



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



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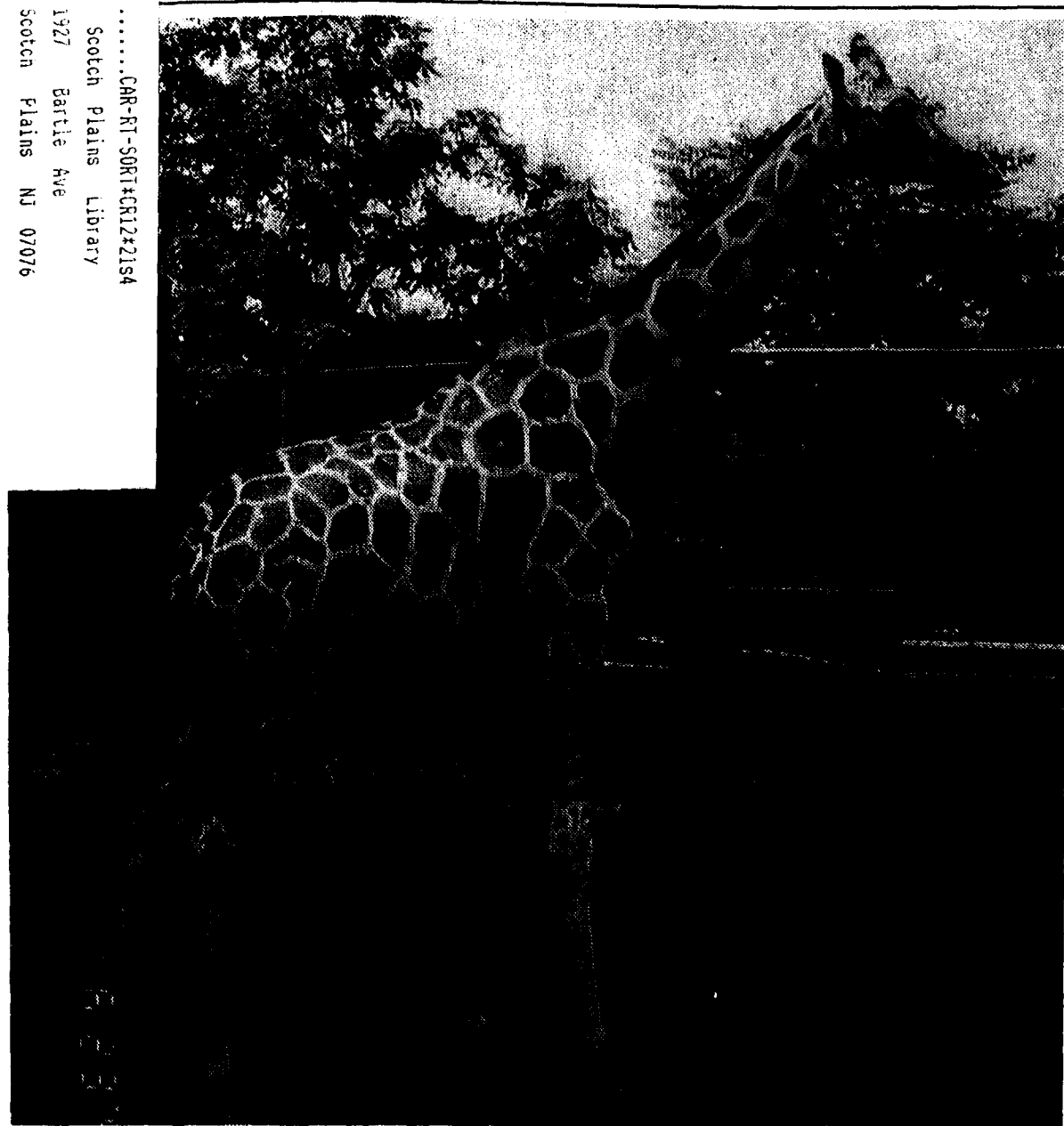
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A long drink of water

## The Kafkas Are Devoting Their Lives To Animals at the Scotch Plains Zoo

*Breeding Program Concentrates on Restoring Populations of Rare Animals; Zoo Residents Eat Three Tons of Grain Every Two Weeks; 100 Bales of Hay a Month Needed*

By ELLEN RADIN  
Specially Written for The Times

A "great surprise" will be part of the breeding, expansion and renovation program now underway at the Scotch Plains Zoo, according to Harold P. Kafka, one of the zoo's new owners.

Although he refused to give any hints about the surprise, Mr. Kafka also says that an otter and camels will soon join Simba, the baby lion cub, as new residents of the zoo. Mr. Kafka cautions, however, that every time he says the camels will arrive soon, something else goes wrong and their arrival is delayed.

