

# THE TIMES

## of Scotch Plains - Fanwood



OUR 38th YEAR - 1

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### HEIGHT LIMITS SET AT 1 1/2 STORIES

## Township Council Unveils Zoning Amendments Aimed At Secondary Structures

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council introduced into law Tuesday, amendments to township zoning ordinances that limit the heights of detached secondary structures in residential neighborhoods to 18 feet or 1 1/2 stories, whichever is less.

This revision of the zoning laws follows in the wake of angry objections from Arrowwood Drive residents over a council decision last year. This involved the elimination of setbacks for secondary structures after a combination two-story garage and apartment were reportedly built nearly on a property border in the Arrowwood Drive neighborhood. The township Planning Board has

said it "wholeheartedly endorses" the changes to the zoning ordinances.

Donald Novello, Chairman of the Planning Board's Zoning Committee, said the old code does not address the height of detached secondary structures, such as garages, in residential areas. The height is measured from the ground to the highest point of the roof, officials added.

Minimum setbacks from property lines for such a structure under 200 square feet in size, must be at least two feet, except in an R-1 zone, where it must be a minimum of five feet from the border, according to the code. Minimum setbacks for secondary structures larger than 200 square feet in size range from five feet to 30 feet, depending on the zone.

The amendments to the zoning ordinance also seek to include the square footage of a larger detached secondary structure in totaling the amount of a residential lot covered by buildings. The percentage of lot coverage is limited by township code. Uncovered swimming pools are not included in the total, according to the new ordinance.

A public hearing on the new zoning amendments will be held prior to a council vote at the next regular council meeting, Tuesday, January 28.

Another ordinance introduced by the council revises township law to dovetail with recent changes in New Jersey state law that says a Municipal Prosecutor is under the supervision of the state Attorney General and Union County Prosecutor. According to the code, the Municipal Prosecutor may represent the State, County or Township in any municipal court of law.

In other business, the council moved ahead with plans to restore portions of the historic Osborn Can-

nonball House, on Front Street, by appointing architect Mark A. Hewitt of Princeton Design Guild to provide a survey of the site. Members of the township's Historic Preservation Commission have told the council that the wood shingle roof of the pre-Revolutionary War building now leaks.

A specialist in historic preservation, Nancy Zerbe, has recommended the township apply by June for \$60,000 in matching government grants to fund the project. Mayor Irene T. Schmidt said the next step would be a cost analysis of the project.

A different council resolution appointed Councilman Robert E. Johnston as the first township representative to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) until February, 1998. PARSA, which was formed in 1995, was created "to acquire, construct, maintain, operate and improve" the means for collection and disposal of sewage and other wastes, according to the resolution.

Member towns, including Scotch Plains, are Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Fanwood, Watchung, Green Brook and Dunellen. Public Works Director Walter DiNizo and former township Mayor Lawrence Newcomb will serve as alternate representatives to the organization from the township.

The council also voted to renew three service agreements for the coming year. The township will continue to pay the Borough of Fanwood \$6,000 for door-to-door bus transportation six times a month, for its Senior Citizens, Rapid Pump and Meter, Inc., of Paterson, was authorized to repair and maintain township pumping stations through state contracts. Amalgamated General Agency, an insurance agency in Westfield, will continue to serve as Risk Manager for the township in an effort to hold the line on costs of township insurance coverage.

Mayor Schmidt announced that Marcia Anderson will be the township representative to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association after an oversight omitted her name from the list of annual appointments made traditionally during the New Year's Day reorganization meeting.

The council agreed to the township purchase of a 1997 Ford Taurus costing \$14,700 for "general government purposes." Municipal Manager Thomas E. Atkins called it "a good price" and said the last township purchase of a car for "general purposes" was in 1988. Officials said it was primarily for use by the engineering and construction departments and possibly the Tax Assessor.

The council okayed an amusement game license for Bowcraft Amusement Park and 20 pool tables and a juke box for J & J Billiards, both on Route No. 22 in the township.

