



SCOTCH PLAINS

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Possibilities Explored to Create County-Wide Agency to Handle Diverse Animal Problems; Provisioned Body Would Serve Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood Residents, Among Others

By ELLEN RADIN
Specially Written for The Times

"We're in the first inning of a 10-inning ball game," said Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti on July 13, as he reported on the progress of plans for a possible county-wide animal shelter.

The Mayor praised the enthusiasm of supporters of the shelter and urged them to be patient and cautious in their attempts to establish the shelter.

Approximately 16 people, including government officials, representatives of animal welfare groups and members of the general public attended the meeting, which was hosted by Westfield Councilwoman, Mrs. Margaret C. Sur, and held in the Council Chambers of the Westfield Municipal Building.

Mayor Vigilanti said he had sent letters to the homes of each mayor in Union

County and most had expressed some degree of interest in the shelter; he had not received any flat out Noes," he said. Some of the municipalities, however, had multi-year contracts with their current services and could not necessarily commit themselves to participating in a county shelter on any particular date.

Another problem would be to accurately predict the date the shelter could start operating, if at all. Mayor Vigilanti stated he was still receiving completed surveys from his colleagues.

The surveys had asked how much each municipality spent to remove dead animals and to pick up strays, the termination dates of any current contracts with private companies and the exact type of shelter the municipality would favor.

"How many cages do we need," Mayor Vigilanti asked. "How many dog runs? How many vets?"

Mayor Vigilanti stated there would be no further meetings of mayors and other officials until the fall, with one or two meetings being held in October. After that, he explained, progress would be slowed by what he called "the silly season," meaning campaigns and elections, and then the holidays. There would be no public meetings until after the first of the new year.

Mayor Vigilanti explained each municipality would need to advertise its meetings, pass resolutions and enact ordinances. As a matter of law, the mayor said, notice of meetings to be held in 1995 must not be advertised until January 1 of that year. Then, of course, there is the delay between the notice of the meeting and the meeting itself.

Westfield Mayor Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr. stated that he agreed with the

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Township Planning Board Approves Subdivision For Two New Homes

Neighbor Says Project Would 'Change The Whole Profile of the Neighborhood'

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board on Monday approved a subdivision application for Mastrocola Family Limited Partnership, which is planning to demolish an existing two-family house at 1060 Heffield Avenue and reconfigure the lots for the construction of two new single-family residences.

A board vote on the matter was postponed from June 20, after Mr. and Mrs. David Scholar of 2122 Princeton Avenue, who live within 200 feet of the property, claimed they had not received notice of a public hearing. The couple asked for and received additional time to review plans and documents pertinent to the application.

Frank Mastrocola, owner of the property, explained to Mr. Scholar Monday that the 12,000-square-foot parcel would be divided into two lots covering 6,000 square feet each. The houses built on each of these lots will be available for sale to the public.

Mr. Scholar was given an opportunity to give his input on the application even though the public portion of the hearing had officially closed on June 20, since he and his wife had required additional time to review the application documents.

He objected to the application, arguing that he felt having two single-family homes on the double lot would be "an over-saturation of people on a lot that size" and that it would "change the whole profile of the neighborhood."

Other neighbors had also ex-

pressed concern last month about potential overcrowding on the property, reduction in availability of street parking and storm water management. The applicant's engineer had testified the development is expected to increase water runoff by 10 per cent.

The board unanimously supported the application, waiving

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ALL FOR FUN...To welcome the summer season, Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains hosted a Caribbean Picnic. Twenty-five guests attended from Greenbrook Manor in Green Brook, Cornell Hall in Union and Meridian in Westfield. Among those participating in the festivities were 83-year-old Ashbrook resident, Mrs. Angelina Carovillano of Clark, right, and Ashbrook Activities Director, Mrs. Deborah Wilson, left. Residents and guests feasted on kabobs and calypso food and enjoyed the summer sun. Ashbrook, Greenbrook Manor and Cornell Hall are all affiliates of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

About 85 Per Cent of 11th Graders Pass All Parts of Proficiency Test

About 98 Per Cent of 219 Students Pass Reading Section

By ELLEN RADIN
Specially Written for The Times

Results of the High School Proficiency Test and the awarding of a Carl Perkins Bonus Grant were announced at a July 14 meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

Thirteen 11th graders at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School had failed one or more sections of the High School Proficiency Test, said Dr. Faith Spitz, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Spitz also announced the State Summary Report of the test showed that 85.5 per cent of the 11th graders did pass all three parts of the test.

