



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

of

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

OUR 37th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 39

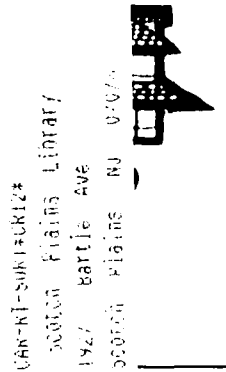
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AGREEMENT WITH TCG ON CABLE OPTICS MAY BEN

Township Council Agrees to Move Ahead On Upgrade of Sewer Station Pumpers; Cable Television Committee to Be Created

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specials Writer for The Westfield Leader

At a conference meeting Tuesday night, the Scotch Plains Township Council was told by its legal counsel, Ms. Judith A. Babinski that Teleport Communications New York, the company that asked for 10-year right-of-ways to township public roads for fiber optics cable installation, wants to meet with council members next week.

Teleport Communications, known as TCG, all but had an ordinance allowing them the right-of-ways to install 96-strand cables along five township streets, when the council acted on the advice of a newly-created Technology Advisory Committee and withdrew the ordinance. Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr., who had moved to withdraw the ordinance, said the council needed more time to study the issue.

Ms. Babinski said she spoke to TCG's lawyers and they sounded positive. The Technology Advisory Committee has indicated that the township may benefit from an agreement with TCG, in exchange for the right-of-ways.

In other action, the council agreed to move ahead with plans to upgrade four township sewerage pumping stations by looking into a bond issue for the proposed \$1.5 million project. Referring to the study for the proposed work by consulting engineers Killam Associates, Councilwoman Joan Papan said, "I like the plan. I thought it was good."

Referring to the plans to upgrade, Mayor Alan M. Augustine said, "We've got to do it."

Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins said the plan called for "parallel sewer lines" where new pipes are installed next to old ones, instead of replacing them. Older sewer lines continue to serve as back-up to the new, and it is less expensive to install, he said.

In other business, the council observed the September 5 passing into New Jersey State law of a 1996 mandate relief act, authored in part by Mayor and State Assemblyman Augustine. The law addresses at least 15 different issues that return a greater measure of "home rule" to municipalities, according to William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

This is the second such act passed in 14 months, officials said.

"We've been begging for this kind of thing," said Councilman McClintock. Several of the measures will save the township money, according to Mr. Atkins. Public contracts can be awarded for up to 24 months, reducing the frequency of the bidding process for continued services. Municipal budgets for some towns will be reviewed by the state every third year, instead of every year. The dog census will become a bi-annual event, instead of an annual requirement.

Another measure allows municipalities to appropriate 26.25 percent of the previous year's appropriations, on a temporary basis, pending budget adoption, instead of 25 percent. Refunds from Joint Insurance Funds (JIF) may be appropriated before actual receipt of the funds.

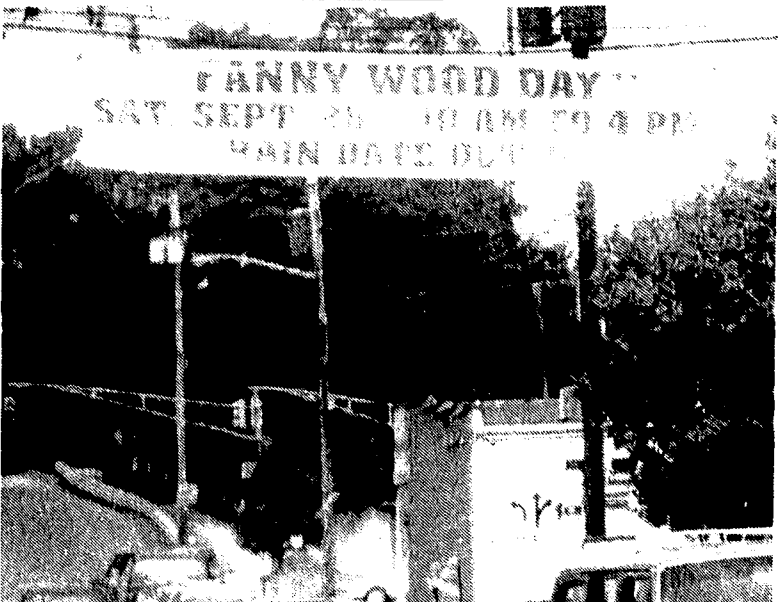
Other measures allow municipalities to designate their own traffic ordinances without prior state approval and allow police officers to act as crossing guards.

