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THE TIMES

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FANWOOD

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REAL LIFE...Students in Mrs. Michele Mottley's second-grade class at the McGinn School in Scotch Plains culminated their study of biographies by presenting a wax museum in the school media center. The children read biographies of famous people from various walks of life. They dressed up as that person and prepared summaries of their lives. Students from other grades visited the museum and were instructed to push a button to activate the wax figures. As the figures came to life, they shared interesting facts about their lives.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS DONATION OF PUMPER TO TIJUANA, MEXICO

Scotch Plains Council Receives Report From Assessments Unit for Improvements

Bills for Work on Ridgewood and Morse Avenues, Cushing Road to Be Mailed Next Month; Southside Firehouse to Host 'Wetdown' August 17

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Township Council at its June 12 meeting acknowledged receipt of reports of the recently convened Board of Assessments.

A public hearing of the board was held June 4 with respect to the following capital improvements:

- Sanitary sewer to service three homes on Cushing Road and one on Terrill Road.
- Grant block curbing for Ridgewood Avenue.
- Sanitary sewer for a small portion of Morse Avenue.

Board members present were Thomas Doyle and Ms. Lynn Tanguy. Mr. Doyle served as Chairman. Dennis Harrington and Joseph Timko of the

Engineering Department were present, as well as Mrs. Marie Davis, the board secretary.

The municipality and its professional staff were in constant communication with the impacted property owners before, during and after the projects were completed, township officials told the council.

The special assessments were confirmed in first reading by the council and bills to those affected property owners will go out sometime in July, Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins said.

The council has kept its promise made at the last public meeting and has referred the matter of secondary structures to the planning board. The council had unanimously adopted the

planning board's recommendation to prohibit certain limited retail uses as a conditional use in the "B-1" zone.

Mayor Alan M. Augustine and the council said they need some additional help regarding other possible requirements that could be needed for secondary structures.

In addition to side-yard requirements, lot coverage is a criteria to be considered under the zoning ordinance when a property owner might wish to build or put up a secondary structure, officials explained.

Based upon some recent developments, council members said additional criteria along with side yard and total lot coverage should possibly be taken into consideration.

The whole issue of secondary structures caused such a controversy at the last public meeting when residents of the Arrowood Drive section turned out to voice their disapproval.

In other business, a resolution was approved to cancel a performance guarantee for the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and returning a cash portion of the guarantee in the amount of \$37,961 and the release of maintenance guarantee at the end of a two-year period.

The council also introduced an ordinance establishing fees collected for a township zoning ordinance and map. The council introduced an ordinance regarding storm water management.

A resolution was approved appointing the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign contracts for the cultural arts programs.

An ordinance was approved setting salary ranges for municipal employees.

The Southside Firehouse will host a "Task Force Wetdown" as the Scotch Plains Fire Department celebrates the acquisition of its two new pumps and the refurbishment of its 75-foot aerial scope.

The firehouse is located at the corner of Raritan Road and Martine Avenue. The event will begin on Saturday, August 17, at noon and end at 6 p.m., rain or shine. There will be

activities for children and food and beverages.

The fire department is looking into donating its retired 1975 Mark pumper to the fire department of Tijuana, Mexico. The City of Tijuana is a rather depressed area, officials noted.

Their fire department is made up of several stations with "very limited" capabilities due to the lack of motorized equipment, officials explained. One particular station has seven vehicles of which only two are road worthy.

There is a group of retired firefighters who have moved to Southern California and formed an association. They volunteer their time to go to Tijuana and help out.

They also have the support of the San Diego Fire Department. Scotch Plains Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis has recommended that the township pass a resolution selling this vehicle to Tijuana for the sum of \$1, similar to the action taken when the township sold a fire truck to Igonish, Nova Scotia.

Scotch Plains' contract with Suburban Cablevision will expire on June 27, 1999, officials told council members Tuesday. Negotiations with Suburban will commence shortly. Suburban Cablevision presently has an exclusive cable contract with Scotch Plains. If the residents of Scotch Plains are not satisfied with any aspect of their cable service, they are advised to contact the township, officials advised.

Two resolutions were passed by the governing body. One congratulated the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chapter of the Junior State of America on being named "Chapter of the Year."

The second commended Sister Percy Lee Hart and Sister Mary Raymond for their "outstanding leadership and dedication" for making Union Catholic Regional High School an "active" part of Scotch Plains.

Lastly, Mayor Augustine appointed Al Steinberg to the Technical Advisory Committee.

