

THE TIMES of Scotch Plains – Fanwood

OUR 38th YEAR — ISSUE NO. 43-97

USPS 485200
Periodical — Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS



ENHANCING RAIDERS' SCHOOL SPIRIT... These talented Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School art students, under the guidance of Gerry Mohr, recently designed and painted the new Raider logo on the back wall of the huge field house behind the school. Pictured, left to right, are: bottom row, Cathy Halverson, Susan Tiedemann, Christie McPartlan, Jillian Cordes and Felicia Williams; middle row, Hanna Han, Yoon Sun Han, Nicole Fallo, Tim Pedersen, Michael Bligh, and Mrs. Mohr; back row, Joseph Fischbien, Caryn Elsie, Meagan Keen, Jason Mehan, David Hassan and Chris Lee.

SP-F High School Class Visits Whitney Museum in New York

On September 17, Gerry Mohr took her Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School painting class on a trip to The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City to view the first retrospective in this country of Keith Haring's work.

The tour was given by the museum educator. To celebrate this retrospective, there are also Haring public sculpture installations along Park Avenue from 59th Street to 75th Street.

Haring was an activist artist, and was famous for his large public

works which include his landmark anti-drug "crack is wack" mural (1986) located on FDR Drive in New York.

This mural was executed without a permit and initially caused an uproar with city officials who felt that the mural defaced property, Mrs. Mohr noted.

Soon, as the mural was later officially sanctioned by the government, the success of this public message sparked invitations from around the world for Haring to paint murals.

As a post visit project, Mrs. Mohr

chose the field house on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School campus to create a public art piece that reflects school spirit.

The students sketched out ideas, made design decisions, primed the wall and began to paint. This project took approximately one month to complete, including additional hours after school.

"We have a lot of talented students here at the (Scotch Plains-Fanwood) High School and it's exciting to have their work out in public view!" Mrs. Mohr explained.

Adjustment Board Okays Three Appeals; Discusses Driveway Widening Petitions

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Board of Adjustment approved three new applications, and memorialized six resolutions, during an hour-long meeting last Thursday.

At the top of the board's agenda was a petition by Leonid and Musya Fleysher of 83 La Grande Avenue, who successfully sought bulk variances for an attached garage on their property.

The couple required variances from the Borough Code to accommodate their proposed side yard width of 24 feet, which was in non-compliance with the permitted 35-foot distance. The current side yard width is 40.05 feet without the garage.

A variance also was required for

Scotch Plains Day Schedule Announced

The Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association and the Scotch Plains Lions Club have announced the schedule of events for Scotch Plains Day - StreetFest '97 to be held Saturday, October 25 on the Village Green from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Scheduled events include:

- Lions Club Flea Market 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sidewalk Sales 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Health Fair/Pet Clinic 8 a.m. - Noon
- 5 Mile Road Race 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- Civic Awards Ceremony 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Dance Exhibition 11 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
- Martial Arts Demonstration Noon - 12:30 p.m.
- Fashion Show 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- Live Mid-Day Music 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Pat Dinizio, the singer and songwriter of The Smithereens, will be the featured artist, performing songs from his debut solo album, Songs and Sounds. Other talented artists are also expected to perform.

The time schedule of these activities may vary. The raindate, if necessary, is set for Sunday, October 26.

their existing corner lot width, which is 85.30. The permitted width under the Borough Code is 90 feet.

The second application was submitted by William and Karen Pilegio of 16 Portland Avenue, who were granted a bulk variance to build a deck onto the rear of their bi-level home.

According to the couple, the proposed, 16-foot-wide deck would stand 10 feet off the ground and be attached to the second floor of their home, where most of their living quarters are located.

Mr. and Mrs. Pilegio, who have two children, testified that having the deck would give them more space to entertain visiting family members.

The couple required a variance because their proposed rear yard setback of 21 feet fell short of the 25 feet permitted under the Borough Code. The present setback without the deck is 37 feet.

The deck will be accessible via a sliding glass door which the couple plans to install, as well as by two sets of exterior stairs.

In the final application of the evening, Stanley and Donna Zaleski of 47 Locust Avenue were awarded bulk variances to maintain an existing driveway, and for an existing side yard setback.

Mr. and Mrs. Zaleski had widened their driveway over the summer to 22 feet, while the permitted width under the Borough Code is 10 feet. The side yard distance of 8.13 feet, with the widened driveway, was in violation of the permitted 10-foot distance.

Mr. Zaleski said he had the work done without realizing that he was in violation of Borough Code requirements, and immediately took action to have the driveway approved after being informed in September that it did not comply with regulations.

The applicant, who has lived in Fanwood for more than 25 years, said he currently owns two cars and is expecting to acquire a third car soon for his 17-year-old daughter. He widened the driveway, he explained, so all three vehicles could be parked off the street.

