

THE TIMES

of

Scotch Plains - Fanwood



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TIME TO CELEBRATE...Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Class of 1997 congregate in the high school parking lot for a last-minute chat prior to entering the high school field for last week's commencement exercises. Please see the graduates' pictures on Pages 15 and 16.

NEIGHBORING WEL-DON MATERIALS OPPOSING PLAN

Developer Seeking Nod to Build 116 Townhouse Units Off Union Ave.

By JUSTIN BRIDGE
Specially Written for The Times

A new planned development, known as The Reserve, was unveiled at Monday night's meeting of the Scotch Plains Planning Board. The plan was presented to the board by Robert Kraus, a lawyer for K. Hovnanian, the company that is seeking to build the development.

The development is being challenged by the Wel-Don Materials Company which plans to submit witnesses to testify against the proposal.

The development, if approved, would be built on 7.7 square acres of land adjacent to Union Avenue and Meadow Street. The Wel-Don Materials quarry borders on the proposed development. The land is owned by the Donato family of Scotch Plains.

The site plan calls for the construction of 116 townhouse style con-

dominiums to be built, 16 of which satisfy Mount Laurel criteria. The development also meets the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) criteria and is already zoned accordingly.

In his opening statements, Mr. Kraus claimed that: "This plan provides a realistic opportunity for meeting the Mount Laurel Housing agreements."

Mr. Kraus also said that the developer entered into an agreement to develop the site with the Donato family, who own the land. Mr. Kraus claimed that Wel-Don Materials is against the proposed development because it would not want to notify roughly 300 people, who would live in the new development if it is approved, every time the company blasts

into rock at its quarry. Wel-Don blasts into the rocks about two times a week, according to Mr. Kraus.

He produced two witnesses to testify in favor of the development. The first witness was Robert Schwartz, an attorney working for K. Hovnanian. Mr. Schwartz was the lawyer who actually negotiated the deal with the Donato family. Mr. Schwartz's testimony consisted mainly of a synopsis of the K. Hovnanian company.

According to Mr. Schwartz, the firm is in the top 12 residential home developers in the country. Although the firm develops primarily in the northeast region (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York), K. Hovnanian also builds on sites in several other states, including California and Florida. He also claimed that it is

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Board of Adjustment Names New Vice Chairman; Okays Appeals

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Board of Adjustment last Thursday named James Watson as its new Vice Chairman before addressing five new applications on its agenda for the month. Mr. Watson was chosen to succeed the late Vice Chairman Edward Ryan, who died on May 7. Jack Molenaar, who has served on the Fanwood Planning Board and chairs the borough's Downtown Redevelopment Committee, will fill Mr. Ryan's unexpired term, which ends on December 31, 1998.

According to the board, there were no objections to any of the applications from the Fanwood Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health, Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission or the Tax Collector's office. There were also no objections to any of the appeals from members of the public.

Christine and Jerome Zoufaly of South Glenwood Road successfully appealed for bulk variances to maintain an existing deck and a shed. Mrs. Zoufaly explained that after purchasing their home, they had replaced a dilapidated deck with a new one, not knowing that the former structure did not conform to zoning regulations. She added that neighbors had commended the couple for replacing the old deck, which she said had become an eyesore.

Board member Jeffrey Strauss and his wife, Angelique, of Willoughby Road were granted approval to widen the entrance to their driveway to 20 feet, which is in non-compliance with the permitted width of 10 feet. Mr. Strauss described how the existing entrance makes it difficult to utilize his double driveway, noting that if one vehicle is already parked there a second vehicle must angle around it. Mr. Molenaar expressed concern

that if the applicant's next-door neighbor wanted to widen the mouth of his driveway, "you could wind up with 40 feet of blacktop with Belgian block curbing in between." Mr. Strauss said that his next door neighbor's driveway is basically a single one but angles further up near the garage, and that the neighbor had no objections to his proposal.

Kevin and Karen Ryan received bulk variances to create an addition onto their Helen Street home. Mr. Ryan said the couple wanted to enlarge their kitchen area and provide additional bath and bedroom space on the second floor to accommodate their growing family. Mr. Ryan explained that he would have to take down an existing deck in order to complete the renovations, but said he hoped to eventually replace it with a new deck which would occupy the

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SP-F Foundation Awards \$63,000 In Scholarships to 71 Persons

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation celebrated 31 years of continuous scholarship assistance to local students on June 13 by honoring recipients of this year's scholarships.

The 15 members of the Board of Trustees presented 71 scholarships with a total value of \$63,300 to both high school and college students.

A committee of 14 screeners representing eight local schools as well as the Service League and the Foundation evaluated a record total of 102 applications. The applicants were awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, extracurricular and community activities, future promise and financial need.

The Foundation gave 18 "Dollars for Students" awards totaling \$14,750 with money received through community donations. The recipients were Amy Silva, Andrea L'Heureux, Ebony Hill, Amy Stratton, Nicole Talmadge, Shannon Price, Erin Zupkus, Charles Kiley, George L'Heureux, Regina Giordano, Michelle Knoller, Elizabeth Brix and Maureen Zupkus. Susanna Banic received the alumni-funded award. Jay Kalyanaraman

received an award named for John Lawson; Megan Langevin an award named for Henry Schweiring; Marisa Hyman, an award named for Camille Flathmann, and Dana Horning an award named for Muriel Ramsden.

The second Robert Adams, Jr. Memorial Scholarship of \$500 was presented to James Bishop. Erica Smith was the recipient of the 24th \$500 Elizabeth Becker Memorial Scholarship. The 15th \$500 Memorial Scholarship was presented to Leonard Borgman. The Besson Family Memorial Scholarship was presented to Tara Poropat. The recipients of the sixth year and the recipients of \$500 each were Jenine Ruiz and James Greene.

