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OUR 37th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 11

USPS 485280
Class Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

SALE OF \$4.6 MILLION IN BONDS SET FOR MARCH 26

Nova Scotia Officials on Hand To Take Possession of Pumper From Township Council Meeting

Governing Body Introduced 'Vicious Dog Ordinance,' Shippen Golf Tournament Slated for Tuesday, May 18

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times

The highlight of Tuesday's public meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council was the delivery of one of Scotch Plains' old 1,000-gallon fire pumpers to the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department of Victoria County, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The 1975 Mack fire engine was accepted on behalf of the Ingonish community by former Scotch Plains Township Councilman George Brown, now a resident of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, along with Fire Chief Calvin Hussey of the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department.

The township passed a resolution to sell the truck to the Canadian Department for a dollar in order to sat-

isfy custom regulations. Mr. Brown presented the council with \$5 Canadian bills, any change he said may be donated to the Scotch Plains soccer league.

Chief Hussey, along with his sister Miss Dorothy Jean Hussey and several other members of the Ingonish Department, expressed their appreciation.

Miss Hussey is the first female firefighter on the Ingonish force. Cape Breton Island has no fire equipment of its own.

Scotch Plains Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis was on hand to explain the workings of the apparatus to the Canadian contingent.

Yesterday morning, March 13, the Canadians began their 1,200-mile journey back to Cape Breton with their new fire engine. They are expected to arrive back in Ingonish on Friday or Saturday.

Air Nova, the Nova Scotian airline, flew two of the firefighters from Canada at no charge. The two arrived on Tuesday. The pumper cost \$35,000 when new in 1975, so it possesses little or no monetary value after 21 years, said Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins.

The body of the pumper is also somewhat deteriorated.

During the course of the presentation, a surprise call was made by Russell McClellan to Scotch Plains Mayor Allan M. Augustine thanking him, the council, Mr. Brown, Chief Ellis and the Scotch Plains Fire Department for the truck.

Mr. Russell is a Mounted Policeman.

He said, "This generous gift will always be remembered" and "would serve as a bond, linking our common peoples."

Mayor Augustine urged, "that we build on this bond of friendship."

Mr. Russell invited Scotch Plains residents to visit his legislative district. Chief Hussey presented the council and the township with paintings of Ingonish.

Mayor Augustine indicated that he would find a suitable place in the Municipal Building in which to display the council's painting.

Chief Hussey described Ingonish as a small town of approximately

1,200 in population located between a mountain range and a valley.

"We are mainly devoted to summer tourism and the fishing industry. Many of Ingonish's residents are employed by the Canadian National Parks Service."

The town's population quadruples in the summer, said Mr. Hussey. Several members of the Scotch Plains Department were on hand to see their truck turned over to the Canadians.

Although Councilwomen, Mrs. Joan Papan and Mrs. Irene T. Schmidt, were not present at the meeting, they videotaped their greetings to Mr. Brown and his party.

Councilwoman Papan said, "We are happy to be able to help you."

Mayor Augustine invited Mr. Brown to stop by again for a visit, through he advised, "It will be awhile before we have another fire truck available for you."

In other business, among the ordinances adopted were an ordinance amending certain provisions of the special use permit ordinance. This amendment, officials said, is designed to tighten-up the special use permit regulations by stressing the seasonal and temporary nature of the application and not permanency.

A second ordinance was passed establishing salaries and wages for certain municipal employees.

Four resolutions were approved by the council. These were:

• The resolution authorizing the sale of the 1975 Mack pumper to Ingonish.

• A resolution authorizing the sale of \$4,590,000 in bonds to finance part of the cost of various general improvements. The sale will take place on Tuesday, March 26.

• A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign a labor contract with the Scotch Plains Public Works and Recreation Association. The three-year contract is retroactive to January 1 and runs through Tuesday, December 31, 1998.

