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TAKING HIS OATH...Dr. Martin Marks takes the oath of office New Year's Day to become the newest member of the Scotch Plains Township Council. Looking on are his wife and children. He takes the seat of Alan M. Augustine who retired in order to fully concentrate his efforts at the state level where he serves in the Assembly.

WALKING TRAIL IN BROOKSIDE PARK PROPOSED BY NEW MAYOR

Mrs. Schmidt Takes Oath as Mayor; Mrs. Papen Named Deputy Mayor; Dr. Marks Joins Township Council

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

Veteran Scotch Plains Republican Councilwoman Irene T. Schmidt was sworn in as Mayor of the township for the fourth time, at a New Year's Day reorganization meeting before approximately 100 people in the Municipal Building. Councilwoman Joan Papen will be Deputy Mayor.

At the same time, Councilman William E. McClintock, Jr. and newly-elected Councilman Dr. Martin Marks were sworn in for four-

year terms on the all-Republican governing body. Councilman Robert E. Johnston was appointed to the Planning Board and will serve as the township's representative to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority. New Jersey State Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco was reappointed as Township Attorney.

Temporary budget appropriations were adopted by the new Mayor and Township Council for \$4,018,245.

Residents appointed to the Planning Board for four years are George

Tompkin, Maria Sartor and Victor DiFrancesco. Joseph Doyle and Steven Prato will serve as first and second alternates for two years.

Board of Adjustment members Thomas Barth and Timothy Livolsi were reappointed for four-year terms and Francis Rossi will be second alternate for a two-year period.

Among other duties, Councilman McClintock will serve as Council Liaison to the Board of Education.

Mayor Schmidt, who last served as Mayor in 1992, and in 1987 and 1984 before that, will complete her fourth term on the council at the end of this year. She is a legislative aide in Senator DiFrancesco's local office.

Mrs. Schmidt's selection as Mayor by the council, follows the departure of Alan M. Augustine from the council after more than 20 years when he completed his one-year term as Mayor last year. He is also an Assemblyman from the 22nd Legislative District to the State Legislature, which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Senator DiFrancesco, who said he usually does not request an opportunity to speak while performing his role as Township Attorney during council meetings, described Mr. Augustine as having been "a terrific council member and Mayor, who is honest and hardworking. We should have more people in government like Alan."

In her Mayor's message, Mayor Schmidt encouraged more residents to come forward to participate on township committees. Mayor Schmidt highlighted several topics

for the coming year, with an emphasis on planning in order to avoid over-development of the township's remaining open spaces while looking at zoning laws and natural resources.

Mayor Schmidt said she is also interested in protecting historical features of the township, revitalization of the downtown and looking at traffic flow on main avenues, incorporating the use of new technology, upgrading the sewerage pumping stations and preserving community safety.

"We must be ever mindful of the quality-of-life issues, reflective of our cultural and traditional values and planning for those issues is the key to maintaining and enhancing that which we hold dear in Scotch Plains. At the same time we need to be efficient in our delivery of government services," Mrs. Schmidt said.

Another project Mrs. Schmidt said she would like to see happen is the creation of a "walking trail" in the township. "Perhaps around the perimeter of Brookside Park or in the Ash Brook Reservation," she added.

Mayor Schmidt said she came to service in municipal government as a Planning Board secretary years ago and was also a member of the Board of Adjustment. She was accompanied at the swearing-in by her five grandchildren, with the youngest holding the Bible.

Among those attending the ceremony were Union County Freeholder Henry W. Kurz as well as former township Mayors Gabe Spera, Alfred Theurer and Mauro Checchio. Mr. Checchio is the uncle of Senator DiFrancesco. Freeholder Kurz wished Mayor Schmidt well on her term as Mayor.

Mr. Augustine took the opportunity to briefly review his past years of service to the township. He called the present council "a council of former Mayors" since all, except Dr. Marks, had at one time served in that capacity. He emphasized the importance of "teamwork" and said he looks forward to the day when "all residents have come to truly believe municipal officials have their well-being first and foremost in mind."

Saying he was borrowing from the Florida Democratic Senator Claude Pepper, Mr. Augustine said he hopes the township will think of him "as an elected official who has eased the burdens and problems of the people in his constituency to the best of his ability."

Referring to Mr. Augustine, Councilman Johnston said, "We're all better people for having known and worked with him."

Mayor Schmidt presented Mr. Augustine with a plaque commemorating the past year he served as Mayor.

A regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14.

Rabbi George Nudell of Congregation Beth Israel and the retiring Reverend John Neilson of All Saints' Episcopal Church provided the invocation and benediction for the ceremony.

