

Freeholders Approve Two-Hour Parking Limit At Nomahegan Park Lot Across From College

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

Despite strong opposition from Union County College students in attendance, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders last week voted 8-0 in favor of an ordinance to institute a two-hour parking limit at a 98-space lot in Nomahegan Park located across the street from the college's Cranford campus.

In addition to those students who spoke against the ordinance, a petition was presented to the board clerk which was said to contain 1,700 signatures from faculty, students and those residents who utilize campus buildings and services. The petition, however, incorrectly referred to the intent of the county to install parking meters.

Freeholder Edwin H. Force, the sponsor of the ordinance and a resident and former Mayor and Township Commissioner of Cranford, said the ordinance was intended to eliminate student parking in the park. He said students could use a lot located on the far end of the campus near the tennis courts for parking.

The ordinances will restrict parking at Nomahegan from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Freeholder Force said the ordinance will be enforced by the Union County Police.

Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan,

while supporting the ordinance, said he would like the board to schedule a meeting at the college to enable the college's students, faculty, officials and residents to work with the board to solve the parking problem at the college.

Frederick Perry, a life-long county resident and a Union County College graduate, said the ordinance appears a few Cranford residents "who are unhappy with the college and the students that attend it."

He said the ordinance "jeopardizes the well-being" of students. Mr. Perry said college funds were used for a fitness trail at the school to help increase the number of parking spaces in the park from 14 to 98.

He said the college has upgraded the lighting in the lot, paved it and painted the lines. Mr. Perry noted the ordinance also will take six handicap spaces from students.

John Burns, a member of the college's Student Government Association and a Cranford resident, said for most of the 9,000 to 10,000-student population, a two-hour parking limit would be "prohibitive."

"I feel it would be against our needs and those of the student population," he added.

He said most students either have "one job or three jobs" which causes them to take four-hour Friday classes

and five-hour laboratory courses which would be interrupted if students had to leave class to move their cars or had to park farther away.

Frank Capece, a Cranford resident, suggested the board either delay its action or reject the ordinance in the wake of the "unified opposition" it faced at the meeting. He said the college's President, Dr. Thomas H. Brown, should have been present during the public hearing on the ordinance.

Freeholder Chairwoman, Mrs. Linda DiGiovanni, said the board had been in communication with the college's administration regarding the ordinance and the problem associated with parking at Nomahegan Park.

One of those Cranford residents who supported the ordinance was Robert Morrison. In referring to those persons who supported having the lot available for student parking, he commented, "Last time I looked, that was a county park."

One student questioned the board as to whether its other county parks would also have time restrictions placed on its parking lots.

Student Daniel O'Leary of Elizabeth said students often refer to the parking lot near the tennis courts as "Great Adventure" or "Action Park" because of its distance from campus buildings.

Township resident Michael Harrington said senior citizens and young mothers need places to park when visiting the park "because students have garnered every spot." He accused students of "taking over the lot."

In other business, Freeholder Force announced the state Legislature has placed a bill concerning the merger of the office of the County Clerk and Register offices at the top of its agenda for next year.

Upon an inquiry from Freeholder, Mrs. Linda d. Stender, it was noted the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, is aware of Union County's intention to merge the two offices. She is not expected to appoint a new Register until after the Legislature has made its final decision on a bill to merge the offices.

Union County Clerk-Elect, Miss Joanne Rajoppi, will vacate the Office of Register of Deeds and Mortgages on Monday, January 1.

State Department of Transportation officials gave a brief presentation on construction plans on Route Nos. 1 and 9 in Rahway. The \$40 million project will include construc-

tion of a new bridge to be located south of an existing bridge over the Rahway River.

The new bridge will have three lanes for southbound and northbound traffic. The existing bridge will be reconstructed into a southbound ramp that can be used for garbage trucks to carry them onto a new entrance road behind the Union County trash incinerator.

Construction is not expected to begin until 1997. The project will take two years to complete.

The board authorized a change in the contract of The Musial Group for \$229,850 for the second phase of the renovation of the county's old jail. The total sum of the project is now \$568,650.

