

# THE TIMES

of

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood



OUR 37th YEAR - ISSU

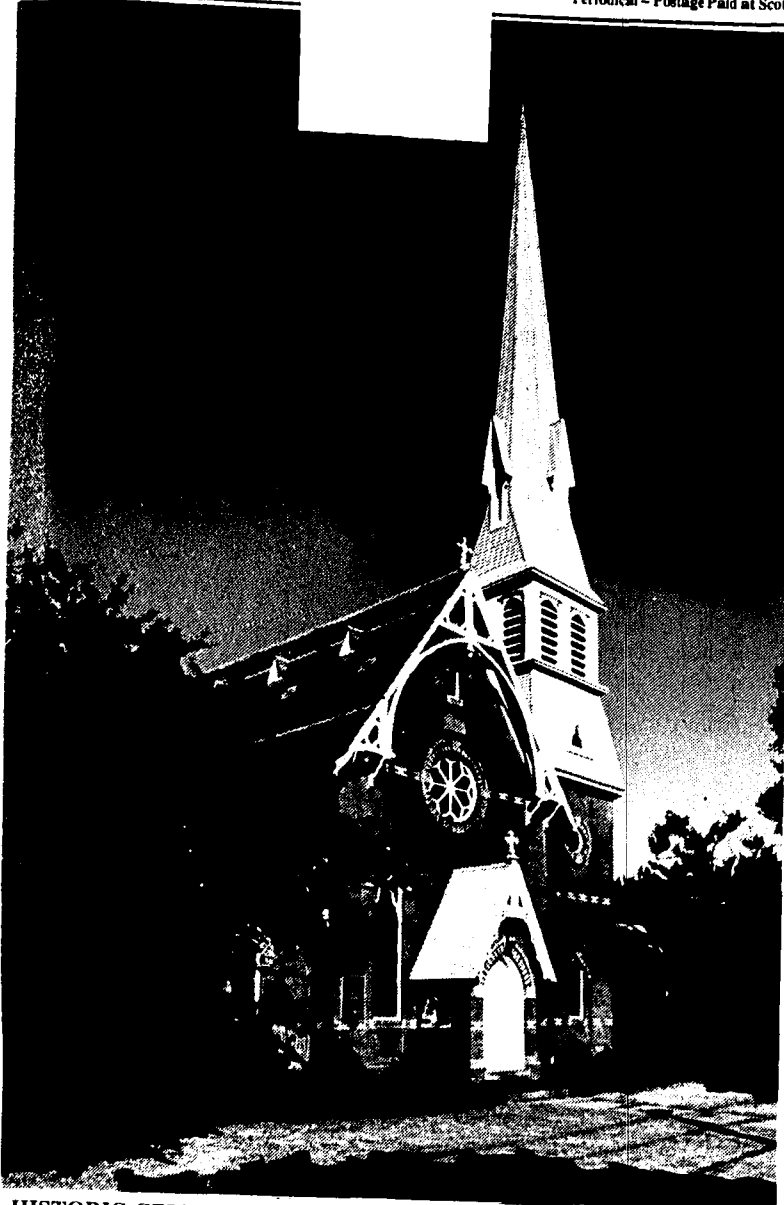
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**HISTORIC CELEBRATION...**The Scotch Plains Baptist Church, 333 Park Avenue, will celebrate its 250th anniversary next year. Special events have been planned for the milestone. Photographs and church memorabilia are being sought to be displayed during the church's banquet next year.

### Township's Baptist Church Plans 250th Anniversary

The Scotch Plains Baptist Church will be celebrating its 250th anniversary in 1997. In preparation of this milestone, church officials said, they are looking for past church members and friends who might want to join them in the time of celebration and fellowship.

A few events have been planned with more still in the planning stages.

To kick off the year-long celebration will be a performance by the Christian singing group, The Continentals, at the church on Sunday, October 20. Special commemorative crafts and artifacts will be available at the "Women in Focus" Bazaar to be held at the church on Saturday, November 2.

The actual date of the anniversary is Tuesday, August 5, 1997 with special observances planned, but the week-long celebration will take place in October during the week of the 12th to 19th.

Famed speaker Dr. Tony Campolo will present the sermon on Saturday,

October 12 at the traditional worship service at 11 a.m., with an additional service in the afternoon.

In a recent change, the church has added a second service at 8:15 a.m. with more contemporary music and praise by "The Rivers in the Desert" Worship Team.

The anniversary banquet will be held on Monday, October 18, at the Chanticleer Chateau in Watchung with Dr. Manfred Brauch, President of the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, as the featured speaker.

The church is seeking any pictures or memorabilia which will be displayed at the banquet. Persons with pictures are asked to contact the church before Friday, September 20. Those who would like to attend any of the functions should call the church at 322-5487 and leave a message for additional information on the anniversary.

The church is located at 333 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

### Board Announces Itinerary For Health Day Program

The Fanwood Board of Health has announced that it will conduct a Health Day on Saturday, September 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Fanwood Municipal Building, 75 North Martine Avenue in Fanwood.

The Health Program will offer an extensive blood screening, consisting of a SMAC 26, CBC and an HDL. Medical Laboratory of West Orange will conduct the blood testing.

