



SCOTCH PLAINS

FEB 22 1996

# THE TIMES

Serving Scotch Plains and Fanwood Since 1959



FANWOOD

OUR 37th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 8

USPS 485-200  
4 Cent Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, February 22, 1996

Published  
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

## PLANNING BOARD AWAITING INPUT ON MASTER PLAN

# Fanwood Council Applauds Efforts of Fire Department During January 7 Blizzard

## Governing Body Supports Borough Library's Application for Grant to Buy CD-ROM Computers

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

Mayor, Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly, and the Fanwood Borough Council applauded members of the Fanwood Fire Department's Fire Company and two local businesses during the governing body's Valentine's Day regular meeting for

their efforts in combating the "Blizzard of 1996" which blanketed the northeast with two feet of snow over a 24-hour period beginning on January 7.

New Fanwood Fire Chief Daniel Librandy joined Mayor Connelly in presenting resolutions to members of the fire company, several of whom have served the borough for 35 years or more. Each of the resolutions stated that "the strength of our community lies in the dedication of the people who serve."

In addition, former Fire Chief Darryl Peoples was recognized for his years of service and Chief Librandy presented a shield to new Fire Commissioner Council William E. Populus, Jr.

The mayor remarked that "it's rare individuals who commit to serving their fellow man in this capacity," and commended borough officials and residents for their "old-fashioned values and small-town spirit if volunteerism."

On the same subject later in the meeting, Public Works Committee Chairman Councilman Louis C. Jung, reported that the public had also responded appreciatively to work done by department personnel during several recent bouts with winter weather, as well as workers' efforts in picking up discarded Christmas trees and repairing potholes.

Mayor Connelly presented Frank Hetem, owner of Today's Delight on North Avenue, with a resolution for having supplied food to emergency service units who spent the night on duty at Fanwood Borough Hall while handling calls from residents. The North Avenue Quick Check, which is among those headed by company President Robert Page, was also commended for supplying provisions during the crisis.

A resolution was also issued by the council which recognized the United

States Air Force Heritage of America Band, which visited Fanwood this past week, and its conductor Larry H. Lang. A proclamation was read citing Fanwood resident Andrew Granda, who has been recommended for Eagle Scout status, the highest honor given by the Boy Scouts of America, and who is expected to be formally awarded this rank next month.

It was also announced by Mayor Connelly that Mrs. Katherine Mitchell has been named as a representative to the Union County Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, and will specialize in the history aspect of the board's activities.

Councilwoman, Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz, the governing body representative on the Fanwood Planning Board, reported the board is still developing its Master Plan for the borough as it awaits input from some municipal departments. The Master

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Children Eligible For Kindergarten Must Be Registered

Children who will attend Kindergarten in Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools this September are now being registered in each of the district's elementary schools. To be eligible, a child must be five years of age on or before Tuesday, October 1, 1996.

Initial registration forms have been given to parents of children currently attending elementary schools in the district. Families who have not yet had a child enrolled in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools can obtain an initial registration form from the elementary school in the attendance area in which the family resides. The form should be returned to the schools as soon as possible.

Following receipt of all initial registration forms, the schools will inform respective parents of the procedures for completing registration.

## Fanwood Board of Adjustment Approves Stockade Fence on Timberline Drive

### Jeffrey Strauss Participates in First Meeting as Board Member

By AUDREY KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Zoning Board of Adjustment welcomed newly-appointed board member Jeffrey Strauss and approved a bulk variance at an abbreviated meeting on February 15.

The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. John Dolan of 2 Timberline Drive, explained the need for a variance to permit them to construct a fence on their property.

They informed the board the property needed to be fenced in order to create a safe play area for their three-year-old daughter. The Dolans noted their house is located on a corner property.

Mr. Dolan described the proposed fence as a six-foot stockade fence which would surround the backyard and a portion of the side yard of his property. Board Attorney Charles H. Brandt remarked that a four-foot fence could be put up without a variance.

The Dolans informed the board that several years ago, prior to their purchase of the property, a fence existed on their lot. The fence was removed by the prior owners because it

was vandalized. The Dolans stated that some posts still remain in the ground. They added that their next-door neighbors have a stockade fence.

After a brief discussion, board members noted that nothing was in file about a prior fence existing on the property.

Board members informed the Dolans the Environmental Commission, Fire Department, Traffic Safety Bureau and the Shade Tree Commission had no objections to the variance. It was also noted there were no outstanding taxes currently due on the property.

The board approved the variance with the stipulation that the good side of the fence must face outward.

Mr. Strauss, an attorney, attended his first meeting as a newly-appointed member of the board. Mr. Strauss has been a Fanwood resident for approximately six-and-a-half years. Mr. Strauss has been practicing law for 10 years. He is associated with the Law Offices of Ira Zarin in Newark.

