



# THE TIMES



DEC 15 1994

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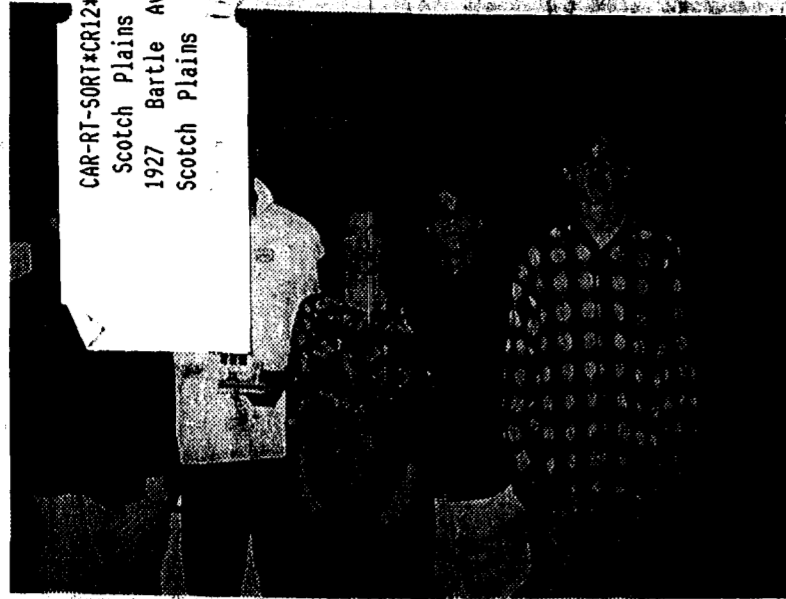
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FORTY CENTS



**BEST PERFORMANCE...** Mrs. Carolyn Verlangier, Director of the American Cancer Society of Union County, presented the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an association of marketing students, with a trophy as the top fund raising school in Union County in the American Cancer Society's recent Walkathon. DECA students raised over \$1,500 for the children in Union County who are cancer patients. Pictured, left to right, with Mrs. Verlangier are students, Matthew Lewis, Daniel Hall, David Lauro, Jeffrey Gander and Theodore Gicás. DECA is now planning its annual holiday party for the children with cancer, after a community-wide toy drive.

## POLICE CHIEF ROBERT A. LUCE SAYS ANY REDUCTION IS UNWARRANTED Township Council Wants Meeting With Residents, State Officials Over Speed Limit on Lake Avenue

### Transportation Department and Scotch Plains Representatives Differ on Whether Restriction Should Be 35 or 25 Miles Per Hour

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The recurrent problem of the Lake Avenue speed limit was addressed at Tuesday's conference meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council. It was decided Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco and Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine will attempt to arrange a meeting with Lake Avenue residents, municipal and New Jersey Department of Transportation officials in an effort to clear the confusion surrounding the various speed limits.

According to Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins, one problem is the state giving different information to township officials and to Lake Avenue residents. Leonard Rappa, a Lake Avenue resident, has not been totally satisfied with the recent efforts by

the council to reduce the speed limit. Mr. Rappa feels the township should have its engineer certify that a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit is reasonable and necessary on Lake Avenue. This, Stephen Kinsey, the Township Engineer, will not do.

In addition, Mr. Rappa wants it made known that any reduction in the speed limit will effect only that portion of the roadway located in Scotch Plains.

The current speed limit on Lake Avenue is 40 miles per hour. A traffic survey done some time ago by the Scotch Plains Police Department showed cars traveling an average of 43 miles per hour on Lake Avenue. Chief of Police Robert A. Luce felt a reduction of the speed limit was unwarranted.

The council was set to approve a reduction of the speed limit to 35 miles per hour. However, Lake Avenue residents had pushed hard to have the speed limit reduced to 25 miles per hour. The ordinance was subsequently amended to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. The ordinance was passed as amended a couple of months ago.

The ordinance was then reviewed by officials in the State Department of Transportation. A letter dated November 3 from William E. Anderson, Manager of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs in Trenton, voided the council's action.

Mr. Anderson said the ordinance "will not be approved because it contains an unwarranted speed limit." The jurisdiction question has been settled with Lake Avenue listed as a state roadway.

The council has previously said the composition of the area has changed, becoming more residential in nature, especially with the opening of the Martine Avenue extension some years ago.

Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. has said that, after the completion of the new senior citizens housing complex, which is located in the area, a new effort to reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour will be made.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papan, put forth a proposal to add more police to the force by raising the authorized strength. Since 1988, the authorized strength of the department has been 43.

The Township Manager said in 1978 authorized strength was 39, and in 1979-1980, it was raised to 42. Mr. Atkin would like to see "a minimum" of six new police officers hired next year. This would not include the two which have been asked for from the federal government under the "CopsFast" program.

The council's request for these two new officers is not expected to be acted upon by the federal government until February 1.

The next class at the Union

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Council Search for Borough-Owned Site For Senior Housing Ends; Councilman Resigns

### Broken Sewer Pipe at Terrill Road and LaGrande Avenue Replaced for \$2,000

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Republican Fanwood Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald submitted his resignation in a letter to Mayor, Mrs. Linda S. Stender, without comment at the council agenda meeting December 7. If any reasons for the resignation were contained in the letter, it was not made known at the public meeting.

Referring to a recent council meeting, Councilman Kevin McGonigle asked that any conflict between Councilman MacDonald and Mayor Stender be resolved.

There was no discussion of a replacement for Mr. MacDonald or when the resignation would take effect.

A broken sewer pipe was discovered at Terrill Road and LaGrande Avenue on December 6 when a developer attempted to connect new

pipes to the borough's sewer system, Borough Engineer Richard Marsden told the council. Calling it an "emergency sewer break," Mr. Marsden said a new pipe was installed immediately. He said traffic was tied up at the intersection until 5 p.m. He estimated the cost at \$2,000 which is covered in the budget.

On a separate issue, after much discussion pro and con, the council decided it would not continue its search for a site for borough-financed or privately-financed senior citizen housing at this time. Mayor Stender pointed out that at a public hearing on a possible Watson Road site, "No one stood up and said, 'I want housing, I'm a senior citizen.'" The Mayor also said, although no one specifically opposed to the idea of an apartment complex for the elderly, no one offered property for sale on which to

build it. Councilman Bruce Walsh said, "I wasn't surprised at all that happened." When property owned by Dean Oil came up as a possible site, Mr. Marsden said the firm had indicated to him there were no plans for the property now.

Several members urged the council to allow the private sector to create housing for the elderly, if demand indeed existed. Another suggestion was to consider commercial development of available properties first in an effort to broaden what Councilwoman, Mrs. Maryanne Connelly, called the borough's "very small" tax base.

Officials announced the borough has received a \$100,000 state grant for the maintenance of North Avenue between Martine and Russell Avenues.

The council agreed to continue funding for the Recycling Association for another year. Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, said the amount would be the same as last year.

A question was raised over the possible recycling of mercury in fluorescent lighting bulbs. Mayor Stender said the borough's schools initially proposed the recycling in order to dispose of bulbs.

The council will not be acting on enrollment and facilities recommendations from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District until January, the Mayor said. Councilman Donald S. Kolterjahn said he felt the report submitted to the council accurately described both sides of the issues. There are copies of the document at the Borough Hall and the library.

The Goal Post property, located at 15 South Avenue, was sold for \$146,000 according to officials, with plans for it to be a deli and restaurant.

A letter from the League of Municipalities to the council, that apparently proposed shared services among towns in response to possible reduced state aid, left council members longing for solutions other than higher property taxes and possibly reduced services. Council members agreed they would be looking for what Councilman Kolterjahn called a "leaner and meaner" use of the school board budget in an effort to avoid property tax increases.

The council unanimously passed a resolution against the serving of alcohol in private homes to anyone under 21 years of age without permission.

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## Ninth-Grade Placement Program Deemed Very Successful by Assistant Principal

### Parents Can Request to Have Their Children Moved to a Different Level

By ELLEN RADIN  
Specially Written for The Times

The ninth-grade placement program has been successful, according to Frederick DeFeo, the Assistant Principal at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Mr. DeFeo's remarks came during the open agenda meeting of the Board of Education on December 8.

Under the program, parents who disagree with the track their children are assigned to, may request that their children be "waived" into a different one. The placement program was initiated last year.

Mr. DeFeo said high school offers four tracks in each academic subject: Accelerated, academic, standard and basic. Students are assigned into a particular track for each subject based on such factors as their grades for the final marking period of the seventh grade, the first marking period of the eighth period, the Iowa Basic Skills test scores and at the recommendation of the eighth-grade teacher.

