



SCOTCH PLAINS

OUR 37th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 20

 CHERRY HILL
 SCOTCH PLAINS
 1747 BELLEVUE AVE
 SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

THE TIMES

— Serving Scotch Plains and Fanwood Since 1959 —



FANWOOD

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS



COME TO THE FAIR... The School One Parent-Teacher Association's annual Daisy Fair will be held Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Admission will be free. Treasure-seekers will find a huge White Elephant sale. Home-baked goods, games, prizes and crafts like the Spin Art, shown here, will also be featured. School One is located on Willow Avenue in Scotch Plains. For information, please call Mrs. Jill Batau, 322-6429. The event is the school's largest fundraiser. Pictured are youngsters from last year's fair.

Former Scotch Plains Police Chief To Be Included on National Monument

Council Approves Re-Zoning of Area of Jerusalem Road for Multi-Dwellings

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains Chief of Police Robert A. Luce hosted the township's annual police awards ceremony at Tuesday's township council meeting. Mayor Alan M. Augustine issued a proclamation proclaiming this week as "Police Week" with yesterday, May 15, being designated Police Officer's Memorial Day.

On average, there are more than 65,000 assaults on police officers each year, resulting in some 23,000 injuries, according to the proclamation.

The most shocking figure of all, the Mayor noted, is that one officer is killed somewhere in America every 52 hours — which account for 166 police deaths each year.

On September 2, 1921, Scotch Plains Police Chief Florance O'Sullivan was killed while on duty in a motorcycle accident.

Chief O'Sullivan was on Springfield Road, now Route No. 22, near Lawrence Avenue in Mountainside, returning from Westfield Police Headquarters, when the motorcycle's tire blew out.

Chief O'Sullivan was thrown to the pavement, fracturing his skull. He died instantly.

He had begun his career as a public officer with the Plainfield Police Department. After two years there, he resigned to take the position of chief with Scotch Plains in July, 1916.

He had been chief for five years at the time of his death. Survived by a wife, Catherine and two children, Eleanor and John, Chief O'Sullivan was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Plainfield.

Police Lieutenant Jeffrey Ellis attended the National Police Memorial Service in Washington, D.C. to witness the inscribing of Chief

O'Sullivan's name on the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial.

Members of the former Chief's family were also in attendance.

During the awards ceremony, Officer William Irouando was awarded the Honorable Service Medal for the action he took in what looked like a potential hostage situation on November 11 of last year at Country Club Village. The Honorable Service Medal is awarded for "an act performed in the line of duty, which is unusual in nature, showing initiative and accomplishment," Chief Luce stated.

The Civilian Award for "dedicated service toward making Scotch Plains a safer community and more wholesome community" was given to Thomas Peterson. Mr. Peterson has been a member at the Police Athletic League since its inception in February of 1993, serving as a member at the Board of Directors.

"His spirit of cooperation and leadership have enhanced the efforts of the Police Athletic League as they reach out and establish meaningful relationships with our youngsters," said Chief Luce.

Mr. Peterson is a resident of Scotch Plains where he lives with his wife, Nancy, and his three sons, Thomas, 20, Scott, 15, and Gregory, 12.

He was a member of the Westfield High School class of 1968. He served four years in the United States Navy.

Mr. Peterson is employed in an executive capacity with Globe Fuel Company in Roselle.

Twenty-four letters of commendation were issued to department members for above-average achievement.

On hand to witness the ceremony and council meeting was Miss New Jersey Dena Quirben along with her

traveling companion, Mrs. Sally Johnston, wife of Councilman Robert E. Johnston. Miss Quirben's father is a retired New Jersey State Police Officer.

The council adopted an ordinance which rezones an area of Jerusalem Road for office and multi- and single-family homes and townhouses and condominiums, from industrial use.

The township, according to Councilman Johnston, intends to approve a plan to construct multi-family dwellings on the site which has been vacant for 10 years, next to the Scotch Plains Public Works yard and Scotch Hills Country Club.

The new zone will be a "transitional" one between the industrial zone and one zoned for residential uses, he said.

The Master Plan Re-examination Committee of the Planning Board targeted the site as in need of development, officials noted. The board has approved the project. The site was the focus of intense citizen outcry last year when Mayfair Supermarket sought to have the area zoned for a Foodtown Supermarket.

An ordinance was introduced to exclude trucks over four tons from Lake Avenue.

The council approved professional

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SENIOR HOUSING AT MANSION HOTEL TO INCLUDE GAZEBO

Fanwood Borough Council Lauds Four Police Officers for Skill, Heroism During Awards Program

Outgoing Recreation Commissioner Cited for Efforts; Thomas Scalera Appointed as Borough Fire Official

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Police Department was lauded last Thursday by the Borough Council as four officers received awards for law enforcement skill and heroism during the governing body's regular meeting. Presentations were made by Mayor Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly and Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti.