The case prompted a discussion afterwards among board members concerning appeals for driveway widenings, which have become increasingly common as more and more families have multiple vehicles.

Boards of Adjustment Attorney Charles H. Brandt, during a recent presentation to the Fanwood Planning Board, revealed that officials

are considering a proposal to increase the permitted driveway width from 10 to 20 feet under the borough's revised zoning ordinance.

Last week, he explained that the Board of Adjustment generally favors measures which will get vehicles off of streets. The reasons for this, according to Mr. Brandt, are so municipal services such as snow plowing will not be hampered; to increase visibility of children, and to eliminate problems experienced by homeowners attempting to exit their driveways when cars are parked on the opposite side of the street.

However, another viewpoint was expressed last month by board member Jack Molenaar, who voted against an application for a driveway widening. Mr. Molenaar had suggested that eliminating on-street parking could actually jeopardize pedestrians' safety by encouraging motorists to drive faster along residential streets.

The six resolutions memorialized by the board concerned cases which were heard on September 18.

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MEETING ON FLOOD CONTROL ALSO SCHEDULED

Scotch Plains Council Reacts With Caution Over Proposal For Long-Term Burner Lease

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains Township Council members reacted with caution to the proposed 25-year leasing of the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway — otherwise known as the incinerator — during a conference meeting on Tuesday.

Joseph Spatola, Executive Director of the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA), which is overseeing the facility, has said the lease agreement was developed with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Ogden Martin Systems, the company that built and operates the plant.

Recently, both Democratic and Republican Freeholders seemed to agree the leasing plan is the only way to salvage the \$35 million of Union County backed bonds on the facility that opened just several years ago. The facility was built through the issuance of \$283 million in bonds by the Freeholders.

Financial woes for the county incinerator operations surfaced last year after the courts struck down a 1975 state mandate that counties regulate waste flow. After the decision, trash haulers were free to transport garbage to the lowest bidder for disposal — wherever that may be — which left the local operation in an unprofitable situation.

According to Councilwoman Joan Papen, the proposed lease asks municipalities to sign on with the Rahway facility for waste disposal or otherwise pay a penalty for every ton short of its tonnage requirement.

Ogden Martin says it needs 250,000 tons of garbage a year to be profitable according to township officials.

Municipalities will be guaranteed a price of \$50 per ton for 25 years under the new agreement. Township

Council members balked at the idea of being locked into a long-term lease, speculating that recycling and waste flow management could change drastically over that length of time.

Council members also questioned the penalties for non-use of the county incinerator, since Scotch Plains is one of six municipalities in Union County which does not regulate waste flow, according to Mayor Irene T. Schmidt.

"How can we tell (the trash haulers) what to do?" Mrs. Papen asked. Some have said the haulers will absorb the penalty fees.

Councilman Martin Marks endorsed a prudent approach, saying, "This decision should be delayed. We some need advice from the legal department."

The UCUA is giving towns a Saturday, November 15, deadline to comply with the terms of the lease. Mayor Schmidt said the UCUA has asked for a resolution from the council by Sunday, November 30, to cement the deal.

"The Authority says municipalities should be thrilled to enter into this contract," Mayor Schmidt noted, while indicating she had many more questions about the proposal.

The plan would go into effect on Thursday, January 1, of next year, Mrs. Papen said.

In other business, the council said it wanted to meet next month with Berkeley Heights Mayor Daniel A. Palladino, 3rd, to discuss the so-called Upper Portion of the Green Brook Flood Control Project. Mayor Palladino said the township hired an engineer to come up with alternate designs for the area.

Following a telephone conversation with Mr. Palladino last week, Mayor Schmidt concluded that Berkeley Heights does not want to "stand

in the way" of flood control assistance for the lower floodplain regions — of which Scotch Plains and Fanwood are a part — but that the township has alternate ideas to the two proposed detention basins in the county-owned Watching Reservation.

One of those ideas is the use of existing Seeley's Pond for water detention, Mayor Schmidt said.

The council asked that Theodore Bassman, the Scotch Plains representative to the Green Brook Task Force, join the council for the meeting with Berkeley Heights residents. The Task Force has been given one year to propose solutions for the Upper Portion in order to secure federal funding earmarked for the project.

On another matter, Mayor Schmidt said she met with state officials regarding heavy traffic flow in the township along state and county roads. She said an "interim measure" will be an "Intelligent Traffic System" installed at congested intersections to monitor activity. The system includes surveillance video cameras.

State Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine, who represents the 22nd Legislative District, has suggested forming a task force of affected neighboring towns.

"We have to keep the heat up," Mayor Schmidt stated. "This is a very, very long-term project, but it's moving along."

The township has said it will reject a bid of \$24,667 for a new roof on the historic Osborn Cannonball House in favor of taking a new round of bids on Tuesday, October 28, at 3 p.m.