Resident Richard F. Lukas was recognized by the Mayor and council for his achievement of the Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout through

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### Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Times

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to *The Times* are reminded that copy should be E-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. *The Times'* E-mail address is [goleader@aol.com](mailto:goleader@aol.com). The fax number is 232-0473.

Releases, pictures, and letters to the editor can also be dropped off at our office located at 50 Elm Street or through our mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline we encourage E-mail or faxed material.

Sports stories which occur prior to the weekend should be in by the Friday deadline. Weekend sports events must be submitted by noon on the Monday prior to the publication date. Obituaries will be accepted up to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

All copy must be typed, double-spaced, no more than 500 words in length, and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

For events which are planned months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

Please note that in addition to making our deadlines, the publication of submittals may be delayed due to space considerations. All submittals are subject to being cut due to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.



**JUSTICE FOR ALL...**The Honorable R. Benjamin Cohen of the Superior Court of New Jersey spoke to Rita Selesner and Judy Lasher's seventh grade history classes on January 7 at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains. Judge Cohen explained the workings of the legal system and his experiences presiding in a Newark courtroom. He illustrated some points by using excerpts from the movie *My Cousin Vinny* to the delight of the students. The students then asked Judge Cohen "everything they wanted to know about the judicial system but were afraid to ask," according to their teachers. Judge Cohen's visit was the culminating activity of a unit on the United States Constitution. Pictured, left to right, are: Front row, Mrs. Lasher, Jack Egan, Lana Sacks, Jenna Goldenberg and Jay Cordes; back row, Maura Daly, Noah Lebowitz, Judge Cohen's law clerk; Judge Cohen and Mrs. Selesner.

## Fanwood Borough Council Reveals Appointees, Approves Resolutions at First Regular Meeting

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council held its first regular meeting of the new year last Thursday, while outside the first winter storm of 1997 waned after having dusted the Union County area, like other parts of New Jersey, with light snow mixed with freezing rain.

Coincidentally, the worst storm to hit the northeast since 1947 struck just a year and a day earlier on January 8, 1996, buffeting the region with more than two feet of snow and prompting Governor Christine Todd Whitman to declare a state of emergency.

During the invocation at last week's meeting, Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly asked that members of the council be granted the ability "to work together as we start 1997." On behalf of the governing body, she also welcomed aboard first-time Councilman Stuart S. Kline, who was sworn in New Year's Day along with Councilman Louis C. Jung. Mr. Jung is now in his second term.

Several appointments were subsequently revealed by the council, including Pat Hoynes O'Connor as Fanwood's representative to the Union County Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board.

Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., Councilman Jung and Borough Attorney Dennis Estis were named as Fanwood's representatives to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority.

Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti was reappointed as Safety Officer for the borough.

The Safety Officer's position was required while the community was a participant in the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) and will be continued even though the governing body opted not to renew its member-

ship in the regional insurance group at the end of last year.

The decision was made after two out of three members of last year's Administration and Finance Committee recommended that Fanwood switch its general liability coverage from the JIF to American International Group (AIG), a commercial insurance carrier. The municipality's present contract with AIG is for one year.

One of seven resolutions passed by the council under new business last week approved the appointment of Albiez Insurance Agency, Inc. as the borough's insurance agent/risk manager for 1997. Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., Administration and Finance Committee Chairman, confirmed that the AIG would provide insurance coverage for \$131,000,

which is \$28,000 less than the cost of coverage through the JIF.

Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern, who represented Fanwood as a JIF Commissioner, said the community would remain eligible for a \$10,000 rebate from the JIF in 1997 based on the municipality's participation in the insurance pool since its inception in 1994. The JIF, which as of 1996 encompassed eight communities, was founded to provide lower cost insurance to members at a time when rates through commercial companies were high.

Council members approved resolutions for the borough's 1997 temporary budget, for deferring payment of the second half of the 1996-1997 school tax until this year; for the authorization of bids for 1996 budget transfers; in opposition to new

area codes in the 908 and 201 areas, and for an amendment to the council's by-laws.

Several additional resolutions were also passed by the governing body. The first of these recognized Vincent Testa, a local resident, on having become a full-time employee of the Fanwood Department of Public Works effective January 6.

