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# THE TIMES

of

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood



FANWOOD

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ON THE SCENE...Emergency services from Fanwood and Plainfield work to extract seriously injured victims from a vehicle which was in a collision with another car at the intersection of Midway Avenue and Terrill Road in Fanwood in the mid-afternoon on September 20. Occupants of both vehicles sustained severe injuries. In addition to the rescue squads, fire departments from both communities responded as did the paramedics.

### A 250-UNIT COMPLEX HAS BEEN PROPOSED ON SITE SP Council Moves to Rezone Parcel on Broadway Avenue For Senior Citizen Housing

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Times

Beginning in October, one lane in both directions of Route 22 near the Blue Star shopping center will be closed to traffic for more than a year while a bridge over the Green Brook is replaced.

Officials noted that the work was not part of a United States Army Corps of Engineers Green Brook flood control project.

Scotch Plains Deputy Mayor Joan Papen said State Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine alerted area towns early this week to the proposed state Department of Transportation (DOT) project that will likely cause rush hour traffic snarls if cars back up on Route 22. East, while waiting to exit onto the bridge over the highway.

Mrs. Papen also said Plainfield Avenue near Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights will

continue to be closed through December due to widening and utilities installations. The detour route leads from Interstate 78 into the township.

Plainfield Avenue will be open sporadically after December until completion of the work next summer, she said.

Councilman Robert E. Johnston said they will also be looking for solutions to control the high volume of traffic on Park Avenue in the township. He claimed the DOT had \$800 million in federal funds to spend on roadways.

In other action, the council moved ahead in rezoning a 12-acre site off Jerusalem Road at Broadway Avenue for redevelopment that could include a 250-unit senior citizen housing complex.

Earlier in the month, area residents objected to proposals for development of the property by Broadway Associates.

The township currently owns two-thirds of the mostly vacant property, valued at more than \$1 million, while Westfield attorney James B. Flynn and others of Broadway Associates own the remainder.

A professional planner told the council that the "unique topography" and "poor or remote access" to the site makes it unlikely that the site would be privately developed.

Mr. Flynn has said that the main entrance to the proposed senior citizen complex at the site would be from Prospect Street in Westfield at Madison Avenue.

Councilman Martin Marks explained the township Board of Adjustments recommendation to rezone the particular site.

"Yes, they agree this area is in need of redevelopment. However, they will not support any specific development until they see site plans for the area," Councilman Marks stated.

He added that neither has the township council come to any conclusions about redevelopment plans. "We're looking for input from the community," he said.

The site was formerly zoned for low-to-moderate income housing, officials said. Mr. Flynn said there is a need for assisted senior citizen housing — like this project — in Union County.

On another matter, Councilman Marks introduced an ordinance to outlaw so-called "scavenging" along residential streets during the township's Clean-Up Month.

Councilwoman Papen has said she will oppose the measure. She said the issue is already covered by existing township ordinances.

Councilman Marks cited traffic dangers and unsightly debris.

"I'm very much in favor of this. Let's not wait to have a tragedy happen and then write a law. All too often that happens," he remarked.

A public hearing on the anti-scavenging law will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

In other business, the council agreed to accept \$200,000 from the state DOT highway fund to improve Glenside Avenue between Skytop and Deerpath. Councilman Johnston pointed out that the grant money comes from gasoline taxes.

The council also agreed to eliminate parking for anyone other than emergency personnel around the southside fire station at Martine Avenue and Raritan Road.

On a different issue, a majority of the council agreed to support state Legislature bills that would tackle aircraft noise and pollution around Newark International Airport.

Mayor Irene T. Schmidt said she would do whatever she could to eliminate "horrible noise" from aircraft over the township while adding that, "The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) needs to look at all the issues."

Councilman Johnston called it a "regional issue."

Councilwoman Papen said she could not support the state Assembly bill because it recommended the "bubble" concept of limiting air and noise pollution in the area surrounding and including the airport.

