



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

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## SCHOOL TAX LEVY APPROVED BY 1,785 TO 1,120 MARGIN

### Mr. Saridaki, Mr. Gillet Win Township Race For School Board; Mrs. Simpson Re-Elected

Mrs. Gail Schoenbach Loses Her Bid for Scotch Plains Seat By 27 Votes; Mrs. Victoria Manduca Defeated by 87 Tallies

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Times

Incumbent Morris H. "Butch" Gillet and newcomer Edward J. Saridaki, Jr. were victorious over challenger Mrs. Gail Schoenbach in the election for the two township seats on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

In Fanwood, incumbent Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson was re-elected over challenger Mrs. Victoria C. Manduca. Voters in both communities also gave their support to the school tax levy by a 1,785 to 1,120.

In Scotch Plains the budget carried, 1,229 to 693, while in Fanwood, voters supported the spending plan by a count of 556 to 374.

In the township board race, Mr. Saridaki, who is employed by a children's book publisher in Springfield, was the top vote-getter with 1,157 tallies, or 34.95 percent, of the total votes cast in the race. He had run unsuccessfully for a board seat last year, finishing just behind current Board of Education President Dr. Donald E. Sheldon.

In the race for the other Scotch Plains seat, Mr. Gillet won a second three-year term by just 27 votes over Mrs. Schoenbach. Mr. Gillet is currently chairing the board's negotiat-



Edward J. Saridaki, Jr. ing committee which is at an impasse in contract talks with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association. He owns and operates Essel Paint and Wallpaper Company of Gillet.



Morris H. "Butch" Gillet percent, of the borough's 4,477 registered voters showed up at the polls. In Scotch Plains, statistics on the total number of persons who voted were not available from the Township Clerk's office. As of April 15, a total of 13,061 township residents were registered to vote.



Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson Roselle Park and Elizabeth. In the neighboring Westfield school district, voters supported the school budget 2,721 to 1,255.



William A. Burke for The Times  
OPENING DAY...Scotch Plains Mayor and State Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine gives the opening remarks during Saturday's opening day ceremony at Booth Park for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association. Please see related story in Sports Section.

### Gypsy Moth Spraying Set To Begin Around May 13

Police Sargent, Officer Earn Promotions in Township

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

At Tuesday's Conference meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council it was announced that Police Chief Robert Luce has recommended Sargent Jeffrey Ellis be advanced to the rank of Lieutenant and Patrolman James Rau be elevated to the rank of Sargent.

Both recommendations have been approved. These officers will assume the next highest rank effective on Wednesday, May 1.

Jeffrey Ellis is an 18-year veteran of the police department. For the past six years he has worked with the computer system and records. He has also coordinated the American Telephone and Telegraph System 75 telephone network for the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. He will be assigned in the near future to the Patrol Division where he will work as a shift commander. Officer Ellis is one of the lead instructors at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, and is recognized as "a top notch traffic reconstruction expert

throughout Union County," said Chief Luce. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1982.

Both officers are next in line on the promotional list promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Personnel. It was stressed, however, that the primary reason Chief Luce made these recommendations was because of their overall work record and high levels of performance throughout their careers.

In other business, the 1996 general spraying for the gypsy moth will take place on or about Monday, May 13.

Markers will be put out at four locations at around 4 a.m. with the aerial spraying commencing at around 5:30 a.m. The spraying will take approximately one hour to complete.

Officials said the cost for the service will be \$11.90 per acre which will be shared equally with the State's Department of Agriculture. The total cost will be approximately \$5,355.

The Agricultural Department will pay half the amount.

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### Hyper Studio Concept Told to School Board

Technique Involves Scanning Artwork Onto Computers

By TUCKER TRIMBLE  
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district Director of Instructional Technologies Jeffrey Ross and two of his students presented to the Board of Education their reports made by utilizing a new technology concept, called hyper studio, last Thursday evening.

