



SCOTCH PLAINS

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FANWOOD

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AT ATTENTION...A military contingent from the Signal Corps stand at attention as the "Taps" is played during the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade on Monday.

Students' Academic Achievements Recognized by Board of Education

Dr. Choye Announces Retirements of District Teachers Effective July 1

By ALLISON TOTAMS

Students from Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools were recognized and commended for their academic achievements at the Board of Education public meeting on May 23. Board President Dr. Donald E. Sheldon and Vice President Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar were present to conduct the meeting.

Thirty-eight fifth-grade and 24 sixth-grade "Thinking Is Basic" students were honored for their accomplishments in the Knowledge Master Open Computerized Quiz Bowl competition. The Quiz Bowl is a nationwide computerized competition for all levels of education designed to test the knowledge, comprehension, application and analysis skills of the participants.

The fifth-grade team scored first in New Jersey and 28th out of 407 teams in the nation in January. They bettered their standings a few months later in March when they again placed first in the state and 12th out of 584 teams in the nation. The sixth-grade team also scored first in the state and third out of 541 teams in the nation in January. In March, they placed first in New Jersey and fourth in the nation out of 693 teams.

Both teams demonstrated knowledge of their respective curriculum in the areas of literature, science, art and music, history and geography.

current events and economics, health, law and government, mathematics and English, the board noted.

The Board of Education congratulated the fifth- and sixth-grade students and their advisors, Mrs. Patricia Noerr and Mrs. Carol Smith, and thanked them for bringing pride and recognition to the schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood communities.

Five Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students of the Class of 1996 were recognized for their academic merit at the meeting and congratulated by the Board of Education. Grace Chen placed first in the Class of 1996, upholding a seventh semester grade-point average of 6.1841. She obtained the title of Valedictorian of the graduating class. The title of Salutatorian was awarded to Charles Kiley, Jr., who accumulated a seventh semester grade-point average of 5.9968 and placed second in the senior class.

Charles also qualified as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, along with two classmates, Jane Yagi and Elizabeth Mattfield. To be a National Merit Scholarship Finalist is one of the most coveted honors that can be bestowed on a high school student. This award is shared by less than 1 percent of graduating seniors and is based on the student's academic record, leadership and contribution to the school

and community, a recommendation from school officials and the student's potential for future success.

Jay Kalyanaraman, also a senior, achieved a perfect score of 1,600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Out of the approximate one million students who took the test in 1996, Jay was one of the 32 students who achieved a perfect score.

The Superintendent's Report by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye held changes to be made in the 1997-1998 high school program of studies. Courses to be dropped include Probability and Statistics in the mathematics curricula and the entire Co-op Office Education Program. Three new courses to be added include Auto Sketch, Advanced Placement Government and Politics and Geometry in the Special Education Program. In Industrial and Technical Education, courses entitled Auto CAD I, Auto CAD III and Architectural Auto CAD IV will become semester courses.

In Dr. Choye's Personnel Report, retiring teachers were acknowledged for their years of dedication and contribution to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community.

She noted that Fred DeFeo retired

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GOVERNING BODY AMENDS PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

Fanwood Council Opts for Policy To Compensate Borough Workers For 26 Weeks in Cases of Injury

Borough Clerk to Serve as Personnel Manager; Council Opts Not to Relocate Circa 1888 Cabin

By SUZETTE STALKER

The Fanwood Borough Council reviewed and amended its Personnel Policy Manual for municipal employees during a special meeting last Thursday, covering a wide range of issues to be addressed in the revised handbook which officials anticipate will be completed by the summer.

The policy manual is a requirement for participation in the Suburban Joint Municipal Insurance Fund, a joint insurance pool which reduces the cost of insurance coverage for municipalities. Fanwood and Scotch Plains, along with five other area communities, have been members of the organization since its inception in 1993.

Among the categories outlined by Borough Attorney Dennis Estis were worker's compensation, sexual and other forms of harassment and confidentiality matters. He also discussed with the council the organization and availability of personnel files on borough employees.

Mr. Estis confirmed that Borough Clerk Mrs. Eleanor McGovern or her successor would serve as Personnel Officer, and that every municipal employee would have a file maintained with "reasonable confidentiality and privacy" in a central location at the Borough Hall.

Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti and Public Works Director Raymond Manfra would have complete files on all employees of their respective departments, as would Mrs. McGovern for the administrative staff. Mr. Estis reported. The Personnel Officer would have a duplicate copy of all employees' files.

The lengthiest discussion during council's review of the manual concerned appropriate compensation for municipal employees who become injured. Council President Bruce H. Walsh suggested the borough bolster worker's compensation payments with the balance of an employee's full salary for up to a year, with length of employment, job history and evaluation by a supervisor to be used as guidelines.

Others on the governing body, however, feared such a policy could pose a fiscal risk to the municipality. Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald said he felt the prospect of a year-long paid absence from work could lead to abuses, though Mr. Estis noted that worker's compensation claims must be verified and employees' progress checked.

Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., who also expressed reservations, remarked that "a year is a long time." He added that if several workers were injured at one time, the cost of maintaining them at full salary for a year plus paying their replacements could potentially bankrupt the borough.

"We have 2,400 households and they have to worry about paying taxes," he said.

The council subsequently opted for a policy whereby workers would be fully compensated for up to 26 weeks. Councilwoman Mrs. Karen M. Schurtz emphasized, however, that medical professionals would ultimately have to determine when an employee was fit to return to work.

During discussion of the borough's policy on sexual and other forms of harassment, Mr. Estis informed the board the New Jersey Supreme Court has mandated that if a municipality has no such policy in place it can be held liable for violations along with the individual offender.

The attorney recommended any violations of the borough's harassment policy be reported to the Borough Clerk or, if the person serving as Borough Clerk should ever be the subject of a complaint, then to the Mayor.

Councilman Populus, arguing that favoritism toward certain employees could undermine the policy, said he felt "the right of redress should not fall into the hands of one person." He added that regardless of who held either office, he did not approve of "either the Mayor or Borough Clerk being the final arbiter" in such cases.

Mr. Walsh also urged caution in determining how harassment complaints were handled since "a groundless charge with nothing to back it up" could potentially snowball into a personally or professionally embarrassing situation for the accused.

In response to these concerns, Mr. Estis recommended a policy whereby the Borough Clerk would confer with the Mayor regarding all allegations which, if they were deemed serious enough, would be brought before the governing body.

While the borough is required to have a policy addressing municipal workers with life-threatening illnesses including, but not limited to, AIDS and the HIV virus, Mr. Estis stated that confidentiality regarding an employee's medical condition would be upheld "to the maximum extent possible."

He agreed to exclude a paragraph from the manual allowing the Borough Clerk to determine what information could be obtained about an employee's medical condition after Mayor Mrs. Maryanne S. Connelly and others on the governing body decided this section of the policy was not written specifically enough.

Council members also touched on policies concerning equal employment opportunities, drug and alcohol abuse and sick days, among other topics.

In a separate Building and Zoning report, Mayor Connelly announced the governing body will not take any action toward relocating a 12-foot by 15-foot log cabin on private property on South Martine Avenue. The owners of the property are seeking to have the structure removed.

Officials, divided over the cabin's historical significance, recently retained a cultural resource survey firm to study the structure. Although the cabin, built in 1888, was featured at the Columbia Exposition held in Chicago in 1892, the evaluators concluded that it was not "architecturally significant" to New Jersey's cultural heritage.

School Funding Forum Subject of Meeting

The New Jersey Department of Education has proposed a new formula for financing public education that will have significant impact on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, a spokeswoman for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association Council announced this week.

To provide taxpayers with information on this funding plan, the council will sponsor a town-wide forum on Monday, June 10, at 8 p.m. in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Auditorium. Dr. Carol B. Choye, Superintendent of Schools, will speak about the effects of this funding plan on the district and answer questions from the audience.

All of the local legislators, Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco, Assemblymen Richard H. Bagger and Alan M. Augustine, have been invited to attend along with members of the local municipal government and the Board of Education.

The legislature is required to act on school funding by this September, the spokeswoman said.

All residents are urged to attend in order to be informed "on a topic that will affect every taxpayer in our towns," she said.