She claimed the bubble method was tried in California and later dropped.

Mayor Schmidt said the issue was now one of increased volume, since the majority of new aircraft have

"quiet" engines when compared to those of 10 years ago.

Mrs. Papen said, "We need Newark (Airport) to insist on a higher percentage of quieter engines."

In other business, Councilman William F. McClintock said the township library will take bids next month to fully automate — or computerize

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### Zoning Board Approves Six Applications

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

Six new applications were heard by the Fanwood Board of Adjustment last Thursday, while two others, approved on August 21, were memorialized. The agenda brought approximately a dozen people to the meeting.

Board members opened the session by rehearing the application of Steven and Deborah Geger of Montrose Avenue, who received approval for a 16-foot by 42-foot deck on July 17. A second public hearing was rescheduled due to a problem involving notification of neighbors, according to the board.

The Gegers told board members back in July that they wanted the deck as a recreation area since their back yard is heavily shaded and subject to heavy water run off. They required variances from the Borough Code for their rear yard setback and structural coverage.

During last week's rehearing of the appeal, Mr. Geger agreed to amend the application to include a five-foot by eight-foot shed, which required variances because the two-foot rear and side yard setbacks were in non-compliance with Borough Code requirements. The board unanimously approved the amended application.

Thomas Kilgannon of Locust Avenue successfully appealed for a bulk variance allowing him to have a 14-foot by 32-foot deck for entertainment and general recreation purposes. Mr. Kilgannon required the variance because the proposed structure would leave a rear yard depth of less than the permitted 25 feet.

The applicant testified that his back yard faces North Avenue and the railroad tracks beyond. The reduced distance would therefore not encroach on any neighboring property.

In a hearing rescheduled from August, Daniel Amorelli of South Avenue received the board's permission to maintain an existing six-foot by eight-foot storage shed on the side of his property next to his garage.

He required a variance to accommodate a reduced street side yard width. The board determined the shed was in the "only practical place" it could be on the applicant's corner lot.

Kenneth and Patricia Lipetz of Farley Avenue received permission to erect a shed in the rear yard of their property. The couple plan to use the shed for storage of garden equipment and their children's toys, which they have been keeping in their one-car garage.

Mr. Lipetz explained that the shed will allow them to use their garage for the car, and will be located in a non-used portion of their rear yard. They required variances for side yard widths and front yard depth related to placement of the shed.

Constance A. Kenna of Forest Road was given the board's green light for a detached garage, after the applicant agreed to a two-foot side yard distance which would prevent eaves and gutters on the garage from extending over the property line.

In the final new application of the evening, John M. Bischoff of St. John's Place was granted permission by a vote of 5-1 to widen his driveway from 10 feet to 16 feet.

The applicant explained that he wanted to widen his driveway in order to get his vehicles off of the street, which leads to Forest Road Park.

Mr. Bischoff's proposal had received the endorsement of Traffic Safety Officer Richard Trigo of the Fanwood Police Department, who stated in a letter to the board dated

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### Second Annual 'Fanny Wood Day' Scheduled For This Saturday in Borough's Downtown

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

Borough residents will again pay tribute to their heritage on Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the second annual "Fanny Wood Day" celebration in the heart of Fanwood's downtown.

The festival, which will take place along Martine and South Avenues, celebrates the borough's past and present. It was conceived by Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly last year as a way to honor and promote Fanwood as a historically-rich, family-oriented community.

"Fanny Wood" is a mythical figure possibly based on a real-life person. Although there are few historic facts about her, the legend of Fanny Wood has become a part of popular folklore.

A colorful collection of exhibits and activities are once again planned for "Fanny Wood Day," which last year drew approximately 9,000 people to the municipality's business district.

Organizers of the celebration hope even more people will turn out for this year's festivities, according to Fanny Wood Day Committee member Pamela Sayles.

