



Spend Some Quality Time with
Dad on Father's Day, June 16



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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(908) 232-4407
press@goleader.com

FIFTY CENTS



A BOROUGH AFFAIR...While residents savored cheesesteaks and sausage and pepper sandwiches, Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung, left, joined Clayton Pierce, Fanwood Revitalization Coordinator, at the Fanwood Street Fair on Sunday.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE Gives Green Light to Plan C School Hours

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

Over 30 parents and concerned citizens attended the highly anticipated Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education public meeting on June 6 to discuss the revised school schedule for the 2002-2003 school year. The initial plan, also referred to as Plan A, was rejected by the public mainly due to the conflict with different start and ending times between the fifth graders and the sixth through eighth grade students. The main concern on the second proposed schedule, known as plan B, was the late elementary school dismissal time and how that would ef-

fect after school activities. The board then decided to seek more public input while formulating another revised schedule, known to many as Plan C.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol Choye stated that she is working with the community to adjust after school programs in accordance with the new ending times for the school year.

Dr. Choye presented Plan C to the public stating some of the reasons for the proposed schedule which included adding fifteen minutes of instructional time to the elementary day which will ultimately be seen in mathematics; working with the trans-

portation budget to save \$100,000 in busing and letting the public know that elementary school teachers can not start their day earlier than 8:10 a.m. due to previous negotiations. The \$100,000 in busing is part of the \$1.6 million that has been cut from

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Fanwood and Westfield Street Fairs Entertain All

By SETH AUGENSTEIN
Specially Written for The Times

The region was treated to two street fairs last Sunday — one in Westfield and one in Fanwood. The weather cooperated, and the events were suitably attended.

Westfield's Family Fest, in its second year, was especially varied with

SP Municipal Offices Modify Business Hours

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Modified summer hours will be instituted at the Municipal Building in Scotch Plains in an effort to permit residents to conduct business with the local government beyond normal business hours. At its conference meeting last week, the Township Council agreed to a proposal from Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins to extend, during July and August, the operating hours of township offices on Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This, he said, will allow township residents who return home from their jobs after township offices are normally closed to do such things as pay their property taxes, apply for a dog license, etc. Since the first Thursday in July is Independence Day, a holiday when township offices are closed, the first day of extended hours will be July 11.

Mr. Atkins noted that, typically, Friday afternoons in the summer months are "very slow" in terms of servicing residents, and added that people have, over the years, asked for extended hours at the Municipal Building. He told the Council that the local government in Summit has previously instituted a similar modified summer schedule and that it has worked well.

The extended Thursday hours will coincide with the annual summer concerts on the Village Green next to the

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array of entertainment. The soothing Ecuadorian pipes of "Agua Clara" were answered only a block or two away by the undulating guitar distortions from punk bands with names like, "Born by Accident" while a flea circus delighted those on Quimby Street who took the time to stop and stare.

Many in attendance seemed to be first timers in downtown Westfield. Democratic Congressional candidate Tim Carden estimated that less than half of the people he talked to while pressing flesh were from Westfield itself. "A lot of the people I talked to were from Scotch Plains, Cranford and the surrounding area," he said.

This was confirmed by Debbie Schmidt of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, who said that the street fairs in Westfield are often reliant on, "regional support" from the surrounding communities. Many of those attending were just sightseeing, according to vendors.

Bob Poznanski of Crystal Jewelry Design of Linden was not happy with his business. "We did the Spring

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Newly-Appointed SP Postmaster Creates Positive Environment

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Post Office held an open house ceremony on Friday, June 7 to mark the change in management at the facility. Previous postmaster, James McDade was transferred to another facility and replaced by Jane Walsh, previously from the South Orange facility.

Ms. Walsh said that she is temporarily holding the position of "Officer in Charge" until her appointment as Postmaster is finalized. She told *The Times of Scotch Plains and*

Fanwood that she has been with the postal service for 18 years, first as a letter carrier in Elizabeth, then as a Manager and Supervisor for the past five years. She said that she has particular expertise in resolving conflicts between employees and management, while also reaching expected goals.

"My forte is to reach goals while fostering a positive work environment," Ms. Walsh said. "I will create an atmosphere where people enjoy coming to work."

