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SUCCESS TIMES TWO... The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider Show Band competed on October 4 and 5. At the first competition, hosted by Somerville High School, the Raiders achieved a "superior" rating from judges, winning them second place overall. At the second competition, held at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison, the Raiders again took the second place trophy. Their next competition is scheduled for October 18 in Huxterdon, and they also will participate in a competition at the Meadowlands in November.

ABERDEENS PIN HOPES ON WIFE'S STATUS AS DOMESTIC

INS Denies Immigrant's Petition To Keep Family in Scotch Plains

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains resident William Aberdeen's third petition for classification as a "religious worker" under the Immigration and Nationality Act has been denied by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of the United States Department of Justice.

The INS denial cuts short the reprieve Congress granted Mr. Aberdeen, his wife and their two children through its late September extension of the provision allowing undocumented immigrants to file for legal status within the United States until Thursday, October 23.

In a letter addressed to Christopher T. Salina, Pastor of Jesus Restoration Ministries, the INS states "You have submitted no corroborating documentation to establish that the beneficiary (Mr. Aberdeen) was maintaining full-time employment for the two years immediately prior to July 24, 1997, nor that your church has compensated him with a salary of any kind."

"In addition, you have submitted no documentation which verifies that the beneficiary's past experience qualifies as a traditional religious occupation, or that the proposed position requires specific religious training or a full-time commitment and cannot be performed by a dedicated and caring member of your congregation."

John Loughrey, the family friend who first brought the Aberdeens' plight to the attention of *The Times*, stated in a letter to Congressman Bob

Franks, "He (William Aberdeen) indeed participates in the ministry, leading the worship, and teaching Scripture to the children, and he would be ashamed to take a penny from a congregation which is too poor to pay for such things."

"The problem is," added Mr. Loughrey in a telephone interview, "that William can't come up with a W-2 form to show gainful employment with his church."

Mr. Aberdeen's wife, Gracelynn, said her lawyer advised her that the

denial of her husband's petition "won't affect my approval as a domestic by the INS."

"If they extend the filing deadline beyond October 23," Mrs. Aberdeen said, "it will be okay for us to stay and wait for my papers."

In January of 1992, Mrs. Aberdeen filed her own visa application which was approved. Because the government limits the number of visas issued annually for domestics, Mrs. Aberdeen is waiting for the quota to come up for her year of application.

Nine Candidates Square Off at Forum for Three Seats Freeholder Board

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

Nine candidates for three seats on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders weighed in Tuesday on the issues of taxes, spending, hiring, the size of county government and the Union County Utilities Authority before an audience of about 60 county residents in a little publicized "Candidates Night" at Westfield's Municipal Building.

The forum was sponsored by the Union County League of Women Voters.

With the prospect that the Tuesday, November 4 election could give Democrats a 9-0 majority on the Freeholder Board - if the three incumbent Republican Freeholders lose their seats to their opponents - Republicans Edwin H. Force of Cranford, Henry W. Kurz of Roselle Park and Frank H. Lehr of Summit defended their roles as "watch dogs" on the board.

Freeholder Kurz stated, "We are committed to preserving the two-party system of checks and balances."

Democratic Freeholder candidates Chester Holmes of Rahway, Deborah

Peer-Scanlon of Union and Roselle Park's Alexander Mirabella defended the current Democratic-controlled Freeholder Board.

Mr. Holmes claimed Republican Freeholders went to taxpayers for a \$28 million bail-out for the county's solid waste incinerator operations in Rahway while Democratic Freeholders "are getting us out of this quagmire" by looking at a 25-year lease arrangement of the waste facility with Ogden Martin Systems, which built the facility. Mr. Holmes is a former police detective in Rahway.

Freeholder Kurz responded that Union was one of five counties to move toward self-sufficient waste disposal as mandated by the state until the New Jersey Supreme Court shot down the measure last year as a violation of commerce laws. That decision was upheld on appeal.

Mr. Kurz added that, "We stepped to the plate and did what was right." When Mr. Mirabella stated that Republican Freeholders had voted against county budget tax cuts ear-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



AND THE WINNER IS... Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, pictured second from right, presents raffle winner Leah More, second from left, with a check. The drawing took place at the Fanny Wood Day dance held on September 27. Also pictured, left to right, are Peter Sayles, Sam More, Zachary More and Neil Schembre. Mr. Sayles and Mr. Schembre are members of the Fanny Wood Day Committee, serving as President and Treasurer. Missing is Jay More, Leah's husband and the father of Sam and Zachary, who actually won the prize.

COUNCILMAN DISCUSSES NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM

Captain Robert Carboy to Become Fanwood Chief of Police on January 1

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The appointment of Captain Robert Carboy as Fanwood's next Chief of Police was confirmed by the Borough Council during last Thursday's regular meeting, as past and present colleagues joined governing body members in honoring the veteran officer.

