



BATTLE TESTED...NBC-TV New Jersey correspondent Pat Battle, second from right, joins Cranford Police Chief and Camp Speers-Eljabar YMCA (CSEY) trustee Eric Mason, left, CSEY Marketing and Development Director Tia White and Scotch Plains resident and CSEY Chief Executive Officer Ravenell Williams IV at the camp's recent annual meeting, Camp Speers-Eljabar was the first YMCA camp to accept children of all ethnic groups, races, economic backgrounds, religions and nationalities.

Fanwood Planning Board

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station, the carriage house and one additional residential property.

Board member John Deitch asked Ms. Zerbe whether any of the other 168 communities have programs as precise and restrictive as the TDR program would be. Ms. Zerbe said the current ordinance "is already very restrictive," but that the borough has elected not to really enforce it by identifying more properties.

Board member Matthew Glennon asked whether there have been any court cases in which property owners in other communities have fought the historic designation to avoid the restrictions imposed by the ordinances. Ms. Zerbe said that while she has heard of such cases, she has not followed up on any and was therefore unaware of their outcomes.

Mr. Glennon raised concerns about the amount of information and detail the borough currently has about each historic property and inquired about the amount of research for which the board would be responsible.

"We may not know enough about contributing homes to know what we're trying to preserve," he said.

Ms. Zerbe said researching on the part of the board is not really necessary. If the expectations are made known throughout the community, the burden of proof would be on the individual property owners to comply.

Board Chairman Gregory Cummings asked whether a non-contributing property is of any value to the historic district. Ms. Zerbe said it is not because such properties are either too new or have lost their historic integrity.

However, Courtenay Mercer of the Office of Smart Growth said that keeping a non-contributing property — mostly ranches, Cape Cods and split-levels — intact is preferable to the building of giant "McMansions."



SEMPER-FI SOUND...Frank Chupko reminds residents to get tickets to see the Albany Marine Corps Band perform on Memorial Day weekend — Sunday, May 27 at 8 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's auditorium. Call (908) 322-4388 for tickets. The band will march in the parade on Monday, May 28.

board the role of the new TDR board, which will act as an advisory board. She said its main responsibility will be the regulation and record keeping of funds and transactions.

The TDR board will be comprised of five members: an expert in each of the fields of historic preservation, law and banking, one mayor's designee and a member of the HPC.

Mr. Deitch asked about the role the TDR board will play in enforcing the requirement that properties meet the design guidelines. Ms. Mercer said enforcement would be left to the HPC because the TDR board only handles funds.

Mr. Deitch asked whether all funds of the transaction are released before the restoration and/or preservation work is completed on a property. Ms. Mercer said this is not entirely worked out yet; she suggested considering a 50-50 split.

"And if the first 50 percent is misused, then what happens?" Mr. Deitch asked. Ms. Mercer was uncertain how such a case would be resolved.

The board then heard a presentation from Stanley Slachetka and Paul Ricci of T&M Associates regarding the role of the planning and zoning boards in this process.

"[The boards] are not losing any authority under the Municipal Land Use Law," Mr. Slachetka said.

He said applications for home renovations and/or additions would first be submitted to the HPC for review. Once the HPC had determined that these improvements met the design guidelines, the application would be passed to the board, which would process it as it would any other application.

With regards to the receiving area, the South Avenue corridor, Mr. Deitch asked what impact TDR would have on the current development initiatives and suggested possibly phasing in TDR.

Mr. Slachetka said that TDR development projects would be complementary to the current downtown revitalization efforts, and he thinks they would be mutually supportive. He said there would basically be an "inherent phasing" because some property owners would be ready to go immediately.

The next step in the TDR process, according to Mr. Slachetka, is the public forum, scheduled for Monday, June 18, at 7 p.m. He said hearing input from the public is an important step that will help guide the board in making its decision.

At the conclusion of the special meeting, Mr. Cummings expressed his thanks to Zoning Officer Nancy Koederitz, who is resigning after 11 years of service. He praised her dedication, and board members wished her the best of luck.

