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THE TIMES

of

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

OUR 38th YEAR - ISSUE

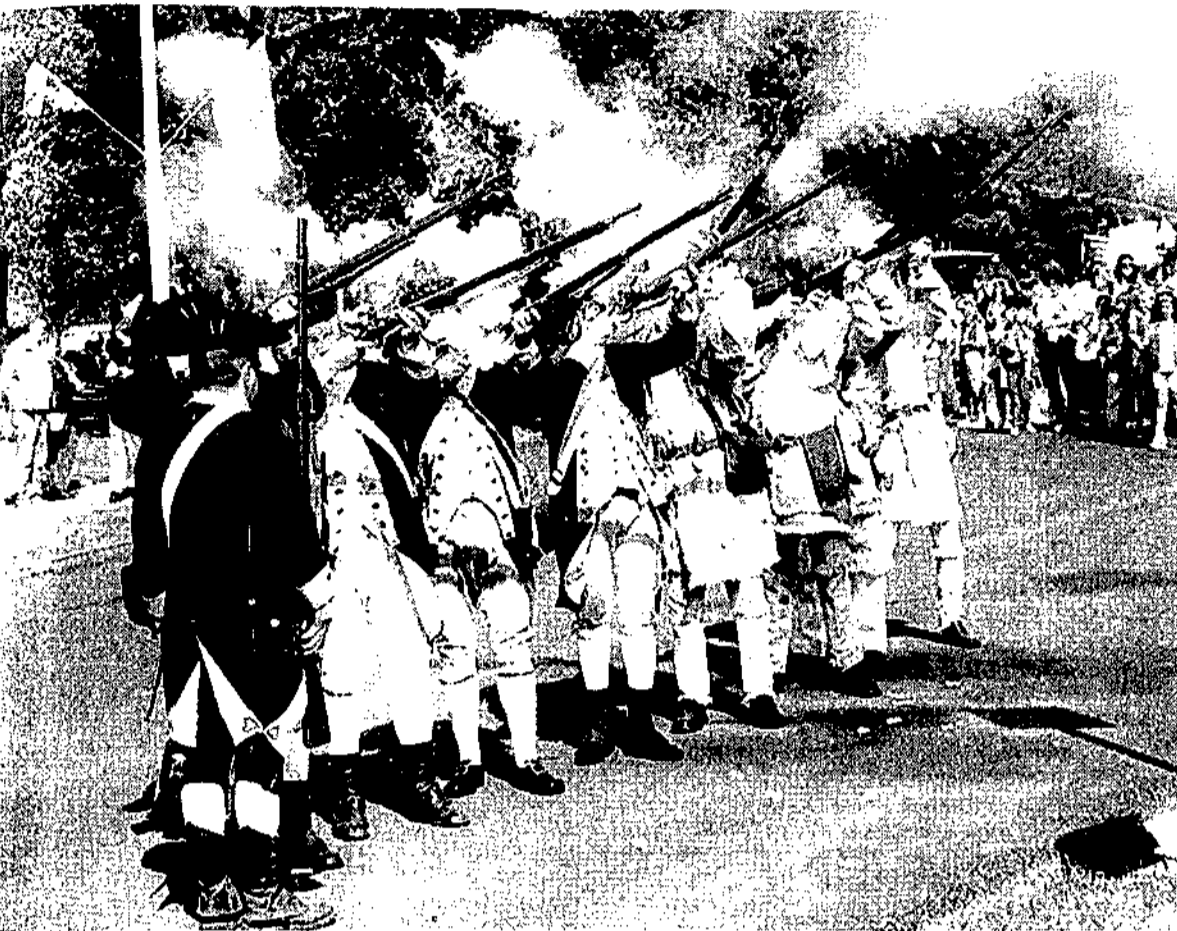
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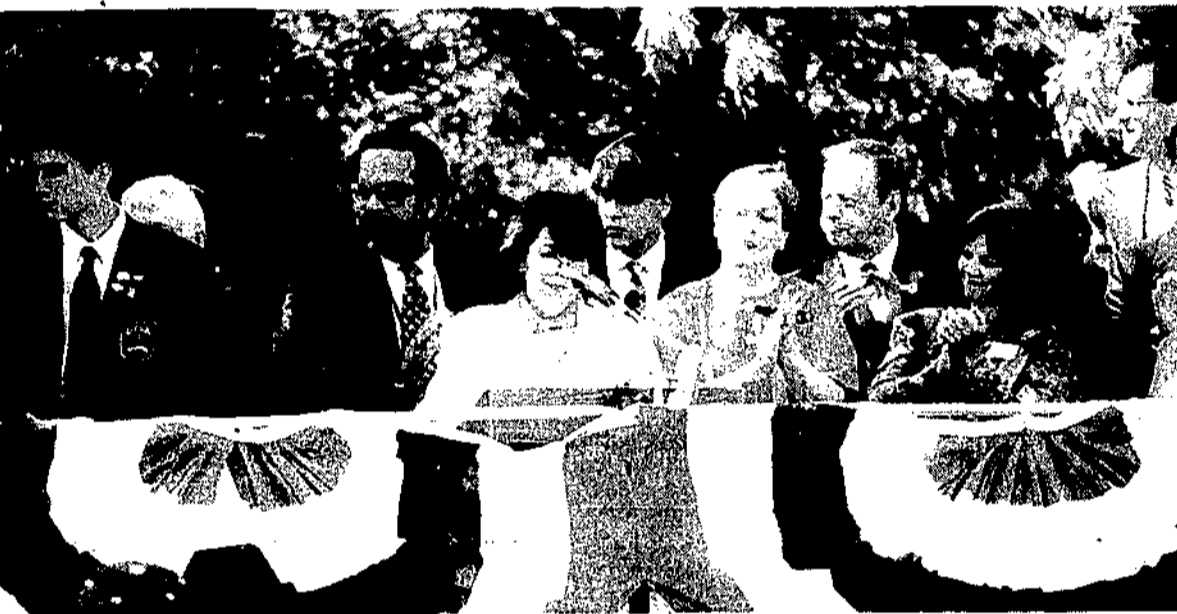
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IN REMEMBRANCE...The color guard salutes those service men and women who gave their lives for their country. The salute was part of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade festivities.