Captain Carboy, who will assume command of the department on January 1, was chosen to succeed Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti. The latter will comply on December 31 with a state law requiring all police and fire personnel who have reached age 65 to retire.

Calling him "a gem of a person," Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly last week anticipated that Captain Carboy would continue solid leadership of the department in his future position. The captain has been a member of the Fanwood force for the past 38 years.

Police Commissioner and Council President Bruce H. Walsh called the Captain and Chief Parenti "a couple of extraordinary people." He noted that both men donated their

time to the September 27 community celebration of Fanny Wood Day.

Also on hand to offer congratulations was retired Fanwood Police Captain George Germinder, whom the Chief-elect succeeded as Captain in 1992. He fondly referred to his longtime former colleague as "a fine young man" who "would do a good job" as the new chief.

Captain Carboy thanked Chief Parenti, who was in attendance, for his tutelage in preparing him for his new responsibilities. He also thanked members of the governing body for placing their "trust and confidence" in him.



Captain Robert Carboy

On a separate matter, Mr. Walsh revealed that temporary traffic safety measures which were recently implemented along Madison Avenue "have worked very well" in discouraging people from parking or turning around on the street while dropping off and picking up their children at nearby Elementary School One in Scotch Plains.

According to Councilman Walsh, Chief Parenti is expected to meet soon with Madison Avenue residents to discuss the traffic safety measures, which may become permanent through adoption of an ordinance by the council.

The councilman also briefly discussed a new signal system earmarked for the traffic corridor at Park and Martine Avenues which runs through Fanwood and Scotch Plains. Four borough intersections would be involved, including those at La Grande, South, North and Midway Avenues.

The new system would include a camera mounted along the thoroughfare to monitor traffic flow, and would allow a desk officer to view the traffic from headquarters. The officer would

have the ability to control the signals from there if necessary, such as in the event of a traffic jam or to allow an emergency vehicle to move through the area more quickly.

According to Chief Parenti, the system is designed to move traffic "as quickly and safely as possible." He emphasized that the camera would not function as a radar device or invade privacy, but simply would monitor traffic patterns.

The Chief, who heads the state's Police Traffic Safety Officers Association, said the new system would be funded through a federal grant obtained by Union County, which would pay for the purchase and installation, as well as maintenance costs for the first couple of years.

Chief Parenti said the new system would be equipped with a liquid electronic display which he described as significantly "more economical and longer-lasting" than the lamps used in the current models, and which he anticipated would save taxpayers \$4,000 annually in traffic electricity costs.

The Chief said Fanwood and Scotch Plains officials have been working with the Union County Bureau of Engineering in developing the system for the two municipalities.

Members of the governing body also discussed the pending revitalization of Fanwood's downtown, including ways of getting more merchants involved in the effort.

Officials concurred that the Fanny Wood Day celebration, which brought more than 10,500 people to the downtown, demonstrated that officials are serious about their campaign to breath new life into the business district.

Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz recommended officials examine zoning regulations in the community to address the concerns of merchants and make the area "business-friendly" while continuing to maintain the character of Fanwood.

The Mayor added that the "constant relationship building and partnership with the merchants" would be instrumental to the successful rejuvenation of the downtown.

The council also issued proclamations for the month of October. Honored were several organizations and causes, including the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel; National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Fire Prevention Week, and the 250th anniversary of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Township Celebration Scheduled for Oct. 25

Several thousand people are expected to turn out next Saturday, October 25, for the Scotch Plains Day/StreetFest '97 Celebration on the Village Green in downtown Scotch Plains.

The event, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is organized by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) in conjunction with the Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation Department, the Scotch Plains Health Department, and the Lions Club.

A Super Health Fair and Pet Clinic, located in the Municipal Building, will be held from 8 a.m. to noon. Rabies shots for dogs and cats will also be available.

Festival activities will begin at 9 a.m. with the annual Scotch Plains Day Five Mile Road Race. The Mayor's Civic Award Ceremony, honoring outstanding citizens of the community, will follow at 10 a.m.

A special performance by the Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School Marching Band will also commence. The winners of the Five Mile Road Race will be recognized during a second awards ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

The Lions Club's annual Giant Flea Market will be held throughout the day, while local merchants have their sidewalk sales. The Farmer's Market will be open as well.

At 11 a.m., the day's full entertainment and festivities will begin. Live entertainment and music will be featured throughout the day.

A dance exhibition choreographed by the Moderne Dance Academie of Fine Arts, a martial arts demonstration performed by Chun's Black Belt, and a fashion show staged by Rosie's Treasures Boutique, Look Twice and BJ's Dressing Room will be part of the day's scheduled activities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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 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, upper and lower case, 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.