



SCOTCH PLAINS

OUR 37th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 3

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FANWOOD

200  
of Scotch Plains, N.J.

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## THIRTY-SEVEN-PAGE DOCUMENT SAYS SEDIMENT IS HIGHER THAN WATER SURFACE

### Brookside Park Renovation Committee's Report Concludes Improvements Necessary for Pond

Seven-Member Committee Says Drainage Ditch, Aeration Needed; Pond Last Dredged 12 Years Ago; Enhancements Estimated at \$200,000

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council received a report by the Brookside Park Renovation Committee at its meeting on January 10.

Director of Recreation, Mrs. Laura Sanson Botto, delivered the group's report. The comprehensive and detailed study totals 37 pages. George Oberle is the Chairman of the committee which includes Kenneth Anderson, who is also a member of

the Environmental Commission; Nicholas DeNichilo, who is a licensed professional hydraulic engineer; Mrs. Ann Marie Luvera, Mrs. JoAnne Ryan, Alexander Skinner and Edward Zazzali.

The pond varies in depth from several feet to only inches where sedimentation has accumulated.

"In some areas, the accumulation of sediment is even higher than the water surface," the report reads.

"This impacts on the aesthetic value

of the pond and causes stagnation of the water which in turn degrades water quality and promotes unpleasant odors," according to the report.

Erosion of the pond's bank is cited by the committee as another problem. Many areas have poor vegetative cover, leaving soils exposed.

A drainage ditch, which diverts storm water into the pond, is also severely eroded and in need of stabilization. The pond was last dredged approximately 12 years ago.

The report states that, "In its present condition, Brookside Park Pond cannot be fully enjoyed or appreciated by the general public."

"In addition, the degradation of the pond has had detrimental effects on the natural wildlife habitat, thereby removing natural wildlife for the area."

"Improving the pond and surrounding areas will significantly enhance the recreational and environmental resource value of the Brookside Park Pond," the report concludes.

Recommended improvements include dredging, rehabilitation of pond banks, including lining them with stone and stabilizing the drainage ditch. The committee also recommends installation of aeration in the form of two small floating fountains which would be powered by an approximately two-horsepower motor which would spray water three to six feet in the air, relocation of various trails, testing of soil samples, creation of boardwalk sections along the trail and construction of a pedestrian bridge across the stream, upstream from the pond to afford easier access to the wooded areas.

The committee found the pond to be in general good condition overall.

The total estimated project cost, including engineering, permits and construction, is approximately \$200,000. This cost estimate does not include any additional costs associated with testing, treatment, removal and disposal of any contaminated soils, if any.

It is estimated it will take 14 months to complete the project from start to finish.

The Brookside Park Pond Renovation Committee started its work last September. The group consulted with the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association and the New Jersey Wetlands Commission. Funding now has to be found to implement the committee's recommendations.

The council voted to appropriate \$2,500 in matching funds toward preliminary soil testing. The group has applied for \$2,500 in matching funds from the state and will learn some time in March whether it has been awarded the grant.

Officials expressed hope the project would start in July at the latest.

Mrs. Botto said, "If the funds are available, the pond at Brookside Park could be made into a wonderful facility."

The council announced Representative Robert D. Franks will hold a "Town Meeting" on Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. Representative Franks represents the Seventh Congressional District which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Postcards will be sent to residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood announcing the meeting.

Representative Franks has said he wants to get together with the residents to hear their views and opinions on various topics.



FEED THE CHILDREN...The McGinn School Age Child Care children of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA held a bake sale in December to raise money for "Feed the Children Charities." The children did all the baking and packaging themselves. During the bake sale the children raised \$102.65. Kelly Jaczko, the Program Director of School Age Child Care for the YMCA, said "The kids were happy to do something to benefit other children."

## Mayor Connelly Cites Emergency Response Units; Historic Commission to Receive Awards from County

Fanwood Library Board of Trustees Looking at Feasibility of Installing Computers

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

The collective efforts of Fanwood's emergency response units during last week's blizzard were lauded by Mayor Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly and the Borough Council during their January 11 regular meeting.

Mayor Connelly cited the professionalism of the borough's Emergency Management Team throughout the storm which pounded the northeast nearly two weeks ago, particularly in its handling of the evacuation of eight Shady Lane residences on January 8 and 9 following the discovery of a cracked gas pipe beneath Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. Heavy snow accumulation complicated the situation as sanitary sewers backed up and had to be vent-

ilated, she said.

She also commended the borough's police and fire departments, rescue squad and Department of Public Works, which participated in temporarily relocating residents and helping Elizabethtown Gas to coordinate repair efforts. Mayor Connelly offered additional kudos to several area businesses which provided food to displaced residents, some of whom waited out the evacuation at Borough Hall.

