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CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP...Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly, center, is sworn in as Fanwood Mayor by Union County Superior Court Judge JoAnne B. Spatola during Monday's reorganizational meeting. Her mother, right, holds the Bible. Also sworn in during the ceremony were new Councilwoman, Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz, and Councilman Bruce H. Walsh.

Feasibility Study on Adult Care, Credit Card on New Mayor's Agenda

Mayor Augustine Also Wants to Purchase Land for Recreational Purposes

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times

Alan M. Augustine, who served as Deputy Mayor last year, was unanimously chosen Mayor of Scotch Plains at the annual organizational meeting held on New Year's Day.

The new Mayor is no stranger to a state and local government. In addition to serving on the Township Council, Mayor Augustine is an Assemblyman representing the 22nd Legislative District which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

He is a member of two standing assembly committees — the Appropriations and the Regulatory Oversight Committees.

In 1992, he was honored as "Elected Official of the Year" by the New Jersey Municipal Management Association.

Mayor Augustine was presented the 1991 Vox Populi Award by the Cityline Coalition of Linden and Elizabeth. The Mayor is a former Union County Freeholder, having served from 1982 to 1987 and from 1991 to 1992. He was Freeholder Chairman in 1987.

Mayor Augustine is a member of the Board of Governors of Union County College.

He has been a member of the Scotch Plains Township Council for 17 years during which he served two terms as Mayor in 1987 and 1991. Mayor Augustine is a graduate of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania where he received a degree in economics.

Professionally, he is a past Vice President and current market consultant with Subaru Distributors Corporation of Orangeburg, New York. He and his wife, Mrs. Jeanne Augustine, have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Irene T. Schmidt was elected Deputy Mayor by the council. Under the council-manager form of government used in Scotch Plains, the five members of the council are elected at-large by the voters and each year they select one of their members to serve as Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the year on January 1.

The Mayor has the additional duties of conducting council meetings, signing contracts on behalf of the township and representing the mu-

nicipal government at a great variety of ceremonial events throughout the year.

Historically, the position of Mayor has been rotated among the council members in the majority party on the council. The Republicans currently hold a 5-0 majority on the council. The Mayor's term is for one year.

In his address, Councilman Robert E. Johnston, the former Mayor, listed the accomplishments of the last year. Among these were the development of the Downtown business district.

"We became full members, as opposed to customers, of the two sewer authorities that serve Scotch Plains," he explained.

In addition, he said a reexamination of the township's Master Plan was done; two new pumps were purchased for the fire department, the newly refurbished Veterans Monument was unveiled and the Fifth Annual Mayor's Gala took place. The gala, which drew approximately 200 people was the most successful yet. All proceeds were contributed to the Municipal-School Alliance.

Former Mayor Johnston cited the opening of the new Senior Citizens Housing Complex.

"Approximately 80 per cent of the residents are from Scotch Plains or are parents of Scotch Plains families," he noted.

The project, which was started in 1988, was completed in the fall.

Deputy Mayor Schmidt has been on the council for four terms. She served as Mayor in 1984, 1987 and 1992. Mrs. Schmidt is also a member of the Planning Board. She is a Legislative Aide to state Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco.

Among her many activities include her membership on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Rotary Club, the Union County Chamber of Commerce, the Union County Alliance, and the New Jersey Women Elected Officials Society.

Councilwoman Schmidt founded the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Center and established the John Shippen Memorial Golf Tournament.

She serves on the Downtown Revitalization Committee, the Environmental Commission, the Local Assistance Board, the Library Board, the Recreation Commission, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, the

Historical Commission and the Telecommunications Committee.

Mrs. Schmidt has been a Scotch Plains resident for 26 years. She and her husband, Frank C. Schmidt, have three children and five grandchildren.

In his inaugural speech, Mayor Augustine cited several examples of programs and innovations which occurred during his prior terms as Mayor.

Among these were the development of the cultural arts program which takes place every Thursday night throughout the summer.

"These evenings now bring anywhere from 200 to 1,000 people into downtown Scotch Plains," he emphasized.

Mayor Augustine also cited the founding of Scotch Plains Day and the Mayor's Charity Gala.

Mayor Augustine said he wanted residents to know just where the money goes derived from their tax bills.