The board's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m.

SP Planning Board Activity Dwindles During Past Year

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — While it's been pretty much business as usual at area land use boards, in Scotch Plains things have been relatively quiet, particularly at the township planning board, which, since last summer, has held half of its scheduled meetings.

Officials say it is unclear whether the fall-off in applications for subdivisions and new home development is due to the national decline in housing activity, to cyclical factors or to something else.

Township Construction Official and Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta, a member of the planning board, said, "We may have gotten to [the point of] saturation," with the amount of land available for development nearly gone. In recent years, developers have built significant developments on some of the last remaining large tracts of land, including the 100 townhouses built by K. Hovnanian above Route 22; the 55-unit Heather Glen development off Jerusalem Road and multiple new subdivisions on the south side of Scotch Plains.

The planning board meets regularly twice a month, but its meetings have been irregular — from last July through this Monday night, when its latest scheduled meeting was cancelled, eight

meetings have been held. Mr. LaCosta told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that his office, which evaluates applications prior to their public hearings, has a few under review that should be ready for board consideration later this month and in June.

He said while activity in his office has slowed from the frenetic pace of the past few years — when the housing boom was reaching its peak — "we're not dead." He pointed out that the zoning board of adjustment's calendar has been nearly as full over the past year as in earlier years.

Mr. LaCosta called the amount of construction code fee revenue collected last year — some \$900,000 — an "astronomical" level, but he warned that "we're not going to have that kind of year" in 2007. Already, fee revenue in the first quarter of this year is about half what it was a year earlier.

Beyond the possibility that Scotch Plains is presently approaching full development, Mr. LaCosta said the slowdown in development activity might just be cyclical. In 2000, he said, "I figured we were in a built-out situation," but then activity boomed for the next six years. "It may pick up again," he said, especially on the south side, where there are still some lots that might be subject to developers' subdivision applications.



PICKING UP THE PIECES...Left, concrete block lies atop collapsed roof of the office portion of Livingston Wilbor on Tuesday afternoon. **RELIEF...**Right, Christina Haigh receives a hug after being freed from the roof collapse at Livingston Wilbor in Fanwood on Tuesday.

Fanwood Building Collapse

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the site was free of other victims, rescue personnel told *The Times* at the scene. At about 9:15 p.m., demolition of the unsafe portion of the structure began.

The block of South Avenue where the collapse occurred includes two side-by-side development projects, located just west of Martine Avenue and directly opposite Fanwood's train station. Station Mews is a mixed-use development planned to house retail at street level and condos on the second and third floors.

Mews developers Helen and Jeff Ling own Enchantments, a jewelry and gift shop located on South Avenue since 1989. The architect of the

project is Rocco Campanella, of Architecture Plus P.C. in Raritan; the general contractor is Buontempo Developer of Westfield. They expected the project would be completed by the fall.

Mr. Wilbor, who sported a bandage on his head, was at the scene of the collapse Wednesday morning. "I expect to be back in business within a few days," he said.

The collapse occurred in the front of the building. The rear of the building remains intact, he said.

Livingston-Wilbor has been in the borough for 58 years and was started by Mr. Wilbor's father, Ms. Haigh told *The Times*.



SHORING...Rescue workers prepare to light the interior of the shop area at Livingston Wilbor prior to Tuesday night's search.



FORE...The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission discusses fees for birthday parties at the miniature golf course at the Scotch Hills Golf Course.

Rec. Commission Opens Mini Golf Course to Parties

By MARIA WOHR
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission passed a resolution Monday night to introduce birthday parties at the miniature golf course at the Scotch Hills Golf Course.

The birthday parties will cost \$10 a head for a slice of pizza, a drink, use of the porch and an hour of golf, recreation officials said. The deal will continue until the pavilion is built at the golf course. Construction on the pavilion is set to start on Monday, June 4.

"We are now up and running our mini-golf parties," said Ray Poerio, Scotch Plains recreation director. "The deal is very reasonably priced."