A DIGNIFIED OCCASION...Among the many dignitaries at Monday's Memorial Day Parade ceremony was Scotch Plains Mayor Irene T. Schmidt, shown here addressing those in attendance. Also pictured, left to right, are a member of DECA, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School student marketing association; Fanwood Councilman William E. Populus, Jr.; another DECA representative; Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly; Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains; Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders Chairwoman Linda d. Stender of Fanwood, and Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger of Westfield.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board Agrees to Revamp Language Arts and Social Studies Supervisors

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

When the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education met last Thursday its members unanimously agreed to revamp the Language Arts and Social Studies district supervisory positions for the coming year.

According to board member Edward J. Saridaki, Jr., the move will "allow us to put somebody in the position who is sensitive to the elementary schools." In the past, Superintendent Dr. Carol B. Choye and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. John Crews indicated that younger grades are often overlooked by supervisors who focus on high school education. Under the old system, two supervisors were each re-

sponsible for all 13 grades, Kindergarten through 12, in the district.

With the new plan, one supervisor will guide the elementary grades and the other will guide the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Each supervisor will share middle school responsibilities, with one supervisor focusing on social studies and the other on language arts. Currently, one of the supervisory spots is unfilled and the board said it hopes to hire an individual who is qualified in both areas of study for the slot.

Dr. Crews said he knows of no other districts who have reconfigured the supervisory roles in this way. Dr. Choye emphasized the action is being taken "so we can have more help in the elementary and middle schools." She said she wants to relieve supervisors of clerical duties and "get them into the classrooms" where they can evaluate programs and staff.