"Only 17 per cent of your total tax bill goes for local government needs. The County of Union takes the next largest bit at 20 per cent.

"The bulk of your tax bill is slated for educational purposes — nearly 65 per cent of the tax dollar," he explained.

He then went on to outline some proposals he has for the next year.

"I will begin seeking new methods of alleviating traffic congestion that has steadily increased on Park Avenue.

"Though a county road, I will look for new methods of moving traffic through town by asking Union County to install left turn signals at the intersections of East Second Street and Front Street at Park Avenue," Mayor Augustine stated.

"I would like to propose an initiative that would provide for a feasibility study to determine if there is a demonstrable need for some type of adult day care in Scotch Plains," he noted.

In addition, the new Mayor said he would, "begin looking into the possibility of introducing the Affinity Mastercard into Scotch Plains."

This credit card, which could be issued through a local bank, will return to the township one per cent of all purchases charged.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

COUNCILMAN WALSH NAMED NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Improving Communication Among Goals Cited by Mrs. Connelly Following Her Oath as Mayor

Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz Joins Governing Body; Regular Meetings Changed to Second Thursdays

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council officially rang in the new year Monday as the oaths of office were taken by new Mayor, Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly, Councilman Bruce H. Walsh and first-time Councilwoman, Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz. Mrs. Schurtz has filled the seat formerly held by Mrs. Connelly during the former administration.

Rabbi George Nudell of the Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains set the theme of responsible government leadership for the reorganization meeting, citing a passage from the Book of Samuel which defines leaders as public servants and "not above the law" and, as such, "who must uphold a moral code" in their positions of authority.

The three Democrats sworn in Monday defeated their Republican challengers last November, thus maintaining a 4-3 majority on the council. Mrs. Connelly defeated Councilman Dr. Chester R. Lindsey, who remains on the council, in the race to succeed former Mayor, Mrs. Linda D. Stender. Mrs. Stender, a Democrat, opted not to seek reelection last year.

Each was administered the oath of office by Union County Superior Court Judge, Mrs. JoAnne B. Spatola. The former Fanwood Council President, Mrs. Connelly, was accompanied by her mother as she was sworn in. She was greeted afterward with congratulations and a bouquet from A.Y. Austin, President Emeritus of the Fanwood Democratic Club.

Incumbent Councilman Walsh, beginning his third term on the council, was joined by his father as he took his oath and Mrs. Schurtz was accompanied by her family. The new councilwoman will serve as the governing body's liaison to the Fanwood Planning Board as well as the mayor's representative on the Fanwood Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Walsh was named as the new Council President following a tie-breaker by Mrs. Connelly in favor of his nomination. The previous nomination of Councilman Andrew J.

MacDonald, which also resulted in a tie, was rejected by the Mayor.

A subsequent motion by Councilman MacDonald that the appointment of the borough attorney be voted on separately from the full roster of borough officials for 1996 was rejected by the council. Councilman MacDonald recommended that current counsel Dennis A. Estis be replaced, alleging that the attorney's advice on borough matters had "not been of the highest quality."

Councilman Walsh, however, defended Mr. Estis' legal expertise as "recognized throughout the state," adding that "the municipality is fortunate to have him as a representative." The governing body supported the renewal of Mr. Estis' services as borough attorney and approved it together with other borough appointments for the year.

Mayor Connelly, in her remarks prior to the benediction and adjournment, expressed gratitude "to all who have put your trust in me" and stated she was looking forward to the next four years of leading "a united council, one which works together for the coming good."

The new Mayor added she hopes to improve communication between the governing body and its constituents through informal discussions, and cited among her goals for the borough the development of long-range plans for renewal of Fanwood's downtown area, including the Dean Oil site, saying "Let's put a new face on the downtown to welcome the 21st century."

The Mayor added, however, the council was just getting started in preserving its past through the efforts of Fanwood's Historic Preservation

Commission and such projects as the planned restoration of the borough's historic Carriage House.

Mayor Connelly reported that the governing body's overall plan for "change stability and renewal" during the next four years was expected to include linking up the services of the Fanwood Library with other area libraries and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, as well as the continuation of successful public safety and Department of Public Works programs already in existence.

The governing body's first regular meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, January 11, at 8 p.m. The council agenda sessions will be held the first Wednesday of each month, also at 8 p.m., with the exception of the April 2 meeting, which is on a Tuesday.

