



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



FANWOOD

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**REMEMBERING COLUMBUS...**The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity and Opportunity, an Italian fraternal organization, commemorated Columbus Day by placing a wreath at the Veterans Memorial on Park Avenue and Front Street in Scotch Plains. Shown at the memorial are Rocco L. Cornacchia, left, Vice President, and Dominick Lawrence, President of the organization.

## MAYOR REMINDS VOTERS ABOUT CANDIDATES' NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY

# Special Uses Granted Hobby Shop And Apple Blossom Flower Shop

### Ridgeview Avenue Curbing Bids Reject; Township Manager and Engineer Given Authority to Negotiate Better Prices With Those Who Submitted Bids

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specialty Writer for The Times

Tuesday's meeting of the Scotch Plains Council saw the granting of two special use permits to the New Jersey Nostalgia Hobby Shop/Joseph Corea and the Apple Blossom Flower Shop. Both establishments are located on Park Avenue, and both Mr. Corea and Mrs. Fran D'Agostino, the owner of Apple Blossom Flower Shop

testified on their own behalf.

Mr. Corea was given permission to display a free-standing, two-foot-by-three-foot sign in front of his premises on the sidewalk, and Mrs. D'Agostino was given permission to display seasonal plants and flowers in front of her store. The permits are valid for the remainder of this year and for all of 1995. Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papen, was the originator

of the special use ordinance.

The revised ordinance to make Scotchwood Glen a one-way street passed on second and final reading. The ordinance was revised at the request of the state Department of Transportation which had complained that it had not been consulted and had not given its approval prior to the council passing the ordinance in March.

As expected, bids for the Ridgeview Avenue curbing job were rejected by the council on the recommendation of the Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins. The project was re-bid, and three bids were received on October 14. The bid package submitted by Tomaro Contracting Company, Inc., was rejected as incomplete as it did not contain any prices.

The other bids were: A and A Gomes Construction, \$84,494, and Davcon Associates, Inc., \$104,370. The bid from Gomes was \$19,900, or 31 per cent, over the Engineering Department's estimate of \$64,504 and was \$4,923 over the previously rejected bid. The Township Manager said he is looking for, "a price which is satisfactory to the taxpayers and which would meet the requirements of the job."

Mr. Atkins asked that he and the Township Engineer, Steven Kinsey, be given authority to enter into negotiations with the rejected bidders in an effort to obtain the best possible price in accordance with public bidding law.

The council delegated the authority to Mr. Atkins and Mr. Kinsey as Mr. Atkins requested. He hopes work on the project will start in November. If not, the project may have to be re-bid with work to start in the spring.

An ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading appropriating \$10,000 of Community Development funds for curb ramps at various downtown intersections. Those intersections include Park and Front Streets and Westfield Avenue. Walter DiNizo,

Director of the Township Public Works Department, will be in charge of the project.

Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr., reminded people that candidates for the Scotch Plains Council will debate on Wednesday, October 26, at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

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## Centennial Fanwood Bash Events Slated

### Celebration Will Start At Council Reorganization

The Fanwood Centennial Committee has formulated plans to celebrate Fanwood's 100th birthday next year. The celebration will kick-off officially on Sunday, January 1, with a ceremony during the annual reorganization meeting at the Borough Hall.

In March, the Fanwood Frolic will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church's auditorium on Marine Avenue in Scotch Plains. In the spring, there will be a replay of the painting of the fire hydrants which drew national attention to Fanwood during the country's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

In May, the joint Memorial Day parade of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will have a special focus on Fanwood. In September, there will be an antique car exhibition as well as a model train display at the Fanwood Railroad Station meeting room. Later in September, there will be a special centennial parade followed by a picnic in LaGrande Park.

The mythical Fannie Wood, for whom the community was named, will be making appearances in appropriate period costume. The

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# Judge James H. Coleman, Jr. Confirmed To Serve on Supreme Court by Senate, 38-0

### Scotch Plains Resident Will Become First Black Associate Justice at Ceremony on Friday, December 16

The State Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment last Thursday, October 20, of Appellate Division Judge James H. Coleman, Jr. to the Supreme Court. Judge Coleman, a Scotch Plains resident, was nominated by the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, to become the high court's first black Associate Justice.

