

THE TIMES



of Scotch Plains - Fanwood

OUR 38th YEAR - ISSUE 1

USPS 405200
Periodical - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS



HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU... Brookside Park in Scotch Plains just got a new trail to the north of the playground equipment running to the Winding Brook, a tributary of the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River. This trail is part of an extensive upgrade of the park. The new trail will eventually hook up to an existing nature trail that runs the length of the brook on the eastern side of the park which borders on Memorial Park in Westfield. Two bridges crossing the brook will create a circuit for joggers and will provide much-needed crossing spots for Scotch Plains residents which will, in turn, help to curb stream bank erosion. On April 9 and 10 over 85 Girl and Boy Scouts and their leaders and some parents all chipped in to create the first half of a new woodland trail at Brookside Park. The girls from Junior Troop No. 96 laid logs to edge the trail while Daisy Troop Nos. 579, 935, 341 and 877 and Brownie Troop Nos. 342 and 52, and Coles School Cub Scout Den Nos. 1, 7 and 9 laid the wood chip trail. Cadettes from Troop Nos. 1 and 751 and Seniors from Troop No. 561 helped the younger girls and boys with their tasks. Two Boy Scouts: Michael Anderson and Stewart Slauch assisted by sawing and clearing the path for the trail to come through. Over a quarter mile, approximately half of the trail, was laid in the two days by the Scouts. Plans are under way for the completion of the trail. This project was organized by Marcia Anderson, a local landscape designer and Scout leader, with the support of the Scotch Plains Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the Environmental Commission. Pictured is a group of Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts from Scotch Plains and Fanwood resting after a long afternoon of trail building at Brookside Park.

TWO OTHER TOWNS ALSO PRESS CHARGES

Scotch Plains Police Collar Man in Recent String of Burglaries

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains police arrested a Kenilworth man they believe is responsible for more than 50 area burglaries since last November, including five in the township, after the suspect allegedly broke into a home last Friday while a woman was sleeping in an upstairs bedroom. Authorities also recovered more than \$130,000 in currency, along with several thousand dollars worth of goods and several weapons the following day.

Stephen Sarnowski, 34, was arrested at approximately 9:20 p.m. after he allegedly broke into a split-level house on Edgewood Terrace in Scotch Plains. The homeowner, who was awakened by the sound of breaking glass downstairs, feigned sleep as the intruder came up the stairs, police said. When he headed up to the attic, she fled to a neighbor's house and alerted police.

Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien, during a press conference held Monday at township police headquarters with law enforcement officials from Westfield, Scotch Plains and Cranford said patrol units in the area responded to the scene and apprehended Sarnowski. He said the suspect was seen by police exiting the front door of the victim's residence.

The chief said that Sarnowski, who was wearing a black ski mask and gloves over his hands, was carrying a black backpack containing about \$20,000 in items which were allegedly taken from the house. The suspect, who police said also had a knife in his possession, was collared a short distance away by Officer Arthur Bruschetti following a brief foot chase. The suspect's car was discovered parked a couple of blocks away from the crime scene, police said.

Sarnowski, who is unemployed, is believed to have committed five burglaries in Scotch Plains since late February, authorities said. He has been charged by township police with burglary, theft, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest. In addition, he is being charged with 27 burglaries in Westfield and another 20 in Cranford dating back to November, and is also suspected in several break-ins which occurred in Fanwood and possibly others in Clark, police said.

Westfield and Cranford police, who had beefed up surveillance of neighborhoods several months ago in response to burglaries in their own communities, learned of the arrest in progress over their car radios. Chief O'Brien said. Authorities from both municipalities provided information for a search warrant which was subsequently issued by Judge Miriam N. Span in Superior Court in Elizabeth.

During a search last Saturday morning, police recovered the currency, which was stashed in a box, as well as the bulk of the valuables and the weapons at Sarnowski's mother's home on New Street in Cranford. Authorities confirmed that the suspect's mother was not aware of the situation. A large coin collection, along with electronic equipment and household goods, were seized at a rooming house on Monroe Avenue in Kenilworth where the suspect was staying, police said.