Ms. Walsh said she intends on working with all of the Unions keeping an, "open door policy." "The better you treat people, the harder they want to work for you," Ms. Walsh said.

Gov. McGreevey Visits SP, Highlights EDA Program

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

New Jersey Governor James McGreevey was in Scotch Plains on Thursday, June 6 paying a visit to Park Middle School. The Governor was at the school to highlight the funding of school construction projects by grants from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Governor's Press Secretary, Skip Harrison told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

The Governor addressed members of the Town Council, Board of Education members and the press; highlighting aspects of the EDA's grant program.

Grant agreements between the EDA and the district have resulted in a total of \$11.6 million in State aid on the district's \$37.5 million school renovations projects.

The Governor told the audience that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood District was, "a model of how the program should work and among the most aggressive," referring to the district's eight different school facilities being partially funded by the EDA.

Currently, approximately \$10 million on renovations is being spent on Park Middle School, \$3.3 million of which was provided by EDA funding.

The Governor said that the EDA funding not only provided districts throughout New Jersey with state of the art schools, but also afforded local residents tax relief.

"This (district) is a tremendous example of a working partnership," Governor McGreevey told *The Times*.

When asked why Park Middle School was selected for the Governor's visit, District Business Administrator, Anthony Del Sordi told *The Times* that Park Middle School was exemplary of before and after work in progress. The construction at Park Middle includes upgrades to the Media Center; renovations to the art, science and music rooms; a renovated auditorium, refurbished corridors; and a new computer lab. The construction is approximately 60 percent completed and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Assemblywoman Linda Stender

and Assemblyman Gerry Green were also asked to speak at the event. Ms. Stender said that having graduated from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood District, she could attest to the fact that it was an excellent school district. Assemblyman Green said that the last time he was in Park Middle School's gymnasium was 40 years ago when Park Middle was the High School.

After the Governor addressed the audience; Town Council, Board of Education members and several students posed with the Governor for photographs in the Media Center. He

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GOVERNOR VISITS PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL...Governor James McGreevey poses with Assemblywoman Linda Stender, Assemblyman Gerry Green and with students from Park Middle School in Scotch Plains after his press conference highlighting school construction projects by grants from the EDA.

Scotch Plains Council Debates Drinking Ordinance; Consideration to Be Delayed Until End of Summer

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

After Scotch Plains residents spent three hours on Tuesday night discussing a proposed ordinance aimed at curbing underage drinking, it remains unclear when or whether the Township Council will actually introduce the ordinance.

Mayor Martin L. Marks said at the Council's meeting that the ordinance will not be introduced later this month and promised that it would not be formally considered during July or August, a time when residents with an interest in the matter might be away on vacation.

Eighteen residents, including Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan, spoke about the proposal, followed by five telephone callers at the end of the proceedings, which ended at midnight. The three-hour session followed a two-hour public discussion at the Council's May 28 meeting about the proposal, which, as currently being considered, would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

Speaking for about 20 minutes at the start of the discussion, Mr. Manahan, saying that, "teenage drug abuse and alcohol abuse is on the rise," in Union County and in Scotch Plains, expressed his belief that, "alcohol is a gateway drug," to experimentation with stronger, illegal nar-

cotics. He said he favors, "anything that will deter underage drinking." Addressing concerns about the constitutionality of the proposed ordinance and the way it would be en-

forced, Mr. Manahan said he had, "every confidence it will be enforced fairly, justly, impartially," and said it "does the police department an injustice," to fear overzealous officers

who may unnecessarily enter a private home without probable cause. "There is nothing within this ordinance that says the police shall go in

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Debate Continues Over Whether To Reopen LaGrande Skate Park

By KIMBERLY MERZ
Specially Written for The Times

Discussions continued during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council over whether or not to reopen the

LaGrande Park skate park this year.

Fanwood resident Beau Lia, age 12, spoke to the council in regards to the admission fees at the skate park. He said he thought the admission fees last year were overpriced, with

annual passes costing \$25 for Fanwood residents, \$50 for Scotch Plains residents and \$100 for everyone else.

Beau said that the next closest park was in Bridgewater and charged \$14 per visit; however, that facility was indoors and had more ramps. Another skate park, where professionals have skated, is even greater equipped and charges \$16 per visit. However, if an individual pays an \$8 membership fee, the price is reduced by a couple of dollars.

