



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

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FORTY CENTS



A BROAD VIEW... Park Middle School students and staff engaged in two-day "Celebrate Unity Through Diversity" activities before the school year ended. Among the events were a Sierra Leone native as guest speaker, an Ethnic Games Festival for seventh graders, a multicultural skit "Cooking Up a Country" put on by eighth graders and many displays, including an Ellis Island "Gateway to Freedom" coats of arms and mathematics projects. As seen above Park eighth graders also created shadow boxes depicting their individual ancestries.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SEEN TO INCREASE BY 70

School Board Defeats Motion to Delay Strategic Plan for 1994-1995 in 7-2 Vote

Controversy Arises Over Hiring of Keith Hertell as Soccer Coach As 62 Parents Sign Petition Supporting Another, Anthony Mendes

By ELLEN RADIN
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education defeated a motion to delay funding of the Strategic Planning Implementation Plan for the 1994-1995 school year.

In action taken at its July 28 meeting, the board decided that implementation was one of the district's

goals for the coming school year, and the board also announced the appointment of Keith Hertell of Westfield as coach to the girls high school soccer team, which appointment was objected to by some of the approximately 50 parents who attended the four-hour meeting.

Board member Albert J. Syvertsen introduced a motion to delay funding

\$83,585 of the strategic planning resources for the coming school year. The delay would be for "six months, or until we are assured that anticipated cuts in our state funding for the 1995-1996 school year will not require reductions in our academic programs and teaching staff, and would not preclude continued funding for the Strategic Plan."

The motion was opposed by board member Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson, a member of the 1993-1994 Strategic Planning Team. Mrs. Simpson argued that, since the district could never be certain that state funds would not be cut, the effect of the motion would be to delay funding indefinitely.

Board member Mrs. Theresa Larkin said that delaying funding would be an insult to the 35 community volunteers who spent months to develop the Strategic Plan. The volunteers had been assured, Mrs. Larkin said, that their work would not be filed away and forgotten.

Board member August Ruggiero, then introduced a motion to amend Mr. Syvertsen's motion. Mr. Ruggiero's motion would have exempted \$30,000 from the delay, thus allowing those funds to be used as originally planned to hire a full-time technology assistant to serve district wide as needed. A second full-time technology assistant is provided for in the district's basic budget. Only Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Syvertsen voted for the amendment.

Following the defeat of the motion to amend, the board voted on Mr. Syvertsen's original motion to delay funding. Once again Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Syvertsen were the only two board members voting in favor, and the motion was defeated.

The board will therefore be implementing 14 of the 46 plans recommended for the coming school year.

Strategic Plan For 1994-1995

Dr. Faith Spitz, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, has identified for *The Times* the 14, out of 46, action plans of the Strategic Plan 1994-1995 that will be implemented during the 1994-1995 school year. Descriptions can be found in the blue covered booklet mailed to Scotch Plains-Fanwood postal customers. A summary of the 14 plans appears below:

1. Expand integrated curriculum.
2. Suggested summer readings for all students.
3. Creation of a definition of excellence.
4. Establishing and filing the position of Director of Instructional Technology.
5. Providing technological resources to teachers and learners.
6. Upgrading all libraries for the benefit of students, teachers, parents and the community.
7. Implementing a comprehensive plan to recruit minority teachers.
8. Increasing the outreach of job opportunities to minority oriented agencies, media, etc.
9. Creating a support system for minority hires.
10. Creating a professional peer counseling system for minority teachers.
11. Implementing effective public relations resources.
12. Providing staff for the "Technology Plan."
13. Developing a plan to use "cutting edge" technology.
14. Creating a resource directory so membership on school committees reflect the community's diversity.

These 14 plans are among those described in the blue covered booklet entitled Strategic Plan 1995-1999 mailed to all local postal customers, but neither the blue booklet nor any of the literature available at the meet-

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Township Released From Recycling Agreement With Company That Pleaded Guilty to Fraud

Union County Utilities Authority Subcontractor Vows to Appeal Superior Court Ruling

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As the full scope of the victory of Scotch Plains in a lawsuit releasing the township from its recycling contract with the Union County Utilities Authority and a firm whose parent company pleaded guilty to fraud is still being determined, the township is expected to continue the existing contract for at least two more months in the interim.

Superior Court Judge John M. Boyle ruled the township is free of its contract as soon as it has found another means of collecting recyclables in the township.

As part of his ruling the Judge also released the authority from its contractual agreement with Advanced Technology Systems, Inc., known as ARTS, specify whether the authority was free on the ARTS contract for just Scotch Plains or all for the other towns contracted through the recycling entity.

Scotch Plains is just one of 12 municipalities in the county that contracts with ARTS for its recycling. ARTS is subcontracted by the utilities authority to pickup recyclables. The company's parent, Lin-River Associates, pleaded guilty in December to frauding the authority out of \$2.1 million. Lin-River officials have said they will appeal last week's ruling.

Judge Boyle in his verdict said the bottom line of the case was whether the township was bound to its contract even though it did not have the knowledge when it signed the deal that the company's officials had committed a crime.

