



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

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FANWOOD

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A NEW FRIEND... Brunner Elementary School student Bradley Stanek makes friends with a snake while his brother, Tyler Stanek, and fellow students Jason Thompson and Ryan Thompson await their turns. Looking on are Mrs. Erica Marvelli and Mark Stanek. The opportunity to discover that snakes can be "Friend not Foe," was just one of the many exhibits at the Fifth Annual Evening of Discovery held recently at the school in Scotch Plains. Nearly 400 students and parents enjoyed an evening of science fun. The program consisted of 22 hands-on experiments and demonstrations led by 60 volunteers, including parent-scientists and medical personnel, fifth-grade laboratory assistants and student demonstrators from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The event was organized by Parent-Teacher Association Committee Chairwomen, Mrs. Deborah Ondeyka and Mrs. Susan Dickey. Activities included a mini-health fair, a tour of the Brunner Web Site and Internet projects, a computer laboratory featuring science CD-ROMs, and many hands-on experiments or demonstrations each covering a different scientific principle.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Students Attend Junior Statesmen Winter Convention

Chapter Members Join Delegates Nationwide in Simulating Legislative Branch of Government

Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chapter of the Junior Statesmen of America attended the Winter State Convention in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of February 16, 17 and 18.

The organization consists of students from around the country, and was founded "to promote awareness of current economic, political and social issues facing us today," a spokesman for the chapter said. Throughout the weekend, delegates simulated the legislative branch of the United States government body by dividing into the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Students were given a first-hand experience on the governmental process of passing a bill through the House.

This year, of all the bills selected from Scotch Plains-Fanwood's chapter, freshman Kristin Hessemer and Caroline Mattar accomplished the task of passing their bill through both the House and the Senate committees. Their bill was stated as, "A Bill to Set All Legal Rights to Adoptive Parents and Ensure Full Custody."

Senior Mark Mitchell won best speaker in a debate entitled, "Resolved, The Central Intelligence Agency Be Authorized to Assassinate Foreign Leaders." Junior Cyrus Golsaz took the challenge of the organization's bar examination and passed with honors. Passing the bar examination allows Cyrus to be a lawyer and participate in the organization's mock trials.

Each year at Winter State, all delegates walk through Pentagon City to Capitol Hill. Assembled in the House, students had the privilege of listening

to a representative from the Parliamentary Procedure Committee. She spoke of current issues and described her job qualifications and duties. After her presentation, students were encouraged to ask her questions about her opinions of current world issues.

Throughout the weekend, "mock" presidential elections were held with student-run campaigns and voting through the simulated electoral college. Junior Lipika Goyal and sophomore Amanda Palmatier were co-campaign managers for President Clinton and senior Charles Kiley campaigned for Patrick Buchanan. Although Mr. Buchanan was eliminated

in the primaries, President Clinton went head-to-head with United States Senator Richard Lugar and the vote, according to the approximately 1,000 students present, predicted that President Clinton would go on as President for another term.

On the last day of the trip, the White House Press Secretary, Michael McCurry, was invited to come and speak to the delegates. Mr. McCurry, who had served as Governor of the Junior Statesmen when he was in high school, spoke about how campaigns are run and his past experiences in the organization.

In bringing the Winter State to an

end, the trip was an "overall success," the spokesman said. Students were active throughout the weekend, and many say they are looking forward to Spring State on Saturday, April 27. Plans are underway for the high school's mini-conference on Saturday, April 20.

TIME TO SPRING AHEAD ON SUNDAY

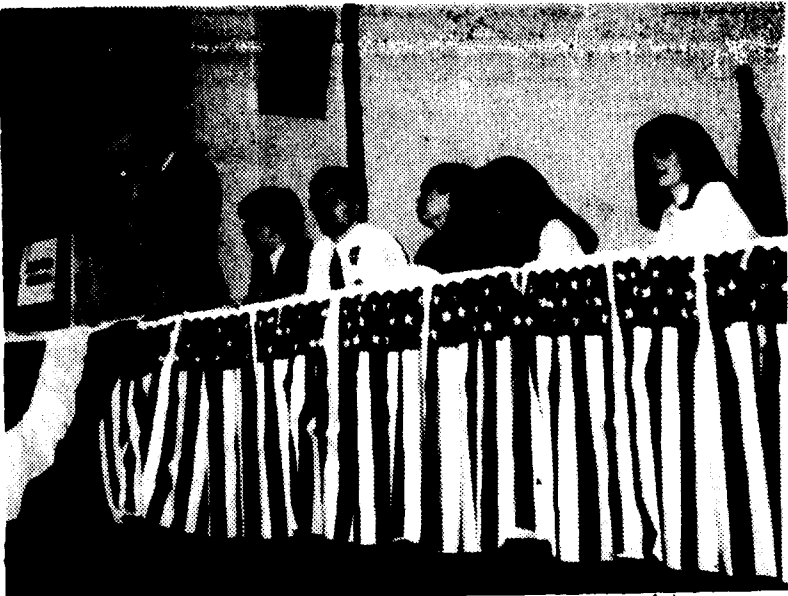
"Know thou yesterday, its aim and reason?
Work thou well today for worthier things?
Then calmly wait the morrow's hidden season,
And fear thou not what hap so'er it brings."

