



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood



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WE REMEMBER...During a Veterans Day ceremony on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains, Pat Masi, Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10122, joined Olga Bruce, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Scotch Plains, Memorial Post 10122 in laying a wreath to commemorate the sacrifices of war heroes.

Mayor Marks, Freeholder Mingo Team Up to Defeat Deer Problem

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks is urging township residents to contact Union County officials if the generally burgeoning deer problem is affecting them in any significant way.

Mayor Marks discussed the issue at the Township Council's conference meeting last week and then again at the governing body's regular meeting on Tuesday night.

He noted that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders had conducted an investigation of the deer overpopulation in the Watching Reservation, found a problem and had taken actions that alleviated the situation somewhat.

Currently, the Mayor said, "the problem on the south side of Scotch Plains seems to be getting out of control," with deer coming from the Ashbrook Reservation. "We're seeing more and more dead deer on streets."

Mayor Marks said that he had contacted county leaders three years ago

"The problem on the southside of Scotch Plains seems to be getting out of control. We're seeing more and more dead deer on the streets."

Mayor Martin Marks

solely a township problem. "This needs to be a regional effort," he said, pointing out that the reservation spreads into Clark and abuts Edison Township as well.

Mayor Marks asked any township residents with complaints about deer to contact him and Freeholder Mingo. The mayor can be reached at mayormarks@scotchplainsnj.com or at the Municipal Building on Park Avenue at (908) 322-6700. Freeholder Mingo can be reached at (908) 527-4110 or at lmingo@unioncounty.org.

"If you feel it's a problem, please let me know or let the county know," said Mayor Marks. He noted that deer are not only causing damage to property but also presenting safety issues, specifically regarding traffic safety.

to ask for an investigation of the southside deer problem and then contacted them again last year, but his requests were never answered until Freeholder Board Chairman Lewis Mingo contacted the mayor earlier this year.

Freeholder Mingo stated that the county had not specifically heard from Scotch Plains residents about any deer problems. "We'd like to have them assess the problem," the mayor said, adding that it is not



SALUTE OF HONOR...Quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10122, Joe McCourt, epitomizes patriotism as he salutes the flags during the Veterans Day ceremony.

FW Council Addresses Cell Tower Proposal; Downtown Committee Endorses Developer

By ELIZABETH CORRELL
Specially Written for The Times

The controversial proposal for a Verizon cell tower was again discussed at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council.

Council President Joel Whitaker stated that Federal law does not allow the municipality to prohibit installation of cell towers; however, a resolution was presented encouraging negotiations regarding use of another site in town.

Resolutions approved by the council will allow Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern to receive bids for land that would be leased by the

borough and for construction of the tower, along with employment of an engineer to act as a technical consultant on the issue.

Councilman Whitaker acknowledged the concerns of residents living near the initial proposed site, but also felt the cell tower, at another location, would be advantageous for the borough due to the revenue that would be generated by the lease.

In other business, Mr. Whitaker announced that the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee has chosen Landmark Properties as the developer to handle redevelopment of a 6.5-acre block of commercial

property in the downtown.

The choice was made based on Landmark's "strong credentials, commitment to Fanwood and best village vision," Councilman Whitaker said. Landmark will make a presentation before the governing body, to be broadcast on Fanwood's TV-35, at a later date.

Brochures listing all downtown merchants will be available soon, Councilman Whitaker stated. The goal of the brochures is to inform residents and customers in surrounding areas about Fanwood businesses, with hopes of increasing patronage. The Strategic Planning Commit-

tee has concluded its three-year compilation of "Vision 2000 - Our Future," a report outlining goals and objectives for the borough. Copies of the document are available to the public at the Fanwood Memorial Library and at Borough Hall.

Councilman Stuart Kline thanked the Citizens Advisory Committee for its ongoing monitoring to assure that these objectives are met.