The valuables, including gold, silver and diamond jewelry; television sets, videocassette recorders and camera equipment, rare and foreign coins, numerous compact discs, appliances and various other goods were displayed across 10 desks at police headquarters during the press conference. Chief O'Brien said authorities were not certain that all of the items obtained by police were stolen, but be-

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Borough Council to Formally Appoint Nine Members to Fanwood Assessment Committee

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Nine people are expected to be formally appointed to the Fanwood Community Assessment Committee by the Borough Council today, Thursday, May 8, during the governing body's regular meeting. The committee has been formed to study the municipality's strengths and weaknesses and to develop improvement strategies to be implemented through the year 2000.

Seven of the nine committee members to be appointed have already been working together for about a year in laying the groundwork for the assessment project, which is scheduled to kick off this summer. It is expected to cover a broad spectrum of community life, including government, business, citizen participation,

education, inter-group relations, voluntarism and philanthropy, local and regional cooperation and the municipality's vision for the future.

The committee currently includes Chairman David Pickering, a former Fanwood Councilman; Councilman William E. Populus, Jr.; Fanwood Planning Board member Jack Molenaar, Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern; Candy Santo, Executive Director of CONTACT We Care in Fanwood; Realtor Carole Wood, and resident Carol Kraus. Rounding out the group will be Councilman Louis C. Jung and Joseph Nagy.

Kathy Weiner, a consultant for the committee, is expected to interview 100 people between August and the end of the year, to gauge their opinions about the community. Among those people to be interviewed, Mr.

Pickering said during the governing body's May 1 agenda session, will be representatives of government, business and education, as well as commuters and senior citizens.

Based on these interviews, according to Mr. Pickering, focus groups will be established to address several issues where residents feel there is a need for improvement. Action projects will then be developed to find solutions, with a report expected to be presented to the Borough Council by June of 1998, Mrs. McGovern said. The borough may apply for an All-American Cities designation by the spring of 2000, she added.

Ms. Weiner, who holds a master's degree in public administration, has been involved with the Fanwood Community Assessment Committee since its inception as a volunteer fa-

cilator, and was later hired as a consultant for \$15,000. She is President of Richard Boris Management Developers in Westfield and is an adjunct professor at Kean College of New Jersey in Union.

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Zoning Board OKs Modular Classrooms

By ALEXANDRA JELKES
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment last week postponed until next month a decision on whether to grant a free-standing sign to the Highland Swim Club.

The club wants to erect the sign on a temporary basis on the Martine Avenue property. The board decided to postpone addressing this issue until its Thursday, June 5, meeting.

The next two issues on last Thursday's agenda dealt with Roman DiNizo, who resides on Mountain Avenue. Mr. DiNizo asked for permission to relocate his existing garage and sought board approval to construct a single-family dwelling. The variance for the first request required detached secondary buildings to conform to side yard requirements. This request was granted. His second concern dealt with the construction of a single-family dwelling. The board found that Mr. DiNizo had conformed with all the necessary requirements and issued him this variance as well.

Michael and Andrea Lenoff of New York Avenue were granted approval

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LOTS OF LOOT... Law enforcement officials review an extensive display of cash and valuables, along with several weapons, which were allegedly stolen by Stephen Sarnowski of Kenilworth during a six-month burglary spree in Westfield, Scotch Plains and Cranford. Pictured during a press conference Monday at Scotch Plains Police Headquarters are, left to right, Detective John Rowe of the Westfield Police Department, Investigator Donnell Joyce of the Scotch Plains Police Department, Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien and Officer Arthur Bruschetti of Scotch Plains, who collared the suspect Friday night.

William A. Burke for The Times

Thomas Russo Joins School Board; Mrs. Simpson Voted Vice President

By BRIAN CAROVILLANO
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education held its reorganizational meeting last Thursday, welcoming new blood to its ranks and making the slight realignment official. New member Thomas Russo was sworn in by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Board Secretary Richard J.

Marshall, along with reelected members August A. Ruggiero and Theresa Larkin.

Mr. Russo was the top vote-getter in last month's election with 1,052 votes, according to the official tallies which were read by Mr. Marshall. Mr. Russo takes the place of former board Vice President Lillian M. Dettmar. Mr. Ruggiero received 1,005

votes to place second, followed closely by Mrs. Larkin's 1,004. Mrs. Dettmar tallied 842 votes, good enough to land her in fourth place, but not good enough to keep her on the board.

