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OFFICIALS CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR RENOVATING BOROUGH HALL

Council Reviews Architect's Report on Space Availability For Government Operations

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly and the Fanwood Borough Council held a special public meeting Tuesday to discuss a study of space availability recently conducted by an architectural firm to determine whether and how space in various borough buildings could be used more effectively for municipal government operations.

Paul Dennis, Director of Architecture for Michael Zensky Architects and Planners of Westfield, presented findings and recommendations based on the study which he performed last spring, and addressed questions about space use which were submitted afterwards by the governing body. He said the goal of the study was to assess how existing borough facilities could either be renovated or expanded for additional space.

During the study, Mr. Dennis said he visited Borough Hall, including the Police and Fire Departments and the adjacent Carriage House building; the Community House, the Department of Public Works Building and the Fanwood Memorial Library, to determine how these locations were utilized and where additional space could be provided.

A determination was made of how each municipal department worked, how many people occupied each office and how many employees were sharing desks, according to Mr. Dennis, who subsequently prepared a "list of deficiencies" in space availability.

The architect stated the borough had "almost maximized" its space, adding it was difficult to ascertain how much space was needed per employee because their work area requirements differed according to their positions. He said the borough engineer, for example, required about twice as much space as a clerk would, because of the former's filing and equipment needs.

Two alternatives for increasing space at Borough Hall were outlined by the architect that evening, one of which calls for the existing offices of the tax collector and the building inspector to be extended

by renovating the front of the building to create a wrap-around enclosed front porch.

The second proposal, which Mr. Dennis projected would provide the greatest amount of new space in the most cost effective manner, involves construction of a two-story, 20-foot-wide addition onto Borough Hall between that building and the Carriage House. He said the expansion would provide 1,300 square feet of additional space.

These renovations would also allow for the creation of a second stairwell leading directly from Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern's office to the Borough Council chambers downstairs. The existing stairwell between the two floors is only accessible through the Police Department.

Mr. Dennis is expected to report to Mrs. McGovern by the end of the week on the cost of these alternatives, as well as the cost of replacing the deteriorating roof on the Carriage House. The ground floor of the Carriage House is currently used by the Philathalians, a local theatrical group, for their performances, sets and accessories.

Officials had discussed possibly using either the second floor of the Carriage House or the Public Works Building on North Avenue for additional storage space for files normally kept at Borough Hall. They anticipated relocating the files could free up space for a conference room to be used for Municipal Court purposes or when other meetings may need to be held.

Mr. Dennis advised, however, that the upper floor of the Carriage House, built in the nineteenth century, was not sturdy enough to support heavy filing cabinets, and added that renovation costs could be "excessive." He acknowledged the first floor could be used for storage, but Mayor Connelly questioned "why would we take a historic building and use it for storage?"

The architect said his study revealed that the Department of Public Works building was adequate for the needs of that department, noting that while additional file storage space could be provided at that location, "it would be relatively expensive" for the borough. Mrs. McGovern ob-

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Judge Delays Decision Regarding Dog Attacks

Owner Has Yet to Comply With Court Order to Tattoo Animals

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

Nearly seven months after two dogs reportedly attacked and killed a Scotch Plains township resident's pet dog and mauled another dog, the owner of the dogs has not yet complied with a court order to contain and tattoo the animals, after a township judge declared both dogs "potentially dangerous" in May.

Garden State Kennels in Stirling, who was holding the husky mixed-breed dogs under the court order, admitted to Municipal Judge Joseph P. Perfilio Monday night to releasing the two dogs for one month to the owner, Fanwood resident William Barnes.

A lawyer for Mr. Barnes, John DeMassi, said the dogs were released to his client only for "a couple of days" in order to get distemper shots. The dogs are now in the kennel, according to Garden State Kennels. Judge Perfilio indicated he would consider levying a contempt of court order against both Garden State Kennels and Mr. Barnes.

Judge Perfilio subpoenaed Garden State Kennels to appear in court last Monday after they did not appear at a September 16 court session to explain the illegal release of the dogs.

Court officials said complaints from several residents alerted the township that the dogs had been released. Judge Perfilio said Garden State Kennels employees previously testified that the dogs had killed yet another dog while in the kennel. Peter Pellissier of Garden State Kennels denied knowledge of such an event.

Mr. Barnes testified Monday in

Scotch Plains Township Municipal Court that he originally agreed to have the two dogs euthanized. Mr. Pellissier said Mr. Barnes did not pay in advance for the procedure and the dogs were not destroyed. He said Mr. Barnes then began to regularly visit the dogs.

Mr. Barnes was fined \$725 after pleading guilty in the dog attacks of March 8 at Jerusalem Road and Malcolm Place, court officials said.

Mrs. Sharon Weichert, who also lives on Jerusalem Road where the attacks took place and owns the dog which was mauled that day, said she wants Mr. Barnes fined \$1,000 a day for violation of the "dangerous dog" law.

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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.

Times releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076 to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the week-end 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.



CLOWNING AROUND...Megan Shultz, 5; Gina Pelosi, 4, and Chantel Quesada, 5, prepare to have their faces altered by Mrs. Randi Hersh as Adam Hersh and Ms. Marjorie Deas, the clown, look on during last Saturday's Fanny Wood Day. In Fanwood, Mr. Hersh is the Executive Director of The Chelsea Assisted Living at Fanwood located in the former Mansion Hotel at 295 South Avenue. Ms. Deas is the Director of Community Relations for The Chelsea.