The Mayor, who also acknowledged Fanwood residents for their cooperation during the storm, reminded her audience that those living on streets where schools are located are required to shovel their sidewalks and urged members of the commu-

nity to be responsible for keeping fire hydrants on their blocks clear of snow.

Mayor Connelly, citing Governor Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman's State of the State Address earlier that day, reiterated the governor's call to equal educational opportunities for all New Jersey children, particularly in computer applications and other technology which will prepare them for careers in the 21st century.

Mayor Connelly remarked that the governor's expressed commitment to advancing education would provide communities like Fanwood with "a lot of opportunities" for government to "partner with the schools."

The future of educational resources in Fanwood was elaborated on further by Councilwoman Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz during her report as Borough Council Liaison to the Fanwood Library Board of Trustees. Councilwoman Schurtz announced the library board is currently investigating the feasibility of installing computers in the library for use by both staff and patrons.

She explained the board is pursuing this goal with a "common sense approach" by studying what types of computer technology are being utilized by other Union County libraries.

"This is a high priority for this group. It's an exciting time to be part of it," Councilwoman Schurtz remarked enthusiastically, though she added the library board is proceeding with caution regarding potential purchases of computers and software packages because of the cost factor involved, and is looking into available grants and other possible sources of funding.

In a separate report, Councilwoman Schurtz confirmed that Fanwood's Historic Preservation Commission will be the recipient of an award Wednesday, February 28, from Union County in recognition of the educational value of the commission-sponsored Historic Walking Tours which highlight the historical significance of borough buildings and also include anecdotes about Fanwood residents of earlier eras.

Council President Bruce H. Walsh, during his chairman's report for the Public Safety Committee, stated that all dogs over the age of 6 months must be licensed and that licenses can be purchased weekdays at Borough Hall between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The cost is \$7 for neutered pets and \$10 for unneutered pets. Proof of rabies inoculation and neutering is required. Licenses for this year are due this month and fines for non-compliance will be issued beginning in February, he said.

Former Fanwood Fire Chief Daryl

Peoples, who served with the Fanwood Fire Department since 1985, was honored with a resolution commending his years of service. The resolution will be presented by Mayor Connelly during the fire company dinner on January 20.

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### Township Businesses To Meet January 24

The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association will hold its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, January 24, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at C.E.O. Executive Suites, 1812 Front Street in Scotch Plains. For more information, please call Vincent Losavio, Membership Chairman, at 322-7126.

## Lost Snow Days May Force District To Revise Calendar for School Year

Morning Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten Classes to Be Held During Delayed Openings

By ELLEN RADIN  
Specially Written for The Times

Morning pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten sessions will no longer be canceled on days with delayed school openings, according to Dr. Carol B. Choye, Superintendent of Schools for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.

Beginning yesterday, January 17, Dr. Choye said morning pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes will be held from 10:05 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. on days with delayed school openings.

The afternoon classes on those days will be held from 12:55 to 2:55 p.m.

Dr. Choye, speaking at the Board of Education's open agenda meeting on January 11, said many parents were concerned because children attending these morning programs had already missed at least six days of school.

The morning programs normally begin at 8:35 a.m. and end at 11:15 a.m. Under the prior policy, when school opening was delayed until 9:55 a.m., these programs were canceled for the day.

The several delayed openings already held, Dr. Choye said, were at the request of the police departments. Many district streets have no sidewalks and children normally walk to school over the front lawns.

With the lawns covered in snow, the children have to walk in the streets. The police had advised that it was too dangerous for children to be walking in the street, now even nar-

rower due to snow, during the rush hours.

Police have also advised, Dr. Choye stated, that children not build igloos or forts on front lawns. Children playing inside these structures cannot be observed by motorists or operators of snow-removing equipment.

Two snow days had been built into the academic calendar. Dr. Choye said she was considering how to make up the other two of the four snow days already missed. In addition, another school day was lost when school was canceled for election day which had not been originally in the calendar.

On January 12, the day after the board's meeting, school was again canceled. This past Monday was a school holiday due to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

There are several possible means of making up the snow days, Dr. Choye said. Firstly, the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, has the power to excuse school districts from the usual minimum of 180 school days. The governor's usual practice, however, has been not to waive the 180-day requirement.

Classes could also be held on Tuesday, February 20, and Monday, April 8, which are now set aside as staff development days. The board must consider, however, whether this could be deemed an unfair labor practice.

The school year could also be extended to Friday, June 21, with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School graduation and Project Graduation event to take place on that day. Dr. Choye said she had discussed this option with Rabbi George Nudell of the Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, since the school events might conflict with Friday night services.

The board would also have to consider whether Project Graduation events, which involve the rental of a health club, could be rescheduled.

Dr. Choye said she was trying not to extend the school year into the week beginning Monday, June 24, because of the heat.