The mini-golf course brought in \$4,363 for 655 rounds of golf in April, according to Mr. Poerio.

"I am very happy that our first month was a success," he said.

Earlier this month the township council approved the recreation commission's chemical bid, which covers the cost of all of the chemicals necessary to keep up with the maintenance of the fields. The commission will start seeding this week at township parks.

This summer, the commission will replace the fencing at Green Forest Park.

"It is in very bad condition," Commissioner Lynn Barattucci said.

Also, the commission will extend the fence at Jerseyland Park by 10 feet to keep balls in the park. The commission is in the process of adding 10-foot poles with netting to the 20-foot fences to ensure safety to property surrounding the field.

The commission will hold its next meeting on Monday, June 11, at 8 p.m. at Scotch Hills.



POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield
Monday, May 7, Joshua Novello, 28, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding motor vehicle warrant out of Clark following a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue and East Broad Street. He was released after posting \$500 bail.

Monday, May 7, Jennifer Biancone, 33, of Kenilworth was arrested at a business in the 600 block of North Avenue, West, and charged with theft by deception and shoplifting. Biancone allegedly presented a false receipt for items she did not purchase. She was released on her own recognizance with a summons pending a May 9 court date.

Monday, May 7, Jahad Sharrief, 29, of Bloomfield was arrested on South Avenue in Fanwood on a criminal warrant issued by the City of Newark. Per the Newark Police Department, he was released on his own recognizance at the scene in lieu of \$250 bail.

Tuesday, May 8, Raymond Warrel, 19, of Westfield was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property, described as a bicycle, in the 200 block of Lenox Avenue. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending a May 14 court date.

Tuesday, May 8, a resident of Stoneleigh Park reported the theft of a diamond ring valued in excess of \$100,000 from the home.

Thursday, May 10, Harjit Bawa, 56, of Elizabeth was arrested on the 300 block of North Scotch Plains Avenue on criminal warrants out of Westfield, with bail of \$79, Cranford, with bail of \$248, and Atlantic City, with bail of \$250. Bawa was held on default of bail at the Union County jail.

Friday, May 11, Elliot W. Sessoms, 18, of Elizabeth was arrested on East Broad Street at Park Drive pursuant to a contempt of court motor vehicle warrant issued by the City of Newark subsequent to a motor vehicle stop for speeding. He was released after posting \$89 bail.

Saturday, May 12, Ian Ramajattan, 39, of Carteret was arrested on Crossway Place and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, May 12, Michael Furey, 31, of Westfield was arrested at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place and charged with DWI. He was released to a responsible individual.

Scotch Plains
Monday, May 7, a resident of Spruce Lane reported that someone used his Social Security number to open an account with a cellular phone company. The suspect made \$700 worth of calls, police said.

Tuesday, May 8, a resident of Westfield Avenue reported that a repairman called offering to service her furnace. After coming to the house he gave her a bill for \$2,700 without doing any work.

Wednesday, May 9, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that someone damaged her lawn. The cost of repairs was approximately \$200, police said.

Wednesday, May 9, a business on Westfield Avenue reported that someone damaged a coin collection box that was on display.

Thursday, May 10, a resident of North Avenue reported that someone opened a credit card in her name and charged \$3,300 in merchandise.

Friday, May 11, a customer at a Park Avenue store reported that someone smashed the window of her vehicle while she was shopping and removed her cell phone.

Friday, May 11, a resident of Raritan Road reported that someone made phone calls at all hours of the night and hung up when the victim answered.

Mountainside
Monday, May 7, a Pembroke Road resident reported his vehicle was stolen from his driveway sometime overnight. According to police, both the driver's side and passenger-side door lock bezels were found on the ground where the vehicle was parked. Newark police later reported the vehicle was recovered and an arrest was made.

Friday, May 11, Haroldo A. Oliveira, 38, of Edison was arrested at the Edison Police Department on two outstanding warrants in the amounts of \$842 and \$309.

