



SCOTCH PLAINS

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HOT CARS AND NOSTALGIA...This past Saturday some of the most appealing automobiles ever designed covered the parking lot at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains. On the left, this "Hot Ice Blue" 1974 DeFonzo Pantera, as described by owner Ray Toth of Colonia, caught the eyes of many. The Pantera carried a beefed-up 351 Cleveland Ford engine yielding approximately 390 to 400 horsepower and has a top speed of 175 to 180 mph. On the right, a 1947 Ford two-door sedan named "Teal Steal" rests proudly as does Donna Zack, front, and Gail Medina. "Teal Steal" is owned by Ed Zack. Some other cars in the show included a 1957 candy apple red Chevy, a 1931 Model A Ford named "Budweiser," a 1967 red Corvette 427 hp big block, a 1963 Chevy SS 327 turbo-fire and an Oldsmobile 442 official pace car of the 54th Annual Indianapolis 500. The car show was sponsored by the Union Catholic Booster Club as a benefit for new athletic uniforms.

Scotch Plains to Present Annual Heritage Celebration With Downtown 'StreetFest'

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Festive sights and sounds will fill the Scotch Plains Village Green on Saturday, October 19, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the township's celebration of Scotch Plains Day "StreetFest '96," an annual salute to the community's heritage featuring an array of exhibits and programs, activities and entertainment for all ages. Admission to the event is free.

Raymond Pardon, Co-Chairman of the Scotch Plains Day Committee and President of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association, one of the sponsors of "StreetFest '96," reported many local businesses are once again donating merchandise and services to the celebration, which organizers of the festival hope will help boost patronage of stores in the downtown.

"We're making a fun day to have people come in and celebrate that they live here, and if they don't live here, to come find out about us," remarked Mr. Pardon, the owner of Nuts N' Plenty on Bartle Avenue. He called the

township's central business district, which officials and merchants are attempting to revitalize through an economic growth campaign, "a vital part of the community."

The festivities will kick off at 8 a.m. with a flea market sponsored annually by the Scotch Plains Lions Club, during which more than 100 vendors are expected to display their wares in the municipal parking lot until 4 p.m. Proceeds from the flea market will benefit the Lions Club's Sight Conservation and Blind Fund and the Community Betterment Fund.

From 8 a.m. until noon, a "Super Health Fair" for township residents only will be held at the Municipal Building, offering free hearing, vision, dental and chiropractic examinations; hypertension screenings and influenza immunizations for senior citizens, and prescription medication counseling. The SMAC-23 CBC blood test will also be administered. The cost of the SMAC-23 CBC test is \$20. Pre-payment and pre-registration is necessary.

The Senior Citizen bus will be available to pick up senior citizens between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

A rabies clinic for cats and dogs, open to everyone, will be held between 8 and 10 a.m. at the northside fire house behind the Municipal Building. Cats will be vaccinated between 8 and 9 a.m. and dogs will be inoculated between 9 and 10 a.m.

The Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a 5-mile road race between 9 and 10 a.m., with trophies to be awarded between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. to all winning participants. Pre-registration is \$10 up until the day of the race and \$15 on the day of the race. To pre-register or for further information, please call 322-6700.

A special Civic Awards Ceremony led by Mayor Alan Augustine will be held on the Village Green between 10 and 10:30 a.m., recognizing "outstanding citizens who have contributed to the betterment of Scotch Plains," according to information provided by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association.

The honorees, all retired township employees, will include former Police Chief Robert Luce, now Director of Training at the John H. Stampler Union County Police Training Academy; Police Captain William Mineo; Police Detective Andrew Gladura and former tax collector Mrs. Mary Nell Jones. Mrs. Camilla Marino, a library assistant at the Scotch Plains Public Library who is planning to retire later this fall, will also be recognized.

In addition, six individuals will be cited posthumously for their contributions to the community, including Mrs. Alice Gould, Mrs. Mary Feury, Theodore "Ted" W. Hart, Jr., Walter Schonwald, Dominick DeCuollo and Kenneth Hanson.

Festival-goers will be able to sample a variety of foods provided by local merchants at displays set up outside their storefronts, as well as at concession stands. Activities planned especially for children will include pony rides, a petting zoo, a moon walk ride and face painting.

Live entertainment will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a performance by The Deer Ridge Singers Pop Choir, a 20-voice ensemble known for its renditions of popular standards, classical and spiritual songs. The choir, as well as other entertainers featured at this year's Scotch Plains Day celebration, will appear courtesy of Arona Entertainment of North Plainfield.

Other highlights of "StreetFest '96," will be a martial arts demonstration performed between 10:45 and 11:30 a.m. by Above and Beyond Tae Kwon Do Center, Inc., located on Beryllium Road, and an auction which will be held from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Items donated by local merchants and professionals will be offered at the auction, which will benefit the Business and Professional Association's township beautification program.

A dance exhibition will be presented by the Moderne Academie of Fine Arts on East Second Street between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Police Nab Plainfielder On Death Threat Charge

He Was Charged With Threatening to Kill Township Chiropractor

A Plainfield man who threatened to kill a Scotch Plains chiropractor was arrested last Friday afternoon on extortion charges and a female accomplice was taken into custody in a fast food restaurant in Bloomfield, Acting Union County Prosecutor Edward M. Neafsey announced.

In a joint statement with Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien and Essex County Prosecutor Clifford Minor, Mr. Neafsey said the pair were arrested without incident after they allegedly made a series of calls to the victim at his home and to his office in East Orange.

"The doctor was told to come up with \$60,000 in cash within a specified time period or he would be killed with a shotgun," Mr. Neafsey said. "The victim believed the threats as the caller knew details about him and his family and alerted called Scotch Plains police at once."