He will be sworn in by Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz at a ceremony in Trenton on Friday, December 16.

Prior to the confirmation vote, Senate President and fellow Scotch Plains resident, Donald T. DiFrancesco, introduced Judge Coleman to the full Senate.

"Supreme Court justices have an enormous responsibility to the judiciary system, to the state and to each individual New Jersey resident, and the position demands an individual of superior abilities and experience. I am confident Governor Whitman has made such an appointment," Senator DiFrancesco was quoted as saying.

In encouraging his fellow senators to vote in favor of the nomination, he said it was a "historic moment" for the court and a "proud day" for the state.

Judge Coleman, the son of a Virginia sharecropper, was joined at the nomination vote by his wife, Mrs. Sophia Coleman; his daughter, Mrs. Kairon Williams; his 18-year-old granddaughter, Miss Amber Nicole Williams; his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Pamela Coleman, and his son, James Coleman, 3rd.

Mrs. Wyona M. Lipman, the only black woman State Senator, said Judge Coleman "faced tremendous obstacles" while growing up in the segregated South. She said he attended a divided school system in addition to not being able to shop at a

local pharmacy that would not serve blacks.

Mrs. Lipman, who represents the 29th Legislative District which includes parts of Union and Essex Counties, described Judge Coleman as an "outstanding legal scholar and jurist praised from all sides for his reasoned, meticulous approach to cases" who has "one of the finest legal minds" in the state.

Judge Coleman was quickly approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 18. He is a registered Democrat but, according to a published report, is not allowed to take part in political activities under

judicial rules.

According to press reports, Governor Whitman stayed with the state's tradition in keeping the balance between Republicans and Democrats on the seven-member Supreme Court. If this scenario plays out in 1997, she will name a Republican to the seat to be vacated by Judge Wilentz in February of that year. Judge Wilentz is also a registered Democrat. The court breakdown is currently four Republicans and three Democrats.

With the appointment of Judge Coleman and a second appointment just around the corner, Governor Whitman will have had the opportunity to nominate two justices.

The vacancy created on the court by the retirement of Judge Robert Clifford created the first opening on the court since 1985 when Thomas H. Kean, also a Republican, was Governor. Judge Clifford was nominated by a Republican Governor William T. Cahill.

Judge Coleman becomes only the second member of the current Supreme Court to have had previous judicial experience. Judge Alan B.

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### Please Donate A Reindeer

For the holidays on the Village Green, a plaque with your name, organization or business will be displayed on a reindeer for \$200. Join in helping the community light up this holiday season.

For additional information, please contact Vincent Losavio at 322-7126.

## Lot Coverage Causes Delay In Board Vote

### Fanwood Couple Seeks To Expand Birchwood Home

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specialty Writer for The Times

After approving variances for three applications October 20, the Fanwood Board of Adjustment adjourned the meeting during the fourth and last application when a lawyer representing a neighbor of the applicants revealed inconsistencies in lot coverage figures.

There was also a question as to whether ordinances require that garages be included in the total lot coverage determination.

The board questioned the difference between a recent measurement by zoning officials of 36.5 per cent lot coverage and an earlier figure of 42.2 per cent found on a variance the couple received when they added bedrooms and a bath to their split-level house six or seven years ago.

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett LoBrace of 8 Birchwood Terrace want to enlarge the dining room and kitchen and add a deck to the house which is on a rectangular lot. The couple has five children.

The attorney for the board, Charles H. Brandt, pointed out that, if lot coverage did indeed exceed 40 per cent, a different variance was needed. Approval for this type of variance requires additional proof as well as the affirmative votes of all members of the board present, not just the majority of a quorum.

During the public hearing portion of the process, Mr. LoBrace was asked by Robert H. Kraus, representing Robert Theising of 6 Birchwood Terrace, whether he could live with the addition about three-quarters the size of their proposal in order to adhere to the 15-foot, sideyard requirement. Mr. LoBrace indicated he was not prepared to answer that question.