For 13 years the Foundation has presented the Henry Blum and Francis Dezort Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, and this year it was presented to Karen McClintock. Courtney Pearson was the recipient of the Jeanette Britton Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000. Erica Schnellenberger received the Frances Brody Memorial Scholarship for \$500, given to a student pursuing a career in music.

Among the many scholarships that the Foundation administers are the Mountainside Elks Lodge No. 1585 scholarships. Two awards were presented for \$500 each to Marisa Termine and Sejal Patel. Ross MacIntyre was the third recipient of the \$500 Dr. George Esposito Memorial Scholarship. The fourth Scotch Plains Volunteer Firefighters Association Scholarship for \$1,000 was presented to Jeremy Kosciolcki.

Many scholarships were awarded in memory of loved ones and former teachers. The Irene Grubman Memorial Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$500 to Lipika Goyal. Included were the third Doris Koues Memorial Scholarships to nursing students awarding \$1,000 to both Erin McGeough and Marisa Giordano and a \$500 award to Sarah Simpson. The recipient of the third Deane Kumpf Memorial Scholarship for \$500 was received by Aleda Rusnak.

This was the second year the David J. Mills Memorial Scholarships were given.

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FACILITY WOULD BE LOCATED OFF JERUSALEM ROAD

Scotch Plains Council OKs \$3,000 for Planning Services For Senior Citizen Complex

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council authorized \$3,000, Tuesday night, for professional planning services in connection with a proposed senior citizen housing development just off Jerusalem Road opposite the Scotch Hills Golf Club. Officials said the so-called Broadway Associates project has been pondered for the past six years.

The proposed 250-unit complex would be built on 11 acres of which the township currently owns seven acres and the other four acres are privately owned by a partnership of local and European investors, according to Councilman William F. McClintock. The township has considered selling its acreage.

The proposed complex may include dining and medical facilities, officials said, but would not provide an "assisted living" arrangement for the elderly. Councilman McClintock noted that a public meeting about the proposed Broadway project several years ago drew little, if any, objections. "It's a big, big project," he added.

On a separate matter, the council adopted an ordinance appropriating \$200,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) for roadway repairs and improvements to East Second Street. After reviewing six bids for the proposed work, the township awarded the contract to Tomaro Contracting Com-

pany, Inc., of Rockaway, at \$223,001. The second and third lowest bids were nearly \$9,000 and \$40,000 higher. According to township attorneys, a "minor matter" in connection with Tomato's bid will be waived. The company has done satisfactory work for the township in the past, lawyers said.

In a related matter, the council agreed to request funds for next year through the state DOT for extensive repairs to Raritan Road between Clover Street and Rahway Road, along Rahway Road from Bonus Hill Drive to Greenbriar and Hetfield Avenue. Officials said the Borough of Fanwood and the township together will repave Hetfield Avenue but New Jersey Transit is responsible for the bridge structure over the rail line. Officials said last week that the core structure is "solid."

In other business, the council unanimously approved annual liquor licenses for 43 township business. There are three categories of licenses, officials said, with 20 restaurants, three clubs and 20 stores in the township. Fees are \$1,700 a year. Council members said they each make yearly rounds to inspect the township establishments before renewing licenses.

On a different matter, the council introduced an \$80,000 bond ordinance to repair the roof and foundations of the Osborn Cannonball House at the Village Green while the township pursues a \$35,000 grant for the project from the New Jersey Historic

Trust. Council members have described the pre-Revolutionary War house as an historic gem that the township should not let fall into disrepair. A public hearing on the ordinance will be Tuesday, July 8, in the Municipal Building at 8 p.m.

The council appointed Theodore Bassman as the primary representative to the Green Brook Flood Control Commission for the remainder of the calendar year.

Mayor Irene T. Schmidt described Mr. Bassman as "very well qualified" for the position. Mr. Bassman served as alternate to the commission under the late Boyd Lawrence "Larry" Newcomb, who was Vice Chairman of the Commission. He is an engineer and retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mayor Schmidt called the seventh annual John Shippen Memorial Golf Tournament at Shackamaxon Country Club last Monday, "a great success." There were nearly 100 golfers with \$200-a-head tournament fees. Mayor Schmidt called it a "picture-perfect" day and noted the award of four John Shippen Foundation scholarship winners. John Shippen, a former township resident, is recognized as the nation's first golf pro to play in the second U.S. Open in 1896.

The council agreed to okay the manager's report contingent on seeing a "bills list." Attorneys for the township agreed. "Everyone must see it," they maintained.

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IN RECOGNITION...Maryanne S. Connelly, Mayor of Fanwood, is shown receiving a special recognition award from Michael D'Errico, Regional Forester for the State of New Jersey, in recognition of her special efforts in the removal of the 332-year-old White Oak, the Fanwood Oak. Mayor Connelly arranged for a Native American memorial services last November for the tree when it had to be cut down due to disease. Mr. D'Errico and his assistant, David Johnson, hope to regenerate the Fanwood Oak through a grafting process of limbs from the original tree and live white oak roots.



LOOKING BACK...A landmark for centuries along Marline Avenue near Midland Avenue, the Fanwood Oak was taken down this past November 3rd. A victim of natural decay, the tree had to be removed.

Early Deadlines Set Due to July the 4th

The offices of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* will be closed next Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

All press releases and letters must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. Only week-end sports news will be accepted, until noon, on Monday, July 7.

Press release and letters may be dropped off at our offices located at 50 Elm Street in Westfield. Articles may also be E-mailed to goleader@aol.com.

All copy must be typed, double-spaced, no more than 500 words in length (250 words for letters) and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

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, and edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the Editor.