#### 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.

The SMAC 26 is an elaborate blood analysis monitoring several bodily functions. The CBC test is a test including a red blood cell count, a white blood cell count and differential count. The CBC test may indicate the presence of infection, anemia, allergies, lung disease, etc. The HDL test measures factors protective against coronary heart disease. The SMAC 26 is used in assessing total cholesterol results, to determine possible coronary risk factors.

Robert M. Sherr, Director of Health, has noted that anyone taking the blood test must fast 12 hours prior, with the exception of water.

Pre-registration for the blood test is mandatory and will be conducted by the Westfield Health Department, 425 East Broad Street in Westfield, beginning Tuesday, September 3, for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration deadline is Friday, September 13, subject to program capacity. The cost of the SMAC 26 test is \$16. The following tests can be performed for additional costs: T4 (thyroxine test), \$5; TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone), \$10; PSA (prostate test), \$30, and Blood Group/Rh Factor, \$10. All fees must be paid at the time of registration.

The Health Day will offer a Blood Pressure Program. Hemocult test kits will be available to test for occult blood in the gastrointestinal tract. Test packets and dietary restrictions will be distributed at the Health Program.

Residents should note that the program is subject to cancellation, unless a minimum participation of 25 is achieved. The Health Day is open to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Westfield, Roselle Park and Springfield.

## District Gears Up for New School Year Despite Prospect of Strike If Contract Settlement Not Reached By Board Union

*Negotiating Teams Were Scheduled to Meet Last Night to Discuss Fact-Finder's Report in Hopes of Reaching Agreement Before Start of 1996-1997 School Year*

Although the possibility of a strike by members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association continued to loom this week, preparations continued for the opening of schools on Wednesday, September 4. Approximately 4,300 students will return for the start of the 1996-1997 school year, according to a statement released by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye.

Negotiation teams for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the union, which represents about 427 teachers, secretaries and aides, were expected to meet last night, August 28, to discuss the state fact-finders report which was received last week, in an effort to reach a contract settlement before the opening of schools.

The labor dispute, which has left the school district as the only one in Union County without a contract, primarily involves salaries and benefits. Fact-finder Daniel Brent of the state Public Employee Relations Committee (PERC) was assigned to the negotiations after the two sides failed to reach an agreement with the intervention of the state mediator.

The district still hopes for a normal school opening with a full complement of staff, but in the absence of a contract with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association after months of negotiating, plans have been made to open schools under strike conditions. In published sources, according to SPFEA President Barbara McGuane, the district's

teachers voted in June to "withhold all services" — strike — if a settlement was not reached. The report of the state-appointed fact-finder, due by July 7, was not received in the district until August 20.

"Under the circumstances, we have no choice but to plan for a teacher strike during the opening days of school," Dr. Choye stated. "Instruction will commence using substitute teachers but our first priority will be to maintain a safe environment for all our students."

In the event of a strike, schools will open with single-session days on September 4, 5 and 6. Morning sessions of Kindergarten will begin at 8:35 and end at 10:25 a.m. Afternoon Kindergarten will start at 10:45 a.m. and conclude at 12:35 p.m. All students in grades 1 through 12 will begin school at their usual times and conclude after the required 240 minutes of instruction. There will be no pre-school classes. Parents of inclusion students will be contacted directly by Special Education Supervisor Suzanne Flannery.

Lunch will not be served and parents are advised to provide a snack from home if necessary.

Practice sessions for fall sports will be held as scheduled under the direction of adjunct coaches.

Should a work stoppage persist, parents, students and the community will be advised about plans for future school days via phone chains, newspaper releases, TV-34 and radio stations WOR-710, WERA-1590,

WKBM-1070 and 101.5 FM. A telephone "hot line" at 232-6161 will provide a taped message regarding the status of negotiations.

The new school year will be marked by several significant changes in personnel, among them the departure of Dr. Faith Spitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, after three years with the district. The long-time educator and administrator will become the new Superintendent of Schools in Readington Township in Hunterdon County on Sunday, September 1.

Serving as Assistant Superintendent during the interim until Dr. Spitz's permanent successor is named will be Frederick DeFeo, who recently retired after having served as district Mathematics Supervisor and Assistant Principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

On Tuesday, August 27, the Board of Education named Ronald Upperman as the new Assistant Principal of the high school, effective October 1, replacing Charles Wilkins, who has retired. Mrs. Patricia Boland will succeed Manuel Cancellia as Social Studies Supervisor, with the latter having now assumed the duties of Assistant Principal at the high school.

In addition, an estimated 30 new professional staff members spanning all grade levels will be welcomed on board.

District buildings have undergone only minor renovations during the

summer, although a large amphitheater-type area within Terrill Middle School was recently converted into two single-level classrooms. Automation of the media centers at Coles and Evergreen Schools is expected to be completed during the upcoming year.

The Board of Education has also announced its chief priorities for this year as outlined in the Strategic Plan for the district.

They include continuing development of district-wide standards for all subject areas; curriculum and cyclical review of language arts and library media programs, and the continuation of planning and integrated curriculum units at the Kindergarten level and in social studies and language arts programs in grades 9 and 10.