Regular council meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of each month, except for the February 14 and August 14 meetings, which are on Wednesdays.

All meetings will be held in the multi-purpose room of Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue.

Deer Population Reduction Plan Begins Wednesday: Story on Page 5

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Remainder of Fanwood Master Plan Expected to Be Completed This Month

Gregory Cummings to Assume Chairmanship of Borough Planning Board

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specialty Writer for The Times

Fanwood Planning Board Attorney Charles H. Brandt said last Wednesday the remaining three chapters of the borough's Master Plan would be ready for review by the board "after the first of the year."

In last November's contest for Mayor and Borough Council seats, Republican candidates had pointed to the as yet incomplete review of the Master Plan in an attempt to oust incumbent Democrats.

Planning Board Chairman, Karl Eschle, who will not return as Chairman this year, said he expects the review of the Master Plan to be finished in February. Review of zoning matters would take longer, he said.

Mr. Eschle said he would continue with the board as an alternate member in order to see the review of the Master Plan and zoning issues through to completion.

Gregory Cummings, Vice Chairman of the board for the past two years, said he will assume the duties of Chairman this year. Mr. Cummings said he had been a member of the board "for five or six years."

Former Mayor, Mrs. Linda D. Stender, also bid her farewells to the members of the board after 10 years. "I appointed all or almost all of you to this board, and I want to thank you for your good work."

"I wish you Godspeed in reviewing the Master Plan. I think it's a document that most people really don't understand, but it is important to keep Fanwood a nice town," she said.

Mrs. Stender is entering her third year as a Union County Freeholder.

In other changes, Jeremiah P. O'Neil will no longer be part-time zoning officer for Fanwood, according to Mr. Eschle.

Mr. O'Neil will assume full-time zoning official duties for neighboring Westfield, Mr. Eschle said.

A zoning officer works closely with a planning board in reviewing applications before the board.

Board secretary, Mrs. Ruth Page, told the board a new zoning officer had been hired.

In other business, the board decided to adjourn the hearing until later this month on an application by Silvano Ferrara to renovate a former machine shop at 65 Old South Avenue to create an automobile repair shop.

Mr. Ferrara said he has had a repair shop at 191 South Avenue for eight years.

"I think it's excessive, the number of automotive businesses in town," former Mayor Stender said.

Mr. Cummings suggested the borough incorporate a limit on the number of automotive businesses in Fanwood into its Master Plan.

Mr. Brandt agreed the issue has been a problem for the borough. He suggested making automotive businesses a "conditional use" within certain zones which would require an appearance before the board for a variance.

The board heard testimony from Mr. Ferrara that an underground oil tank had been removed from the site and no contamination of the soil had been discovered, according to the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy regulations.

Mr. Ferrara proposed adding a second story to the building for storage and offices, and creating three service stalls with lifts on the ground floor, with a drive-through entrance and exit.

Variances are necessary for the size of the lot and parking spaces, as well as the front, side and backyard setbacks. The lot area is 8,612 square feet where 10,000 square feet are required.

The side, back and front yard setbacks are pre-existing violations, except at the western front corner of the building where an addition would compound the violation by bringing the building two feet closer to the street.

The engineer for the project, James J. Demuro, said proposed parking spaces were slightly narrower to ac-

commodate more cars. He said there would be 14 spaces at the site, 10 outside and four inside. Mr. Ferrara said he has a tow truck and two employees that would park on site.

Mr. Ferrara insisted the number of customers would not exceed the parking spaces since he takes appointments for repairs. He does no body work on cars, he said.

The plan showed three islands with trees added to the street edge of the property with underground drainage for the proposed paved site.

The board said it needed more time to review the application and gather a related report from the fire department.

In a different matter, board engineer Richard Marsden said the Terrill Commons property was awaiting a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection related to "stream encroachment" for its proposed drainage system.

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 30 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.



TAKING THE OATH...Alan M. Augustine is sworn in as Mayor of Scotch Plains by Township Clerk, Mrs. Barbara Rjepe, during Monday's reorganizational meeting. Mayor Augustine, who served as Deputy Mayor last year, last served as Mayor in 1991. Holding the Bible is his wife, Mrs. Jeanne Augustine.