—Zahme Xenien

The spring season, which has seemed hidden beneath the snowy winter of 1995-1996, will continue on its path this weekend as Daylight Savings Time makes its annual entrance.

Clocks should be set ahead by one hour before going to sleep on Saturday, April 6, to prepare for Sunday morning's arrival of the time change.

The Times apologizes for last week's error regarding Daylight Savings Time.



JUNIOR STATESMEN... White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry spoke to delegates at the Winter Convention of the Junior Statesmen of America about the upcoming election and his own experiences in the Junior Statesmen of America. Pictured on the far right are Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students Lipika Goyal and Amanda Palmatier.

State Board of Public Utilities Slates Hearing on Proposed Water Rate Hike

Hearing to Be Held Monday Night at Westfield Municipal Building

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Times

The state Board of Public Utilities will conduct a public hearing this Monday, April 8, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Westfield Municipal Building, located on East Broad Street, regarding the Elizabethtown Water company's proposed 32.25 per cent increase for residential water rates and 29.6 for municipal fire hydrant service.

The hearing will give residents of communities serviced by Elizabethtown, including Scotch Plains and Fanwood, a chance to speak on the record regarding the proposal which is slated to become

effective in August. The hearing had originally been scheduled for March 7 but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Elizabethtown's proposal made in 1993 to increase rates gradually to avoid "rate shock" was rejected by the state board which reportedly stated the firm was in sound financial condition and thus did not merit the increases at that time.

The utility had asked the state board to consider a mechanism known as a Construction Work in Progress Clause. Although the board rejected the request, it agreed the facility itself was necessary.

However, the board said Elizabethtown could petition the

board again for the rate increase when their new \$100 million water treatment center facility in Somerset County opens. The new plant is set to come on-line by Thursday, August 1.

The utility filed a petition in November with the Board of Public Utilities for the rate hike that it said would yield an increase in revenues of \$31.6 million. The largest portion of the increase, \$22.9 million, will be used to finance the new Canal Road Water Treatment Plant.

Another \$52.6 million would be used to cover the costs to finance additional water treatment, transmission and storage projects to meet federal and state regulations.

The new water treatment plant will have a capacity, Elizabethtown officials said, of 40 million gallons per day "to meet its current demands and those of the near future."

Thomas J. Crawley, the President of the utility, has said the new facility is necessary to make up for reductions in water treatment capacity that are the result of stricter water quality regulations.

Both the Westfield and Scotch Plains governing bodies have passed resolutions opposing the rate increases. The township has joined a coalition of municipalities, represented by a private firm, to fight the rate hike. Each community has paid \$4,000 to join the coalition.

Scotch Plains Township Administrator Thomas Atkins has said, if the rate increase passes, the township's

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GOVERNING BODY DISCUSSES CHANGING DATE OF CARNIVAL

Borough Council to Consider Condemning Land for Sanitary Tie-in by Resident

Public Hearing on Fanwood Municipal Budget Set for April 11; Raider Soccer Club's Request for Plant Sale Approved

By TUCKER TRIMBLE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Fanwood Borough Council discussed the problems a resident is facing in desiring to tie into the borough's sanitary sewer system at its agenda meeting Tuesday.

Fanwood Mayor, Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly, told the council the South Avenue resident, Mrs. Marilyn Altschule, cannot connect to the sanitary system because her property has no direct access to the system.

The Mayor and Borough Engineer Richard Marsden visited neighbors of Mrs. Altschule's to request an easement through their land to the system, but their reception, according to the Mayor, was "less than cordial."

At issue is a 14-foot triangle of land the pipes would have to cross,

and although Mayor Connelly assured the neighbors the pipes could be dug under the roots of existing trees, the response was negative.

"We have a septic system just sitting there," said Mayor Connelly, adding she was surprised the neighbors would want it.

"This has been going on for months," said Councilman William E. Populus. "I suggest we condemn the land and move forward. We have to be proactive because the neighbors are not going to help. Why don't we just solve it?" he questioned.

Borough Attorney Dennis Estis explained the cost of condemning the 14-foot triangle of land needed to access the sanitary system would be well over the actual value of the land. The Board of Health could also be

consulted, he said.