Board President Dr. Donald E. Sheldon came out against Governor Christine Todd Whitman's plan, now before the state Legislature, for a pension bond-sale to cover a quarter of a billion dollars in court-ordered aid to 28 of the poorest school districts in the state.

"To mortgage the future, of future generations, that seems to be the bottom line," Dr. Sheldon said.

If the state Legislature okays the \$2.76 billion bond initiative, Governor Whitman has said no money would be diverted from the other "580-plus" districts in the state to satisfy the court spending order.

On a separate matter, the board said it will continue to contract with the Bound Brook JA-CE Company for the district lunch program at a cost of \$16,000. Earlier in the month, board members said they were considering a bid from a Southern New Jersey food service company but the low bidder "did not meet specifications" according to board member August A. Ruggiero. At the same time, a 3.5 percent wage increase was approved for the 14 district cafeteria employees. The average rate is about \$10.50 per hour, according to district records.

Additionally, a three-year contract for district waste disposal was awarded to DiMarco Disposal Service Inc. of Elizabeth at \$48,155 per year. Officials said the new contract saved \$30,000 over the previous one.

The board also approved 2 percent increases on transportation contracts for the coming year. Daily rates for the school bus runs range from \$42.15 for a high school "late run" to \$92.84 for St. Joseph's. According to federal law, the district must provide transportation for non-public school children or pay families a maximum of \$675 per student "in lieu of" available transportation.

In other business, the board approved nearly \$30,000 for supplies to district sports programs for the coming year. Boys' baseball weighed in as the costliest, requiring \$6,412. Cross country running and bowling were the least expensive at under \$200 each. Girls' softball required \$963 and football collected \$2,755, according to district records.

Dr. Crews told the board that an advanced weight-training program in the high school for students on athletic teams that meets only four days a week satisfies the state's mandate for 150 minutes of physical education per week. Earlier this month, a district parent asked if the course "discriminated" against students who were not on athletic teams, since other students must attend physical education classes every day. The board decided it must determine whether the program is a course or an activity in order to decide whether board approval of the program is necessary.

Extensive changes to the board's policy manual won unanimous approval from board members after board Policy Subcommittee Chairman Richard R. Meade clarified several points. Board Vice President Jessica L. Simpson called the measures "very important" since "the law is very complicated and policy is what governs the board."

The board recognized high school junior David Gewirtz for recently being elected New Jersey State President of the Future Business Leaders of America. Dr. Choye called David

COUNCIL UPDATES SIGN ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Scotch Plains Council OKs Bond Ordinance of \$295,000 For Improvements to Pond

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council passed a \$295,000 bond ordinance Tuesday for improvements to Brookside Park pond and parking lot with work on the project to begin next fall if all goes according to schedule. A down payment of \$14,048 is part of the total, officials added.

The capital budget project aims to dredge the pond, add fountains, walking paths and landscaping and pave parking areas and basketball courts, according to Councilman Martin Marks, who is Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Officials said they hoped to stretch funds to make as many of the proposed improvements as possible. Asking for input from residents about the improvements, Councilman Marks called the park "one of the real treasures in our town." A public hearing on the measures will be held on Tuesday, June 10, in the Municipal Building at 8 p.m.

The council also agreed to buy a \$23,938 dump truck for the township Public Works Department. Funds for the 1997 Dodge truck are part of the township capital improvements budget and will be purchased through a state contract, officials said.

In other business, the council passed an ordinance prohibiting left turns onto Quimby Lane from Raritan Road during morning and evening rush hours. Residents had complained that speeding motorists cut through the neighborhood to avoid the Lamberts Mill and Raritan Roads intersection. Councilman Robert E. Johnston said the move should "rectify the traffic issue."