Mr. Augustine said work has already begun on a similar mandate relief act for 1997.

In other business, the council agreed the township will participate in a study by the Suburban Municipal JIF, to consider creating a Health Insurance Fund (HIF). The township recently agreed to a three-year health insurance policy with CIGNA. The JIF 1997 budget will be revealed in October, Mr. Atkins said.

In a separate move, the council decided to create a Cable Television Franchise Committee. Councilwoman Papan, who will be on the committee, along with another council member, recommended a nine-member committee.

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FANNY WOOD DAY SATURDAY... The first Fanny Wood Day will be celebrated this Saturday, September 28, in Fanwood. This banner announcing the event hangs over Martine Avenue. Activities for children and adults will be featured.

First Annual 'Fanny Wood Day' Set For Saturday From 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specials Writer for The Times

An array of exhibits, food and activities will fill the center of Fanwood on Saturday, September 28, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the community holds its first annual "Fanny Wood Day" celebration along Martine and South Avenues and at the south side Fanwood train station. The rain date for the event is the following Saturday, October 5.

Visitors will be welcomed to the festival, which will be closed to vehicular traffic, by approximately 25 local merchants displaying arts and crafts, refreshments and other wares; performers offering entertainment for all ages, and members of the Fanwood Police and Fire Departments and the Rescue Squad, who will present information and demonstrations.

"It's nice to have family fun events in Fanwood, and this is an opportunity for people to come downtown to shop, eat and have fun," remarked Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, who conceived the idea for "Fanny Wood Day" as both a show of community spirit and a way to promote the borough's current campaign to revitalize the downtown.

"Everyone has been working on this to ensure a successful day," the mayor continued, noting that the Fanny Wood Day Committee, made up of approximately 10 people, represents local government, businesses and residents, all contributing their time and talents toward a common objective.

"Our ultimate goal is to develop relationships and enhance communication within the community," she said.

In addition to merchants' exhibits, the "Fanny Wood Day" itinerary will feature such family-oriented activities as a pie-baking contest sponsored by the Fanwood Junior Women's Club at 11 a.m. and a noon concert by the Celebration Singers of Cranford.

Free raffle drawings will also be held at noon and 3 p.m., with the top prizes being a two-night cruise aboard Dolphin Cruise Lines, courtesy of Village Travel on South Avenue, and dinners for two at Terraces at Trackside Restaurant, compliments of the Meadowlands.

For the children, there will be clowns and face painting between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; a moon walk ride between 10 a.m. and noon; "Balloonation" hats made between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; a petting zoo between noon and 3 p.m., and hay rides between 1 and 4 p.m., with a special visit by Elvis the Pig. Tee-shirts and games will also be part of the fun.

There will also be educational exhibits such as a pictorial presentation by Burgdorff Realtors on South Avenue of fire hydrants in Fanwood which were painted last year in honor of Fanwood's centennial, and several municipal departments and volunteer organizations will have booths at the festival from which they will provide health and safety information.

The Fanwood Police Department, in conjunction with the Union County Sheriff's Office, will present its child identification system using video identification and fingerprinting of youngsters. The Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department will offer fire prevention and safety tips, and the Fanwood Rescue Squad will sponsor a health information booth featuring advice on such topics as nutrition and accident prevention. New Jersey Transit is also scheduled to have a mobile command center at the event.

In addition the Citizens Committee of Fanwood, a group of local businessmen, is expected to have a display promoting their effort to raise the \$12,000 needed to update bulletproof vests for the Fanwood Police Department. The committee is seeking support from fellow merchants and professionals, service organiza-

tions and community residents in raising funds for the vests, which cost between \$700 and \$800 each.