More specifically, the State Summary Report of the test shows that 93.2 per cent of the 220 students who took the reading section of the test passed, that 90.4 per cent of the 219 students who took the mathematics section passed and that 97.7 per cent of the 219 students who took the writing section passed.

Some of the high school's 222 juniors were absent on days the different test sections were administered.

Board member August Ruggiero questioned the statistics. Mr. Ruggiero pointed out that if 85.5 per cent of the 222 students did pass all three parts of the examination, then there should be 32 rather than 13 who did not pass one or more parts. The number of absent students did not explain

the discrepancy.

The Times spoke with Dr. Spitz again on July 15, after first speaking with Gerald DeMauro, Director of the Office of Assessment in the State's Department of Education and Dr. Eva Miller, a data analyst in that office. The state officials speculated that the figure of 13 students who failed one or more sections was computed after the test was readministered in the spring of 1994, whereas the pass rates given above are based on the first administration of the test in the autumn of 1993.

Dr. Spitz agreed the figure of 13 students who failed at least one section was accurate as of the close of the school year. Dr. Spitz

said that using figures from two different test administrations probably, but not definitely, explained the discrepancy.

The district is now in the midst of the 30-day review period of the pass rates on the second administration of the test in April. Mr. DeMauro also warned that if statistics were not viewed carefully, some districts might announce pass rates in excess of 100 per cent.

The board also voted to accept a bonus of \$17,157 in connection with the Carl Perkins Grant, given by the state for career and vocational education. The bonus is in addition to the grant of approximately \$22,000 which has already been received by the district.

The district earned the bonus by spending at least 92 per cent of its grant, which is state-funded; not all districts do use their allocated funds. The bonus will be used, Dr. Spitz said on July 15, to purchase equipment for the "lego logo" projects in the middle school electronics laboratory. The project, Dr. Spitz said, involves robotics, engineering, computers and aerodynamics.

In other business, the board hired a social studies teacher for the high school. The board did not fill the vacancy for a girls soccer coach for the high school.

Only seven members of the public attended the meeting.

Salaries for Officials Set by Council Members; Tax Rate Established

Fanwood and Scotch Plains Will Share Salary Of Court Administrator; More Parking Provided

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution establishing salaries for borough officials on July 13. The local magistrate will be paid \$17,973; the municipal prosecutor, \$13,823; the Borough Attorney, \$18,655; the Borough Engineer, \$37,311; the Foreman of the Public Works Department, \$40,344, and the Court Administrator, \$34,155.

Fanwood will pay one-half of the cost of the Court Administrator's salary with Scotch Plains paying the other half.

An ordinance permitting Fanwood to share the services of the Court Administrator with Scotch Plains passed on first reading. The ordinance will be effective on August 1.

Wednesday's meeting of the Fanwood Council also saw the certification of the Borough's 1994 tax rate as follows:

	1994	1993	Per Cent Increase	
County	1.05	.95	.10	\$ 83.00
School	3.51	3.38	.15	\$124.50
Local	1.24	1.23	.01	\$ 8.30
Total	\$5.80	\$4.54	.28	\$215.80

The council went on record as favoring bills pending in the legislature dealing with relieving of state mandates on municipalities. The resolution was passed by the council, and officials noted that copies of the resolution will be sent to the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, to members of the Union County state legislative delegation, and to the League of Municipalities.

The league has endorsed the resolution which states, "The removal of some of the onerous state mandates have put a severe financial burden on our property taxpayers." State mandates were criticized as being "mi-

cro-management."

The state may mandate a particular program, however, it is the town that must pay for it, officials said.

The Senate and Assembly bills "seek to prevent such future unnecessary legislation by a constitutional amendment."

All viewers of Suburban Cablevision in Fanwood will see a 34 cent reduction in their August billings. The present rate is \$10.45; and the new rate is \$10.11. Suburban Cablevision is in the process of being sold, officials noted.