He is a litigator concentrating in personal injury and medical malpractice cases. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the American Trial Lawyers Association.

Mr. Strauss received his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, a master's degree from Boston University and an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University.

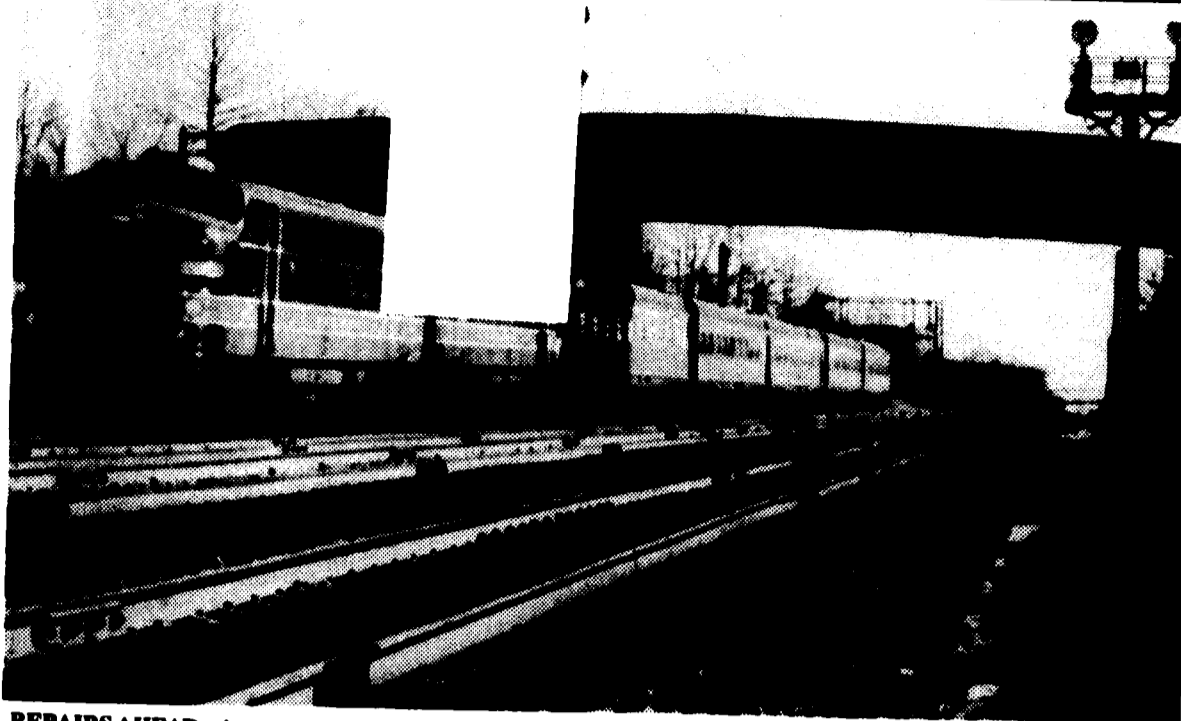
He is married and has two children, ages 4 and 7. He is an Assistant Coach for both the second-grade soccer and baseball leagues.

## Downtown Committee To Present Results Of Study by DECA

The Fanwood Downtown Revitalization committee will present the results of a recently completed survey at its meeting on Thursday, February 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall.

The survey, conducted by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA group, an association of marketing students, was mailed to each resident and will provide the basis for a plan to upgrade the downtown area.

Anyone interested in helping with the improvement of the downtown shopping area is encouraged to attend the meeting.



REPAIRS AHEAD...A commuter train passes under the Hetfield Bridge. Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Union County will stabilize the bridge. The project is expected to commence this spring.

## Township to Conduct Inventory on Vacant Land In Effort to Expand Recreational Opportunities

### Council Decides Against Ordinance to Allow Garbage Trucks to Park on Streets for One Hour

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council will conduct an inventory of vacant public and private land in the township at the request of Councilman Robert E. Johnston.

The original request was made by the Scotch Plains Police Athletic League which is looking to construct a facility which would house a gymnasium for basketball, boxing and wrestling.

Other township clubs and associations, such as the Little League, are also said to be interested in vacant land as possible sites for baseball, softball and soccer fields. Township Zoning and Building official Robert La Costa has been instructed by the council to inventory all vacant public and private land within Scotch Plains.

Councilman Johnston speculated that perhaps someone might donate land for recreational purposes or perhaps the township could acquire such land.

Mayor Alan M. Augustine noted this policy would be in accordance with the remarks he delivered on taking office on January 1. At that time, Mayor Augustine said that Scotch Plains should attempt to expand its recreational facilities.

