



SCOTCH PLAINS

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**JERSEY FRESH...** Customers fill up bags of fresh produce during the Scotch Plains farmer's market held June 29. All of the produce is from New Jersey farms. The township's markets are held Saturday mornings at the municipal parking lot on Park Avenue. The markets will be held continuously through October.

### State Board of Public Utilities Approves Elizabethtown Rate Hike

Residential Water Bills to Rise, on Average, by \$13 Per Quarter

The State Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has approved a 20 percent rate hike for Elizabethtown Water Co. which, according to press accounts, equates to a \$13 per quarter for the average homeowner served by the company. The rate hike totals \$21.8 million.

Elizabethtown, based on Westfield, has sought the increase to cover the expense for its new \$112 million treatment plant in Franklin Township in Somerset County. The facility is slated to open Thursday, August 1. The new plant, company officials have stated, is needed to meet clean water requirements as well as to service a growing area which includes an increase of some 31,000 additional customers in five counties including Union.

The water utility had sought a gradual rate hike several years ago but was denied by the BPU which said Elizabethtown was in good financial standing and thus did not

warrant the increase. The company, though, was invited to come back before the board with a new request once the facility was constructed.

The original request was for a hike of 29.6 percent. That increase was later scaled back by a state administrative law judge. Several communities, including Scotch Plains, had retained Analytic Resources, Inc., of Wall Township, to fight the proposed increase.

Democratic Assemblyman Reed Gusciora of Princeton introduced a bill last month to force Elizabethtown to justify that the treatment plant is necessary and direct the firm to consider other alternatives.

Elizabethtown officials have maintained that their current Raritan-Millston water treatment plant in Bridgewater was in a flood plain. The plant was constructed in 1931.

The company has said the new rate was necessary to meet projected in-

creases in residential water use. Also cited in its request was ground water contamination which has forced the closing of several of Elizabeth's wells.

Company officials also cited federal regulations which place limitations on the production capacity of its existing 65-year-old Raritan-Millston plant.

Scotch Plains was the only Union County community that paid the \$4,000 fee to retain the services of Analytic.

### MR. SARIDAKI CALLS PARTS OF TEXT INAPPROPRIATE

## Board of Education Approves New English Textbook, 5-1, Following Debate by Members

Bus Contracts Awarded for New School Year; Board Recognizes Three Retiring Teachers

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specialty Writer for The Times

A new English textbook for high school seniors was approved with a 5 to 1 vote last Thursday by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, following a debate among members as to whether its content was entirely appropriate for young adults.

"World Literature," published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, was recently endorsed by a committee of five teachers from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School English Department. The committee, headed by Mrs. Pamela Perka, Superintendent of Language Arts, approved it as an instructional text for English IV, a required course.

It is expected to be in use at the high school by September, officials said.

The extensive anthology contains works by some of the world's literary masters, from ancient civilizations through the 20th century. Among the offerings are early Greek and Egyptian writings, Biblical narratives and Native-American folklore, according to Dr. Faith Spitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the district.

The book was selected over eight others reviewed by the committee, as the one best meeting the district's criteria. This criteria calls for the instructional material to be "sensitive to the diversity and commonality of different cultures," to promote awareness of "the interconnectedness of the contemporary world" and to "ex-

pose students to some of the great masters," Dr. Spitz explained.

Although it was rated as excellent by the committee, board member Edward J. Saridaki, Jr. felt the text's treatment of diverse religious viewpoints was not appropriate for high school students.

Mr. Saridaki, though he also characterized the book as "an outstanding text," took exception to passages which he alleged presented Biblical stories and those of other religions as fiction. He argued that this was not the proper format for educating students about cultural diversity.

Mr. Saridaki, the father of a student who will be a high school senior in several years, also expressed concern that students would not always be able to maintain their objectivity when presented with an array of religious philosophies, and could possibly be influenced by the content of the book.

Other members of the board, however, supported "World Literature" as an effective educational tool. Morris H. "Butch" Gillet, noting that "early literature is mostly founded in religion," maintained high school seniors are "young adults who know how to think for themselves and form their own opinions" and would benefit from a sampling of literature from all around the world.

Richard R. Meade stated that while varying religious viewpoints should be presented "neither as historical fact nor as fiction," the diversity rep-

resented the book would help prepare students to respect different opinions and beliefs.

"This is the kind of complexity they'll be facing in life," he said.

"I was very impressed with the book," remarked Dr. Donald E. Sheldon, board President.

"I was rather surprised by the depth and treatment. To me, it's a college-level anthology, not a high school-level anthology," he stated.

He concurred with Mr. Gillet that high school seniors, just one year away from leaving home for college, were capable of forming their own opinions concerning the varying religious viewpoints presented in the book.

Mr. Saridaki disagreed, saying he knew of people now in their 40s who are "still recovering" from having joined religious sects in their student days.

In response, August Ruggiero proposed that it was "healthy" for students to be exposed to diverse viewpoints during their senior year of high school "and are still in the context of their parents' home" where they can receive guidance and support while increasing their knowledge.

"I think it's important that we have the variety in points of view presented to students," he offered.

The board also approved the awarding of contracts for typical transportation routes for the Barker Bus Company and the Vogel Bus Company for transportation of students to public

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## Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation Marks 30th Anniversary by Awarding \$52,650

Since 1967, Foundation Has Presented 828 Scholarships Totaling \$567,670

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation celebrated 30 years of continuous scholarship assistance to local students on June 14 at All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. The foundation was established on June 6, 1966, and began with a donation of \$2,000 from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Parent-Teacher Association.