An ordinance amendment regarding vicious dogs was introduced by the governing body. Anyone harboring a dog categorized as "vicious" will be assessed a \$700 fee for licensing such an animal.

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OVERNIGHT FUN...First-grade Brownies from Troop No. 187 at McGinn School in Scotch Plains attended a "Mom and Me Overnight" at Camp Hoover in Sussex County recently. The program gave the girls an opportunity to share some one-on-one time with their moms. The children and their mothers enjoyed games, crafts, outdoor snow activities and sharing time with other Brownies and Daisy Girl Scouts from the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council. Pictured, left to right, are: Back row, Lauren Welshbrod, Casey Griffin and Erin O'Connor; front row, Mary Kate Schiller, Darrell Ann Smith, Daniella Triggs, Katie Bowers and Lauren Aylward.

Environmental Insurance Coverage for Fanwood Would Feature Annual Premium Cost of \$8,500

Consultants Recommend Purchase of Public Officials Liability Insurance to Borough Council

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council was given an overview of its insurance coverages at last Wednesday's conference meeting by Steven Edwards and James Tesoriero of the Albiez Insurance Company. The two focused on three issues: Background information on the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund of which Fanwood is a member along with Scotch Plains; the Environmental Insurance Fund of the Suburban Joint Insurance pool of which Fanwood will soon be a member; and public officials liability coverage.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Tesoriero said many millions of dollars have been saved in the three years since the creation of the fund by the participating municipalities. The member municipalities average less than five accidents per 100 employees, while the figure is 14 accidents per 100 employees in the private sector.

The Executive Board of the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund has now decided to create an Environmental Joint Insurance Fund, township officials noted. Membership in the environmental insurance fund is mandatory for member towns. Most policies exclude environmental coverage, said Mr. Edwards.

They characterized the coverage as "inexpensive" for Fanwood, \$1.25 per capita or a total premium of \$8,500 per year.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Tesoriero said the premium was a "small price to pay" as one environmental claim could easily exceed \$8,500.

The primary costs would be those associated in defense of the claim such as lawyer's fees. The coverage would include those hazards associated with waste hauling, oil spills, hazardous material spills, pollution spills, Department of Public Works yards and remediation. In approximately one month's time, fund inspectors will visit Fanwood to inves-

tigate Fanwood's Public Works yards and storage facilities and to make recommendations on safety issues, if needed.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Tesoriero recommended the borough buy public officials liability insurance which would afford coverage for public officials who acted within the scope of their employment duties.

They cited the chemical explosion in Lodi, where the community and its public officials were being sued for failure to conduct proper inspection, as grounds to purchase the coverage.

Fanwood did not purchase the coverage last year, it was noted, while Scotch Plains did. Fanwood is the only municipality in the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund not to have such coverage.

The purchase of public officials liability coverage is an option and not mandatory for fund members.

In response to a question by Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, as to how premiums for the coverage are fixed, Mr. Edwards said the cost is a function of the number of claims received.

Councilman Bruce H. Walsh mentioned that Fanwood has never had any claims of this type.

Borough Attorney, Dennis Estis, corroborated the fact that defense costs associated with public officials liability claims are high.

Mr. Tesoriero stated that claims of this nature are not covered in any other policies of insurance Fanwood is carrying.

The insurance consultants said the definition of a public figure is a "broad one" and would even include consultants for the borough. The cost of the coverage would be \$4,092 per \$1 million limit and \$5,688 for a \$2 million limit.

The average defense cost incurred for such a suit are between \$25,000 to \$50,000, the consultants said. A feature of the policy would be that the borough would be allowed to choose its own counsel.

Councilman Louis C. Jung wanted to know if coverage would be available in cases of sexual harassment and civil rights charges. Mr. Edwards said they would be covered.

The council reaffirmed its decision not to pay the health insurance premiums of Borough Prosecutor Michael Mitzner. Mr. Mitzner is the only part-time employee receiving such benefits.

Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly said she will speak to Mr. Mitzner. The borough prosecutor is paid \$17,800 per year.

On the agenda for last night's public meeting was a resolution co-sponsored by Councilmen Jung and William E. Populus, Jr. supporting raffles in Fanwood.

Raffles have been illegal in the borough and a few other municipalities in New Jersey. The councilmen seek to have the question placed on the November ballot if enough signatures can be obtained from Fanwood residents to do so.

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Candidates Night Set In School Board Race

Parent-Teacher Council to Sponsor March 26 Event

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association Council will sponsor its annual Board of Educa-

tion Candidates Night on Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School auditorium, located on Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.

Five candidates are running for two seats in Scotch Plains and one seat in Fanwood. The candidates for Scotch Plains are: Morris H. "Butch" Gillet, an incumbent; Edward J. Saridaki, Jr., and Mrs. Gail Schoenbach. In Fanwood, the candidates are: Mrs. Victoria C. Mauduca and Mrs. Jessica D. Simpson, the incumbent.

The program will begin with a brief presentation of the 1996-1997 school budget. Afterwards, there will be an introduction of the candidates and a question and answer period.

"Candidates Night provides an opportunity to the voters of both Scotch Plains and Fanwood, to see and assess all school board candidates together," a spokeswoman for the council said.

All residents are invited to attend this event and to hear and question potential members of the school board.

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.

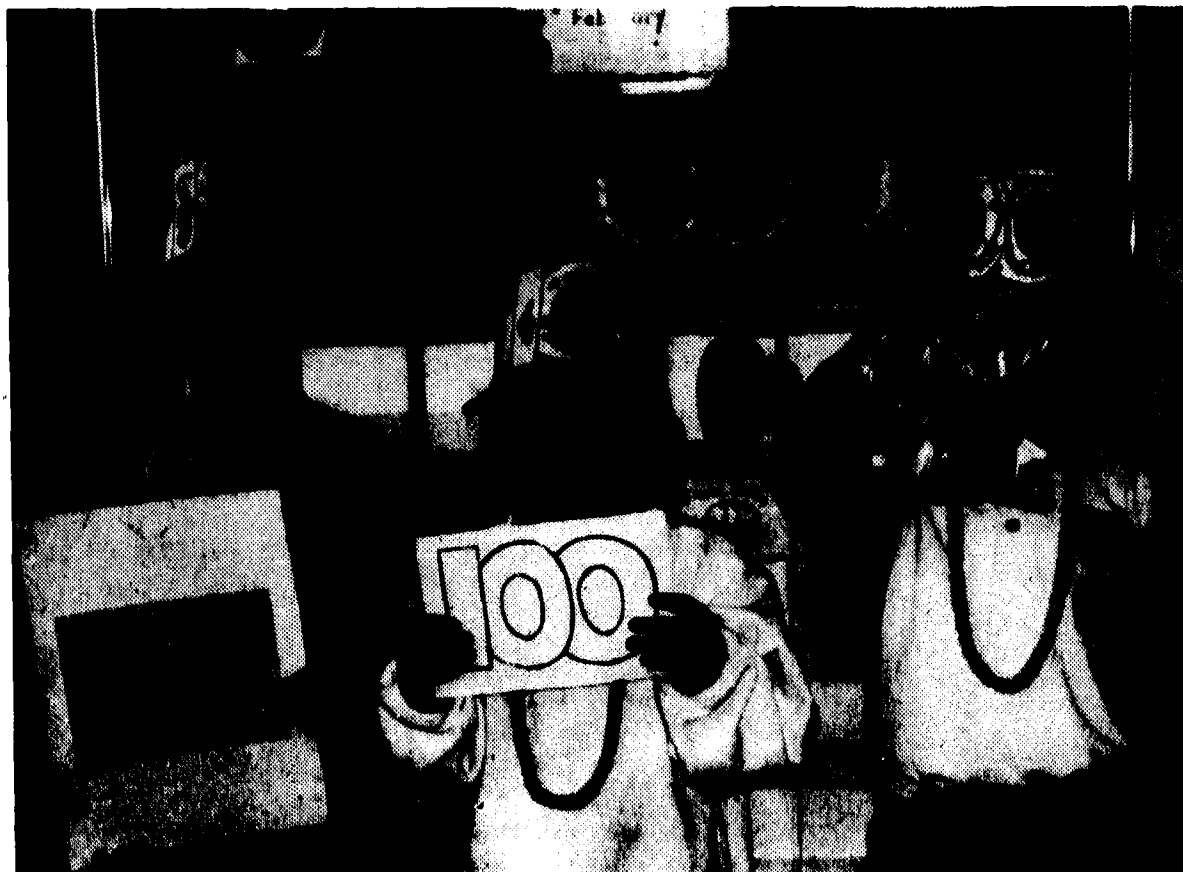
Leader releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 250, Westfield, 07091, and *Times* releases to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076, to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the weekend 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.