Councilmen Jung and Kline Take Oath of Office; Mayor Recalls 'Firsts and Farewells' of '96

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council kicked off 1997 with the swearing in of Councilmen Louis C. Jung and Stuart S. Kline during the governing body's annual reorganization meeting, broadcast on Municipal Access Cable Channel 35, which began at noon on New Year's Day before a standing room-only crowd of family members, colleagues and other well-wishers.

Following the invocation by the Reverend Kenneth Hetzel of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, who also gave the Benediction at the close of the meeting, the oath of office was administered to the two Republican councilmen by Superior Court Judge Melvin S. Whitken. Councilman Jung was sworn in for his second term, while Councilman Kline took his oath as a first-time member of the governing body.

He succeeded former Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald, a Republican who retired after 12 years of council service.

The Democrats continue to hold a 4-3 majority on the governing body, with Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly serving as the tie-breaker. The Mayor twice acted as tie-breaker during election of the Council President at the

reorganization meeting, when nominations for Mr. Jung and incumbent Council President Bruce H. Walsh, a Democrat, were both met with votes of 3-3. The Mayor's vote resulted in the re-election of Mr. Walsh.

This year, the Mayor administered the oath of office to members of the Fanwood Fire Department and the Fanwood Rescue Squad during the reorganization meeting, which traditionally had been done separately at a dinner-dance which included the installation of officers. She noted afterwards that "we're very fortunate to have all of these volunteers willing to serve for us."

The Mayor also announced the appointments of borough officials; members of boards and commissions, other representatives, and her appointments of standing council committees for 1997. Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz was reappointed as the council's representative to the Fanwood Planning Board for a one-year term, and Llewellyn Fisher was reappointed as council representative to the Union County Revenue Sharing Committee.

Dennis Estis was reappointed as Borough Attorney, prompting Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., to remark that Fanwood is "very fortunate to have an attorney like Mr. Estis," who is a partner with the Woodbridge law firm of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, Ravin, Davis and Himmel. Mr. Populus added that while Mr. Estis represents "one of the most prestigious and largest" law firms in New Jersey, his fee is only half what he would normally charge to provide legal counsel to the municipality.

In her address to the community, Mayor Connelly thanked all the people who serve the borough throughout the year, including elected officials, municipal employees, members of local boards and commissions and volunteer units such as the Fanwood Fire Department and the Rescue Squad.

She also cited the efforts of Fanwood's Emergency Management personnel in coping with snow conditions after the January 8, 1996 blizzard, the worst to hit the northeast since 1947, as well as with heavy rains which caused flooding in the borough last fall.

Reflecting on her first 12 months as Mayor, Mrs. Connelly characterized 1996 as having been a year of "firsts and farewells, progress and challenges." Among the Fanwood "firsts" she recounted were the "Fanny Wood Day," celebration on September 28, which was attended by 8,000 people; the August 24 "5K Road Race" sponsored by CONTACT We Care, and the borough's inaugural downtown Holiday Celebration in December.

The Mayor also recalled such community milestones as the Philathulians' 65th anniversary as a local theater group; Fanwood resident William Crosby having carried the Olympic flame during a nationwide torch relay; the completion of a downtown marketing survey by mem-

bers of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA, the return of the cicadas after 17 years last summer and the demise of the cherished Fanwood Oak in November.

She also remembered in her address two distinguished Fanwood residents who died last year. They included former Mayor Patricia MacDonald Kuran, the first woman and the first Democrat to serve as Mayor of Fanwood, who died of leukemia on November 19, and Walter J. Murphy, a sales executive with AT&T, who was killed in an airplane crash in the Balkans April 3 while accompanying United States Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown as part of a trade delegation.

Finally, the Mayor gave a brief overview of several long-term goals for the community which are already underway, including having municipal departments and the Fanwood Memorial Library equipped with modern technology; improving communications between local government and residents through newsletters, coverage of council meetings on Cable Channel 35, and community events and the pending redevelopment of the downtown.

Four resolutions were also passed by the council, with a fifth amended during the meeting in anticipation of it being voted on at a later date. The first resolution designated the regularly scheduled public meetings of the Mayor and council for 1997, which will be held at 8 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 Martine Avenue.

Agenda meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of the October 6 meeting, which will be on a Monday. Regular council meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month.

First Agenda Meeting Spotlights Insurance, 1997 Budget, Sewers

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Just a day after the Fanwood Borough Council's reorganization meeting on January 1, members of the governing body held their first agenda session of the new year and discussed various topics which are expected to have a significant impact upon the municipality in 1997. The meeting also marked the first time that Republican Councilman Stuart S. Kline, sworn in the day before, joined his colleagues on the dais as an elected official.