Mr. LoBrace said he was willing to route runoff water through an underground drainage system out to the street away from Mr. Theising's adjoining backyard. Mr. LoBrace said three other neighbors were present to speak in favor of the addition to his house.

The board declined to continue with the hearing, however, until the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 17, when they hope to have clarification on actual lot coverage.

The other three applications before the board were as follows:

Miss Kathryn Westervelt of 165 LaGrande Avenue was granted a sideyard variance to build a nine-by-14-foot deck with lattice below, on a corner lot.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bannucci were granted a variance to add a seven-by-30-foot porch with drainage and lattice to the front of their house. Board member James Watson did not vote on this application, since he is a neighbor of the applicant.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nizri were granted sideyard variances to build a 17-by-27-foot deck with lattice to the rear of their house. It will be in line with the existing sideyard boundaries of the house.



James H. Coleman, Jr.

# Board Modifies Its Stance on Funding For Special Education in 4-3-2 Vote

### Long Presentation Made on Integrated Curriculum; Allusions to Those Opposed to Strategic Plan As Being Members of 'Christian Right' Would Bring Quick Censure If Said About Others, Parent Says

By ELLEN RADIN  
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on October 20 passed a resolution modifying its September 22 stance on funding for special education.

The new resolution, passed at a regular public meeting, calls for the New Jersey School Boards Association to charge its Special Education Committee with investigating the feasibility of seeking legislation reallocating \$31.25 of the monthly Supplemental Security Income benefit received by certain families of disabled children to the local school districts. The new resolution also calls for the

committee to be charged with considering other legislation to more equitably fund special education, as the committee "may deem advisable."

The September 22 resolution had urged the New Jersey School Boards Association only to seek legislation to reallocate the \$31.25. The September 22 resolution did not call for further study or consideration of other legislation.

The September 22 resolution had been proposed by board member Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson. Speaking at the time, she said that the \$31.25 more equitably should be paid to the local school districts which, under the legislation and court rulings of recent

years, now bore more and more of the high cost of educating special needs pupils.

The September 22 resolution had been criticized by parents of special education children and others as taking money from the neediest members of the community. One member of the public speaking at the October 20 meeting also questioned whether Mrs. Simpson had a conflict of interest, since she works for the Social Security Administration.

Members of the public speaking at both the September 22 and October 20 meetings criticized the board for passing Mrs. Simpson's resolution on September 22 with virtually no discussion by the board and with no input from the public.

Mrs. Simpson herself was willing on October 20 to rescind the original resolution. She stated she now felt that the issue deserved further study, and she did not want to limit the committee in its study of options.

The exact form of the October 20 resolution was extensively discussed by the board. As originally proposed, the October 20 resolution stated the board would rescind the September 22 motion that was sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Dr. Donald B. Sheldon, President of the board, and Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar, Vice President of the board, explained that rescission was not advisable under the association's procedural rules. Rescinding the September 22 resolution, they said, makes it a "dead" issue. Rescission would remove the issue from the association's consideration, even if a new resolution were then passed.

The board therefore considered adopting an alternative motion, which

stated the association charge its Special Education Committee with first investigating the feasibility of reallocating the \$31.25 and to then reporting its findings to the June 10 Delegate Assembly.

Board member Richard R. Meade then proposed an amendment to the alternate motion. Mr. Meade's amendment combined the language of the original September 22 motion with the language of the alternate motion. The amendment provided that the Special Education Committee be charged with investigating the possibility of reallocating the \$31.25 as well as "such other legislation as the association's Special Education Com-

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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 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.



**CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY...**The first stages of this 12,000 square-foot building on the corner of Park Avenue at East Second Street is just part of the revitalization of the township's business district. The structure, when complete, will house a pharmacy and a 100-seat restaurant. Construction is expected to be completed by January or February. The site is the former home of Mama Rosa's Italian Restaurant which was destroyed by fire in 1986. See story on Page 3.

### HOW TO GET THE TIMES

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