The Historic Fanwood Park Preservation Committee will soon present to the borough a resolution regarding the area of North and Martine Avenues that is being eyed for creation

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Councilman Trumppp Sworn In After Election Win; Council Passes Cellular Tower Resolutions

By ELAINE VUONO
Specially Written for The Times

It was a proud moment for former Fanwood Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumppp and his wife, Jean, as they watched their son, Councilman David B. Trumppp, take his oath of office at the governing body's November 6 agenda meeting.

Judge Melvin Whitkin swore in Mr. Trumppp, a Republican, who was appointed in May to fill the council vacancy created by the death of Councilwoman Carol Wood a month earlier.

With his appointment having expired at midnight on Election Day, Mr. Trumppp was sworn in at the beginning of last week's meeting. Councilman Trumppp defeated Democrat Donna Dolce and will serve out

Mrs. Wood's un-expired term, which ends on December 31, 2003.

In other business, the council revealed that the second reading of Ordinance 02-20-R was scheduled to take place at its regular monthly meeting, which was held Tuesday night.

The ordinance allows the temporary placement of a mobile home on a resident's property, should the regular home become uninhabitable due to perils such as flooding or fire.

It further limits the time a mobile home may remain at a property to four months, with any exceptions requiring council or Planning Board approval.

The council also noted its intention to read several resolutions at the regular meeting. A resolution for the

Community Development Submissions for the Year 2003-2004 was to be read, including a request for funding for an audio system in the council

chambers for the hearing impaired; a request for a grant to re-line LaGrande Park's baseball fields; funds for the

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SP Township Council Approves Landscaping Ordinance; 60,000 Issued for Ballfield Work

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council gave final approval on Tuesday night to an ordinance restricting the use of landscaping equipment — such as power lawnmowers, blowers, chainsaws and the like — by both professional landscapers and

homeowners, to between 7:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. during the week and between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekends.

Violators would be subject to fines of \$50 to \$100. Due to the public safety interest in removing accumulated snow from driveways, sidewalks and other areas, snow removal equipment would be permitted at any time.

In addition, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and township-owned property will also be exempt from the restrictions, since some of its athletic fields, in particular, require early morning maintenance. Scotch Hills Country Club, Ashbrook Golf Course and Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club will also be exempt.

During a brisk one-hour meeting, the council also passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign an agreement with PSE&G to convert certain traffic signals to the type powered by LED cells.

Councilwoman Geri Samuel said the conversion would make the lights more visible, as well as cost-effective.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins estimated that 85 percent of present utility expenses will be saved as a result of the conversion. The cost will be \$21,871 and the township will submit a request next year for state rebate funding that will reimburse the costs.

With the new ballfields on Plainfield Avenue nearing completion, the council appropriated an additional \$60,000 for additional work on the park, specifically additional block work to the front and

rear sides of the retaining walls that will allow for additional square footage of field space.

The council awarded a bid to Great Northern Recycling to perform curbside recycling next year and in 2004. The \$15,550-per-month contract also includes an option for a third year in 2005, at a slightly lower cost to the township.

While "the market for recycling has been steadily declining for years," Mayor Martin Marks said, "the council feels this is an important service

for our residents." The council also authorized the purchase of a \$14,290 salt spreader by the Department of Public Property from Seely Equipment and Supply Company in Farmingdale.

Councilwoman Samuel said that Union County's memorial, paying tribute to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks, is moving toward completion.

Two steel beams from the World Trade Center will be placed at Echo

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MAYORAL RECOGNITION...Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks, left, offers a resolution marking Veteran's Day to Joe McCourt, Quartermaster of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10122.

Fanwood Police Department Will Vend Parking Permits

FANWOOD — Fanwood Police Officer Marc Gottlick reported Tuesday afternoon that parking permits will be sold for 2003 railroad parking.