ONE HUNDRED CLUB...Children in the Title One pre-Kindergarten classes at the Brunner School recently celebrated the 100th day of school. The children had been recording the number of days that school had been open since the first day of school in September. The children brought collections of 100 items to school to put on display. They counted out 100 treats to fill a "goody" bag and stamped 100 designs into a booklet. The highlight of the celebration was the lighting of 100 candles on a cake that the children had baked for the occasion. The "100 Day" activities were planned to help the children gain an understanding of the concept of 100. Pictured, left to right, are: Brian Flood, Nikki Mineo and T.J. Dinizo, as they hold up some of the projects that they worked on during the "100 Day" celebration in their classroom. They are wearing the "100 Day" headbands, buttons and Cheerios necklaces that were made to mark the day.

Manhattan Jury Convicts Edward Leary Of New York City Subway Firebombings

He Faces Up to 105 Years in Prison When Sentenced April 18

Scotch Plains resident Edward Leary was convicted, last week, by a Manhattan jury of multiple counts of attempted murder and assault as a result of two separate firebombings on New York City subway trains in December of 1994.

The jury convicted Leary on 18 counts following six hours of deliberations. They rejected the defense's case which said Leary was insane

due to unmonitored medications prescribed by his psychiatrist.

Leary faces 105 years in prison when he is sentenced on Thursday, April 18.

Leary also was found guilty of intentional assault and possession of a criminal weapon, namely the two firebombs. He also was found not guilty of reckless assault and masterminding an extortion plot, which law en-

forcement officials charged was an attempt to demand money from the New York City Transit Authority.

One of his attorneys, Robert Fogelnest, told reporters after the verdict he had "difficulty in understanding the verdict" due to the fact the prosecution's case was strongly based on the extortion claim which the jury rejected.

Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau says the verdict "sends a message" to persons who might consider a similar act that will be "apprehended, tried and convicted and sent away for the rest of their lives."

Leary's lawyers, who also include Ira London, said they plan to appeal the jury's decision.

Leary himself was one of many passengers aboard a New York City subway train on December 22, 1994, when a home-made firebomb he was carrying exploded in his lap. The device, authorities said, was made out of jars filled with gasoline, a timer, a light bulb and a battery.

Authorities contend that Leary had attempted to set the alarm and was planning to leave the jars behind when the explosion occurred.

Passengers on the train that day testified during the trial that the explosion ignited passengers' skin and clothes. Dozens of victims crawled through subway doors to escape the fire.

Leary told police he had been job hunting in the city when the explosion occurred, stating he was just another victim of the explosion. Leary had been employed as a computer analyst on Wall Street for \$87,000 a year prior to being fired.

His attorneys said, while their client committed the December 22 explosion and a similar one on December 15, 1994, he was not responsible for the crime because of mind-altering drugs he had been taking with Prozac.