The council will consider condemning the triangle of land that could link Mrs. Altschule with the system, and will further discuss the issue at the regular meeting, Mayor Connelly stated.

The council also heard from Alan D. Cardinal who requested permission to hold a plant sale at the Fanwood Train Station today, Thursday, April 4. The sale would benefit the Raider Soccer Club which is raising funds for its annual excursion which this year will be to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Last year the plant sale raised between \$3,500 and \$4,000," Mr. Cardinal told *The Times*, adding car washes, cheesecake sales, canister drives and golf outings are also used as fundraisers.

"We try to offset as much of the money needed for the trip as we can," he said.

Mr. Cardinal told the council the plant sale at the station would be from "about 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., to catch people coming off the train."

In the past this wasn't allowed because of traffic and parking considerations, the Mayor told him, but after discussion the council approved his request, providing proof of insurance, in the usual amount of \$1 million, be shown to Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eleanor McGovern, before the sale.

Council President Bruce H. Walsh was the lone dissenter to the proposal, saying he wished he had been given the opportunity to speak to Chief of Police Anthony Parenti to get his feelings concerning public safety.

The council also discussed a letter from resident Richard L. Partl concerning the Recreation Commission's annual carnival. Mayor Connelly explained there had been the feeling that having the carnival after the parade on Memorial Day may have been offensive to some veterans and the council was looking to move the carnival from Memorial Day to Fanwood Appreciation Day, sometime in September.

Councilman Populus, who was absent from the meeting when this question first was raised, disagreed, saying the carnival "doesn't take anything away from the veterans," of which he is one. The camaraderie he saw at the carnival was good to see, he said, adding residents from neighboring communities also attended.

Put on the agenda for a vote at the

regular meeting next Thursday, April 11, was a request from the City of Elizabeth requesting funds to prevent the closing of Boxwood Hall.

"This is an historic site," the Mayor said, "and is threatened by the reduction of funds."

Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald noted "it's never pretty" seeing historic sites flounder, "but how many of us have ever been to Boxwood Hall?"

The area is of local interest and Elizabeth should raise the saving funds, Councilman MacDonald added.

The council also discussed a proposed bill from Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger which prohibits sexually-oriented businesses from operating within 1,000 feet of hospitals and child care centers. There was some concern over the definition of child care center in the legislation, and Mr. Estis said he will ask Assemblyman Bagger to define the term. Assemblyman Bagger represents the 22nd Legislative District which includes Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

The council will also vote at its regular meeting to donate money to the Central Jersey July Fourth Celebration Committee.

"Traditionally we have participated and endorsed this," said Mayor Connelly, Mrs. McGovern added that between \$500 and \$600 were in the budget to accommodate this annual request.

The council discussed the possibility of the distribution of Planning Board applications to include the Public Safety Committee. Sometimes, the Mayor said, applications should be seen by the committee because of safety issues, before the structure is built, citing a recent experience where the Fanwood Volunteer Rescue Squad had difficulty maneuvering in an elevator which they felt was too small.

Mr. Estis told the council it would not be necessary to change the ordinance to add to the list of who received the applications.

At the regular meeting, the council will also vote on the adoption of the 1996 municipal budget. Mayor Connelly said, as well as second readings and adoption on the 1996 capital bond ordinance and an ordinance concerning the appropriation of funds from capital surplus for various projects.

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.

Library Friends to Hold Candidates Night April 9

The Friends of the Fanwood Library will sponsor a "Coffee With the Candidates" program this Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at the library. The program is being offered to all Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents who would like an opportunity to meet with the five candidates running for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education's three open seats.

Three candidates are running for the two seats in Scotch Plains: Morris H. "Butch" Gillett, Edward J. Saridakis, Jr. and Mrs. Gail Schoenbach. Mr. Gillett is the incumbent. In Fanwood, Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson, the incumbent, is being challenged by Mrs. Victoria C. Manduca.

"The Friends has offered this program in previous years and attendees have found it helpful and informative," a spokeswoman for the group said.

The purpose of this kind of evening is to give residents a chance to personally meet with the candidates on issues which concern them, she added. The format for the program will be informal, as there are no prepared questions and no agenda has been set.

Residents are encouraged to come with their questions and concerns.



WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY... The sixth graders of Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains participated in "Technology Day" on March 25. Representatives from Sony Electronics, Office Max and Electronics Publishing were among the professionals who came to share their expertise with the students. Students were guided in talking with another school on the Internet, as well as sending a message to President Clinton. Pictured, left to right, are: Maura Loughrey, Caroline Nguyen, Lawrence Paruta of Electronics Publishing, Laura O'Neil and Allison Newcomer.