Thomas E. Atkins, Township Administrator, told *The Times* that Judge Boyle's ruling reinforces the notion of "good honest government." He said the Township Council did not want to see taxpayers money being spent on a company that had pleaded guilty to bilking county taxpayers out of millions of dollars.

Mr. Atkins said the council was not aware that the main principals of ARTS, Frank Capone and James C. Maduluna, were involved in criminal activity until they pleaded guilty as part of a plea bargain in December of last year.

"We almost had a stroke," said Mr. Atkins in reflecting on the

governing body's first reaction to the information.

"This lawsuit had nothing to do with money, but rather with what the council thought was right. Ultimately this ruling is a real victory for people who believe in good honest government," he said.

Mr. Atkins disputed the argument made by David Nasta, Lin-River's attorney, who said ARTS should not be held liable for any crime because it is a separate operation.

Mr. Atkins said the governing body felt the recycling company should be held responsible since the same principals are involved with both operations as well as that of Automated Modular systems, known as AMS Inc., which operated a transfer station for refuse in Linden.

AMS was the focus of the investigation by the Union County

Prosecutor's Office. That investigation led to charges leveled against Lin-River officials of theft by deception.

Mr. Nasta has contended that Lin-River officials had been given poor advice from their accountants which led to its failure to report \$700,000 in rental income on its tax returns.

According to published reports, this failed disclosure resulted in AMS receiving a higher rate than it should have been given since its actual operating cost were lower than what was reported in its tax return.

Judge Boyle ruled against the township's motion that utilities authority should be held negligent for not informing those towns doing business with ARTS that the investigation was being conducted.

Judge Boyle said the utilities

authority's commissioners could not have known the exact focus of the investigation and informed those contracted with ARTS while the probe was being conducted.

Mr. Nasta's argument, that Scotch Plains had contacted Plainfield Iron & Metal Corp. about its recycling contract while still under contract with ARTS and that the township was trying to use the criminal conviction to relinquish its contract, was ruled invalid.

Judge Boyle said the township did not need to explain its reasons for changing recycling vendors so long as the reasons were valid, he said even if the firm and Scotch Plains officials had been in contact no damage came to ARTS because no action was taken.

He also ruled against Mr. Nasta's argument that the plea agreement

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KNOW YOUR MAYOR: HE KNOWS THE TOWNSHIP

Mayor McClintock Sees the Township Budget, Garbage Service and Communications as Vital

Senior Citizens Housing Project Has More Applicants Than It Does Space as Township Assists in Its Creation

By TAM ST. ARMAND HENDERSON
Specially Written for The Times

"Some of the most important goals as Mayor for the 1994 term have been to control budget and taxes, to look at the possibility of a single-carrier garbage service and to establish better communications between the Town Council and the School Board," said William F. McClintock, Jr., the 47-year-old Mayor of Scotch Plains and a Town Council member.

He added, if not for snow and ice which added costs of \$250,000 this past winter, along with assessments from the Sewer Au-

thority, local taxes would not have been raised." He said the Town Council had exhausted itself looking into the garbage issue and decided the township is not going to go to a single-carrier garbage service at this time, but that exploring that possibility had led to improved service.

Mayor McClintock has been working with members of the School Board and feels that communications have improved and will only get better. He said "both sides need to cooperate to help people get to the right source" and feels he is seeing success in this

area.

One of the biggest projects he has been involved in is a Senior Citizens Housing Complex for which the town provided the land and bonding. The rents are scheduled to pay off the project and are based upon a person's ability to pay. Response has been overwhelming, and there are presently more requests for apartments than there are units available. The project is scheduled for completion in early 1995. He is also working on a plan to revitalize the downtown area.

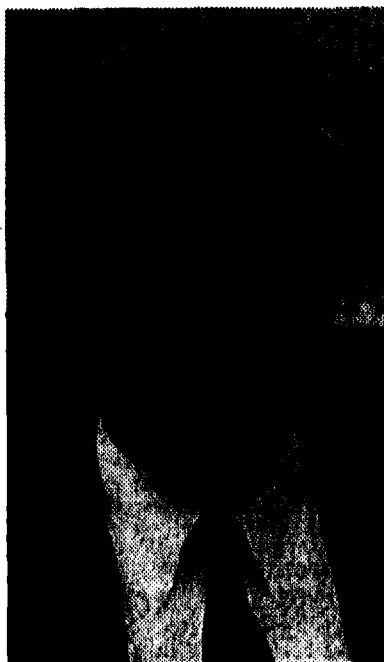
He said one of the toughest challenges of being Mayor is that "it's a lot of hard work, a real strain if you want to do it right," but added that "when you do something good for the residents, you get a lot of satisfaction."

He said he first became interested in politics when he watched the 1960 political convention on television. He was about 14 years old and says that he was "fascinated by the whole process."

While working toward a degree in history at Oberlin College in Ohio, he ran a mayoral campaign and played a big part in helping the candidate to win. He later went on from Oberlin to obtain a Master's Degree in History from New York University.