"It is (LaGrande skate park) just a place I like to go to hang out and not have to pay a lot of money to go there," Beau expressed. He said he would not be happy if the park closed permanently, since all the other parks were far away.

"No one really obeyed the rules, but no one would really get hurt," he continued. He said that skateboarders wore their helmets at the other facilities because there were staff

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County Republicans Reelect Frigerio As Party Chairman

By HORACE R. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Times

The Union County Republican Party organization met Tuesday evening, June 11 at the Westfield Municipal building and reelected Mr. Ron Frigerio of Westfield as Chairman of the Union County Republican Party.

Mr. Robert Dougherty of New Providence initiated a last minute, unexpected challenge for the party leadership two days previous. In response, there was an overflow crowd

in attendance of party leaders from throughout the 21 towns in the county. The Westfield Municipal Council Chamber was filled to standing room only with others in the hallways and some outside on the entrance steps to the building.

Mr. Dougherty withdrew his challenge and Mr. Frigerio was reelected at the hour-long meeting, which ended at about 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Frigerio told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that, "the

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WELCOME NEW POSTMASTER...Jane Walsh, Officer in Charge/Acting Postmaster, welcomes the community back to the post office. Pictured, left to right, are: Elizabeth Mulligan, letter carrier/Union President of Branch of NALC; Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Jane Walsh.

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Authorities Continue Investigation Into Fire At Town Furniture Store

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- An investigation was continuing this week into the origin of a fire that broke out during the early evening on June 5 at a North Avenue furniture store in Westfield.

Detective Sergeant John Rowe of the Westfield Police Department said Tuesday that the fire, which began towards the rear of the building, was still considered under the category of suspicious, with the cause not fully determined.

"There's a lot of things we have to analyze," he said, noting the investigation would include interviews with the owners of the store and the building itself, as well as a study of evidence at the scene.

The probe is being conducted jointly by the Union County Fire Investigation Task Force, the Westfield Police Department, the Westfield Fire Department and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Firefighters from several towns responded to the blaze at Westfield Home Furnishings, a one-story building located some 100 yards from the Garwood border. There were no injuries.

Captain Clifford Auchter of the Westfield Police Department confirmed that an officer driving near the site immediately reported the fire after he witnessed a window blow out on the building. It is believed that the business was closed at the time.

Westfield firefighters were supported at the scene through Mutual Aid by units from Scotch Plains, Mountainside, Garwood, Kenilworth, Cranford and Roselle, said Captain Michael Brennan of the Westfield Fire Department.

Members of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad were also present to monitor the condition of firefighters as they tackled the blaze. Captain Auchter stated that about a dozen Westfield Police Department personnel also responded to the scene.

Plainfield fire personnel, meanwhile, manned Westfield fire headquarters while local firefighters were called away to the North Avenue fire, Captain Brennan said.

Captain Brennan, who took initial command at the scene followed by Deputy Fire Chief Raymond Luck, said the firefighters' intense efforts allowed the building itself to be saved, despite damage to the interior.

"They did an outstanding job," Captain Brennan told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* on Monday. "Based on the aggressive nature of the attack, there was minimal structural damage."

While the fire was brought under control within an hour, fire personnel remained on the scene until morning to check for any potential hot spots and because the threat of a thunder-

storm that night delayed investigation of the fire until the following day, Captain Brennan said.

The 100- by 150-square-foot store is comprised of two showrooms and a small office area in the front. Various merchandise, including couches, beds, dressers, breakfronts and dining room tables, were either damaged or destroyed in the blaze, Captain Brennan



CALL TO DUTY... On Wednesday, June 5, members of the Westfield Fire Department responded to a fire at Westfield Home Furnishings on North Avenue. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

acknowledged. A shed attached to the main building was destroyed.

Captain Auchter noted that North Avenue was closed off from Euclid Avenue to Chestnut Street until about 10 p.m. that night, during which time vehicular traffic was rerouted.

Postmaster

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arranged by the postal administration after many years of conflicts and unresolved grievances between management and union officials at the Scotch Plains facility. These issues have been the subject of numerous articles in *The Times* over the past several years.