Patrolman Marc Gottlick and Patrolman Russell Yeager were recognized with Exceptional Duty Awards for their October 22 apprehension of a suspect in an attempted automobile theft. Officer Yeager, who was assaulted as the suspect resisted arrest, was also praised by the Mayor for "displaying restraint under a very stressful situation."

Officer Gottlick, and Corporal James Pasko were presented with Life Saving Awards commemorating their January 17 response to a 911 call during which they performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation upon a 72-year-old Fanwood man who had suffered a heart attack.

The victim, who recovered, was further aided by Fanwood Rescue Squad personnel who used a portable cardiac defibrillator to restore heart rhythm. The device was purchased by the borough with a matching grant from Prudential Insurance's Helping Hearts Program. The two officers, along with members of the rescue squad, were presented with Helping Heart pins during the council's April 11 meeting by the man they rescued.

Officers Gottlick and Yeager and Sergeant Edward White received Exceptional Service Awards for their April 29 investigation during a motor vehicle stop which led to the arrest of two suspects and yielded a cache of illegal drugs, money and weapons. Mayor Connelly cited the incident as illustrating "the importance of teamwork in law enforcement."

The Mayor also read a letter from Mrs. Sharon Zuber, a Fanwood resident and daughter of former Union County Clerk Walter G. Halpin, who thanked Chief Parenti for his leadership of "the finest police department and his commitment to the youth of Fanwood."

Mrs. Zuber, whose three daughters

attend McGinn School, commended the department for its community-oriented activities such as a recent slide-show presentation of Fanwood historic homes and safety lectures for Parent-Teacher Association gatherings. She also offered kudos to the department's "Stranger Danger" and Halloween safety awareness and "Adopt-A-Cop" programs which she maintained help foster a positive relationship between children and the police.

Outgoing Recreation Commissioner Mrs. Nancy Bantz was honored with the Jerry Boryea Award for her leadership in the renovation of LaGrande and Forest Road Parks. Thanking her commission colleagues and others who contributed to the parks project, Mrs. Bantz remarked she was "proud of the entire effort it took to realize the dream of two beautiful parks."

Several proclamations were also issued. Fanwood resident Christine Hoyer was honored for being the recipient of a Girl Scouts Gold Award, the highest award bestowed by the Girl Scouts of America, in recognition of her work collecting and distributing toys for children with cancer.

Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Rybitski was also cited for having inaugurated the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Council members proclaimed May 7 as National Teacher Day and supported the National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day, which was slated to be held last Saturday.

Resolutions were adopted endorsing music education as a discipline which "enhances the nation's cultural vitality;" in recognition of Fanwood student Jay Kalyanaram's recent achievement of a perfect 1,600 score on his Scholastic Aptitude Test, and one in memory of the late Mrs. Alice Gould. Mrs. Gould, who died January 25, had been a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade Committee.

The council announced the appointment of Thomas Scalera as Fanwood's Fire Official effective May 9 through Tuesday, December 31.

The council voted 3-2 in favor of a

resolution calling for continued funding for the New Jersey Historic Preservation Commission. Governor Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman's proposed 1997 budget contains no funding for the commission, and 10 staff positions are expected to be eliminated.

Councilwoman Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz, one of those who supported the resolution, argued the state commission sponsors programs and grants which aid local municipalities' historic preservation projects, adding funding "shouldn't have been slashed from the budget arbitrarily" without further study of the commission's contributions.

Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald, who opposed the resolution, said he felt a determination needed to be made of whether the commission's work justified state funding. He proposed the commission could be "reconstituted as a private agency" and supported through donations.

Mayor Connelly, throwing her support behind the resolution, remarked that "preserving our history is preserving our heritage and I don't think it can all be funded privately."

In her Building and Zoning Committee report, Councilwoman Schurtz reported the pending conversion of the Mansion Hotel on South Avenue into senior citizen housing includes plans to transform a portion of the parking lot into a "park-like area" with a gazebo, benches and landscaping. The facility, to be called The Chelsea, is owned by Roseland Property Co. of Roseland and will pay taxes in Fanwood, the councilwoman added.

Councilwoman Schurtz, who serves as Borough Council liaison to the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee, reported the committee is expected to meet later this month to develop a "request-for-proposal" of objectives for rejuvenating the borough's business district.

Committee members hope to turn the proposal into an "implementable plan," according to the councilwoman, which they can present to an expert consultant. Mrs. Schurtz added that the committee is aiming to have a solid plan in place by the end of the year.

Fact-Finder Enlisted to Help Settle Impasse In Contract Talks Between Teachers, Board

Daniel Brent to Be Introduced to Negotiation Committees This Wednesday, May 22

By JESSE FRIEDMAN
Specially Written for The Times

After no progress in mediations between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association and the district's Board of Education over a new contract, a fact-finder has been enlisted by the district to find a solution to the impasse.