An ordinance passed on first reading establishing additional commuter parking at 245 La Grande Avenue and in the Carriage House parking lot on the North side of Watson Road. The change is in response to commuter complaints regarding the lack of parking at the Fanwood Train Station.

A one month sticker for the La Grande lot will cost \$25. Parking at the Carriage House lot will be on a daily basis and will cost \$1.50. The 90-day-trial period at the two locations has been a "success," officials said.

The La Grande lot will afford commuters 30 additional parking spaces while the Carriage House lot will contain nine.

A letter dated June 14 signed by six residents of Helen Street was made public. The residents are concerned about a serious speeding and traffic problem on their street which, they say, has existed since 1991.

"In fact, it has gotten worse, and the impending repaving of Helen Street will only compound the problem," the letter stated.

"The residents seek stricter enforcement of the speed limit, which is 25 miles-per-hour. The residents are especially concerned about children walking to the park and commuters walking to the train station.

Township Engineer, Richard Marsden, Jr., and Council President, Mrs. Maryanne Connelly, said they met with residents of Helen Street on July 8. Helen Street is to be widened and sidewalks installed on both sides of the street. A two-block area will be affected.

According to Mr. Marsden, the project will help residents walking to and from La Grande Park. In addition, the road will be more visible to motorists, the work on Helen Street will not solve the speeding problem, Mr. Marsden continued. This can only be accomplished through strict enforcement, said Mrs. Connelly.

A second meeting was held with the residents of Second Street on July 14.

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'The Lone Wolf' Prowls Tonight

The Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee will present "The Lone Wolf" country western band on the Village Green tonight Thursday, July 21, at 8 p.m. In case of rain, this free concert will be held in the Scotch Plains Town Hall Court Room. This date was changed from July 28 to July 21. Patrons are urged to bring blankets or chairs to sit on. For further information, please call the Recreation Department at 322-6700.

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On Page 10
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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.

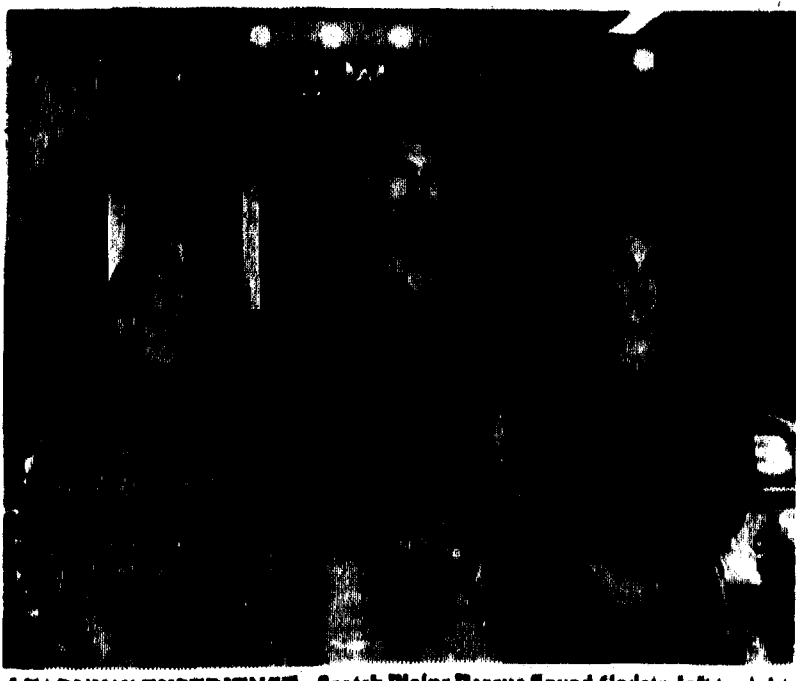
Obituaries will be taken until Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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.



"STOP, DROP AND ROLL..." a fire safety procedure, is practiced by Kim Schurtis at LaGrande Park while Fanwood Firemen John Piccolo and Brian Piccolo look on. Please see other Fanwood playground news and pictures in the Sports Section.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE...Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Cadets, left to right, Melissa Kuchar, Joseph D'Albero and Jennifer Koster recently received their high school diplomas. The three will start their college careers in September. For story, please see Page 2.