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### BOROUGH ENGINEER ADDRESSES WILLOUGHBY ROAD SEWAGE DILEMMA

## Colleagues Bid Mr. MacDonald Fond Farewell As Newcomer Mr. Kline Begins Council Career

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

During a special public meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council on December 26, Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly and fellow governing body members offered warm wishes to former Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald on his retirement after 12 years of service. The meeting marked the last time that Mr. MacDonald would sit on the dais as a council representative.

Mr. MacDonald, who opted not to run for reelection last year in order to concentrate more fully on work, family and other commitments, was succeeded by first-time Councilman Stuart S. Kline. Mr. Kline and incumbent Councilman Louis C. Jung, both Republicans, defeated their Democratic challengers in November to capture two available seats on the council. They were scheduled to be sworn into office yesterday, January 1.

"I sincerely thank you for the time you've given the residents of Fanwood," remarked Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, who read a resolution honoring Mr. MacDonald

into the minutes of last week's meeting. She also thanked the former councilman's wife, Kathleen, for having "so graciously shared his time" with the community.

The Mayor presented Mr. MacDonald with a commemorative pen and pencil set on behalf of the council and staff who work with the governing body, in recognition of his years of service.

Council President Bruce H. Walsh, a Democrat, acknowledged that while he and Mr. MacDonald did not always share the same philosophies on issues which came before the governing body over the years, he would "miss the challenge" which Mr. MacDonald had always given him. He also wished Mr. MacDonald well in all his future endeavors.

Councilman Jung presented Mr. MacDonald with a copy of *The Times* from 1982, in which Mr. MacDonald's first council meeting was among the featured articles. Mr. Jung also commended his fellow Republican for "always saying what you mean" and for his command of the English language.

Republican Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, who began her first term on the governing body a year ago, expressed her appreciation to Mr. MacDonald for having "helped make the transition easier." The veteran councilman and Mrs. Schurtz served together this past year on the council's Health and Welfare and its Recreation and Community Services committees. Mr. MacDonald remarked that he had enjoyed working with his colleagues as well, and described having had the opportunity to serve Fanwood residents during his long tenure on the council as "a great honor and privilege."

The former councilman's four non-consecutive terms between 1982 and 1996 spanned the administrations of four Fanwood mayors, including Theodore Trumpp, the late Patricia M. Kuran, Linda d. Stender and Mrs. Connelly.

The main focus of the special council session, however, was an update by Borough Engineer Richard Marsden concerning sewage which has been backing up into homes along Willoughby Road, as well as the general condition of Fanwood's pipelines. Several Willoughby Road residents recently appealed to the governing body to take action in order to alleviate the sewage problem, which they described as having reached a crisis situation.

Mr. Marsden, who has been researching the matter for the past month, reported that the situation on Willoughby Road has primarily been caused by an influx of storm water entering the sanitary sewer system, particularly during several major storms which struck the area during the fall. Inflow generally occurs, he explained, because of breaks or cracks in pipes, or because people are illegally hooked up to the sanitary sewer system through roof or cellar drains, or through sump pumps.

The engineer acknowledged that the there are fine cracks along the pipeline which serves Willoughby Road, but maintained that they do not represent a serious problem at this time. He did, however, offer a three-part plan which he believes will help to resolve the problem on Willoughby Road, as well as other problem areas. He said Willoughby Road is part of a subsystem which encompasses one third of the sanitary sewer piping system in the borough.

The plan calls for educating the public about the factors which contribute to storm water entering the sanitary sewers system; meeting with officials of the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA), and other communities served by PARSA which are linked to the Fanwood system, and inaugurating repairs to the subsystem which includes Willoughby Road,

based on information which Fanwood officials have already compiled.

The purpose of meeting with PARSA, Mr. Marsden explained, would be to encourage regional involvement by making neighboring municipalities such as Scotch Plains and Plainfield aware of the problems which Fanwood residents have been experiencing because of inflow. He said he also hoped to encourage those communities whose systems are linked to Fanwood to address any repair needs in their own pipelines which may affect the borough.

The engineer suggested the governing body would need to allocate \$100,000 in its 1997 capital improvement budget to begin refurbishing pipelines, and urged that repair efforts be directed toward major breaks first as a means of heading off even greater problems. Mr. Walsh, while expressing support for necessary pipeline repairs, questioned whether beginning a long-range overhaul of the subsystem would solve the "immediate problem" plaguing residents of Willoughby Road.

The engineer responded that because the proposed repairs would be done to pipes within the subsystem which includes Willoughby, it would have a beneficial impact on the homeowners who have been experiencing seepage problems. He acknowledged that a program to repair borough pipelines has been in effect for some time, and added that he hoped awareness of problems such as those faced by residents on Willoughby Road would foster regular maintenance of the system.