The Fanny Wood Day Committee, which includes the mayor, Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti and Department of Public Works Raymond Manfra, along with local merchants, professionals and residents, is hoping the event will boost business in the downtown by acquainting patrons with the various commercial establishments which comprise the business district.

"What we're trying to do is connect them, to let everyone know who's in the area," explained committee member Neil Schenbre, a certified public accountant with an office at the corner of North and Martine Avenues. He said the organizers' goals are to "promote the downtown, to focus on what's available and bring a presence to the downtown area."

Mr. Schenbre commented that people traveling through the borough may not be aware of all the different shops which make up Fanwood's downtown, adding that the committee hopes "Fanny Wood Day" will give them a closer look at the individual stores.

"We're trying to create more of an atmosphere of strolling in a promenade-type area," he observed. "Hopefully, it will create more of an awareness among the residents and get them to patronize the downtown."

The mayor acknowledged all revenue generated by the festival will be directed back toward efforts to

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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. Press 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.

Township Council Cites 26-Year Police Officers

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specials Writer for The Times

In the wake of Police Chief Thomas O'Brien's rise through the ranks of Scotch Plains' finest, the Township Council recognized, Tuesday night, two more police officers promoted within the department, Captains Marshall Nelson and Joseph Protasiewicz.

Both are 26-year veterans of the township police force, officials noted. Mayor Alan M. Augustine, who indicated he had known the officers throughout his tenure in public office, said, "You've been model police officers. You are representative of what police officers should be."

Introducing the officers, Chief O'Brien said Captain Nelson had been Supervisor of the Detective Division since 1988, and is now Commander of the Patrol Division, a post left vacant by Chief O'Brien's own move. Chief O'Brien said Captain Protasiewicz, known as "Joe Pro" to fellow officers, had been in the Patrol Division his entire career, becoming a Training Officer, then Property and Records Clerk and eventually playing an integral role in the writing and reworking of department policies.

Both officers expressed thanks to the community, fellow officers and family for their support.

In other business, the council passed three ordinances and introduced several others.

An adopted traffic ordinance eliminates stopping or standing on both sides of Sunrise Court and the north side of Evergreen Avenue on school

days between 8 and 9 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Another ordinance adopted clarifies zoning code "conditional uses" by removing from the conditional use category a group of establishments, such as, martial arts studios, gymnastic schools, fitness centers, dance studios and schools, performing arts centers and art schools.

A third ordinance passed Tuesday night, makes it possible for a charitable group such as the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield to hold a raffle on Sunday, November 10, with appropriate licensing.

Coming up for a vote at the Tuesday, October 8, council meeting is a Township Code of Ethics ordinance, proposed by the Township Ethical Standards Board. The new code would supersede the old ordinance, according to township attorney.

The proposed code, which deals with financial disclosure requirements for township employees and officials, won the approval of the Local Finance Board of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in April. The code also deals with conflict of interests and ethical conduct for public officials during employment and one year after.

Under the code, the Ethical Standards Board has the power to hear complaints and enforce the code. The board can mete out penalties in the form of fines and recommendations for discipline or removal of officials, according to the code.

At its next meeting, the council

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SHOW STOPPERS... Ashbrook Activities Department members (from left) Ms. Betty Jo Hornung of Scotch Plains, Ms. Kathleen Burke of South River, Ms. Anne Engelhardt of Bridgewater, Ms. Judy Pannichone of Bridgewater and Ms. Patricia Ray (not pictured) of Scotch Plains sing to the Andrew Sisters' "The Doodle-Doogie Boogie" during a recent Ashbrook talent show. This semi-annual event featured Ashbrook residents, staff and volunteers showing off a variety of talents, including singing, dancing, poetry reading and guitar playing. "It's not how much talent you have, but how you present it," joked Ms. Ray, Ashbrook's Recreation Director. Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, located in Scotch Plains, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

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Orthodontist Receives Variance To Add Son to Fanwood Practice

Parking Recommendations to Be Referred to Fanwood Borough Council

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specials Writer for The Times

The Fanwood Board of Adjustment gave the green light September 19 to a use variance application by Dr. Francis and Mrs. Mary Ann Besson of Watchung for the addition of a professional to Dr. Besson's orthodontist practice at 232 North Martine Avenue, and also approved submitting a plan to the Borough Council designed to ease parking conditions on the street.

