



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

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USPS 485300
Second Class Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, June 30, 1994

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FORTY CENTS

1927
Battle Ave
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076



MY FELLOW GRADUATES...Lauren Denise Arnold, Senior Class Valedictorian, addresses the members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Class of 1994 during commencement exercises held Friday night. Please see more pictures on Page 8.

School Administrators, Supervisors To Get 3.5 Per Cent Salary Increases

Richard Meade Named to Fill Unexpired Fanwood Board Seat

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

Richard Meade was elected to the fill the unexpired term of James Martin at Thursday's meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

Mr. Martin resigned from the Board of Education last month citing personal and business commitments.

Mr. Meade is an attorney who resides in Fanwood and has two children in the school system. He will serve until April of 1995 and was nominated by board member August Ruggerio.

Other nominees for the Fanwood seat included Mark Nussenfeld, Richard Madurski and Daniel Levine. Mr. Meade won by one vote over Mr. Nussenfeld, 3-2, and Mr. Madurski received one vote.

Board members Mark W. Koster and Albert J. Syvertsen were absent. Mr. Meade, who was also absent, will be sworn in at the July 14 agenda meeting.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the district's strategic plan dated June 9 for the 1994-1995 school year.

Contracts were approved with the administrators and the supervisory personnel. The administrators contract will run from July 1 to June 30, 1997.

Mr. Gillet who helped negotiate the contract termed it "fair and in line with other contracts. The supervisory personnel's contracts which runs from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1996, features salary increases of 3.5 per cent per year over the next three years.

The agreement was reached only after protracted negotiations and then only with the help of a mediator. Supervisory personnel will have the same health insurance coverage as teachers.

The board listened to a presentation on special education in the district given by Director of Special Services, Mrs. Eleanor McClymont, assisted by the Supervisor of Special Education, Mrs. Janet Ramos. They said 14.4 per cent of children in the elementary schools have been classified as special education students.

This figure does not include those in the speech programs. There are 502 special education students in the school system, she said.

The current theory in the special education area is that of inclusion or mainstreaming whereby special education students will attend regular classes. If necessary special education students will be accompanied to class by their own teacher. The special education students program would

be designed by the special education teacher in conjunction with the regular teacher.

Decisions on placement will be done on a case-by-case basis, officials said.

Currently 52 special education students are placed outside the district at an average cost of \$43,000 per pupil. Year-round special education placement outside the school district averages \$70,417 per pupil.

The total cost for out-of-district special education placement is \$813,000 of which the state pays \$613,000, according to Board Secretary, Stephen Marshall.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Mrs. Judith Rockman, a teacher at the Park Middle School, urged the board to close the schools for the two days of the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah which occurs on Tuesday and Wednesday,

September 6 and 7. The entire board appeared startled by her request and made no comment on Mrs. Rockman's remarks.

She warned that, if the board fails to close the schools for the two days of Rosh Hashanah, it could leave itself open to charges of anti-Semitism.

A contract was approved with Resolve Community Counseling Center, Inc., for the period July 1 through June 30, 1995 in the amount of \$138,266 for counseling services. The counselors will spend more time in the grammar schools over the next year.

The board voted to apply for a grant in the sum of \$13,789 under the Drug Free Schools and Communities Program for the 1994-1995 school year.

Mrs. Anita Schill, Jerrold Forman

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Proposed Pleasant Avenue Subdivision Has Neighbors' Emotions Running High

Planning Board Chairman Wants All Testimony Heard Before Deciding the Issue

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Planning Board presided last Wednesday over the tense and emotional continuation of a subdivision application which has drawn heavy opposition from neighbors who fear the proposal will have a profoundly negative impact upon their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter DiNizo of Scotch Plains are seeking board ap-

proval to develop adjacent properties they own at 93 and 97 Pleasant Avenue, which were merged following the creation of the borough's 1954 zoning ordinance.

The applicants hope to renovate an existing home on the 50-by-100-foot section of the property and to build a new, two-story residence on the 75-by-100-foot portion, while also demolishing and replacing an existing garage and installing a new drive-

way. Much controversy surrounding the bid has focused on the status of the property under the borough's ordinance, with opponents arguing that a subdivision would violate municipal code regulations regarding non-conforming lots, and the applicants' representatives maintaining that the two lots were never destined to be permanently integrated.