The Information Technologies Program at the middle schools, which combined academic content with technology, will be refined and instructional technologies courses in grades 9 through 12 modified in order to enhance program continuity and provide an easier transition for middle school students to the high school curriculum.

The district's Assessment Task Force is expected to continue reviewing assessment techniques based on input by teachers and initiatives already utilized by other school districts. Standard Aptitude Test initiatives are among those which are earmarked for development.

District staff development will focus during the school year on science and mathematics in grades 3, 4 and 5, as well as reading in the content areas at all grade levels and technology. The district middle and high school computer labs will be available to the community on selected dates during the school year, with the schedule to be announced.

The Board of Education is currently seeking members of the community to serve on three action teams which will be working during the school year.

The "Community School" action team will study prospective expansion of course offerings and enrichment programs for all age levels "during and beyond the regular school day and year," according to the Superintendent's statement.

The "Summer Read" action team will be charged with developing summer reading incentive programs and with evaluating the feasibility of opening district media centers during the summer.

The third action team will focus on "Community Learning Centers," studying educational opportunities and activities at locations around the communities other than the schools.

Anyone interested in joining one of the action teams should please call the Board of Education office at 232-6161, Extension No. 16 or 42.

## Committee Announces Fundraiser For Upgraded Bulletproof Vests

*Merchants and Others Asked to Donate to Campaign*

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for *The Times*

A group of Fanwood businessmen are planning an appeal to more than 50 of their fellow merchants this fall in hopes of raising \$12,000 to upgrade bullet-proof vests for the Fanwood Police Department. The campaign, which was first held in the late 1980s, will be launched this time in conjunction with the borough's celebration of "Fanny Wood Day" on Saturday, September 28.

The festival, to be held in the center of Fanwood on Martine and South Avenues, will commemorate Fanwood's heritage and community spirit. Area merchants are planning sidewalk sales, and arts and crafts vendors will be selling their wares as well. Food, games and family entertainment will also be featured at the event.

Members of the Citizens Committee of Fanwood who are coordinating the fundraiser include Peter Chemidlin, an investment counselor with Family Investors; Michael Gasseti, co-owner of Irma's Hallmark; Thomas Keiser, president of Memorial Funeral Home and Neil Schembre, a certified public accountant with an office at the corner of North and Martine Avenues.

Family Investors President Frederick Chemidlin, one of the founders of the original campaign to provide protective vests for the Police Department, said the committee was planning to send letters to local businesses and approximately 20 service organizations, among them the Fanwood Lions Club, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and the Fanwood Women's Club, asking for their support.

The company president recalled the previous campaign as "very successful," reporting that they had a very positive response from members of the community. "We raised enough to provide vests for all the officers. I think we had 150 contributors, which was very good."

Peter Chemidlin, Frederick's son, added the committee and members of the police department will be available to speak to service groups and to demonstrate the vests, which cost between \$700 and \$800 each. An appeal is also expected to be made to Fanwood residents, according to the investment counselor.

Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti praised the committee this week for their past efforts, as well as for their upcoming campaign, noting "they're a volunteer group, and they've done an excellent job. They usually exceed their goal." He reported that any funds left over after the purchase of the vests are

used to buy supplementary gear to "benefit or enhance the safety of police on the streets."

Although Fanwood police officers generally do not confront violent crime within borough borders, Chief Parenti observed that the vests and other protective equipment are necessary in the event Fanwood officers are faced with a dangerous situation either locally or while assisting other police departments during potentially volatile situations.

The chief recalled that during an atmosphere of civil unrest in several neighboring communities approximately eight years ago, "we didn't know if we'd be called in, and when we went down to inspect our tactical gear, we realized we needed new helmets. Now, you just couldn't jump up and get 21 helmets, and the fund really came through for us."

"I think the key in Fanwood is you hope they never have to use the vests but in case they do, it's good that they

have them," Frederick Chemidlin concurred.

Weighing about 3 1/2 pounds, each vest can hold a removable two-pound armor plate, the police chief explained. The Citizens Committee hopes to upgrade vests for the Fanwood Police Department's 23 members, including 21 sworn officers and two special officers.

The special officers, Chief Parenti noted, generally assume such duties as prolonged traffic situations; parade routes and other large events; surveillance assignments lasting several hours or days at a time and supplementary patrols - all of which allow regular officers to perform the primary functions of the police department.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fundraiser can make checks payable to the Fanwood Bulletproof Vest Fund, and addressed to the Citizens Committee for the Fanwood Bulletproof Vest Fund, P.O. Box 100, Fanwood, 07023.



**ONCE-A-YEAR...**On the evening of August 22, Fanwood's Mayor Maryanne S. Connolly was the guest of Terrill Road residents Steve and Cecily Stansen to observe the once-a-year blossoming of their Night Blooming Cereus plant. This year, there were two blossoms on this particular plant, which was propagated by Gung Yoo from Parker Greenhouses in Scotch Plains in 1992. The flowers appear only once a year and the blossoming process can be observed as they progress to full bloom, only to wither and die in two hours' time.