In the meantime, he said the most effective way in which Willoughby residents can prevent sewage from backing up into their homes is to have check valves installed. These valves allow water to flow out of homes but prevents it from coming back in. During the council's regular meeting on December 12, two Willoughby Road residents testified that they and some of their neighbors were planning to have the valves installed to counteract the seepage problem.

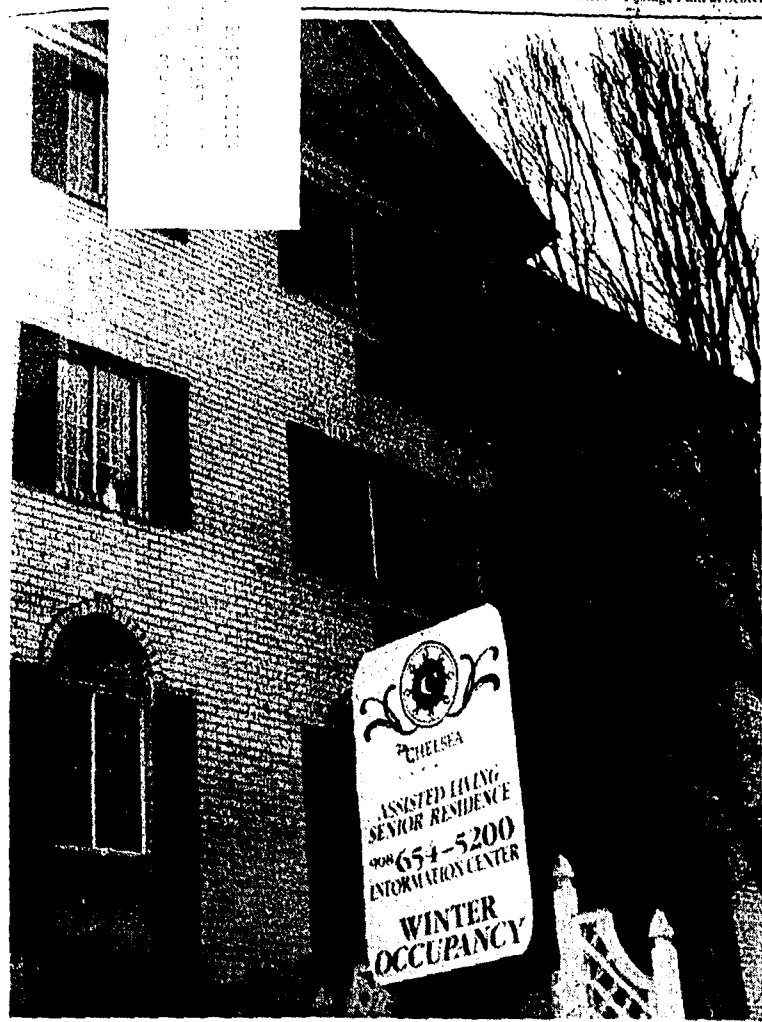
In other news, the council presented a proclamation designating January as Federation Awareness Month to Joan Levinson of Fanwood, a member of the Board

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### Times to Include Full Coverage of Meetings In Next Week's Issue

Full coverage of yesterday's reorganizational meetings in Scotch Plains and Fanwood will be included in next week's newspaper.

The meetings took place after *The Times* went to press.



NEW YEAR DEBUT...The Chelsea at Fanwood, a new assisted living facility for senior citizens on South Avenue, is scheduled to be ready for occupancy later this month. The residence, located on the site of the former Mansion Hotel, is designed for seniors age 55 and older who can no longer live independently. Living quarters for residents, along with nurses' stations, will be located on the upper three floors, while the first floor of the building will include dining and recreational areas.

## Scotch Plains Council Approves \$1.7 Million Bond Ordinance for Sewer Pumping Stations

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council passed four proposed ordinances into law at the final regular meeting of the year on Monday, December 23, including a \$1.7 million bond for a sewerage pumping station project.

A separate ordinance allows police and fire officials to temporarily disconnect home security systems that sound false alarms for longer than approximately 30 minutes, including fines. Another ordinance outlaws any street parking during school hours on Happel Court, near the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, in an effort to discourage what some have described as "hanging out" by students in the area. Yet another ordinance doubles the fees for birth, marriage and death certificates issued by the township to \$4.