Students James L'Heureux and Julia Hipp showed board members on a computer their reports on Gregorian chants and the science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, respectively. The reports included sound effects, original clip art and recorded question-and-answer sequences.

The projects took about three months to prepare, the students said. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, told the board they were "seeing the result of a very hard decision made over a year ago," when the board voted to include the technology in the curriculum.

"Eventually every school in the district will have the same setup," Mr. Ross said, adding students will soon be scanning their own artwork onto the computers.

Board member Richard R. Meade lauded the project, saying in the public sector, businesses look for people who can communicate well, and the writing the students had to do for their reports was invaluable practice.

"I salute you and our program," board member Morris H. "Butch" Gillet told Mr. Ross. Mr. Gillet said over a year ago he saw a similar program demonstrated in West Windsor, and hoped someday Scotch Plains-Fanwood could have something similar.

"We are there now," he stated. In other business, the board was faced with some confusion as to the grouping practices at the two middle schools, Park and Terrill.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Charge of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Faith B. Spitz, told the board last year both schools offered three different academic levels for language arts in the eighth grade.

In addition to "un-level," Dr. Spitz continued, both schools were supposed to move to two levels this year and down to one eventually.

But what actually happened, Dr. Spitz explained, was Park now has one level and Terrill still has three levels in the language arts.

Mathematics is offered in two levels at both schools, Dr. Spitz said, and there is one level for science and social studies.

"We are struggling with this concept," Dr. Choye said of the level reductions.

About the discrepancy in levels at the two schools, Dr. Choye said, "It sounds like we're not reading from the same page."

Dr. Choye said she will be meeting with all language art teachers and middle school guidance counselors to "become more consistent."

Dr. Choye did say in recent conversations with teachers from both schools, those teachers justified the way leveling was handled in their own schools, insisting the needs of the students were being met in the best way possible.

There will be changes in the program of studies for the elementary and middle schools for next year, Dr. Spitz said, continuing a change in approach already approved by the board.

This practice involves listing proficiencies needed by the students, and then the teachers will decide how to meet those proficiencies.

"This will really spell out scope and sequence," Dr. Spitz said, adding the board will be approving the content standards for each grade.

The board also responded to a resident complaining about the condition of the property behind the Brunner School. Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Business, Richard J. Marshall, said he told the resident the property will be cleaned up and will now be checked once a week.

"We'll be a little more diligent," Mr. Marshall said.

The board's next meeting will be Thursday, April 25, at 8 p.m.

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council adopted its 1996 municipal budget of \$5,285,991 in a 4-3 vote last Thursday following a public hearing during which members reiterated their opposing views on the accompanying tax levy. Mayor, Mrs. Marianne S. Connelly, broke the tie vote as she did when the budget was introduced on March 14.

The budget, developed over the course of nine meetings, represents a 3.4 percent, or \$174,263, increase over last year, and a municipal increase of 12.6 tax points. A Fanwood resident whose home is assessed at \$83,000, the average assessed valuation in the borough, can expect a tax increase of \$105.08.

The governing body also approved an amendment to the budget reallocating \$1,000 in accordance with a state-mandated formula, a 1996 capital bond ordinance, and appropriation of funds from capital surplus for various projects.

Council members, while emphasizing there was much cooperation with each other as they hammered out the budget, were nonetheless at odds over whether or not to dip into surplus funds to lessen the tax point increase. This year's increase reflects a \$45,000 jump in pension payments and a significant rise in health insurance costs for municipal employees, coupled with a drop in state aid, officials said.

The governing body was divided along party lines as to whether greater use of surplus and deferring certain payments until next year would benefit the community. Republican council members maintained the proposal

would bring tax relief to residents now, but the Democrats feared it would only burden taxpayers next year.

The two perspectives were debated between Republican Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald and Democratic Council President Bruce H. Walsh. Councilman MacDonald argued that the governing body "could have lessened the impact," for example, by appropriating less money in the 1996 budget for pension payments, which, he said, are not due until July 1, 1997 and paying the balance later.