The rain date for the event is the following Saturday, October 4.

Local merchants, along with crafters and vendors, will display their wares throughout the day, giving visitors an opportunity to shop and browse. Jewelry, crafts, stationery, seasonal items and food will be among the merchandise offered for sale.

Activities and games also will take place. Festival-goers will have an opportunity to test their skill at the High Striker and the dunk tank, both of which will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The popular moon walk ride for children also will be open during those hours.

Face painting will be done from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a petting zoo and pony rides for children, and "balloonation" hats will be made.

The Celebration Singers from Cranford, a choral ensemble specializing in popular music and Broadway favorites, will make a return engagement to this year's festival, with a performance scheduled for 1 p.m.

Hay rides for youngsters will be held between 1 and 3 p.m. Some of the children's activities will take place in the Fanwood train station parking lot.

A number of educational exhibits will again be part of "Fanny Wood Day" this year as well, including Otto the Auto, a remote-controlled "smart car" that talks and answers questions; crash test dummies "Vince and Larry," and a fire safety exhibit including a smoke house demonstration and fire extinguisher display.

In addition, "Healthy Avenues," sponsored by Overlook Hospital in Summit, will offer individual health risk appraisals and blood pressure screenings. Children's Specialized Hospital will have an information mobile at the festival as well.

Capping this year's celebration will be the first Fanny Wood Dance, to be held from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the Italian American Club in Scotch Plains.

Food and homemade desserts will be served at the dance, with music provided by the Up Beat Orchestra. All guests will also receive a commemorative souvenir.

A 50-50 raffle drawing will be conducted, with tickets sold throughout the day and also at the dance. The winning ticket will be drawn at the dance, and the winner does not need to be present, according to the Fanny Wood Day Committee.

Tickets for the Fanny Wood Dance, which cost \$12.50 each, may be obtained at Fanwood Borough Hall or by calling David Pickering at 317-9724, according to Mrs. Sayles.

They also are available at Enchantments Too, 230 South Avenue, and the Florida Fruit Shoppe, 226 South Avenue.

All proceeds from this year's "Fanny Wood" celebration will be used toward the purchase of a Victorian street clock to mark the upcoming millennium.

Mayor Connelly came up with the idea for the clock as part of the overall theme planned for the downtown.

Mrs. Sayles said she believes events such as "Fanny Wood Day" make the community an even more desirable place in which to live.

"There's things to do with the community, and we try to involve everyone," she said.

She reported that the Fanny Wood Day Committee has been planning this weekend's festival since the spring.

In addition to Mrs. Sayles and her husband, Peter, committee members include Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti, Mr. Pickering, Public Works Director Raymond Manfra, Neil F. Schembre and Helen Ling. Mrs. Sayles designed the program for the event.

The origins of "Fanny Wood,"

though vague, date back to the 19th century. According to legend, she was an amazine writer and poet who helped attract visitors to Fanwood, then a fledgling community, with her stories about the picturesque countryside.

Besides its historic significance, "Fanny Wood Day" also spotlights the various shops located in the downtown, which faces competition from area malls and larger retailers along nearby Route No. 22.

Officials and merchants are looking ahead to a revitalization effort which is expected to kick off before the end of the year with the addition of benches and banners, to be followed by other amenities.

Jack Molenaar, Chairman of the Fanwood-Downtown Revitalization Committee, said recently that the rejuvenation effort would hopefully encourage more people to patronize the business district.



JUST CLOWNING AROUND...No! That's not Fanny Wood disguised behind that clown costume; however, the real Fanny Wood was there on Fanny Wood Day last year.



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT...This gentleman nervously grits his teeth before hearing the results of his blood pressure test at Fanny Wood Day last year. Is that a good technique?

**Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Leader**

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to *The Leader* are reminded that copy should be E-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. The Leader's 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 throughout mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline, we encourage E-mail or faxed materials.

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 set due to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.