Mr. Marshall also read the final tallies for the budget vote, which passed by a margin of 2,008 to 983. In Fanwood, 543 affirmative votes were cast against 301 "no" votes. A total of 1,465 Scotch Plains residents voted in favor of the budget, while 682 voted against the spending plan. The total turnout for both towns was 3,168.

Dr. Donald E. Sheldon was reelected as the board's President by a unanimous vote after being nominated by board member Morris H. Gillet.

Dr. Sheldon expressed his gratitude for the board's continued confidence in his leadership, and praised the effectiveness of its members.

"This is without a doubt the finest group of people I've ever worked with," said Dr. Sheldon. "And that doesn't mean that we don't have our differences."

He added that while disagreement over issues might sometimes divide board members politically, "we all walk out as friends."

Jessica L. Simpson of Fanwood stepped into the Vice Presidency that was previously occupied by Mrs. Dettmar. Nominated by Mr. Ruggiero and approved by a unanimous vote, Mrs. Simpson also thanked the board members for the honor.

"It is truly a labor of love for me," said Mrs. Simpson of her involvement with the board. "I look forward to another exciting and challenging year for the board."

The remainder of the meeting was occupied with the formality of approving appointments including legal counsel, auditing services and negotiators.



EXPLORING MATHEMATICS... Children in the pre-Kindergarten classes in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district and their parents recently attended the mathematics workshop at Brunner Elementary School. The workshop was hosted by Supervisor Hope Swarts and pre-Kindergarten teachers Kathyannon, Laura DelGuercio, Bernadette Hoyer and Margaret Mindlich. Participants and children had the opportunity to explore mathematical concepts and engage in the types of hands-on activities that are used in the classrooms. The participants measured, estimated, counted, made patterns, explored symmetry, and pattern blocks. Pictured is Agnes Grossmann who listens as her daughter, Stefanie, counts out cereal shapes at one of the mathematics stations.

Fanwoodian Christy Tighe Wins Title in Mrs. New Jersey Pageant

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood resident Christy Tighe — wife, mother, coach and active citizen — recently acquired yet another title when she edged out nearly 40 other contestants to win the Mrs. New Jersey pageant on April 26 in Atlantic City, an experience the 29-year-old said she never believed would actually happen.

"I had entered the pageant for fun and I never expected to win," said Mrs. Tighe, who represented her community as Mrs. Fanwood Borough in the competition. "I was very surprised and very humbled because there were a lot of sharp girls who entered the pageant."

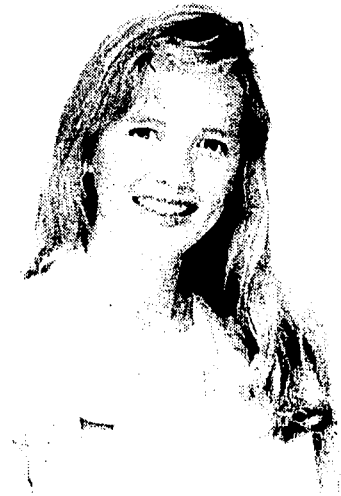
Mrs. Tighe said she first got the idea to enter the competition in 1995 during a parade honoring the borough's centennial. It was there that she met a pageant representative,

who gave her a telephone number to call for information about the state contest, which is based in Riverside.

The new Mrs. New Jersey said she had entered other pageants but had never won before.

After submitting an application, which did not require an accompanying photograph, Mrs. Tighe was selected along with 38 others out of 1,400 inquiries from throughout New Jersey. The pageant was preceded by two rehearsals on April 25 and another the day of the pageant. Participants also had lunch together and toured Atlantic City's boardwalk.

Held in the city's Convention Center, where many Miss Americas have also been crowned, the Mrs. New Jersey pageant featured personal interviews with the contest's seven judges, as well as an evening gown and swimsuit competition. The contestants ranged in age from 21 to 57, according to Mrs. Tighe, who said each woman was escorted by her



Mrs. Christy Tighe

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