The Mayor suggested if the Township is approved for an Affinity credit card, part of the proceeds could be dedicated to recreational purposes. Mayor Augustine said the Village of South Orange in Essex County has such a credit card.

He went on to say he hoped an arrangement might be made with a local bank whereby as much as 1 percent of each charge would be given to Scotch Plains. The Mayor said he

believes that South Orange has raised approximately \$70,000 through the use of a credit card by having its name on the card.

The council has decided against introducing an ordinance which would have permitted garbage trucks to park for up to one hour on township streets where the parking of such vehicles is not otherwise prohibited.

The proposed ordinance was at the suggestion of Mr. La Costa who advised that a township resident who was engaged in the hauling of garbage was unable to park his garbage truck on Ramapo Way in front of his home when he stopped for a brief period for lunch each day.

Council members said they were reluctant to permit commercial vehicles to park in residential zones for that long.

Deputy Mayor and Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene F. Schmidt, stated, "I do not like the ordinance."

Indeed, Councilwoman Papan acknowledged she received a telephone call from an irate resident of Ramapo Way who was not in favor of the ordinance.

Councilman Johnston was likewise not in favor of any such ordinance.

The Mayor stated, "I cannot blame the residents for complaining."

The council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Henry C. Kita, City Administrator of the City of Plainfield, dated February 9, regarding proposed improvements to Woodland Avenue.

Mr. Kita consulted Scotch Plains as Woodland Avenue straddles the Plainfield-Scotch Plains border. The contemplated improvements include roadway widening at certain loca-

tions, curbs and sidewalks, storm drainage improvements, and re-paving the entire road to the South Plainfield line.

Scotch Plains township Manager Thomas E. Atkins responded to Mr. Kita in a letter dated February 14 raising certain questions about the project, in particular the sources of funding.

The council, on the advice of Assistant Township Attorney, Mrs. Julianne S. Duncan, of Township Attorney Donald T. DiFrancesco's office, in conjunction with Planning Board Attorney Lawrence A. Woodruff, have proposed another change to the "Special Use" Permit Ordinance.

The proposed change is a provision whereby any approved signs may only be displayed "for a period not to exceed 90 days."

It seems that applicants have been trying to circumvent the usual variance proceedings by using the special use permit as to signage, officials said.

Scotch Plains will join the Environmental Suburban Joint Insurance Fund effective Monday, July 1. Only members of the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund, which includes Fanwood and Westfield, will be afforded this coverage.

One hundred fifty four municipalities are members of the Environmental Joint Insurance Fund. The cost for this type of coverage will be \$1.21 per capita. For Scotch Plains it would cost approximately \$26,000 for a full year premium, officials said.

Scotch Plains voted to join the

## Leary's Wife Gives Testimony

The wife of New York City accused firebomber testified of the abnormal behavior of her husband, Edward Leary, which preceded the December, 1994 explosions.

Leary, Mrs. Marguerite Shaller said, began collecting trash and bringing it to their Scotch Plains home.

Leary has been charged with 45 counts of attempted murder in firebombings which occurred on December 15 and 21.

**HOW TO GET THE TIMES**  
Just Fill in the Form  
On Page 10  
And Return It to Us!

## Township Planning Board Sets Meeting on Downtown

### Residents Encouraged to Air Views at Tonight's Hearing

Scotch Plains residents are being given an opportunity to help determine the future of their downtown by the township's Planning Board. Tonight, Thursday, February 22, at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building, a cross section of Scotch Plains residents will be invited to comment on the board's ideas for the downtown.

"Revitalizing our downtown was a major objective of our Master Plan which we recently revised," noted Mrs. Maria C. Sartor, Chairwoman of the Scotch Plains Master Plan Committee.

"We know how we think our Central Business District should be changed, and have hired consultants

to put our ideas into a plan. We feel it is vital, however, to get our residents' input for that plan," she added.

To develop a Downtown Vision Plan for Scotch Plains, the Planning Board, Mrs. Sartor noted, has hired the firm of Wallace Roberts & Todd. The plan will encompass the business district on Park Avenue and East Second Street.