High School Host Return Of C-SPAN Motor Coach

Amy Fisher Awarded \$500 Scholarship During Ceremony

The C-SPAN Bus, a 45-foot motor coach and traveling television studio and media center, visited Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on May 28 from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The visit is sponsored by Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey as part of its "continuing commitment to education and public service," a Comcast spokesman said.

The bus, which first rolled into Scotch Plains in February, is back to honor one of the high school's seniors, Amy Fisher, a winner in C-SPAN's "First Vote" election promotion. Amy will receive a \$500 scholarship from C-SPAN and Comcast during a brief ceremony on the bus beginning at 8:30 a.m. Afterwards, a C-SPAN film crew will tape Amy

through her morning of classes, while students at the high school will receive tours of the bus and participate in special workshops delivered by C-SPAN representatives.

"Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey is pleased to welcome the bus back to our area, and extends congratulations to Amy Fisher on her scholarship," said Michael G. Schenker, Vice President and General Manager of Comcast, which is based in Union.

"We're proud to see that one of our local students was honored and recognized by C-SPAN," he added.

The bus provides teachers and students with a hands-on demonstration of C-SPAN and its coverage of the entire political process. Locally, customers of Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey can watch C-SPAN on Channel 37.

Comcast Cablevision is owned by Comcast Corporation, which is principally engaged in the development, management and operation of wired telecommunications including cable television and telephone services, wireless telecommunications including cellular, personal communications services and direct-to-home satellite television and content through principal ownership of QVC, an electronic retailer, and other programming investments, the spokesman said.

The company's consolidated and affiliated operations serve more than eight million customers worldwide. Comcast's Class A and Class A Special Common Stock are traded on the NASDAQ stock market under the symbols CMCSA and CMCSK, respectively.

Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad Seeks To 'Break Down Walls and Build Bridges'

Squad's Building, Uniforms and Ambulances Made Possible Through Donations

Emergency Medical Technician, EMT, by definition, is one who is trained in prehospital emergency care to sustain and improve the condition of any patient, a spokesman for the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad said.

All trained technicians, the members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad are residents who volunteer their time to answer the call for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The squad's building, uniforms, train-

ing, ambulances, supplies are all possible by the community's donations.

During the day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., available members respond to calls. Although just about every member holds a full-time job, the squad still answers, on average, 1,170 calls a year. Every evening from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., duty crews are at the squad building, the spokesman said. Then from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., night crews respond from their homes.

David Smith rides on the duty crew every Sunday as Crew Chief. Joining the squad in June of 1992, he also serves as an alternate delegate to the squad. He is a paramedic student at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. He works at the Bridgewater Sports Arena as a skateguard and medical trainer. He says he enjoys mountain climbing and plays ice hockey.

Jonathan Skutnik, a technician for

three years, joined the squad last June. He rides both on Sunday duty and night crews, on the Wednesday night crew and Friday duty crew. In his spare time he is a mathematics and religion teacher and volleyball coach at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen. Getting married in 1997, he said he enjoys playing drums, and volleyball.

Maureen Barry is currently a student at the University of Vermont. A member since July of 1992, she answers calls whenever back home in Scotch Plains. Throughout the summer she rides duty crew on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Jeff Frank, also a member since the summer of 1992, is a student at Bloomsburg University. His hobbies include computers, and he also rides Sunday evenings while home from college.

With the weekend over, the week just starts. Joanne Gurske, a member since May of 1990, is Crew Chief for the Monday Duty Crew as well as Sunday Night Crew. Holding the position of Second Lieutenant of the squad, she runs the cadet program as well as the Public Relations Committee. These are only some of her duties, as Mrs. Gurske is also a full-time elementary music teacher and gives private lessons at home. In the few moments left in her day, she likes cross stitching and needlework.

John A. Villas, a member since 1990, also rides on the Monday duty crew. He serves on the squad's Membership Committee and served as Lieutenant. He works as an insurance claims supervisor. Jerry Handsman, a member since 1992, works full time in the software business riding Mon-

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ON DUTY...The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, Monday Duty Crew, left to right, includes: Robert Gurske, Mrs. Joanne Gurske, John Villas, Mrs. Sharon Kuta and Jerry Handsman.

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.