'Fanny Wood' Draws 8,000

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

She may just be a legend according to history, but "Fanny Wood" received a warm welcome home last Saturday as about 8,000 people turned out for the borough's first annual "Fanny Wood Day" celebration, which was held along Marine and South Avenues as a tribute to Fanwood's heritage and the community's efforts to revitalize its downtown area.

The festival drew approximately 60 vendors from Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield and other neighboring communities, offering merchandise ranging from arts and crafts, jewelry and hand-knitted items to homemade wooden toys, gifts and balloons. Nearly 50 local merchants also displayed their wares, and there was plenty of food for visitors to sample as well.

"It was extremely successful," remarked Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, who conceived the idea for "Fanny Wood Day" earlier this year, and who participated in the festivities, along with other current and former members of the borough's governing body. "We received very positive comments from residents, merchants and vendors."

"Fanny Wood Day," named for a mythical character who has become a part of local folklore, was created as a way for Fanwood residents and others to get acquainted and enjoy traditional festival activities while helping to attract business to the downtown, which faces competition from malls and larger retailers along Route 22.

"It made people more aware of the businesses in the downtown, helped improve relationships among merchants and provided an opportunity for people to get together," Mayor Connelly commented, regarding how she felt the celebration benefited the overall plan to give the business district an economic boost. "We're already planning for our second 'Fanny Wood Day.'"

Among the most popular events during the celebration, which lasted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., was the making of "ballooning" hats for the children; a petting zoo and hay rides on real bales of hay, according to the Mayor. Various games and souvenirs also contributed to the lively atmosphere of the festival.

In addition, clowns were on hand to entertain youngsters, and Long Term Care Management Company of Roseland, which manages the Chelsea at Fanwood, sponsored face painting. The Chelsea, an assisted living facility, is being developed within the Mansion Hotel building at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mayor Connelly apologized to festival-goers who were disappointed that the moon walk ride, which she said many youngsters had been looking forward to, was canceled due to a mechanical problem.

Other highlights of the day included an hour-long performance by the Celebration Singers of Cranford; a pie baking contest sponsored by the Fanwood Junior Women's Club, and an appearance by "Fanny Wood" herself, represented by a member of the Philathalian drama group dressed in a typical Victorian-era fashion.

There were also several raffish drawings held. Prizes included a two-night cruise aboard Dolphin Cruise Lines, courtesy of Village Travel on South Avenue, and two dinners for two at El Estancia at Trackside Restaurant, compliments of The Meadowlands. Scotchwood Florist on South Avenue also lent a special touch to the

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FANNY WOOD...Ms. Carole McGee, A.K.A. Fanny Wood, stands proudly as Brigid Marinaro and Allan Gershenson relax and smile. All are members of the Philathalians Community Theatre of Fanwood.

Technology Advancements to Boost Service to Fanwood Library Patrons

CD ROM Computers Expected to Be in Place by Late Fall

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Memorial Library is expected to begin computerizing its services before the end of the year, Library President Steven Clark confirmed this week, through the introduction of CD ROMs as the first phase of a long-range project designed to revolutionize the facility.

Plans for bringing technology to the library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, were developed by a Technology Task Force which includes Mr. Clark, Library Director Bruce Buckmaster; Ms. Lynda Suarez, a member of the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees; Mrs. Lisa Hayes, a member of the Friends of the Fanwood Library, and Children's Librarian Susan Staub.

Created last December, the Technology Task Force spent the winter and spring of this year "helping to define what the technological needs of the library would be and what the other libraries in the area were providing," according to Mr. Clark. Fanwood Borough Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly's liaison to the library's Board of Trustees, while not a member of the Task Force herself, also sat in on technology meetings.

The task force also investigated available sources of funding to supplement a \$30,000 bequest to the library from the late Miss Mary Galt, a longtime teacher with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, which Mr. Clark said served as the "seed money" for the project. The Borough Council in February allocated an additional \$25,000 in its municipal budget to help the library's technology initiatives.

The library also successfully competed for a \$6,848 grant from the New Jersey Department of Education, which was awarded earlier this year for multimedia audio and visual services. Mr. Clark explained this grant will be used to purchase two

computers with CD ROM capabilities, one for the adult section of the library and one for the children's area.

The library was also the recipient of a second, non-competitive state grant whereby the state will match funds raised by the library up to \$2,500, and the Friends of the Fanwood Library have offered an additional \$5,000 generated through fundraisers such as the book sale sponsored by the Friends which was held last Saturday at the library in conjunction with the borough's "Fanny Wood Day" celebration.

In addition to the funds earmarked for technology improvements, Mr. Clark noted that the library was also awarded \$2,000 this year from the Snyder Foundation, a Kenilworth-area philanthropic organization which funds projects at libraries and other entities in Union County. An endowment from the foundation in 1994 paid for new energy efficient interior lighting fixtures which helped lower overall operating costs for the library.

In addition to the CD ROM terminals, which are expected to be installed later this fall, the grant would also cover the cost of related equipment such as speakers, printers and drives, according to Mr. Clark. He

Township, Borough Voter Registration Hours Announced

The Scotch Plains Clerk's Office will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. for the purpose of voter registration on Monday, October 7. The Fanwood Clerk's Office will be open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Monday is the last day to register in order to be eligible for the General Election.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE...Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly and Scotch Plains Mayor Alan M. Augustine sign a proclamation for Resolve's Make A Difference Day Walk-a-Thon with the Resolve Community Counseling Center President Joseph Britt and DECA students David Gewirtz, Kamran Ahmed, Erin McGeough and Jeffrey Felchner looking on. The event will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27. The sixth annual walk-a-thon includes one, three- or five-mile walks. Groups or individuals who want to sign up may call Resolve at 322-9180 for more information and registration materials.