The fact-finder, Daniel Brent, works for the state Public Employee Relations Committee. He will be introduced to the school board and union negotiation committees on Wednesday, May 22. After the initial meeting, he will investigate the differences and later make a recommendation

for a settlement, based on a fact sheet submitted by each side regarding their solutions to settle the dispute and his own observations.

The negotiation teams are not required to accept the fact-finder's solution; it is, however, the last step before additional steps become necessary.

The two committees have been unsuccessful in hammering out an agreement, and three mediation sessions have also produced no progress. An impasse was filed by the school board in September.

Four-hundred-twenty-seven teachers, aids and secretaries have been

working without a current contract since their expired on June 30 of last year, despite frequent meetings since January of last year. The two sides are unable to agree on salaries or benefits. The union is seeking a multi-year contract. Contracts agreed upon since 1991 have been for only two years each.

The district has so far averted a strike, keeping the teachers working under the previous contract. Teachers have not gone on strike since they did for two days in 1983. However, the union exercised their option to take Election Day as a holiday, something they have not done for over 20 years.

In addition, the union refused to

attend Back to School Night evenings, which provides parents a chance to meet their children's teachers and learn about their curriculum. They have also picketed school board offices to make their point more public.

In other board news, debate over the two-minute rule for public comments at board meetings continues. Two residents, Mrs. Janis Simberg and Mrs. Diane Cameron, of Scotch Plains and Fanwood respectively, voiced their opinions over the rule.

Mrs. Simberg, President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association Council, spoke in support of the two-minute rule, saying it gave people a chance to say what they wanted without "wasting time or rambling on." Mrs. Cameron, President of the Terrill School Parent-Teacher Association, backed up Mrs. Simberg's comments with more support for the time limit on comments.

The board also mentioned a pre-school program proposal which, if approved, would integrate physically handicapped students into regular classes. Handicapped children are currently in special education classes.

In addition, the board is working on approving a grant from the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse which is to be used for teacher staff development.

Approval of program studies changes are also being made by the board. According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye, there are "mostly minor changes." Some courses will be dropped for the 1997-1998 school year, due to lack of interest, she advised the board. Some courses will also be added to the curriculum.

Other student-related topics include an approval of creative summer workshops for interested students and extended school year placements for students who require education throughout the summer vacation.

Township Announces Bike Race Detours

Traffic in the Downtown Scotch Plains area will be detoured this Sunday, May 19, for the annual Freddie Spencer Memorial Bicycle Race. Township officials have announced.

The closure of the following roads will take place approximately at 9:30 a.m. and will remain closed until the races are concluded, around 3:30 p.m.

• Park Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Mountain Avenue and Church Street.

• Front Street and East Second Street will be closed at Willow Avenue.

• Westfield Avenue will be closed at Forest Road.

Local traffic will be permitted to

proceed beyond the police detour up to the closed race course, officials noted. Access to parking along these roads will be given to race participants, residents, church-goers, merchants and shoppers. Traffic will not be permitted on the race course at anytime.

Residents in the downtown area, officials advised, should use extra caution due to the alternate traffic patterns, especially those living on Mountain, Willow, Hunter, Madison, Church and Stout Avenues and Forest Road.

Residents along the race course are also advised that all vehicles must be cleared from the street by no later than 9:30 a.m.

Affected residents of Bartle Avenue, Forest Road, Grand Street, Park Avenue, Front Street, Flanders Avenue, East Second Street and Senger Place, "must not only move their vehicles off the streets, but out of the race course area" if they plan to use their vehicles during the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., officials emphasized. Vehicles left on the race course will be towed.

Race participants and shoppers should use the parking lots at Palmer Video, CVS Pharmacy and United Jersey Bank. Spectators should use the parking lot between the Scotch Plains Post Office and Park Middle School, or on-street parking around the periphery of the race course.

"With everyone's cooperation and patience we shall once again enjoy a very successful world class bicycle race in Scotch Plains," a Township spokesman said.

DEADLINES HELP PAPER SERVE YOU

Those preparing press releases for submission to *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.

Times releases also may be mailed 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.

EARTH DAY EVERYDAY... Shown from left, Jamie Pietrucha, Veronica De Los Santos, Collin Grimm and Matthew Graziano proudly hold up some of the projects they worked on in observance of Earth Day during their Title One Pre-Kindergarten classes at the Brunner School in Scotch Plains. The Brunner students pledged to do their best to help keep the Earth clean and beautiful. They crafted litter bags and made newspaper buddies as recycling reminders for their families. Each child painted his or her own version of the Earth. They also participated in several planting projects, growing forests of carrot tops, rooted potatoes and flowers.