According to Chief of Investigations David J. Hancock, authorities

prepared a knapsack with phony money and arranged to have it taken to the restaurant in Essex County.

"There, a team of officers including personnel from both prosecutor's offices and East Orange and Bloomfield police converged on the location and arrested both suspects," Mr. Minor said.

The suspects are Kevin Coleman, 38, of Plainfield and his girlfriend, Barbara Gordon, 39, of Roselle.

Authorities said Coleman worked as a counselor in a youth advocate program for trouble youngsters in Union and Essex Counties.

"The fake money and the knapsack were recovered at the scene from the defendants. Sergeant Brian Mahoney, assisted by members of the county's Narcotics Strike Force and the Prosecutor's Organized Crime Unit, worked the investigation.

Coleman and Gordon were being transferred late Friday from Scotch Plains to the Union County Jail to await a bail hearing early next week.

Other highlights of "StreetFest '96," will be a martial arts demonstration performed between 10:45 and 11:30 a.m. by Above and Beyond Tae Kwon Do Center, Inc., located on Beryllium Road, and an auction which will be held from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Items donated by local merchants and professionals will be offered at the auction, which will benefit the Business and Professional Association's township beautification program.

A dance exhibition will be presented by the Moderne Academie of Fine Arts on East Second Street between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Union County Freeholder Candidates Square Off On Incinerator, Juvenile Detention Center, Taxes

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Candidates for three Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders seats proved in a one-and-a-half hour debate Tuesday night at the Westfield Municipal Building that party partisanship still holds sway. During the Union County League of Women Voters-sponsored debate, which included a written statement from absent Republican Freeholder incumbent Linda Di Giovanni, Democrats and Republicans sparred along party lines over the county incinerator, the juvenile detention center and plans for county economic growth.

Republican Freeholder incumbent Linda-Lee Kelly of Elizabeth and runningmate, Mountaineer Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti, defended the record of the currently Republican-held 5-4 majority Freeholder board.

"The Democrats would have you believe we've been insensitive to the county taxpayers' needs," Ms. Kelly said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

In her written statement read by the moderator, Mrs. Di Giovanni said that the 1996 flat tax levy was the county's lowest rate in 15 years. She said all county departments have been told to reduce their budgets by 5 per

cent for next year and cited the reduction by half, of the annual operating budget of Rumlens Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Democratic Freeholder incumbent Linda Stender of Fanwood claimed the board could have reduced taxes in 1996 "but the Republicans did not. The American middle class dream is under assault."

Democratic runningmate Nicholas P. Scutari who is an attorney and Linden Board of Education member said he saw traffic congestion as an inhibitor to economic growth in the region. The third member on the ticket, Democratic runningmate Donald Goncalves of Elizabeth, a Senior Project Coordinator with Elizabeth Development Company, said he wants to see a light rail system from Elizabeth to Plainfield.

County Utilities Authority that runs the incinerator.

Ms. Kelly said Freeholder Di Giovanni originally asked for the audit.

A federal judge ruled against, in July, the state's practice of regulating where a municipality can dispose of garbage. A loss of business to the county incinerator could close it down, Democrats charge, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill for the bond debt.

Freeholder Kelly said she would consider accepting trash from other areas, possibly New York City, to keep the incinerator afloat and divert costs from county taxpayers.

Mr. Vigilanti said those who would risk closure of the incinerator and send garbage out-of-state, should reconsider objections to the notion of accepting trash from New York City.

"We can send our trash to Pennsylvania, but we won't take New York City's," questioned.

Freeholder Stender said she was still waiting for answers on "this debt issue" as it related to the operating of the incinerator.

The Democrats assailed the Republicans for removing Democratic Freeholder Carol I. Cohen for the Youth Services Commission earlier in the year. Mrs. Stender called the action "outrageous" and "punishment" for Ms. Cohen's "no" vote on a \$10.2 million bond ordinance to build a new juvenile detention center.

Ms. Kelly said her vote to remove Ms. Cohen from the commission was based on the fact that she felt Board Chairman Edwin H. Force should be on the commission.

The existing juvenile detention center was built for 28 occupants in 1968 and now houses 72 offenders. The center has been cited for safety violations by the state.

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.



GENEROUS DONATION...Fanwood Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., far left, and Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly watch as Steve Clark, President of the Fanwood Memorial Library Board, center, receives a check from Thomas C. Gregor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the United National Bank. Also looking on are Warren R. Gerlet, second from right, Executive Vice President of the United National Bank, and John S. Fitzgerald, Fanwood Branch Manager of the United National Bank. The check, in the amount of \$5,000, was donated on October 11. The funds will be used toward advancement of technology at the library, including the planned introduction of computers with CD-ROM capabilities, public access computers and units for use by the library staff.

Independent candidates running on the New Jersey Conservative Party ticket, Frank J. Festa, Jr. of Scotch Plains and Shawn P. Gianella of Union, both advocated "dismantling" county government entirely. At one point, Mr. Festa offered a copy of the 1996 county budget to a resident, saying, "when you look into it, you'll find out how badly we've been hosed." He said he favors closing down the county incinerator. Mr. Festa owns a Fanwood-based trash disposal business.

Mr. Gianella, who owns a restaurant and hotel supply business in Union, said he is actually a Libertarian who favors as little government as possible, and will not accept the \$22,000-a-year salary if elected Freeholder. He said he would put the county incinerator up for bid in the private sector.

Democrats ran hard with the issue of \$35 million of county debt tied up in the \$282 million Railway Incinerator. Democrats took credit for pushing through a plan to audit the Union

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