In 1967 they made their first award of four scholarships totaling \$1,200. This year the 15 members of the Board of Trustees presented 62 scholarships with a total value of \$52,650 to 40 high school students and 12 college students, a foundation spokeswoman said. Foundation President Ms. Ellie Kramps announced that throughout their history of service to young people, the foundation has made available 828 scholarships with a total value of \$567,670.

The organization is currently managing the monies and doing the administrative work for 15 funds in addition to their own, as well as handling the administrative work for 18 established flow-through funds.

This year a committee of 14 screeners representing eight local schools, as well as the Service League and the foundation, evaluated a total of 92 applications. The applicants were awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, extra-curricular and community activities, future promise, as well as the individual need for financial assistance in procuring a college education as stipulated in the requirements for the awarding of particular scholarships, the spokeswoman noted.

The organization gave 14 Dollars for Students awards totaling \$12,000 with monies received through the donations from the communities through an annual mailing, as well as solicitations from the annual Dollars for Students Day. This year's recipients were: Jennifer DelRoio, Amy Fisher, Kristina Kurek, Anthony Adinolfi, Michelle Ferrara, Andrew McCulley, Danielle Tinervia, Maureen Zupkus, George L'Heureux, Colleen Brennan, Ruth Ann Levins and Elizabeth Brix.

R. Colin Carter, for the second time, was the recipient of a \$1,000 Henry Schweiring Scholarship from the foundation and Michelle Knoller was the recipient of the fifth annual award in the amount of \$1,000 in memory of Ms. Camille Flatthamm.

The second Robert Adams, Jr. Memorial Scholarship of \$500 was presented to Dorrit Blakeslee. John Brzozowski was

the recipient of the 23rd \$500 Elizabeth Becker Memorial Scholarship. The 14th Joyce and Leonard Bergman Memorial Scholarship was presented to Clara Marie Foley, while the Besson Family Memorial Scholarships were presented for the fifth year and the recipients of \$500 each were Karen Squires and Brian Roll.

For 12 years, the foundation has presented the Henry Bluhm and Francis Dezort Memorial Scholarship valued at \$1,000, and this year it was presented to Heather Johdos. Charles Kiley was the recipient of the Jeannette Britton Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000. The Frances Brody Memorial Scholarship for \$500 given to a student pursuing a career in music was selected to be Christina Mantos.

Among the many scholarships that the

foundation administers are the Mountainside Elks Lodge No. 1585 scholarships. Two awards were presented for \$500 each to Kate Eisenbarth and Scott Amory. Regina Giordano was the second recipient of the \$500 Dr. George Esposito Memorial Scholarship. The third Scotch Plains Volunteer Firefighters Association Scholarship for \$1,000 was presented to Kristy Statue.

In terms of scholarships in memory of former teachers, the Irene Grubman Memorial Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$500 to Carolyn Phillips. Also included were the second Doris Koues Memorial Scholarships to nursing students awarding \$500 to Sarah Simpson, \$1,000 to Marisa Giordano and \$1,000 to Shanda Johnson. The second Deane

Kumpf Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 was received by Ginny Rutkowski.

This is the first year that the David J. Mills Memorial Scholarship has been given to a high school student. For the past two years, scholarships have been given to middle school students to study the arts during the summer, but this year the Mills family determined to honor their son, David, by awarding \$1,000 to a student pursuing a career in the arts. The recipient was John Brzozowski.

Two \$1,000 Oren and E. Lila Hilligass Memorial Scholarships were given for the first time to Jane Yagi and to George Peter Danilides. These awards were made possible by a recent bequest to the foundation.

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### Township Concert Series Starts Wednesday, July 11

The 17th Annual Village Green Summer Series, "Musical Mix for Summer '96," kicks-off this Wednesday, July 11, with the Polka sounds of Gene Mendalski and the G-Men.

The concert series, which will continue with the First Class Act playing music of the 1950s and 1960s on July 18.

The concerts are held on the Village Green, located adjacent to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the Westfield High School auditorium on Westfield Road.

In concert on Thursday, August 1, will be the country music group, the Tim Gillis Band. Attendees should bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.

For more information, please call 322-6700, extension No. 220.



**DEPARTING TRUSTEES...** Mrs. Helen Boguszewski, second from left, and Mrs. Bonnie Oatis, third from left, retired from the Board of Trustees of the Fanwood Memorial Library, are pictured at last month's meeting where they were honored as department library trustees. Mrs. Oatis has served since 1993 as board secretary and was a member of the Search Committee for a new Children's Librarian last year. Mrs. Boguszewski served as liaison to Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district as well as a regular trustee. She was Vice President of the board and served from 1990 to 1996. Also pictured are Stephen Clark, Library Board President, and Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly.



**NEW BROWNIES...** McGinn School Daisy Girl Scout Troop No. 640 advanced to the Brownie level at a bridging ceremony held on Flag Day, June 14, at the stone bridge in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield. Pictured, left to right, are: Top row, Gaby Young, Kathryn Albanese-Demair, Francesca Lumetta and Annie Smith; bottom row, Jayne Dzuback, Rheana Rien, Molly and Emily Meehan.

Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day