The action taken on the \$1.7 million bond ordinance to upgrade the township's sanitary sewer pumping stations on the South Side includes \$85,000 from the township's capital projects budget, officials said. The work on the four pumping stations — Raritan Road, Lamberts Mill, West Broad Street and Greenview — should take about two years, they said. The system is part of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, of which Scotch Plains is a member.

The council also unanimously passed five resolutions at its year-end meeting. One resolution authorized the Millburn engineering firm of Killam Associates to sample soil at Brookside Park pond as a first step toward dredging the pond. The State Department of Environmental Protection granted the township \$2,250 or one-half of the cost for the

project, officials said.

Another resolution agrees to the transfer of \$61,000 in funds among various municipal departments with the biggest chunk, \$35,000, coming to the Fire Department for equipment from its own salaries and wages and fire hydrant rental budget.

Other resolutions agreed to cancel the township's outstanding

checks totaling about \$3,600 and verify municipal employment practices to continue membership in the Municipal Employee Liability (MEL) insurance plan.

A separate resolution agrees to reduce tax assessments for the past two years on property owned by Sterling Haynes on King Street in the township.

In other business, Councilwoman Joan Papen announced that the dedication of a World War II time capsule by the Scotch Plains World War II Commemorative Committee will be Saturday, February 1, at 11 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Resident and veteran, Thomas Perrucci, is Chairman of the committee. The council proclaimed January as Jewish Federation Awareness Month. A telethon to raise funds will be held Sunday, February 2, members said, to benefit Jews in New Jersey and around the world.

A spokeswoman from the New Jersey Animal Rights organization, Jennine Motta, attempted to address the council about the Scotch Plains Zoo but withdrew when officials said, according to state law, they could not respond to the topic since the owner of the zoo was appealing a Board of Adjustment decision on a property maintenance violation.

In other business, the township received a bid from Garden State Kennels in Sterling for animal ward service, but no action was taken.



HAPPY HOLIDAY...DECA Santa Claus (Jason Rogowsky) is pictured with a very happy child from the Interfaith Council of Union County at a holiday party sponsored by DECA. See story on Page 3.

## Trial Set to Begin for Man Charged In 1993 Murder of Township Woman

The trial of a New Brunswick man charged with the July 10, 1993 rape and murder of an elderly Scotch Plains woman in her home is scheduled to

begin in Superior Court in Elizabeth next week, with Judge John Triarsi presiding. Acting Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert P. O'Leary said last Friday that opening arguments in the case would likely be heard either January 6 or 7, immediately following jury selection.

Kevin Conley, 33, stands accused of killing Mrs. Dorothy Koues, an 88-year-old invalid living on Skytop Drive, whose battered body was found in her bedroom. An autopsy revealed that the victim, who had lived alone since the death of her son in 1983, had been sexually assaulted, strangled, stabbed and bludgeoned with a telephone. Authorities revealed that there was no sign of forced entry into the home.

At the time that the crime occurred, Conley had been staying with his parents at their Deer Path home directly behind the victim's residence, and was among those people who were interviewed by police during an investigation of the homicide. Investigators, prompted by what they felt were inconsistencies in Conley's information during a follow-up interview, asked the suspect to supply them with fingerprints.

Authorities arrested Conley on November 2, 1993 at the Springfield rental car agency where he worked as an assistant manager, after determining that a bloody fingerprint which

had been obtained at the crime scene by investigators from the Scotch Plains Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office matched a print submitted by the suspect.

On July 24, 1995, Conley was indicted by a grand jury on charges of murder, aggravated sexual assault, burglary and weapons possession. He was subsequently freed on \$500,000 bail which was put up by his parents, who used their home as collateral.

In a pre-trial motion filed early last year, Conley's attorney, Robert Armstrong Lord of Mountainside, claimed that investigators had improperly obtained his client's fingerprints without a court order, and sought to have the fingerprint evidence excluded from the trial. Conley had no prior criminal record and authorities did not have fingerprints on file for him.

However, Assistant Union County Prosecutor William Kolano, who will represent the state at the upcoming trial, successfully argued that representatives of the county's Violent Crimes Unit and the Scotch Plains Police Department had obtained "valid consent" from Conley to obtain the fingerprints. Superior Court Judge Ross R. Anzaldi in Elizabeth ruled last February that the fingerprints had been legally obtained.



RUSHING TO THE SCENE...Scotch Plains firefighters prepare to battle a midnight blaze which forced the residents of a duplex at 2049 Mountain Avenue from their home on December 21. One family, whose portion of the duplex suffered heavy damage from the fire, had to relocate, while a second family was able to move back into their home several days later. A full complement of emergency equipment responded to the scene, and police closed off Mountain Avenue, detouring traffic.

### 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, or e-mailed to "golander@aol.com".

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 fully.