After Union President Elizabeth Mulligan reported hundreds of grievances, on behalf of letter carriers to upper management, a climate survey was conducted. The survey confirmed that many of the letter carriers felt that the atmosphere at the facility had been oppressive and abusive due to their mistreatment by Mr. McDade and Supervisor, Tom Thompson.

Mr. Thompson and other Supervisors were also transferred to other facilities. Carol V. Milczarski and Yakima Stanford are the facilities current Customer Service Supervisors. Twanna Herron is the facilities new Finance Supervisor.

Ms. Mulligan said that the atmosphere at the post office has changed dramatically since the arrival of Ms. Walsh. "Everyone is at ease and much happier coming to work," Ms. Mulligan said.

The 14 day suspensions previously filed by Mr. McDade and Mr. Thompson against Ms. Mulligan for her Union activities were resolved and dropped, Ms. Mulligan reported. She also said that Ms. Walsh has been working very diligently to resolve many of the other grievances.

Several letter carriers also reported to *The Times* that the atmosphere at the facility has greatly improved since Ms. Walsh has taken charge.

Street Fairs

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Fling several weeks ago, and we did great. The crowds were comparable to these, but so far today, business has not been good at all. We haven't made our space money yet," he said, referring to the cost to have a space to set up shop at the Family Fest.

Other vendors were not pleased with business either. "Business is lousy," John Coscia said soberly. "The business is not what I expected," added Barbara Chiesa, who was selling towels to raise money for the Westfield High School swimming team. She had sold less than a half dozen towels by three in the afternoon.

Business was equally "lousy" in Fanwood, however, as independent artist Demetrius Patterson explained. "Well, I hoped for [business] to be better. There is more browsing than buying," he stated, motioning at the unsold paintings that were stacked behind him.

Vendors in Fanwood thought that the Westfield fair was siphoning off business, and vice-versa. Fairgoers in both places just wanted to enjoy a beautiful day in early June, and were not concerned with making purchases.

Food vendors did fairly well at both fairs, and the rides in the middle of the closed-off streets were irresistible to children. The monstrous inflatable dragon ruled East Broad Street in front of Victoria's Secret.

Fanwood organizers, Clayton Pierce and Donna Vella were happy just to get the tradition of a fair going, and to bring new people into downtown Fanwood.

"The overall effort has been superb for our first year, and everybody has been able to work together to make this event happen," Mr. Pierce said.

Mr. Pierce is the Coordinator of the non-profit sponsor the Business and Professional Association of Fanwood. He estimated that it took 1000 hours of work to make the fair happen. It apparently paid off.

Donna Vella of the promoters Advertising Alliance, Inc. claimed that fifteen to twenty thousand people showed up for the first-time fair, despite the fact that planning confusion resulted in its competition with the second-year Family Fest in Westfield.

Debbie Schmidt of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce was also pleased with the turnout at the Fest. She claimed that around 20,000 people turned out for the fair, and that business was as brisk as was originally expected. Mrs. Schmidt also addressed the reason for the conflicting date with the Fanwood fair.

"We set the date in November, and we were very disappointed to hear that their street fair was scheduled at the same time as ours. We would never have done anything to try to make their fair unsuccessful. We made that date, and they just were unaware of it," she said.

Conversely, Mrs. Vella and Mr. Pierce claimed that they had made their date before Westfield moved their date to June 9th.

Regardless, both fairs catered to new groups of people that had previously not been reached by established street fairs. Fanwood opened up the often-ignored downtown area around the corner of South and Martine Avenue's to thousands of new visitors. This should give a boost to the economy of that immediate area, projected Mr. Pierce and Mrs. Vella. Although it was much smaller physically than the competition in Westfield, it bustled with activity throughout the late afternoon.

In addition to the group of new visitors to Westfield, teens were entertained on their own terms. The "Teen Extreme Sports Area" that was sponsored and created by the Westfield YMCA, offered several half-pipes within a parking lot for skateboarders and BMX'ers. A sound system pumped punk rock from revolving groups throughout the afternoon. Passers-by were taken back at the sheer decibel level coming from wailing guitars and screaming singers with spiked, fluorescent hair.