Borough Council Adopts Resolution To Seek Reinstatement of Funds for State Historic Unit

Adoption of Personnel Policy Manual Sparks Tense Discussion Among Governing Body Members

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Seeking to preserve the many programs which celebrate New Jersey's heritage, the Fanwood Borough Council last Thursday adopted a resolution calling for the reinstatement of funding for the state's Historic Preservation Commission. No appropriations for the commission are included in Governor Christine Todd Whitman's proposed budget for the 1997 fiscal year.

The resolution was tabled during the council's June 5 agenda meeting. Officials had recently debated, as they did again last week, over whether the commission's role was significant enough to warrant continued state funding. The council ultimately supported it with a 5-1 vote, with Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald the lone dissenter.

Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz cited the commission's sponsorship of such endeavors as the New Jersey Legacy film series for high school students and the Afro-American History Program, as well as public programs like the annual conference and the Institute Program at the State Museum, in support of continued funding.

"It's not just about preserving historic homes," she said.

The commission also provides workshops and materials for teachers, and produces at least two "in-depth" publications annually, according to the councilwoman, reading from the resolution.

In addition, she observed that the loss of the Historical Commission budget and its 10-member staff would "effectively eliminate" the Grants in Aid Program which she said benefits local historical organizations, museums, public libraries and individual researchers.

Council President Bruce H. Walsh supported the resolution by arguing that historic buildings in places like Trenton, Elizabeth and Morristown "would be parking lots or high rise buildings by now" if not for state historic preservation efforts.

It was noted during the discussion that if the historic Preservation Commission were disbanded due to lack of funds, New Jersey would be the only one of the 13 original states not to have a commission to coordinate these types of programs.

Councilman MacDonald, who earlier proposed that the commission could be privately funded, countered

that "we can not be all things to all people" in terms of state budget allocations.

"Cuts have to be made. Sometimes they aren't nice. Sometimes they can be painful," he stated.

The governing body's adoption later that evening of its Personnel Policy Manual sparked an even more tense discussion surrounding the borough's equal employment opportunity policy which, in accordance with state law, prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, handicap or sexual orientation.

Councilman MacDonald protested the inclusion of sexual orientation among those categories, saying approval of the manual with this provision forced him to violate his religious beliefs protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Councilman Walsh dismissed Councilman MacDonald's charge, arguing that to say the defense of an individual's right to work was a violation of another person's First Amendment rights was "a stretch I think very few people would want to make."

Councilman Louis C. Jung noted that even if it was not illegal, a policy which excluded individuals based on sexual orientation would be virtually impossible to enforce. He added that without this provision included in the policy manual, people who were refused employment or terminated for other reasons might file a discrimination lawsuit against the borough, charging it was because of their sexual orientation.

The Personnel Policy Manual was approved, as submitted, with the appropriate amendments to the borough's personnel ordinance expected to be adopted by early August, according to Borough Attorney Dennis Estis. Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti and Department of Public Works Director Raymond Manfra are also scheduled to discuss one policy aspect, Mr. Estis confirmed.

During one portion of the meeting devoted to public comment, Daniel Valentino of 220 North Martine Avenue presented a petition signed by

10 neighbors of an orthodontist whose office is located on North Martine Avenue. Neighbors claim traffic created by the practice is creating safety hazards for area residents and particularly children walking to and from school along nearby Montrose Avenue which has no sidewalks.

Mr. Valentino explained the petition was drawn up because the orthodontist reportedly plans to apply for permission to expand his practice to include his son, which neighbors feel will only exacerbate the traffic situation in their area. They do not believe the physician's reported plans to increase the parking area for his office would provide significant relief, according to Mr. Valentino.

In other news, Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly claimed June 12 through June 17 as Respect for Law Week and presented a proclamation to Lieutenant Donald Domanoski of the Fanwood Police Department in recognition of his having been honored

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Technology Director Explains Three-Year Plan for District

Under Proposal Students Will Learn Same Material in Less Time

By MELISSA FLEMING
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education discussed the upcoming plans for technology in depth at its public meeting on June 13. Director of Instituting Technology Jeffery Ross presented a comprehensive outline of the proposed plan that would take place over the next three years.

Mr. Ross said that the need for improving technology is beneficial for the business world. He stated, "A well-educated child is a resource from which we can all benefit."

The plan calls for two major goals. The first is that every teacher must have a minimal level of technology proficiency. The second is to insure that youngsters get an appropriate and equal education with regards to technology.

Currently, at the intermediate school level a course in Information Technology has replaced a class in typing. A major concern expressed by board members was the repercussions of adding in computer and technology classes. Members questioned what classes would have time taken away from them by adding technology as a requirement for students.