Dr. Choye praised the district's staff, parents, police and Department of Public Works for their "just extraordinary" efforts in clearing snow and helping children cross streets safely.

One custodian, Dr. Choye said, had slept in the school overnight since he knew he could otherwise not get to work in the morning. Other maintenance workers brought equipment from their homes. The police department had assigned additional officers to direct traffic.

Dr. Choye announced the death of Mrs. Betty Lou Canright. Mrs. Canright, a media specialist in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School System, died on January 9.

Her husband had died only a short time before.

### Jury Selection Underway In Fire Bomber Trial

The selection of a jury for the trial of former Scotch Plains resident Edward Leary, 50, is underway in Manhattan State Supreme Court. Leary faces 120 years in prison if convicted for setting the New York City fire-bomb explosion in December of 1994.

Only 20 of 120 prospective jurors have initially said they would be willing to serve on the case which is expected to last 10 weeks or longer.

Supreme Court Judge Rena Uviller has banned television and radio coverage of the trial. She feared televising the trial might result in an "unstable viewer" attempting to replicate the explosion.

Leary's home, located on Glenside Avenue, was transferred to his wife, Mrs. Margarik Shaller, on March 31 for \$100, according to information obtained by The Times.

The couple had resided at the home only for a short time prior to the explosion.

## Scotch Plains Council Honors Boys Soccer Team

Garden State Kennels Retained for Animal Control Services

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council welcomed the state champion Scotch Plains High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team at Tuesday's meeting.

The team had an outstanding season in which they were crowned Watchung Conference Champions, state Sectional Champions and Group No. 3 Champions.

The team is coached by Thomas Breznitsky who was assisted by Joseph Mortarulo. Mr. Mortarulo was unable to make the ceremony as he was in California for a try-out with a team in the newly-formed professional soccer league.

While both coaches emphasize team play, Daniel Hall was named to the All-State squad. Players and coaches were the recipients of a council resolution lauding their efforts on and off the field.

Mayor Alan M. Augustine remarked upon the growth of the sport in the last 30 to 40 years and added that Mr. Breznitsky has "a regular habit of coming here with championship teams."

The Mayor attributed this success to the rise of youth soccer leagues in Scotch Plains during the 1970s.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Joan Papan, who lives in close proximity to the soccer field, thanked the players, along with their parents and teachers.

Councilman Robert E. Johnston noted Coach Breznitsky is "an institution in Scotch Plains" and has produced nationally-ranked squads.

Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins pointed out that only nine of the 23 players on the team are seniors while 14 will be returning for what he said promises to be "another successful season."

Director of High School Athletics Eugene Schiller spoke briefly and thanked the council for honoring the team saying Coach Breznitsky, "gets the job done."

Mr. Schiller also mentioned the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Girls Varsity Soccer Team enjoyed its best season ever, finishing at 16-4, losing to West Morris High School in the sectional finals. The boys team was 18-3-1.

Coach Breznitsky then spoke of his fifth state championship team. He also thanked the council for always "being very supportive of athletics."

"We had outstanding players and gentlemen on this team," Coach Breznitsky said.

Mayor Augustine also thanked the administration of the high school, Dr. Terrence K. Riegel, Principal, and Dr. Carol B. Choye, Superintendent of Schools, who have "molded these

young men into fine citizens of this great country."

Also in attendance at the meeting were 19 Boy Scouts of Troop No. 33 out of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church accompanied by their Scout Masters William Merehan and Richard Rosario.

The troop was given a tour of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building by Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr. Their visit was part of the requirement for a "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge.

In other business, two ordinances were passed. One prohibits left turns eastbound out of the CVS pharmacy driveway onto northbound Park Avenue. The second increases the application fee per variance from \$25 to \$100 "in order to bring the fee in line with that charged by surrounding communities."

Among the proposed resolutions which were approved include a resolution authorizing the Department of Public Properties to extend leaf hauling and composting services until April of 1998 at the rate of \$3.94 per cubic yard with A. Fiore and Sons of Newark.

Mr. Atkins termed this extension of the agreement "most cost effective for the taxpayers."

A professional services resolution authorizing the Scotch Plains firm of EKA to perform survey work on a portion of Raritan Road from Rahway Road to the Edison boarder in preparation for a reconstruction of that portion, was approved.

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RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORT...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Varsity Boys Soccer Team was presented with a resolution at Tuesday's Township Council meeting in recognition of the team's efforts this past season. The team captured the Watchung Conference, state Sectional Championship and the state Group No. 3 Championship. Pictured with the team, left to right, are: Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr., Councilwoman Mrs. Joan Papan, Councilman Robert E. Johnston, Mayor Alan M. Augustine, Councilwoman Mrs. Irene T. Schmidt, and Coach Thomas Breznitsky.

William A. Burke for The Times