Commuters must apply in person by dropping off the following required materials at the Fanwood Police Department:

- A self-addressed, stamped envelope;
 - A check made out to the Borough of Fanwood;
 - A fee of \$216 for Fanwood residents or
 - A fee of \$444 for non-residents
- Permits will be mailed back. When the required materials are

brought to the police headquarters, commuters will be given an assigned number. The permit will be mailed back to the commuter before 2003.

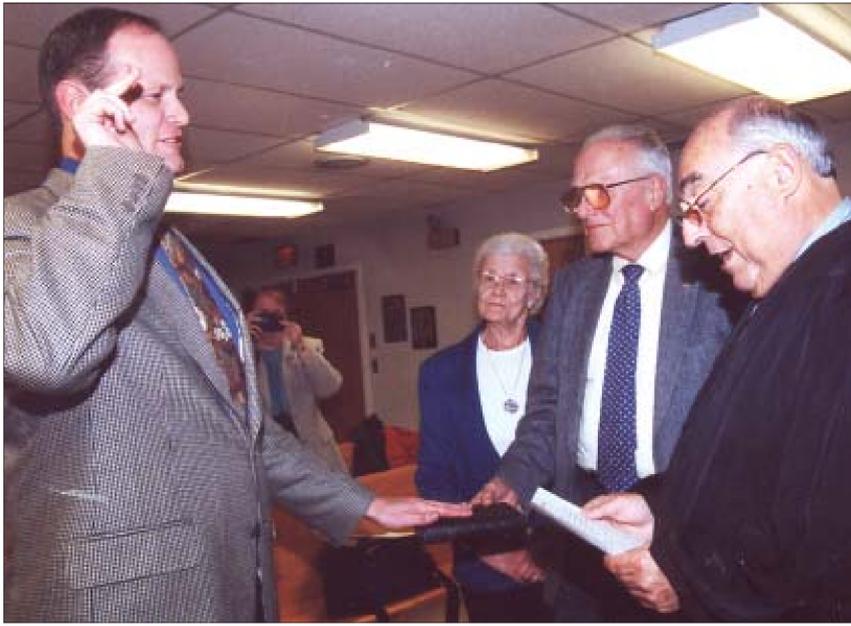
Applications will be accepted as follows: Fanwood residents can apply beginning Friday, November 15. Non-residents can apply beginning on Sunday, December 1.

No applications will be accepted after Wednesday, December 18. Applications can be dropped off at the police headquarters, 24 hours a day.

For more information, please call (908) 322-5000, extension no. 151.

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SOLEMN OATH... On November 6, Fanwood Councilman David Trumpp was sworn in at Borough Hall by Mayor Louis Jung and Judge Melvin Whitken of the Elizabeth Court House. He was joined by his parents at the ceremony.

Councilman Trumpp Sworn In After Win; Council Passes Cellular Tower Resolutions

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widening of a handicapped space at the Fanwood Memorial Library and a grant for senior citizen bussing.

The council also planned to read a resolution to enter into an inter-local agreement with the Township of Scotch Plains and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education for the joint purchase of lawn maintenance equipment for use on fields in the two municipalities.

The equipment includes a tractor, aerator, top dresser and vacuum. Fanwood would pay 20 percent of the cost of the machines and the annual maintenance. The council was in favor of acquisition of the equipment, with Councilman Thomas Ryan, Jr. noting that it would be especially beneficial for the fields at Forest Road Park, which were recently repaired.

Councilman Stuart Kline raised some questions regarding the cost percentage for which Fanwood is responsible and requested additional information regarding Fanwood's proportion of the total acreage, before making a final decision on the issue.

The council also intended to read two resolutions in connection with the construction of a cellular telephone tower, which could be located at the Department of Public Works yard.

This issue arose from a variance application filed by Verizon to mount cellular antennas on a Public Service Electric and Gas tower in a residential area of the borough.

Under Federal law, the borough cannot reject such a request but can suggest alternate sites. The Planning Board suggested Verizon con-

sider the Public Works yard as a potential site. Verizon has agreed the location would suit its needs.