The council reviewed a resolution appointing Albiez Insurance Agency, Inc. as the borough's insurance agent. The agency set up the borough's new, one-year contract with the American International Group, a commercial insurance company, for the municipality's liability insurance. The arrangement replaces the borough's membership in the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), of which Fanwood had been a member since the JIF was formed three years ago.

Officials voted to drop out of the regional insurance pool at the end of last year after learning that Fanwood could save \$27,000 by switching to the commercial insurance carrier. The governing body also is expected to appoint Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti as Safety Officer, to monitor safety concerns such as bro-

ken sidewalks and electrical problems, which had been a requirement for municipalities under JIF regulations and which the council plans to continue under the new program.

A second resolution called for approval of a temporary municipal budget for 1997, which will enable the borough to operate until the council adopts its annual budget in the spring.

The temporary budget represents 26.25 percent of Fanwood's \$5.23 million municipal budget for 1996. Traditionally, the temporary budget is 25 percent of the previous year's budget, but state regulations permitted the percent increase which was reflected in the council resolution.

Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern confirmed that requests for 1997 budget proposals had already gone out to municipal department heads and were scheduled to be returned by Wednesday, January 15. Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly recommended that the council, in developing the budget, concentrate first on employee salaries and resolving contract issues in an attempt to have the borough's spending plan completed on time.

Officials are expected to introduce a \$100,000 bond ordinance at the council's regular meeting tonight, January 9, to refurbish the borough's aging sewer system. During a special meeting of the governing body on December 26, Borough Engineer

Richard Marsden had recommended the council allocate that sum to repair pipes which have major breaks or cracks and are causing problems.

Concerns about the condition of the sewer system were prompted by recent appeals for relief from residents of Willoughby Road who had been having sewage back up into their basements. At that meeting, Mr. Marsden said that Willoughby's problems were being caused by inflow resulting from cracks in the system coupled with people being illegally hooked up to the sanitary sewer system through roof or cellar drains or with sump pumps.

The engineer stated that while the pipeline serving Willoughby Road does not currently have serious cracks in it, residents living there would benefit from repairs to the system. The subsystem, of which Willoughby Road is a part, represents one third of the sanitary sewer pipe system in the municipality.

Mr. Marsden has also proposed a "three-pronged" plan for dealing with the sewer problems, which in addition to pipeline repairs, would include educating the public about inflow and illegal hookups, as well as working with the Plainfield Regional Sewerage Authority and other municipalities whose sewer systems are linked to Fanwood.



JOINING THE COUNCIL...Republican Stuart K. Kline is administered the oath of office from Union County Superior Court Judge Melvin S. Whitken during Fanwood Borough Council's reorganizational meeting held New Year's Day. Looking on are the new councilman's parents.

More Clarification On Zoning Change Sought by Council

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council sought clarification from Planning Board members Tuesday, during the first conference meeting of the new year, on proposed amendments to zoning ordinances dealing with secondary structures.

In an apparent effort to avoid missteps like those surrounding last year's council decision to eliminate setbacks for certain secondary structures that particularly angered residents of Arrowwood Drive, the council looked at specific height limitations and minimum setback requirements for detached secondary structures in the ordinance.

Often, a detached secondary structure is a garage. In an Arrowwood Drive case, a two-story structure including an apartment and garage was built at the property line.

The council said it hopes to introduce the amendments into law at its next meeting, Tuesday, January 14.

Donald Novello, Zoning Committee Chairman, said the current ordinance does not address the height of secondary structures. The proposed ordinance, which the planning board said it "wholeheartedly endorses," limits secondary structure height to 1 1/2 stories or 18 feet, whichever is less. It specifies that the height of a structure will be measured from the ground to the highest point of the roof.

Setbacks from property lines for the structures vary from zone to zone as in the current ordinance, depending on whether the building is bigger or smaller than 200 square feet. A structure less than 200 square feet must be at least two feet from the property line, except in an R-1 zone, where it must be at least five feet, according to the proposals.

Other amendments to the zoning ordinance include detached secondary structures in totalling lot coverage of a property by buildings. Uncovered swimming pools are not in-

Memorial Service Sunday for Mrs. Kuran

There will be a memorial service for the late Mayor of Fanwood, Patricia M. Kuran, this Sunday, January 12, at 2:30 p.m., at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, located at 74 South Martine Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Mrs. Kuran, who died November 19 in Sylmar, California, was Mayor from 1983 to 1991. She was Fanwood's first woman Mayor.

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 "goleader@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 carefully.