Passer byes could get an earful at the main stage at the corner of Quimby and Elm Street's of such acts as Agua Clara, the Westfield High School Jazz Quartet, the Rahway Valley Jersey Ais, and the Choice Entertainment Dancers. The Ais did a particularly stirring rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner".

Darryl Walker, President of the Chamber of Commerce, was particularly excited about the variety that was offered at the Westfield Family Fest. "It was a great, fun day. Smiles were on the faces of children, parents, and grandparents alike," he stated.

Regardless of the business possibilities, everyone involved with the fairs felt that they were a good frittering of a sunny Sunday in June that would otherwise have been spent in a typical, lazy and hazy way. After all, no one wants to miss the spectacle of a flea circus on Quimby Street, except maybe the family dog.

SP Offices

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Municipal Building that will be held every Thursday evening in the summer. In a trade-off to accommodate township employees' 32.5-hour work week, township offices open during the extended Thursday hours will be able to close at 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. The new hours will not affect the operations of the Township Police Department.

Council members were enthusiastic about the summer hours, with Councilwoman Geri M. Samuel saying that if the modified hours work well, it should be expanded in 2003 to begin in mid-June to mid-September.

University of Delaware

Honors Adena Plesmid
SCOTCH PLAINS — The Colleges at the University of Delaware in Newark, Del. announced that Adena Plesmid of Scotch Plains has been named to Mu Iota Sigma, a management information systems honor society.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE Approves Plan C School Hours

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the school budget. According to Business Administrator and Board Secretary, Anthony Del Sordi, the \$1.6 million cut from the budget included: cutting 18 positions down to 9 positions, saving about \$600,000; cutting \$150,000 in areas such as technology, supplies and travel accounts and also reducing the budget in insurance, equipment, utilities and other miscellaneous.

Plan C was the third schedule presented to the public and at the end of the evening it became the final one.

The vast majority of parents present at the meetings were clearly unsatisfied with the boards proposed schedule.

Maria Kreyer, a parent, asked the board, "what percent of students use the buses in the SP-F school system?" Mr. Del Sordi replied with a rough approximation of 20 percent. Ms. Kreyer was referring to how the school hours were affecting most of the parents in the district and that saving \$100,000 will not help the majority of parents who drive their children to school.

The board approved Plan C, 5 to 3, even though the majority of the public asked the board to consider tabling the issue for further public input and discussion. School Board President, Lance Porter, Vice President Linda Nelson, and board members Craig Nowlin, Susan Dyckman and Pat Hoynes-O'Connor voted yes to Plan C. On the other hand board members, Thomas Russo, Edward Saridaki, Jr. and Tripp Whitehouse voted against Plan C.

Members of the public applauded with approval when the three board members stated their reasons for voting against the school schedule.

"I don't recall receiving so many emails and phone calls on any issue. The reason

why so many people are concerned is because this schedule will disrupt people's lives. I would like to save money, but not at the cost of so many complaints," stated board member Mr. Russo.

On the other hand, board member Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor said, "\$100,000 that we can spend on instruction is not \$100,000 I would spend any other way."

Plan C, which will be implemented for the 2002-2003 school year, is as follows: Instruction time at the high school begins at 8:08 a.m. and ends at 2:24 p.m.; middle school instruction begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m. and elementary school instruction begins at 8:35 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. In addition, high school AP science labs start at 7:41 a.m., zero period class starts at 7:19 a.m. and music groups begin at 6:55 a.m.

In other business the Board of Education received 22 letters and emails, nine of them were in regards to the proposed school day start.

The board approved the transportation contract with Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) for the 2002-2003 school year; the renewal of the natural gas contract with NUI Energy for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 and a contract was renewed with Aramark Service Master for management services related to custodial, maintenance and grounds at a monthly cost of \$28,372, an increase of 2.5 percent.

The board also approved the May 31, 2002 bill list for \$633,615.81 and the May 2, 2002 manual checklist for \$114,740.88.

The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, at 7:45 p.m. in the administration building.

Scotch Plains Twp. Council Debates Drinking Ordinance

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private property without probable cause," he said, adding that in the event a police officer went beyond the bounds of the ordinance, there were legal remedies available to address that. Mr. Manahan also made a pitch for increased support for the various educational programs currently in force, singling out the DARE program in public schools, which he said should be extended beyond the fifth grade.