The zoo, located at 1451 Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, now houses approximately 200 animals from 78 different species. In addition to Simba, other new arrivals include a black bear cub, a Bengal tiger and a Siberian tiger.

Mr. Kafka says that the breeding program will concentrate on endangered species such as tigers, pheasants and chimpanzees as well as giraffes, and elands, a type of antelope. Animals for the zoo are acquired from private breeders and other zoos; the Scotch Plains Zoo in turn will be breeding animals and supplying other zoos.

Animals are also sometimes acquired when children's pets become too troublesome for parents to care for. "It's a crime," Mr. Kafka says, "that people don't realize how much care an animal requires."

Mr. Kafka and his wife, Deborah, plan to expand the zoo to fully use the six-acre property, the site of the former Terry Lou Zoo. That zoo had only used half the available space. "We're still in the hole from the winter," Mr. Kafka says, explaining that the severe weather both physically prevented construction and diverted funds towards higher heating costs and other unexpected expenses.

The Kafkas have started to rebuild all of the animal enclosures, with the goal of having all of the primates in outside enclosures. In addition, they are updating and renovating facilities not generally observed by the public, such as the food preparation area. Formerly, food for the ani-

mals was prepared near their enclosures on tables that had to be set up and taken down for each meal. The Kafkas are constructing one central kitchen to eliminate that extra work.

Other renovations include a general clean-up, repainting the outside of the main building, constructing a new entrance and a new parking lot, erecting new fencing and redoing the pony ride area.

A souvenir stand is also being planned; items for sale will include postcards with pictures of the animals.

Mr. Kafka says that he begins working at five o'clock each morning and does not leave until between six and eight o'clock each evening. Once at home, the Kafkas are still at work taking care of animals who require additional care. Four to five animals live with them, including a lion cub, tiger cub, a baby skunk and birds.

Most of the construction is being done by the Kafkas themselves along with family and friends.

Mr. Kafka declined to provide the total construction and renovation costs on the grounds that they would make him sick, but he gave some examples of the expenses. Fencing for each enclosure costs about \$10,000 and there are 20 to 25 enclosures. Minimum dimensions of the animal enclosures, along with other regulations for ani-

mal health and safety are set by the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture. The zoo is licensed by all three of these agencies, each of which makes three unannounced inspections each year.

The expansions and additions to the zoo will require municipal approval, according to Township Engineer C. Stephen Kinsey. The Kafkas will need to apply for site plan approval, showing for example the locations of streams, wetlands and any structures, fences and outdoor lighting to be added.

Although the zoo itself is a preexisting use that would not require a use variance, the expansion of the zoo into land not used before and the additions of buildings or any other structures will make a use variance necessary. Other approvals may, Mr. Kinsey says, also be necessary.

So far, Mr. Kafka says, fees to Scotch Plains for the various approvals have run in excess of \$5,000. This figure does not include the additional \$3,000 paid to the Kafka's own surveyor and \$1,500 to their engineer, or any legal fees for the closings and establishment of the corporation. There will doubtlessly be further fees to architects, surveyors and attorneys.

The 78 or 79 signs describing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## LAW MIGHT BE INTRODUCED AUGUST 16

# Township Council Support Gels to Back Ordinance To Ban Cigarette Machines

*Sewer Project Voted for Eastside of Martine Avenue to Allow For the Senior Citizens Housing Complex; Plans Were Studied for Four Years*

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Council continued its debate over the wisdom of banning cigarette vending machines during Tuesday's conference meeting.

Deputy Mayor Robert Johnston dropped his opposition and says he will now vote in favor of banning the machines. This leaves Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papan, as the only council member against the ban.

Mrs. Papan said businesses offer the machines as a convenience to their patrons and not as an inducement to get children to start smoking.

"I am tired of this Big Brother syndrome," she stated. She noted adults can smoke if they wish. "It is their decision." If minors are smoking, the remedy, according to Mrs. Papan, would be to enforce the existing laws. No member of the council favors controls such as a "lock box" on the machines, feeling this control could be easily circumvented.

The machines would have to be located within 25 feet of the operator of the device and within his or her line of sight. Councilman Johnston termed this "impractical."

The council heard again from Harry F. "Skip" Ungar, the leading proponent of the move to ban cigarette vending machines in Scotch Plains.

Mr. Ungar has personally counted 13 cigarette vending machines in Scotch Plains. He estimates that there are no more than 20 machines in Scotch Plains. Most are located at bars and restaurants.

While conceding that smoking will not stop altogether, Mr. Ungar claimed it will be harder for kids to obtain cigarettes if a total ban is passed.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene Schmidt, who was absent for last Tuesday's fact-finding session, will review a tape of the proceedings. Pending her review of the issue, it is hoped an ordinance calling for a total ban on cigarette vending machines will have its first reading during the August 16 public meeting.