Michael Tobia, a licensed professional engineer testifying on behalf of the applicants, stated that, in his opinion, development of the land by its late previous owners did not meet what he considered the criteria for "consolidation of the lots for residential purposes."

Examples of such criteria, he explained, would include such enhancements as an attached deck or swimming pool, a full-size patio or driveway traversing the entire property. He alleged that the "planting of some trees," indicating the small leisure area, "does not denote integration from a planning perspective."

Long-time neighbors of the property painted a different picture, however, recalling how the former owners held regular family gatherings there and took pride in the planting of azaleas and other foliage, which they believe confirmed the land's merged status.

Residents within a 200-foot radius of the property oppose the planned building of a two-story home on the 75-by-100-foot lot, where there would reportedly only be 10-foot and seven-foot setback setbacks, and fear that board approval of the application could herald a "domino effect" of subdivisions among lots of a similar nature, creating additional parcels like the 50 by 100 foot lot involved in the DiNizo bid.

"We're creating a substandard lot here," argued Kenneth Kalkisky of 85 Pleasant Avenue, one of nearly a dozen residents who came forward during last week's meeting to protest the application. "We're in an overcrowded town already. If you grant this, it will be in violation of the code and it will just go on and on."

"This community has been bombarded over the years by people who want to build in the community and make a profit," added Mrs. Mary Achore of 55 Montrose Avenue, spec-

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FARMERS' MARKET ISSUED PERMIT TO OPERATE

Proposed Ban on Machines Selling Cigarettes Has Vendor Demonstrating Security Device

Cancer Society Representative Calls Smoking 'a Time Bomb'; Smokers' Group Says Ban Would Lead to 'Prohibition'

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council held a fact-finding hearing Tuesday on the feasibility of banning cigarette vending machines and the larger problem of cigarette sales to minors. The issue, which is dividing the council, is also dividing the general public.

Those assembled heard from Mr. and Mrs. Peter K. Lathrop and their daughter, Karen, of Meadowlark Lane. Karen and her sister, who is also a minor, were allowed to purchase cigarettes from vending machines at four of five establishments, the girl's parents noted. They entered unaccompanied by any adult.

This was cited in support of the theory that the enforcement of the existing law prohibiting sales to minors is lax. Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop support a total ban on cigarette vending machines in the township.

Jack Mandell of the American Cancer Society gave a demonstration and passed out literature about the hazards of cigarette smoking. He called nicotine "the most addictive of all drugs."

Mr. Mandell went on to label cigarette smoking a "time bomb," and he had a mock-up time bomb to match.

He cited a 1989 report of the United States Surgeon General which stated, "Smoking is responsible for more than one of every six deaths in the United States. Smoking remains the single most important preventable cause of death in our society."

Mrs. Karen Blumenfeld, an attorney for the New Jersey Group Against Smoker's Pollution, said she has been fighting smoking for 20 years. Mrs. Blumenfeld claimed two-thirds of all high school students buy their cigarettes from vending machines, according to a state Department of Health survey.

Mrs. Blumenfeld said industry figures show 56 per cent of minors buy their cigarettes from vending machines.

She was in favor of a total ban only. "Controls will not work," she said.

Over 10 communities including Summit, East Brunswick, Teaneck, Paramus, West Caldwell, Princeton and Montgomery Township have banned the sale of cigarettes from vending machines, and

over 35 municipalities have proposed banning cigarette vending machines, she said.

"Locking devices don't work," Mrs. Blumenfeld added.

Voluntary controls will not work because vending machine companies will not comply, she alleged. Health officials and studies listed by Mrs. Blumenfeld say only a total ban on cigarette vending machines will keep cigarettes out of the hands of minors.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papen, countered by saying North Brunswick and Union utilize locking devices on the machines, and this seems to be working.

Mrs. Blumenfeld termed the banning of cigarette vending machines, "a small but significant step."