Of the remaining 17 residents who spoke to the Council, nine expressed their opposition while six favored enactment of the ordinance. Two residents were non-committal, saying more information and data about teenage drinking needed to be considered before action was taken.

Kevin Brennan, pastor at the Evangelical Church in Scotch Plains who was one of three local religious leaders to speak on Tuesday night, said "we have to send as strong a message as possible" regarding teenage drinking. Rev. Donald Hummel said the ordinance would provide "another possible tool in raising our kids." Rev. Kelmo Porter, pastor of the St. John's Baptist Church, said "anything that can save a child is worth it."

Joseph Krakora, an attorney and public defender, said that while the ordinance itself may not be unconstitutional, the enforcement aspects "are troubling." He said he was "hard-pressed to see how the law can be enforced without constitutional threats." He presented scenarios that, he felt, could "put officers in awkward situations if questions about possession arise." Thomas Russo, an attorney who had expressed his opposition two weeks ago, called instead for increased education about alcohol con-

sumption for students and their parents. "This ordinance is not going to solve these issues," he said. "Show me proof that it will deter" underage drinking "because I don't believe it." He also worried about potential abuses of power by police, a comment that led Mayor Marks to forcefully defend the local police department.

Former Mayor Joan Papen also pushed increased educational programs in the schools, saying that "I don't think it [the ordinance] is going to do what you want it to do." Fred Lange opposed the proposal, calling present laws "more than adequate," but supported increased education initiatives.

Several representatives of local groups spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. Cathy Cvetovitch, coordinator of the local Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC), a group that works to prevent substance abuse and has been a prime backer of the proposed ordinance, reiterated many of her comments from the May 28 meeting. She stated that the ordinance would not expand police powers and said it would be effective, noting recent positive comments from the Police Chief in Cranford, where a similar ordinance has been enacted. Ms. Cvetovitch said the ordinance would be "a tool for parents to explain the risks of drinking" to their children. Georgine Berg and Sandee Moroso, both with Clark-based Prevention Links, a substance abuse prevention group, backed the ordinance as well.

Geraldine Keogh, who had spoken at length in opposition two weeks ago, asked the Council why no official documentation on the level of the teenage drinking problem had been provided to the public. Mayor Marks said he has asked the police department for statistics involving police calls related to alcohol and underage persons. He said the Council will not take any action on the ordinance until it receives this data. Just prior to the midnight adjournment, five residents called the Council Chambers, with three supporting the ordinance and two expressing their opposition.

The Council's next meeting will be on June 25 and the Mayor said it's possible that an announcement about the future of the ordinance could be made that evening. But he reiterated that no formal action would be taken during the summer months.

Elsewhere during its four-hour meeting on Tuesday night, the Council passed a \$600,000 capital ordinance appropriating funds for the refurbishment of athletic fields at Park Middle School. The funding will originate from four sources: \$300,000 from the county, \$100,000 from Fanwood, \$100,000 from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and \$100,000 from Scotch Plains, which will tap the local open space trust fund established in 1999. The Union County government will contribute a matching \$300,000 from its own open space trust fund as part of its Field of Dreams initiative.

The Council also passed resolutions congratulating Delsa Slaugh and Emily Walker on having achieved the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Brian Doyle of the Township Environmental Commission presented awards to student winners of the commission's Earth Day poster contest.

Frigerio

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last 48 hours were totally shocking when the challenge was announced by Mr. Dougherty. I was in awe of the support I received. It served to unite the party even more and rejuvenate the people."

Mr. Frigerio said that we have really good candidates such as Douglas Forrester who stands a good chance to defeat Senator Robert Torricelli and give New Jersey its first Republican in the spot since 1972. He said that Mike Ferguson is an excellent congressman for the district and will be reelected as a result, although likely facing a strong challenge from the Democrats.

FW Council

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members monitoring the activity. He said he also didn't mind the bicycle riders at LaGrande Park.

"No one seems to mind except you guys. They can pull off a lot of good tricks and it's fun to watch. It may chip a little bit, but that's what it's meant for," Beau noted.

"Thank you very much. I appreciate your candor and honesty," Mayor Louis Jung responded.