The council therefore confirmed its intention to read its resolutions at the regular meeting, authorizing Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern to put out to bid the leasing of land and the building of a cellular tower, and authorizing the use of the Planning Board's telecommunications expert, Charles J. Whalen.

Additional resolutions included one for the approval of a historic district in the borough and authorization to submit a nomination to the State of New Jersey for future discussion.

Officials further intended to discuss at their regular meeting a proposed amendment to the Police Department's ordinance that would revise the eligibility requirements for the sergeant's exam. The proposed revision would lower the experience level required to four years from the current Class A requirement, which usually mandates six or seven years experience.

Additionally, officers hired from other municipalities would receive one-year credit for their prior experience, thereby allowing them to take the exam after only three years on the Fanwood force.

The council agreed that the proposed revision should attract better candidates and provide more advancement opportunities.



PICKING UP... Employees from the Fanwood Department of Public Works are using a leaf vacuum to clean up the streets this fall.

FW Council Addresses Cell Tower Proposal; Downtown Committee Endorses Developer

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of a local historic district, according to Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell.

This resolution would then be sent to Trenton, she added, after which the committee hopes to receive a grant to conduct a survey of homes in the proposed district.

The last such survey was done in 1980, with little historical data provided, according to Ms. Mitchell.

The councilwoman corrected a previous statement she had made. She said that if the area is declared a historic district and an issue of public encroachment arises, it would have to be presented to the state, rather than the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission, as she had previously stated.

She said she felt this is a strength because the state's opinion would hold more weight.

Councilman Kline presented the Tax Collector's report, stating that 80 percent of the total tax levy has been collected, in the amount of \$14,025,127, as of October 31.

Three of the four collection dates, which occur in February, May, August and November, have thus far been held.

Councilman Kline also reported that in October, there were 52 parking violations, 173 moving violations and 12 criminal violations. In addition, 42 parking violations, 180 moving violations and 14 criminal violations were processed.

A total of \$18,890 was collected in fines, of which \$10,608 was kept by the borough. There were two court sessions during the month; however, no special sessions were held.

Councilman Thomas Ryan, Jr. explained a proposed ordinance that would reduce the amount of time police officers would need to have

been in service before sitting for the sergeant's exam, which is currently seven years.

Fanwood Police Chief Donald Domanoski is interested in making this change in anticipation of upcoming retirements in the department. He also believes this would be an excellent incentive for people to join the borough's police department, expanding the talent pool and attracting high quality candidates.

It is hoped this ordinance will be passed by the end of the year, Mr. Ryan said.

Councilman Ryan also gave a zoning report, stating that 115 applications have been turned in this year, through October 31, including 56 for new permits and three for permit updates.

Members of the Fanwood Fire Department visited schools in Fanwood and Scotch Plains last month, giving fire prevention training demonstrations to 700 students.

In October, the Fire Department responded to five fire alarms, two natural gas leaks, one kitchen appliance fire and one flooded basement. Calls for the month totaled 14, with 173 for the year to date.

In light of the tragedy that occurred at Westfield High School in September, when high winds caused a tree limb to fall, fatally injuring a student, Councilman Kline said the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission had voiced concern over whether it was covered by borough insurance regarding incidents of fallen trees.

Mr. Kline said the Borough Administrator's office had researched the issue and assured the commission that it is covered.

The resurfacing on Farley Avenue was completed; however, the paving company scheduled the work on Halloween and Election Day. Mayor Jung said the company did not give adequate notice to homeowners regarding the work schedule, prompting calls and complaints to Borough Hall.

The repaving of First and Third

Streets went well, and the Sheelen's Crossing bridge deck is under repair, to be completed approximately by Wednesday, November 20, according to the Mayor.

DiBiase and Seminara was the architect chosen, out of four proposals submitted, to complete the work on the addition at Forest Road Park. According to Councilman Ryan, work there had been left unfinished by the previous architect.

The firm was chosen based on its \$9,500 all-inclusive bid, versus other proposals, which would have charged extra fees for meetings and other necessary items.