The second and final reading, along with public comment, will be conducted in the fall. The July 12 public meeting will be the council's only meeting in July.

The August meeting schedule has been changed, officials announced. There will be a conference meeting at 5 p.m. on August 16 followed at 8:30 p.m. by a public meeting. The August 2 and August 9 had been the dates of the conference and public meetings, respectively. The two meetings

have been combined.

In a June 27 memo from Town Engineer C. Stephen Kinsey to Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins, made public Tuesday, Mr. Kinsey recommends no change to the Morse Avenue and Plainfield Avenue Intersection traffic island.

"The time and expense to redesign and reconstruct this intersection is prohibitive and is not recommended," Mr. Kinsey stated in the letter.

## Awards Assembly Honors Told At Park School, See Page 7

The council was not happy with this recommendation having received complaints from homeowners who due to the traffic island's peculiar construction, have had difficulty getting into their driveways.

Mr. Atkins and Mr. Kinsey will work on the problem further and a cost-benefit analysis will be done.

Phase one of the Sanitary Sewer Capital Budget for 1994-1995 has an estimated cost of over \$425,000. The project will take one to two years and has been four years in the planning.

Scotch Plains will apply to the state Department of Environmental Protection and Energy for the necessary permits shortly. Modifi-

cations to handle an increased flow are envisioned.

A new sewer line will be built along the railroad easement on the east side of the Martine Avenue extension by the Union County Vocational and Technical School to the Lamberts Mill Road pumping station to accommodate the senior citizens housing project.

At the July 12 public meeting the first reading of the following ordinances will be on the agenda:

- An ordinance to ban trucks over four tons from the entire length of Westfield Road.
- An ordinance to prohibit right turns from the exit driveway of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School onto Westfield Road.

This proposed ordinance is the result of discussions between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Parent-Teacher Association, the High School Principal, Dr. Terry Riegel, and members of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Police Departments.

A total of \$1,500 has been appropriated to the Union Catholic Regional High School's project graduation.

A resolution will be voted on at the July 12 public meeting to add \$3,369 to the 1994 budget. This sum represents money received from the state's Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund Program.

Ex-Mayor and former Councilman, B. Lawrence Newcomb, was appointed by Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. to the Union County Freeholder Committee on management of the Watchung Reservation. The committee is studying the deer problem at the reservation.

## Scotch Plains, Westfield Golfers Mark Bicentennial

*Three-Day Event Slated for August 18, 20 and 22*

Golfers in Westfield and Scotch Plains will participate in a three-day, three course open golf tournament next month in celebration of the Township of Westfield's 200th birthday.

Allen Malcolm, Chairman of the Westfield-Scotch Plains Bicentennial Open Golf Tournament, issued an open invitation to all interested golfers. "Among Westfield and Scotch Plains residents, aged 16 or over, we are hoping that at least 200 sign up for the Bicentennial tournament," he stated.

Westfield and Scotch Plains were both part of the West Fields of Elizabethtown when the Township of Westfield was formed in 1794. Scotch Plains was set off from the township in 1877.

The following three dates and three courses are available for players:  
• Thursday afternoon, August 18 — Echo Lake Country Club;  
• Saturday morning and afternoon, August 20 — Ashbrook Golf Course; and  
• Monday morning or afternoon, August 22 — Shackamaxon Country Club.

Interested golfers may sign up and pay the \$10 registration fee at the Westfield Recreation Commission Office in Town Hall or the Bicentennial Office in the United Fund Office at 301 North Avenue West.

The number of tournament participants is limited to the first 44 who sign up for Echo Lake Country Club; however, there is no limit on the number of tournament participants for the Ashbrook Golf course or the Shackamaxon Country Club. In fact, Mr. Malcolm pointed out that 90 players are needed for the Shackamaxon

Country Club. Starting times, 24 hours in advance, are available only at Ashbrook, according to Mr. Malcolm who asked interested golfers not to call the pro shop or Echo Lake or Shackamaxon. There is a dress code at Echo Lake, the Chairman noted.

Greens fees and cart fees, payable before starting to play, are: greens fees, \$65; two-person cart, \$40 at Echo Lake and greens fees, \$40; two-person cart, \$40 at Shackamaxon. County rates apply at Ashbrook.

August 15 is the absolute deadline to sign up for the tournament. Interested golfers with question are cordially invited to call Mr. Malcolm at 233-5610 or 654-5704.

### 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 30 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.



HELPING THE HOMELESS...Students in the eighth-grade World Cultures Classes at the Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains, under the direction of Ronald MacKenzie, have studied world problems and ways of solving them. Miss Jean Burger, shown with the students of the Inter-Faith Council on the Homeless in Plainfield, came to Terrill and told of the plight of the homeless, especially children. The students at the school have raised \$97 to aid the homeless by selling

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