James Feinberg of Mannie's, a Jersey City-based vending machine company, said he has been in the vending machine business for 61 years. He said locking devices are "100 per cent effective."

Mr. Feinberg, to prove his point, brought with him a cigarette machine and its accompanying locking device. The device, a remote control, has an effective range of approximately 25 feet. The device adds \$300 to the cost of each machine.

He said the machine must be put in the operator's line of sight for this partial ban to work. Mr. Feinberg was accompanied by Jack Lamm of the CIC Vending Ma-

chine Company.

William Lear, President of the New Jersey Coalition for Smokers' Rights, based in Elizabeth, said "smokers should have rights." This movement to ban cigarette vending machines is a "back door to the prohibition of cigarettes."

Children purchased their cigarettes in stores and not in vending machines, he said.

"Children who want to smoke will smoke whether there is a ban or not," said Mr. Lear.

The talk of cigarettes creating health problems are "lies," Mr. Lear said. He added he knows of people who quit smoking who are worse now than while they were smoking.

If the total ban passes, people who own and operate vending machine companies will lose their jobs, he claimed. Another member of the smokers' rights organization stated that educating minors in the schools about the dangers of cigarette smoking should be stressed.

Mrs. Blumenfeld said this is currently being done and there is a state-mandated program within the schools already.

Martin Fafette of Mountain Avenue, a smoker, said he rarely purchases cigarettes from the town's vending machines saying, "Let the council address other issues which are meaningful and beneficial to the community."

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Borough Council Adopts Budget of \$5,102,122

Average Homeowner Will Pay About \$33 More a Year

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

A special meeting of the Fanwood Council was held Monday for the purpose of adopting the 1994-1995 municipal budget of \$5,102,122 and its accompanying salary ordinance.

The new budget envisions a tax increase of \$37.35 per household or 4.5 tax points.

Council President, Mrs. Maryanne Connelly, presided. Councilman in attendance were Andrew J. MacDonald, Kevin McGonigle, Bruce Walsh and Donald S. Kollerjahn. Mayor Linda d. Stender and Councilman Louis C. Jung were absent.

Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, the Borough Administrator and Clerk, told *The Times* that the one per cent increase in the overall budget over last year was mainly due to the increased sewer costs by the Plainfield Joint Meeting and the severe weather this past winter.

The budget was amended to include a block grant in the sum of \$30,373 and gross receipts and franchise taxes of \$35,668 for a total additional revenue of \$66,041. The state had impounded the gross receipts and franchise tax money. This money has just been released. Please see another article on this matter on Page 2.

State Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco has assured council members that state aid is available which will serve to reduce the increase by 1.5 points. The 1994-1995 state budget is to be voted on in Trenton this week.

Mrs. McGovern, said any surplus revenues received will be applied towards next year's budget.

Mrs. McGovern and council members noted that, if the municipal budget was not adopted Tuesday, tax bills and payments would be late. A similar situation occurred two years ago, according to the Council President.

Representative Franks' Survey of Citizens Results Revealed

See Page 23

The vote was unanimous among those members present to approve the 1994-1995 budget and salary ordinance.

The salary ordinance provides that \$2,820,145 in funds for borough salaries to be raised through taxes. As of July 1, longevity will be eliminated for those hired.

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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 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.



TOP JOB...Navy Captain Keith W. Lippert, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lippert of Fanwood, has been selected for promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Please see story on Page 3.



FOR SPORTSMANSHIP...Recently at the 19th Annual Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner held at the Holiday Inn in Springfield, the members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of Unity, Neighborhood, Integrity and Opportunity, an Italian fraternal group, honored two Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students for their outstanding athletic achievements and exemplary sportsmanship conduct personified by the late Brian Piccolo. Piccolo played for the Chicago Bears in the backfield in the late 1960's and early 1970's until he was diagnosed with cancer and died a few years later. The group honors Piccolo each year for his Italian-American heritage and for the sportsmanship and community support he provided. Each winner received a trophy and a \$250 scholarship check presented by Past President and Event Chairman, Joseph Triano. Pictured, left to right, are: Anthony Perillo, a scholarship winner, Mr. Triano, and Todd Flannery, the other scholarship winner.