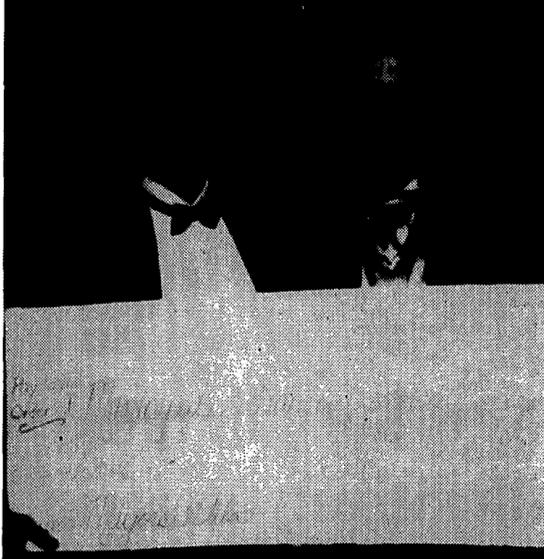
Director of Operational Services Armand A. Fiorletti said part of the project will involve turning the eighth floor of the jail into a dormitory for some 50 inmates. Freeholders Stender and Sullivan voted against the project.

The board will hold its final regular meeting of the year, tonight, Thursday, December 14, following its conference session.

The meeting will be the last for Democratic Freeholders Elmer M. Ertl of Roselle and Walter McLeod of Rahway who are retiring from the board, both after six years.



ALL SMILES... Mayor Robert E. Johnson congratulates "Volunteer of the Year" honorees at the Mayor's Charity Gala held December 1 at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. Pictured, left to right, are: Mrs. Mari McDevitt, accepting on behalf of The Tiny Tim Fund; Edward Evans, male volunteer; Mayor Johnston, and Mrs. Caroline Perkins, female volunteer.



GRATEFUL... Mrs. Patricia DiFrancesco, Chairman of the Municipal Alliance Committee, accepts a mock check of the Mayor's Gala proceeds from Mayor Robert E. Johnston. The gala raised over \$2,100 to help the committee in its efforts to provide drug and alcohol prevention programs for the youth and adults in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

Dr. Smith to Discuss State Plan Tuesday

At the next Westfield Board of Education meeting this Tuesday, December 19, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mark C. Smith, will report on the Comprehensive Education Plan received from the state.

An interim report will also be made on board objectives dealing with the Early Warning Tests in the eighth grade. Another agenda item will include board discussion and action on revised by-laws of the Westfield Board of Education.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at 8 p.m. at the Board of Education meeting room of the Administration Building located at 302 Elm Street.

Valerie Reider On Honor Roll

Valerie Reider, an eighth grader at Roosevelt Intermediate School, has been added to the First Marking period Honor Roll.

Mayor's Charity Gala Raises Funds for Drug Prevention

Almost 200 people were on hand at the fifth annual Scotch Plains Mayor's Charity Gala held at the Shackamaxon Country Club on December 1. This was the largest turnout ever for the event which seems to keep growing

in popularity each year, according to a spokeswoman for the group.

The purpose of the gala is to bring residents together for a night of celebrating the Township of Scotch Plains, and to honor "Volunteers of the Year" for their dedicated service to Scotch Plains. This year's recipients included The Tiny Tim Fund, Edward Evans and Mrs. Caroline Perkins.

Attendees at the gala were treated to a buffet dinner, a sit-down dessert and music by First Class Act. In addition, for the first time, the committee arranged through the cooperation of Mrs. Karen Dreixler and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, to sponsor a raffle. Mrs. Eileen Lehman was the recipient of a three-day, two-night stay at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg. The committee extends a special thanks to Miss Peggy Day for her efforts in arranging the donation of this prize for the raffle.

Once again the Municipal Alliance committee was the recipient of the proceeds from the gala. Approximately \$2,100 was raised to help the committee in their efforts to conduct drug and alcohol preventative programming for youth and adults of Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

"The committee extends a sincere thank you to all those who supported this event either through the purchase of a ticket, raffle or advertisement in the program booklet. Without your contributions, we would not have had such a successful gala," the spokeswoman for the committee said.

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Spring Semester starts January 17.



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The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure, but from hope to hope.

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Support Group For Women Dealing With Loss

If you are struggling with issues of loss in your life and would be interested in talking with a group of women facing similar challenges, a 10 week loss group is beginning in January.

Loss is a universal human experience, which can have profound effects on daily life. Different types of loss that can be deeply affecting are:

- Loss of a child or mate
- Loss of a parent
- Infertility or miscarriage
- Loss of employment

If you feel a support group might help you constructively move on from your loss, and would like more information about this group, call

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