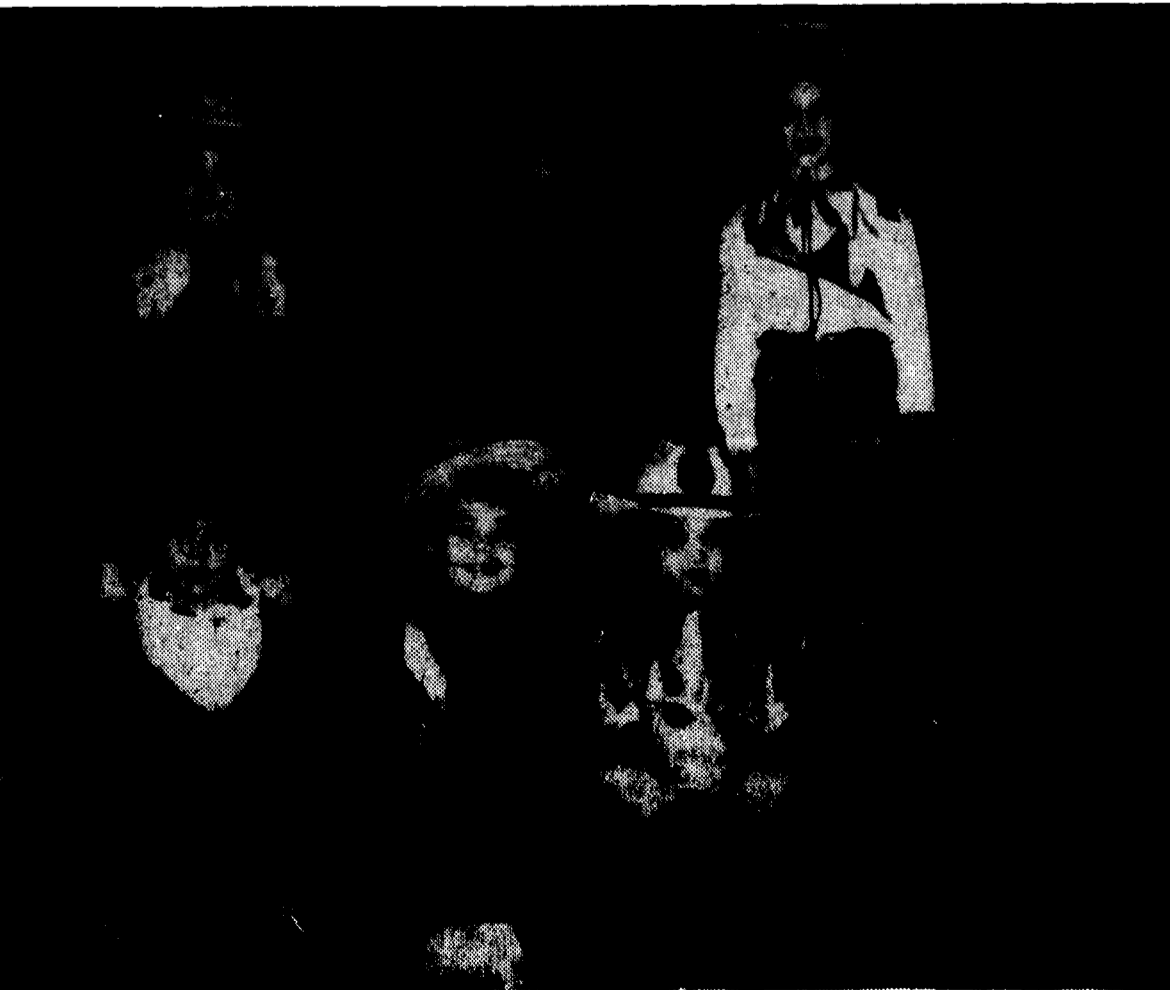
The consultants will lead the residents' meeting by identifying issues, designing parameters and setting ground rules. They will also present to the group successful ideas from communities similar to Scotch Plains.

According to Dr. Martin Marks, Vice Chairman of the Master Plan Committee and the Downtown Project Coordinator, the meeting, expected to last three to four hours, will cover a broad range of topics including: Parking, traffic, circulation, business mix, street scape, signage, architecture and other amenities.

"This will be a highly-interactive session. It will involve group roundtable discussions and hands-on design activities by participants," said Dr. Marks.

Letters inviting residents to the meeting have been mailed to many households.

Anyone who is interested in attending, but has not received a letter, should call Mrs. Barbara Horev at 322-6700.



THE OLD WEST...McGinn School students in Scotch Plains traveled back in time last month to the Old West thanks to the help of professional storyteller Rachel Garner Coleman who dressed in cowboy attire to portray the character of Nat Love, a prominent cowboy in his time. Pictured with Mr. Coleman, left to right, are: Standing, Courtney Gray and Alyse Cokier; seated, Jackson Udelman, John DeLuca, Kate Johnson and Andrew Manns.

**Business Group In Scotch Plains Seeks Members**  
The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 28, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at CEO Executive Suites, 1812 Front Street.  
The association currently is conducting its annual membership drive and invites local businesses and professionals to join.  
Annual dues are \$25.  
For more information, please call Vincent Losavio at 322-7126, or Raymond Pardon at 322-7388.