Dr. Besson sought permission to have his son, Frank Besson, who lives in Fanwood and recently completed his orthodontic residency, join him professionally in order to begin a gradual transition of the practice from father to son. He also successfully appealed for continuation of a waiver on off-street parking requirements which had been granted in November of 1970 as part of his original variance for mixed use of the property.

The board voted five-to-one in favor of granting the new variance, with the provision that when the elder Dr. Besson retires, the status of the property will revert back to use by only one professional. They also voted five-to-one in favor of recommending the parking plan, prepared by the Fanwood Police Department, to the Fanwood Borough Council.

Board member Edward Ryan, the lone dissenter, told *The Times* afterwards he voted against both because Dr. Besson's original application had only been for a single professional on the site, adding that no provisions had been made in connection with the new application to compensate

for a deficiency of three or four on-site parking spaces.

Dr. Besson testified during the board's first public hearing on the matter July 18 that his original variance had allowed two professionals to practice on the site but that he opted not to have a shared practice because it would have required him to install a paved parking lot for patient cars, which he did not feel would be aesthetically pleasing to his neighbors.

During the conclusion of the hearing last Thursday, Michael B. Blacker, the Scotch Plains attorney representing Dr. Besson, reiterated arguments that the addition of a second professional would not, as some neighbors feared, intensify use of the property. The combined residential and professional dwelling houses a rented upstairs apartment and ground-floor office space with five dental chairs.

Several neighbors expressed concern during the July hearing that a shared practice would increase patient volume and aggravate existing parking problems on North Martine and nearby Montrose Avenues. Mrs. Jenny Wagner, who lives at 220 North Martine Avenue, across the street from Dr. Besson's office, testified at the time that patient cars were contributing to difficulty she was experiencing entering and exiting her driveway.

Mr. Blacker confirmed, as he did in July, that the size and arrangement of the office would not change with the addition of Dr. Besson's son to the practice. He argued that because the number of dental chairs

would also remain the same, there was no anticipated increase in patient load and no need to lift the existing parking waiver.

The attorney also maintained that because orthodontic work is different from general dentistry and typically involves children, appointments are usually scheduled during daytime hours rather than evening. He said Dr. Besson's office hours also do not begin before 7:45 a.m., adding that orthodontists also do not generally experience walk-in traffic.

In response to recent traffic and parking concerns from neighbors, Patrolman Richard Trigo, Traffic Safety Officer for the Fanwood Police Department, presented to the Board of Adjustment an illustration of proposed changes which the department feels would create a more orderly parking situation in the area. The diagram was based on a survey of the vicinity done by Officer Trigo in June as part of his duties as Traffic Safety Officer.

Officer Trigo outlined several proposed improvements, among them using paint to define three parking spaces on Montrose Avenue as an indication to people of where they can park, and prohibiting parking between 220 North Martine Avenue and 8 Montrose Avenue, which would require approval by the Borough Council through passage of an ordinance.

Since the space available for parking between the two properties measures only 17.2 feet, larger vehicles can not park there without infringing onto both driveways, according to the officer. He noted that even smaller vehicles could cause visibility problems for residents entering and leaving their driveways.

Officer Trigo emphasized that Dr. Besson's plans for a second professional on the site would not have an adverse effect on the parking situation on North Martine and Montrose Avenues. He explained that there were a number of contributing factors besides cars belonging to the orthodontist's patients, among them parents who park their vehicles in the vicinity while escorting their children to nearby Park Middle School.

"There is a legitimate concern there," Officer Trigo remarked, adding that the neighbors have a parking problem regardless of whether or not Dr. Besson adds a second professional to his practice. "It's something you can't gauge but it does exist."

Mark Edelman, who lives at 8 Montrose Avenue, testified "my main concern, as a property owner across the street, is that his property should retain its semi-residential character." Saying he feared the property would one day be developed for more intense use, Mr. Edelman urged that the addition of a professional be limited to Dr. Besson's son and that the orthodontist not be required to have a