Mayor Jung read a proclamation for American Education Week, commending all public school educators and administrators for their hard work and dedication.

He also read a resolution he had presented at the Fanwood Library on Veterans Day, paying tribute to the sacrifices and valor of those who served their country, including those who lost their lives.

Lastly, a resolution was read informing the public about Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva/Bone and Joint Decade, covering the years 2002 to 2011.

This issue was brought to the Mayor's attention by concerned individuals regarding a young girl in Westfield who suffers from the rare genetic condition.

This condition causes the body to create bone where it is not needed. The decade-long honor is being promoted in hopes of stopping misdiagnosis, developing treatment and finding a cure for the disease.

Fanwood's holiday celebration will be held on Sunday, December 8, from 2 to 5 p.m., as announced by Mayor Jung. The event will include a tree lighting at 2:45 p.m., Santa's arrival at 3 p.m. and carolers singing throughout the afternoon.

Downtown holiday decorations will include wreaths hung downtown on Monday, December 2 and several trees trimmed by residents.

SP Ordinance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lake Park and will be surrounded by a pentagon-shaped border. A pathway will lead to a garden, symbolizing the plane crash in Pennsylvania.

Mayor Marks thanked township voters for their overwhelming support for the non-binding referendum on last week's ballot, calling for a state constitutional convention to overhaul the property tax system. Voters backed the question by a nearly 4-1 margin.

The Mayor said, "I am already getting calls from elected officials in other municipalities" asking about the process. Mr. Atkins told the council that he had sent a letter to the state League of Municipalities, informing the group of the voting results.

At the beginning of the council's meeting, Ray and Laura Swidersky were recognized on their 50th wedding anniversary. The council also honored Thomas Barth for his service to the township.

The Mayor also issued a proclamation designating the week of November 11 to 15 as American Education Week in Scotch Plains.

Evergreen Elementary School Sets Annual Craft Boutique

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Parent-Teacher Association of Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains will host its Second Annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jewelry, custom clothing, designer clothing, kitchen wares, home decorative items, travel gift certificates and sports items will be among the items

for sale. Up to 50 vendors are anticipated.

Refreshments, a 50/50 raffle and prizes will be available. Free parking is ample and admission is free. Proceeds will benefit the playground fund.

To sell art or hand-crafted items, please call Lisa Magnata at (908) 322-4940 or Kim Palmer at (908) 233-3144 for registration forms and information.

SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- A theft of tires was reported from a trailer parked at the U Haul on Route 22 overnight.
- A Newark Avenue resident reported someone hacked into his computer files via the Internet and disrupted his service.
- The 7-Eleven on Park Avenue reported that a patron kicked the glass door causing it to break and fled the scene at approximately 10:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- Damage to a vehicle parked at the Park Middle School was reported during the day. The hood of the vehicle was reported scratched.

- A theft of a cellular phone from McDonalds on Route 22 was reported at approximately 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- A resident of Front Street reported that items inside her residence were damaged. The victim stated that a dishwasher and bedroom door was damaged. The owner believes that the damage was the result of a scorned tenant.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- A resident of Hamlette Place re-

ported that his vehicle was struck while it was parked inside the lot of the Mobile Gas Station. The damage was on the left front bumper.

• Tiffany M. Cruz, 25, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property and hindering prosecution. The investigation into the arrest was conducted by the Edison Police Department. Cruz is suspected of stealing checks from her former employer and using one of the checks to purchase a vehicle. She was arrested without incident, and turned over to the Edison Police.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

• A Portland Avenue resident reported that their vehicle was struck while it was parked in their home. The damage was on the front drivers side. The vehicle in question appears to be white. The incident occurred between 11 p.m. on November 9 and 8 a.m. on November 10.

• A Forest Road resident reported that a statue of the Virgin Mary was stolen from a flowerbed located at a property on Grand Street.

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908-233-5596 *References Provided

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PICKUP ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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