Under Building and Zoning, a resolution was passed confirming the appointment of Edward Huey as Fanwood's Plumbing Inspector. He will succeed the late Comy T. Donato, who served in that capacity for 37 years prior to his death on November 24. A second resolution awarded a contract to the firm of Ward and O'Donnell for work to be done on the Forest Road Park Building, which should be finished by mid-February.

## Former Township Resident Anticipates Future Challenges as Deputy Chief of Staff at Treasury

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

For Sandra K. Mancini, the experience of helping to shape policies within the highly diverse and challenging climate of Washington, D.C. has proven not only to be professionally rewarding but also a personal opportunity to serve the American people during what she describes as a particularly exciting era in the nation's history.

On December 18, the Scotch Plains native was named by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin as Deputy Chief of Staff of the United States Department of the Treasury. Her appointment came the same day as that of Michael B.G. Froman, who was chosen to succeed Sylvia Mathews as Chief of Staff of the Treasury Department.

Ms. Mancini, who grew up in the township and graduated from Union Catholic Regional High School in 1983, has lived in the nation's capital since her college days. The new Deputy Chief of Staff earned both her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and her Juris Doctor Degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

A Treasury Department employee since July of 1994, Ms. Mancini served as Senior Advisor to the Chief

of Staff and as White House Liaison, handling official correspondence and personnel issues, as well as coordinating reports and information which are submitted to the White House by the Treasury Department on a daily or weekly basis. These responsibilities, she explained, will basically be incorporated into her new position.

Prior to that, she worked 17 months for the National Economic Council at the White House, an entity created along the lines of the National Security Council by President Bill Clinton to coordinate all economic policy decisions within the administration.

She also spent three months at the Presidential Transition Headquarters during the interim between Mr. Clinton's election to his first term in November of 1992 and his inauguration the following January.

The duties accompanying her appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff, she explained, include dealing with management issues within the Treasury Department, as well as conducting special projects for Secretary Rubin and Mr. Froman. Ms. Mancini said her responsibilities also will continue to involve frequent contact with the White House regarding the development of policies for the Treasury Department.

Ms. Mancini discovered her interest in government while still in high school during a stint as a campaign volunteer for the local Democratic Committee on behalf of then-gubernatorial candidate James J. Florio. A Democrat herself, she described the 1996 Presidential Election as "very exciting," and added that she is al-

ready looking forward to new challenges as the federal government gears up for the turn of the century.

Although her job in the fast-paced environment of the Treasury Department often includes long hours, she described being involved in decision-making at the national level as a stimulating experience, and in spite of her busy schedule, still makes it back home to Scotch Plains regularly to visit her parents. She also has many relatives living in North Plainfield.

"It's very interesting," the Deputy Chief of Staff observed about the multi-faceted nature of her position. "I was very excited to be part of the political process during the last four years and I'm looking forward to the next four. I personally think it will be very challenging and interesting. I've had an incredible experience here."

### Times to Dispose Of Old Pictures

The *Times* will be disposing of pictures which appeared in the newspaper from May 9 through August 15 of last year. The photographs will be disposed of on Friday, January 31.

Pictures may be picked up in our offices, located at 50 Elm Street in Westfield, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please know the issue date the picture(s) appeared in the paper.

## School Board Candidacy Information Available

Nominating petitions to run for positions on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education are now available in the district's Business Office, according to Richard Marshall, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Board Secretary.

Three Scotch Plains seats on the board will be up for election. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is 4 p.m. on Monday, February 24. The annual school election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15.

Prospective school board candidates may obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the board office. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, the role of the school board member and campaign procedures. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates also is included in the kit.

New Jersey School Boards Association President Bethul M. Wornack stated, "I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their schools to consider board of education membership. You don't have to be an educator or have a college degree to serve on your local school board. What you need most is a sincere interest in children and their education."



**HARD AT WORK...** Travis Kipping and his mother, Nancy Kipping, paint one of 175 fire hydrants in Fanwood as part of Travis' Eagle Scout Badge project. Travis spent over 200 man hours on the project. Please see Page 5 for another picture and story.