The Fanwood Recreation Commission recently decided to open up the LaGrande skate park under the same rules as last year, but with no fees or supervision. Governing body members proposed a resolution that would prevent it from opening this season, or until funds were available to provide adequate supervision at the park.

"I think we learned from our experiences last year, that having it open without supervision was a burden on the people who live around the park. Unless and until we have some supervision, I think it should remain closed," Councilman Thomas Ryan said.

"I don't think the funding is a primary issue. There are a whole host of issues that remain unresolved at this time. We aren't even sure we want supervision there. There has been some discussion of what the borough's liability would be... rather than risking one of our children getting hurt, or injured in any way, I think that we should shelve this project until we come up with a good workable plan," Councilman Stuart Kline said.

Council President Joel Whitaker strongly objected to closing the park. "I sincerely believe this is the worst piece of action that I have seen since I have been on this council," he remarked.

Mr. Whitaker said if the children don't have a park to skateboard in, they will be skateboarding on benches and tables, on the steps at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church and at the Community House.

The council President commented that if the children aren't wearing helmets at the skate park, they aren't wearing them in the streets, either. He also said the youngsters should have been included in the discussions this year.

Councilman Michael Brennan said that they were involved in the discussions from the beginning and "they cut off their own hands because they didn't follow the rules."

Mr. Kline said it was a very difficult decision. Some skateboarders purchased permits, but many didn't, which was unfair. Most of them didn't have helmets on and the children brought in bicycles and rollerblades, he said.

Mr. Ryan said the issues are the same as last year and the rules are currently unenforceable because there is no supervision. The council has expressed concern over five major issues: bicycles, helmets, permits, trash and verbal abuse.

"I think the skate park is good; I think it is a good thing to have in town. I'm amazed at the number of kids that were using it. I think that's good, but the bad outweighs it at this time," Mr. Ryan said.

Just as it looked as though the council was about to vote to temporarily close the skate park, Mr. Whitaker, armed with the new admission fee information provided from Beau, suggested that the Recreation Commission should look into charging a daily fee, which may cover the cost of hiring a supervisor.

The council reached a tie vote on Mr. Whitaker's motion to table until Tuesday, July 9, a resolution that would keep the park closed for the season, pending further research into the matter. In his first vote of the year, Mayor Jung voted to postpone closing the skate park.

In other news, the council reluctantly passed a resolution accepting a letter of resignation from Fanwood Borough Attorney Wilfred Coronato.

Mr. Coronato, who has served as Borough Attorney since January 2000, will resign effective Monday, July 1. As he explained at the July 5 agenda meeting, Mr. Coronato has accepted a new position with a large New York City firm, for which he will be opening up and running a New Jersey office.

He said his new duties would require a lot of his time and he did not feel he could maintain the same level of service to the borough.

Mr. Coronato explained that borough business takes up 20 to 30 percent of his professional time and often things have come up on an urgent basis.

Mayor Jung read a resolution Tuesday night expressing appreciation for the excellent job that Mr. Coronato has done as Borough Attorney. Mr. Jung said that during his tenure, he successfully negotiated a lease contract with NJ Transit and assisted with the redevelopment plan for a block of downtown property, as well as Requests for Qualifications related to that plan.

Councilman Whitaker said there were no words adequate enough to express his regret over Mr. Coronato's pending departure.

"I am sorry for the Borough of Fanwood and I am sorry for myself because I never once hesitated about the advice he has given us. It has been detailed, it has been meticulous, it has been absolutely superb... I congratulate him on his new career opportunity, but I am just so sorry he is leaving us," Mr. Whitaker said.

Councilman Ryan expressed similar sentiments. "He is my friend and he is an excellent lawyer. We've been lucky to have him," Mr. Ryan said.

Mayor Jung presented Mr. Coronato with a golf shirt, in appreciation for his service to the Borough of Fanwood, quipping that one can never have too many golf shirts.

"When I became Mayor, one of my goals was to make sure we had a good attorney for the next couple of years. I set some high standards in my mind of what that attorney should or should not be... well, you exceeded them," he told Mr. Coronato. "Their huge gain is our huge loss."

Mr. Coronato expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the borough. "It's really an honor serving all of you," he said.

In addition, Fanwood residents Emily Walker and Delsa Slaugh were honored by the council for having received the Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting.

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