Saturday, May 12, Samira Winston, 18, William Logan, Jr., 19, two 16-year-old juveniles and a 15-year-old juvenile, all from Rahway, were arrested for receiving stolen property after police stopped the stolen vehicle one of the juveniles was driving on Route 22.

Sunday, May 13, Damian G. Stewart, 22, of Hillside was arrested at the Springfield Police Department on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$120.

Fanwood
Tuesday, May 8, Felicea A. Thompkins, 25, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding North Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Wednesday, May 9, Darius J. Eutssey, 18, of Bethlehem, Pa., was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Wednesday, May 9, Michael C. Green, 40, of Roselle was arrested on an outstanding East Orange warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, May 14, George S. Doyle, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Watchung warrant after a field investigation on Terrill Road.

Monday, May 14, Edward C. Klotz, 28, of Haddenfield was arrested on an outstanding Camden warrant after a motor vehicle stop on North Martine Avenue.



HITTING LIKE A PRO...J.P. Stevens High School (Edison) softball player Adrienne Dzema helps Jonathan Pyrol, 5, hit a line drive at Children's Specialized Hospital School (CSH) in Fanwood as part of a recent pickup game with the students from CSH. The pre-school and primary-level programs at CSH in Fanwood provide an educational and therapeutic program for patients.

PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENT CASES



JON BRAMNICK CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL ATTORNEY

Jon Bramnick, recently named a super lawyer by New Jersey Monthly Magazine, has recovered millions of dollars for victims of accidents during his 30 years as a trial lawyer. Bramnick lectures to trial lawyers for the continuing legal education programs and was the President of the Union County Inn of Court, which trains young trial lawyers.

For a free consultation please
call Jon at 908-322-7000
BRAMNICK RODRIGUEZ MITTERHOFF GRABAS & WOODRUFF LLC
1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains

SP Law Firm Closes

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development company, and a member of Fanwood Plaza Partners, LLC.

On May 2, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club honored Mr. Kraus as its "Volunteer of the Year" at an event at Pantagis Renaissance Restaurant. Mr. Kraus, a 40-year resident of Fanwood, received the Carol Wood Memorial Volunteer Award for his decades of service to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA and other community organizations.

Walter Leib, now semi-retired, had concentrated on corporate law and litigation matters in personal injury, corporate and business transactions, employment discrimination and termination cases. He also handled complex business transactions including the merger of Wedco Technology, Inc. with ICO Holdings.

Kenneth Grispin, who has recently applied to be appointed as a state superior court judge, joined the firm as a law clerk while he attended Rutgers Law School-Newark. In 1973, he joined the firm as an associate and, in 1975, the firm changed its name to Read, Leib, Kraus & Grispin, P.A.

Mr. Grispin specialized in litigation, corporate law and estate planning. He is one of 50 lawyers in the state certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as both a civil and criminal trial attorney. He has handled legal matters in personal injury, professional negligence, corporate and business transactions and estate mat-

ters.

Gary Roth also joined the firm as a law clerk while he studied at Rutgers Law School-Newark. He joined the firm as an associate in 1981 and partner in 1986. Mr. Roth specializes in employment discrimination and termination law; he also concentrates on corporate and general litigation matters.

According to his associates, he has achieved "substantial" verdicts against Fortune 500 companies in "difficult and challenging cases." He serves as president of the Union County Bar Association and on the executive board of the New Jersey chapter of the National Employment Lawyers' Association.

Since 1988, Richard Cohen has also been a part of the practice, concentrating on employment termination, family law and environmental law. He joined as an associate in 1994 and is also a member of the Union County Bar Association Committee on Professionalism. He is currently a member of the board of trustees of Temple Beth Shalom in Manalapan and serves as the board chairman of the Manalapan Planning Board.

Starting in May, both Mr. Kraus and Mr. Cohen will work for Schiller and Pittenger in Scotch Plains, while Mr. Roth will practice at Javerbaum, Wurgaf, Hicks, Kahn, Wikstrom & Sinins in Springfield. Mr. Leib can be reached at P.O. Box 659, Scotch Plains.