months of work, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Faith Spitz, said.

Over 200 people volunteered to serve on the 10 teams, she noted, representing a cross section of teachers, administration, members of the community and students.

These teams were the outcome of the strategic planning that occurred in the fall, the Assistant Superintendent continued, and they "plan the steps to make the vision a reality."

There are 46 plans to consider under the three chosen objectives of excellence, diversity and initiative, Dr. Spitz said, and the implementation of these range in price from zero to millions of dollars for technology.

She asked the board for approval of all plans.

Board of Education President, Dr. Donald E. Sheldon, announced the board would meet with the action team leaders on Tuesday, May 24, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in a working session to allow for the board's questions.

Final voting will take place at the board's regular meeting on Thursday, May 26, he added.

Leaders who presented a synopsis of their teams' plans were James O'Connor, Mrs. Virginia Konefal and Mrs. Patricia Frawley for excellence; Mrs. Janet Ramos, James Mason, Mrs. Nancy Benz and James Tuttle for diversity, and Jeffrey Ross, Mrs. Patricia McFall and Mrs. Julia Jennings for initiative.

All the objectives fall under the mission statement of the school district, "To develop confident and caring life-long learners, who can communicate and contribute to the ever-changing global society. The district, in partnership with the community, will create an environment which values initiative, diversity and excellence."

A common thread running through all three objectives is technology. "Education has not moved as quickly on technology as business has," stated Mr. O'Connor.

Staff development also is crucial, Mrs. Frawley said, including the time needed for training and identification of what exactly teachers need.

Under the objective of diversity, all leaders stressed the importance of hiring minority-group teachers. Mason told the audience of over 100 parents the perception the district either doesn't want this diversity or doesn't want it very badly "must change."

"We believe diversity is the key for children to understand their fellow men," he said.

This does not mean simply recruit-

ing minority-group teachers, he said, but keeping them once they are hired.

Board member August Ruggiero asked Mr. Mason how this differs from what the board had been trying to do over the 13 years he has served on the board.

Mr. Mason replied the plan comprises, "A concerted effort over years. We have to look outside New Jersey. We have to get the message out that staff diversity is necessary."

There is also an incentive plan for students to return to teach in the dis-

trict, although Mr. Mason acknowledged this was years away from fruition.

Former school board member and community resident, Kirk Rhodes, told Mr. Mason and the board, "The implication is you've tried these recruitment policies before and they haven't worked."

He asked for specific answers on what the board is planning to do.

"Show me how aggressive the search is for recruitment of African

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Township to Change Its Banks In Early June; Bond Sale Set

Council Appears Disinclined to Adopt Law Banning Cigarette Vending Machines

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The township will change its custodial banks on or about June 7, it was announced at Tuesday's conference meeting of the Township Council.

These banks are the institutions where most of the township's accounts are kept. The current custodial banks are First Fidelity and United Jersey.

The council, after listening to a report by Ulrich Steinberg, the Scotch Plains Finance Director, agreed that First Fidelity and United Jersey have grown too large, too corporate and are not responsive to the banking needs of a small town.

It is expected that United Counties Trust Company will be the new handler of the custodial accounts. Whether a formal resolution of the Town Council is necessary to effect this change is uncertain.

The township has some 20 different bank accounts. Mr. Steinberg went on to announce there will be a bond sale of Scotch Plains bonds on July 28.

The council appears disinclined to adopt an ordinance banning cigarette vending machines within the township.

Westfield has refused to approve a similar ordinance, while East Brunswick has banned the machines. Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. was of the opinion that cigarettes are readily available for purchase 24 hours a day. Thus, the proposed ordinance would be of little effect.

The intent of the proposed ordinance would be to keep cigarettes out of the hands of minors. Deputy Mayor Robert Johnston was of a like mind. Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papen, while stressing she wanted to keep cigarettes out of young people's hands, went on to

say, "I want to look at this in the fairest way."

Mrs. Papen suggested that some controls be placed on the machines themselves to limit their access by minors. However, she stated, "if adults want to smoke, its their business."

The Health Advisory Board voted 5-1 in favor of banning cigarette vending machines in Scotch Plains. One board member abstained. There are approximately 13 cigarette vending machines in Scotch Plains. Harry F. "Skip" Ungar, who is pushing for the adoption of the ordinance, has conducted a site survey of cigarette vending machines within the town. Most of the machines are located in restaurants or gas stations, he found.

The council has referred the matter to the Downtown Committee for their input.

While the 1994 township municipal budget will be read for the second and final time on May 24, no vote on its adoption will take place as the State Division of Taxation has forbidden it.

At issue is \$140,000 in gross receipts and franchise taxes. The public is invited to comment on the proposed municipal budget at the May 24 council meeting.

Killam Associates' recommendations for compliance with the underground storage tank mandate were released. Cost estimates are only projections as of now. Efforts have been made to develop a plan that will minimize the burden on the taxpayer, but still comply with the mandate.

One potentially very significant cost might be the removal of any contaminated soil, if leakage has occurred over the years. This is still an unknown factor right now that will have to be taken into account when the tanks are un-

covered for removal.

Underground municipal fuel storage tanks are located at:

- Two tanks at the Department of Public Property facility on Plainfield Avenue
- Township Hall Facility in the parking lot in the rear of the Police Department
- Scotch Hills Country Club
- Fire stations Nos. 1 and 2
- Sewer pumping stations on Raritan Road and Lamberts Mill Road

Township Manager, Thomas E. Atkins, believes that Scotch Plains has until 1998 to comply with the mandate. Walter DiNizo, Director of Public Property, is recommending that work commence at the department's facility on Plainfield Avenue first.

Mr. Atkins will recommend that the council introduce a capital improvement bond ordinance at its June 7 meeting in the amount of \$300,000, so funds can be legally in place to start the compliance plan.

An ordinance was approved in the amount of \$100,000 some months ago to help with start-up expense and to cover professional services costs.

The ordinance of June 7th may turn out to be an amendment to this prior ordinance. The project as outlined totals \$255,500 which does not include costs associated with soil and/or water contamination and monitoring wells as required.

Killam will be requesting unit pricing for these items in the bid package and is estimating a figure

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GLORIA DAY...About 1,000 firemen from around the state were on hand with many of their vehicles to wish their fellow township fighters the best on the 125th anniversary of the Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department. Here a township vehicle passes.



HOODING FOR HIM...Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. addresses the thousands of township and area residents who attended the celebration marking the 125th anniversary of the Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department.



IN THEIR HONOR...Here an honor guard salutes members of the Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday on the 125th anniversary of the township firemen.