Mr. Ross explained that rather than taking away from classes, in theory, the plan would provide additional time for subjects. For instance, students could research a project for English in their computer period. Or, in the mathematics classes, they could learn how to plot graphs using a computer program.

In essence, students would learn the same material, and technological ways to apply it, in a shorter amount

of time, he told the board. For the future, Mr. Ross said he would like to see more electives added to the high school curriculum. Some ideas are constructing a class in which students learn how to post documents on the Web. A class project could be to research a topic of interest and then design a Web page that provides viewers with information on the student's topic.

A further review of funding will be done before any decisions are made on the technology plan, school officials said. A formal board endorsement of the plan and vote will be held at the next public meeting.

In other business, Superintendent of Schools Carol B. Choye stated in her opening comments that the State Department of Education's Best Practice/Star School Program has honored the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School program "Rainbow of Reality Program."

The group, sponsored by Students Learning About Multi-Culturism (SLAM), was recognized as the 1996 Best Practice in Citizenship and Tolerance.

The group set out to show the destructive impact of racism and discrimination by organizing a school-wide activity. Senior Lesley Cooper designed the program under the direction of Health Teacher Ms. Sandy King, Media Specialist James Tuttle and Assistant Principal Manuel Cancella.

Students at the high school were randomly given a colored ribbon to wear which symbolized their class. Students and teachers were told how to treat each color, and facilities such as water fountains and bathrooms were designated for use by only certain colors.

Following this day-long activity, students gathered in groups and assemblies to discuss how they were treated during the day and how their views on discrimination were affected.

The next public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, at 8 p.m. in the administration office located in the Evergreen School in Scotch Plains.

Doctor Surrenders After Threatening His Family

Man Holds Wife and Two Daughters at Gunpoint

After holding his wife and two daughters at gunpoint for some 20 minutes Sunday morning, a 64-year-old Scotch Plains doctor surrendered to police without incident.

Published reports indicated the man, Dr. Manuel Lopez of Cushing Road, had threatened to kill his family with the unregistered .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver. A police negotiator, however, was able to convince Lopez to surrender peacefully by dropping the weapon and backing out of the house.

Lopez was being held in lieu of \$15,000 bond at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center after being transferred from the Union County Jail. The man is said to have terminal cancer, his wife told police.

The incident began around 10 a.m. when police received a 911 call from one of Lopez's daughters. Scotch Plains and Plainfield police responded to the scene while Scotch Plains Police Officer Warren Sockwell called Lopez while working the front desk at the police station.

According to reports, Lopez's daughters were visiting from Wichita, Kansas on Father's Day. The daughters locked themselves in a bedroom while Lopez's wife fled the house. During the standoff, Officer Sockwell tried to calm the man and convince him the police were there to help him.

It was reported that Lopez had told police his attorney had been working on his will which, they said, indicated he was about to make an important decision in his life.

Lopez was granted a temporary restraining order following the incident by Judge Jeffrey Grechman who was filling in for Municipal Judge Joseph Perfilio. A hearing on a permanent restraining order is expected to be held within a week before a Superior Court judge in Elizabeth.

Lopez received his state license to practice medicine in 1969, a spokesman for the state Division of Con-

sumer Affairs said. He has a general practice in Rahway.

He was charged with aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, making terroristic threats, pointing a firearm at another person and illegal possession of a firearm.

Two Sides in Dispute Await Final Decision From State Factfinder

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association President Mrs. Barbara McGuane has reported that a fact-finding session was held between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the association on June 7, by a Public Employees Relations Committee Factfinder David Brent from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The parties of the present contract dispute presented their positions with documentation on the outstanding issues dividing them.

A factfinder's report and recommendations are expected no earlier than 30 days hence. Factfinding, Mrs. McGuane explained, is a non-binding procedure and does not guarantee a settlement.

"Scotch Plains-Fanwood is the only district in Union County without a contract settlement and would be the only district in the history of the county to begin a second school year without a settlement with its employees," she emphasized.

At a contract unit meeting for teachers, secretaries, and aides held on May 30, association members resoundingly approved the following empowerment motion:

"The association authorizes the executive committee and the negotiating team to take any and all actions it deems necessary up to and including the withholding of all services."

"It is our hope that the difference between the parties can be resolved before September and that the withholding of all services can be avoided," said Mrs. McGuane.



SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER...Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Teen Leaders Club are shown taking a break during the car wash and bake fundraiser they held recently to raise money for the Jamaica YMCA whole building was destroyed in a recent fire. Pictured, left to right, are: Chris Wetlesen, Jen Curran, Charlie Rows, Gary Ogunyeni, Chris Karelus, Michael Clinkewicz, and Ms. Sylvia Ruiz. Please see story on page 11.