At the same time, the council rescinded an ordinance that prohibited left turns onto Forest Road from a convenience store parking lot on Westfield Avenue. In scrapping the prohibition, officials said it had not proved effective in reducing acci-

dents and was a "very inconvenient" rerouting of traffic for store customers.

On a separate matter, the council updated a sign ordinance for public buildings that will allow signs up to 200 square feet in area on a front facade where 10 square feet is now allowed. Councilman Johnston said the changes bring the township code in line with county standards. The signs must be individual lettering placed directly on the building wall, according to the ordinance.

Mayor Irene T. Schmidt cited the township library and Municipal Building signs as examples of what the ordinance requires. The changes came about when the Jewish Community Center requested clarification for sign requirements from the Planning Board, officials said last week.

The council also amended a chapter of the building and housing code according to recent state mandates. Councilwoman Joan Papen said some of the changes deal with lead hazard abatements and new application forms. The township added another change that sets a flat permit fee of \$50 for any above-ground swimming pool, Mrs. Papen said.

In other action, Mayor Schmidt appointed Civil Engineer and Professional Planner Paul J. Paperella to the Environmental Commission. The volunteer Commission fields inquiries from the council, Planning Board and other organizations about the effects of local development on the natural environment according to regulations.

A 600-square-foot piece of town-

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Democrats to Decide Races for Freeholder, Governor in Primary

By JUSTIN BRIDGE and PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Times

Although there are no local races in this Tuesday's Primary Election, registered Democrats and undeclared voters will decide the candidates who will represent the party this November in the races for Governor and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Three Democrats are fighting for their party's nomination for governor in the primaries; Congressman Robert Andrews of Camden, Morris County Prosecutor Michael Murphy and State Senator and Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey.

Congressman Andrews graduated summa cum laude from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where he also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He also received his law degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After graduating from Cornell, he served as an attorney and as an adjunct professor at the Rutgers University School of Law. In addition, Mr. Andrews also served two terms as a Freeholder.

Congressman Andrews was first elected to the United States Congress in 1990, and is currently serving his fourth term. He serves on the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee and the International Relations Committee.

Mr. Murphy, the stepson of former Governor Richard J. Hughes, graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1971. He went on to graduate from Seton Hall School of Law in Newark in 1974.

The candidate worked as a public defender, had a private law practice, and was an Assistant Prosecutor for Morris County before Governor James J. Florio appointed him Morris County Prosecutor in 1990. His cases included the trial of the couple who kidnapped and murdered Exxon executive Sidney J. Reso.

He worked as a lawyer in private practice from 1995 through this past January, when he took leave to run for Governor.

Mr. McGreevey graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1978. From there, he went on to Georgetown University Law School where he received his degree in 1981. He also received his Master of the Arts Degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1982. He served as the Assistant Prosecutor of Middlesex County from 1982 to 1983; Legislative Assistant to the State Assembly Speaker from 1983 to 1985, and as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Parole Board from 1985 to 1986.

He then served as the Public Affairs Manager for Merck & Company from 1987 to 1991 while also serving as State Assemblyman from 1990 to 1991. He was elected as the Mayor of Woodbridge in 1992. In addition to being Mayor, Mr. McGreevey has also served as a State Senator since 1994.

Incumbent Christine Todd Whitman, currently the 50th governor of New Jersey and the first woman ever to hold that office, is opposed in her bid for the Republican Party's nod. Mrs. Whitman graduated from Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government. After graduation, she worked for the United States Office of Economic Opportunity as well as the Republican National Committee.

In 1982, Mrs. Whitman was elected to the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. She was re-elected to the board again in 1985. Over the five years she served as a Freeholder, Mrs. Whitman held the positions of Director and Deputy Director.

In 1988, then Governor Thomas H. Kean appointed her to serve as President of the New Jersey Board of

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AIRBORNE...A student from Martial Arts America goes airborne during a demonstration as part of Monday's annual Fanwood Memorial Day carnival.

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. 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 must 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.

William A. Burke for The Times