He said he really enjoys the "behind the scenes work" in politics. He enjoys running campaigns and helping people get elected and is pursuing those challenges in his professional career.

After working for 15 years as



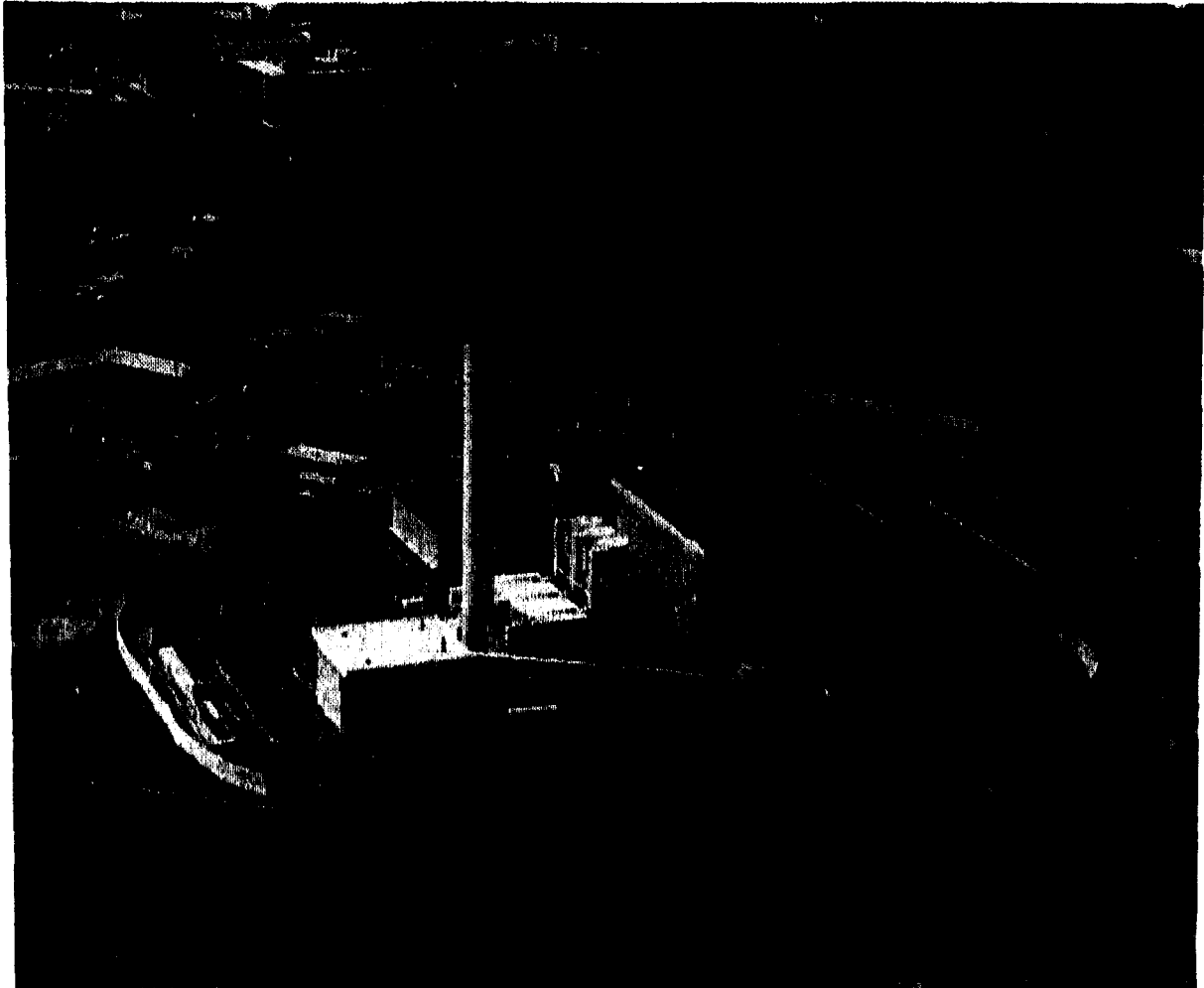
Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr.

Chief Financial Officer of Addison Corporation, a New York City-based company, he decided to start his own business. Two years ago he formed McClintock Associates, a direct-mail consulting firm which also has a specialty division in political consulting.

One of the things he is very proud of is that the Town Council meetings are televised. He said council members take telephone calls at the end of the meetings, and there is also an "open mike." He said "it is an effective way to reach the people and hear from the people" and encourages all Scotch Plains residents to "tune in."

He said he is also very proud of the fact that Scotch Plains has a

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IN FULL OPERATION... Union County's solid waste recovery plant in Rahway is now equipped with a mercury abatement system thus becoming the first facility in the state to have such a system. A permanent device is expected to be placed on the plant by the end of 1995. Please see a related story on Page 3 and an editorial on Page 4.

Courtesy of Corden Martin Systems of Union, Inc.

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.

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