The recommendation of the seventh-grade teacher will also be considered in the future, Mr. DeFeo said.

Mr. DeFeo said that a study comparing grades earned by "waived" students showed that those grades were comparable to the grades earned by all students as a whole. The "vast majority" of grades earned were A's, B's or C's.

He did not present figures comparing grades of waived students to the grades of regularly assigned students.

The study Mr. DeFeo presented was based on 120 course waivers that were granted to 79 students last year. This is out of a total of 1,407 course placements for a total of 297 students.

There were 97 waivers issued for students moving up one level. There were three waivers for students to move up more than one level, 13 to move down a level and five waivers for a parallel level. These last five

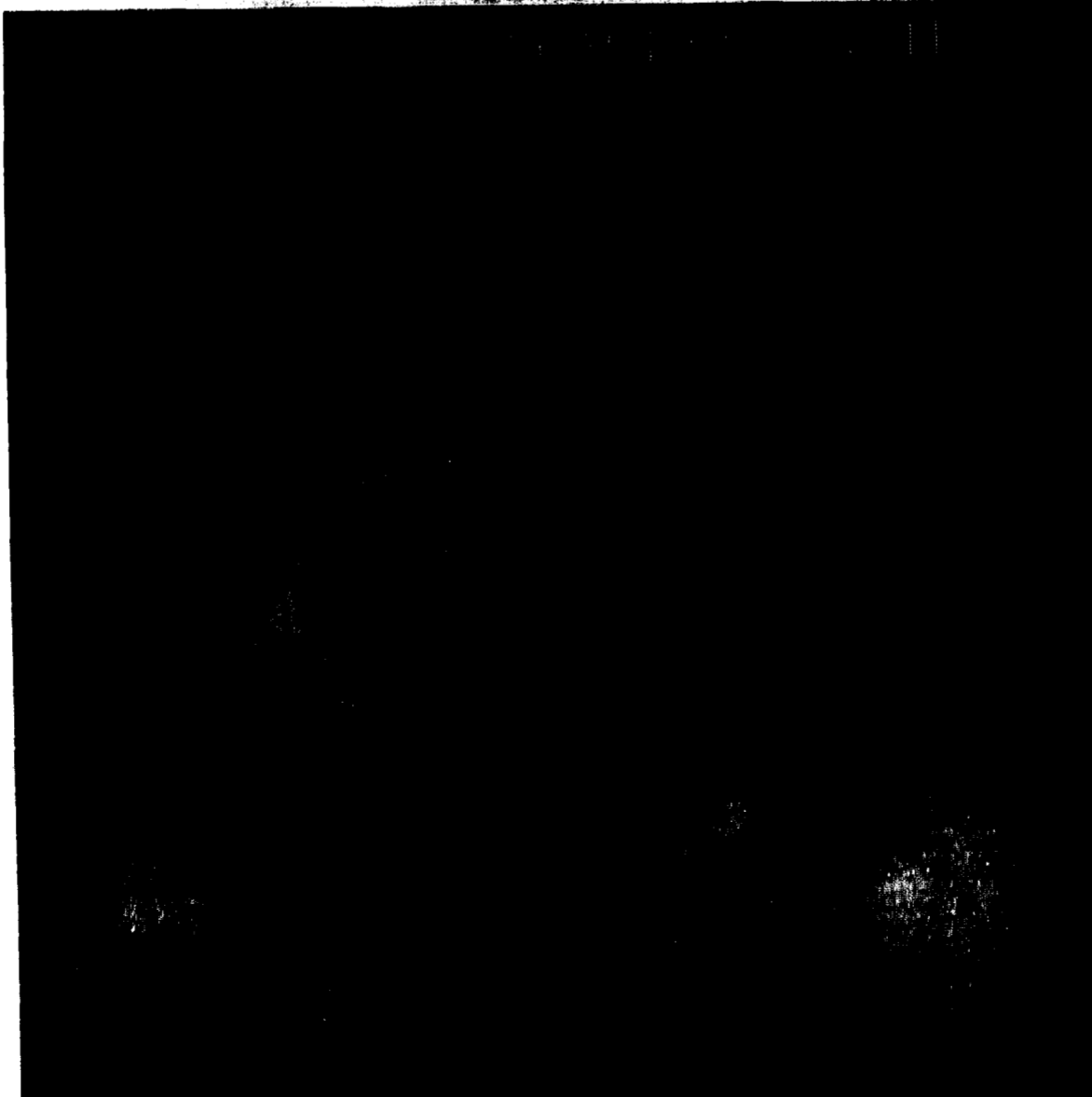
were in science, which offers more or less equivalent courses at the same level, Mr. DeFeo said.