Councilman MacDonald also suggested annual raises for borough employees have, in recent years, been too high, though he called them "wonderful people who work very hard," and recommended salary increases represent "what people can afford" in terms of tax support from the community.

"Our differences were whether to 'bite the bullet' this year or not," remarked Councilman Walsh, who stated that further dipping into surplus would "digress from past practice" and possibly leave the borough in "a very, very precarious position" next year.

Democrat Councilwoman, Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz, also rejected what she termed a "quick fix" solution, and compared it to dipping into one's nest egg to cover current expenses.

The Council President also rebuffed Councilman MacDonald's assessment of borough employees' salary increases, maintaining that municipal staffers do "exemplary work for salaries lower than those in surrounding towns in similar jobs."

At the start of the meeting, John

Benton of the Warren Hills office of Prudential Insurance presided over a special recognition ceremony honoring members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad and Police Department who saved the life of a 72-year-old resident, Shalom Sorkin, who went into cardiac arrest on January 17.

The emergency response personnel resuscitated Mr. Sorkin through the use of a portable cardiac defibrillator which was purchased by the borough with a matching grant from Prudential's Helping Hearts Program.

Mr. Sorkin presented a special Helping Hearts pin to Corporal James Pasko and Patrolman Mark Gottlick of the Fanwood Police Department and Captain, Mrs. Susan Davis, and William Crosby and Robert Kruthers of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Squad member Earl Phillips, who was absent from last week's council meeting, was also cited for his participation in the rescue.

The group was also commended with poignant remarks by Mr. Sorkin's cousin, Dr. Mara Vekhnais, who recalled how after her relative was stricken, "I thought he was dead and you brought him back." A defibrillator restores the rhythm of the heart.

Each of the squad members, along with many of their colleagues, were also presented with certificates by Mayor Connelly and Rescue Squad Council Liaison, Dr. Chester A. Lindsey, honoring their years of service, as the mayor announced that May would be observed as Rescue Squad Month.

In another special tribute, Mayor Connelly led the governing body in remembering the late Walter J.

Murphy, a Fanwood resident for 22 years, with a resolution commending his professional achievements and active role in numerous local organizations.

Mr. Murphy, who served as Senior Vice President of American Telephone and Telegraph's Submarine Systems, Inc. of Morristown, died April 3 when an airplane carrying a trade delegation headed by United States Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, of which he was a member, crashed in the Balkans, killing all aboard.

Councilman Louis C. Jung described his long-time friend and neighbor as having been a "pillar of the community."

Several other resolutions were also approved by the governing body. Mrs. Joyce Carraway, Fanwood's Tax Collector for 14 years, was recognized upon her retirement last week. The Knights of Columbus were cited for their annual fund drive to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 26, 27 and 28, to benefit retarded citizens and those persons with learning disabilities.

The Lake Avenue Senior Citizen Housing facility, a soon-to-be-dedicated 110-room assisted living establishment, was also spotlighted with a council resolution.

Proclamations included National Volunteer Week, Sunday through Saturday, April 21 through 27; April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Thursday, May 2, as National Day of Prayer. It was also announced that the 1996 Clean Community Day will be held this Saturday, April 20, the seventh consecutive year this event has been held. The program is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy.

Volunteers are asked to participate in Clean Community Day, which will kick off at 8:30 a.m. on the south side of the Fanwood Train Station.



William A. Burke for The Times  
SAVING A LIFE...John Benton, second from left, of The Prudential presided over a recognition ceremony held prior to the Fanwood Borough Council's April 11 meeting for members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad and Police Department who were cited for saving the life of Shalom Sorkin, left. Honored were Captain, Mrs. Susan Davis; William Crosby and Robert Kruthers, all of the rescue squad, and Police Officer James Pasko. Not pictured but also honored was Officer Mark Gottlick. Please see story above for further details.

**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 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.