Students who moved down a level, he said, earned higher grades at the lower level. This proved that they were "better served" at that level.

Parents speaking at the meeting stated students at the accelerated level were "swamped" with homework, as

much as five hours a night, while students at the academic level were given only one to one and half hours a night.

The board also discussed the agenda for its regular public meeting on Thursday, December 22. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, will report on enrollment and facilities and strategic planning.



**THEY'RE YOUR EYES...** Puppies offering "A World of Possibilities" is the theme of The Seeing Eye 1994 holiday card now on sale. The three-panel, full-color card unfolds lengthwise to show a photograph of each of the three primary breeds of dogs The Seeing Eye trains as guides for blind people: Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever and German Shepherd. Each puppy is pictured with a world globe that symbolizes "a world of possibilities." The greeting says, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All." The price is \$12 for box of 20 cards and envelopes. Cards may be ordered by mail, telephone or fax by adding \$3.60 for shipping and handling from The Seeing Eye, P. O. Box 378, Morristown, 07963-0378; 1-201-839-4438, Extension No. 781 or fax 1-201-839-0922. Please be sure to include all credit card information on telephone and fax orders. Cards also may be purchased at The Seeing Eye, Washington Valley Road, Morristown, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Seeing Eye, the world's oldest dog guide school, recently celebrated its 64th year of service to blind people. Since its founding in 1929, it has matched nearly 11,000 specially bred and trained Seeing Eye dogs with blind men and women from across the United States and Canada. It is a philanthropy and receives no government aid; proceeds from the card benefit the program. The first panel of the card is shown.

## Bomb Victim Had Resided In Township as a Youth

### Funeral for Thomas J. Mosser Will Be Tomorrow

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is continuing its probe into the murder of North Caldwell Advertising executive and former Scotch Plains resident, Thomas J. Mosser, who was killed December 10 by a bomb sent to him in the mail.

It was learned this week from authorities that the bomb, which was mailed from San Francisco, is believed to be the work of an individual who uses the name "unabom." The suspect is said to have been connected to 14 similar bombings which have taken place over the past 16 years.

A task force by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been investigating all cases linked to the bomber.

The agency has said the earlier bombings had contained return addresses of persons that were clearly not involved in the crimes or were fake names.

Of those bombings, two people were killed and 23 people suffered injuries. The bombs have been sent to individuals and offices at universities, airlines, computer stores and technology proponents.

Only one of the other bombs was sent to an individual in the east. The other East Coast incident occurred June 24 of last year when a computer scientist was severely injured at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Seven of the bombs were sent to addresses in the west with six incidents occurring in the Midwest.

It was reported some of Mr. Mosser's former clients at Burston-Marsteller, the public relations subsidiary of Young & Rubicam, Inc. where he had worked for 20 years, were in the airline industry. In addition, Young & Rubicam also has accounts with Xerox Corporation and Digital Equipment Corporation, both firms are among the largest manufacturing companies in the computer field.

A spokesman for Young & Rubicam told reporters there was no link found by investigators to data between the bombing and any of Mr. Mosser's accounts.

According to reports, Mr. Mosser was killed when he opened a package that was delivered to his home in North Caldwell on December 9. The parcel has been described as being the size of a videotape-sized package, included a return address and was postmarked December 3.

The package was delivered by a postal carrier along with a registered letter to the victim's wife, Mrs. Susan Mosser, had to sign for. Reports have indicated Mr. Mosser, however, did not open the package until the next day.

It was also reported that Mrs. Mosser had left the kitchen to attend to her year-old baby, Kelly, who was crying in the next room, just as her husband was about to open the package.

Mr. Mosser had moved to the township in 1954 from Plainfield with his family which included his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived on Cedar Grove Terrace. He went to the St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parochial School and to the Seton Hall

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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.

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SHOPPING DAYS  
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**HOW TO GET THE TIMES**  
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