Officials said two contractors were prequalified for the work but only one bid came in and it was too high.

Officials also said that the township's Sunday, December 7, dead

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Planning Board Okays Application For Antennas At Water Tower

By CANDACE WALLER
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board approved the application Monday of the Smart SMR of New York, Inc./Nextel Communications of New York to place nine new antennas on the water tanks on Jerusalem Road.

According to Parsippany attorney Robert Garofalo, who represents the company, the additional antennas are needed so that cellular telephone carriers would not lose their calls when traveling through Scotch Plains.

Already on the water tanks are antennas from Bell Atlantic, AT&T and Comcast, all which are still in use.

Robert LaCosta, the township's Building Inspector, asked why the Scotch Plains' location was picked over sites in Mountainside and Watchung.

Dominic Scaramuzzino, an engi-

neer for Nextel for the past 18 months, testified that the Jerusalem Road location was the best place to put the antennas to serve SMR customers.

"We have to be in an area where the coverage is to fill the gaps," Mr. Scaramuzzino said. "Tests done on the Jerusalem Road location show that proposed antennas will cover Route No. 22 near Scotch Plains. This system will not interfere with television."

Mr. Scaramuzzino added that the system will be monitored by remote control and that the area will have to be checked once a month.

Marilyn Adams, who lives near the area, expressed concern over the possible dangers the new antennas could pose to the community.

"Have you given thought about how the water will be affected by the towers and to the people who will be exposed to all the radio waves?" Ms.

Adams said. "It's really a concern in our neighborhood."

Mr. Garofalo said there have been studies done by Lucent Technologies that support the claim that these antennae are safe.

"The Elizabethtown Water Company is comfortable that antennas won't cause any problems," Mr. Garofalo said. "Lucent Technologies did a study that showed these types of facilities operate 200 to 300 times below state standards (for radio wave exposure)."

Mr. Garofalo promised Ms. Adams and the Planning Board that he would provide them with a copy of the study.

Ms. Adams said she is concerned because sometimes things which are thought to be safe turn out to be harmful. She cited, as an example, the previous belief that lightning cannot travel through a telephone line, which has since been proven to be untrue.

"I would just like to be reassured that this is not going to cause a problem for Scotch Plains' residents who use the water, and their children and grandchildren," Ms. Adams said.

Alternate board member Joseph Doyle said the board sympathized with Ms. Adams' concern, but does not have the authority to deny the request based on environmental issues.

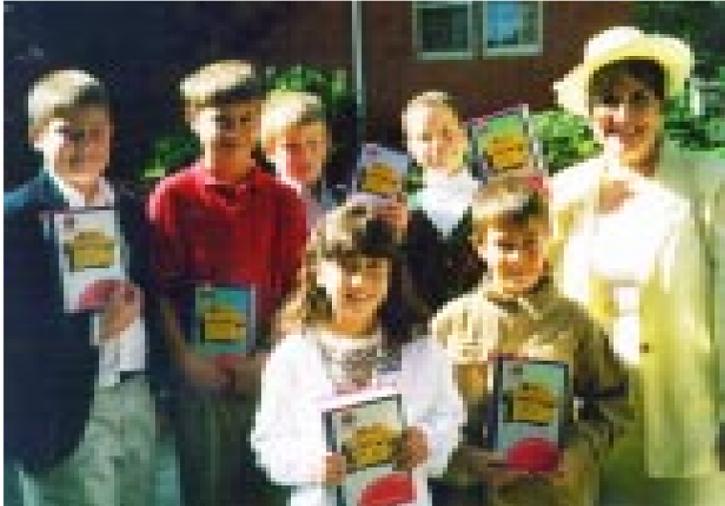
"Our hands are tied when it comes to the health issue," said Mr. Doyle, referring to cases in which the courts ruled that Planning Boards have no jurisdiction in environmental issues.

"The courts have said that Planning Boards cannot use health factors for disapproving this (kind of) application," Dr. Martin Marks, the Township Council's representative on the board, said.

"Residents should know that we're not taking the applicant's word for it (environmental data) because there are organizations who have jurisdiction who are monitoring it," he added.

According to Peter Papay of Papay Engineering & Construction, Inc. of Ramsey, the antennas will be divided into three sets of three, facing different directions, similar to the antennas already on the tank. There also will be a barbed wire over it to deter possible vandals.

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SHOW OF FAITH... Fourth graders from the Fanwood Presbyterian Church proudly display the Bibles they received in September. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Christee Curran and Manuel Cajigas; second row, Richard Kickenwitz, Jeffrey Bell, Timothy Mathews, John Cox and their third-grade Sunday School teacher, Virginia Apelian. The Reverend Beth Anderson-Domer, Minister of Christian Education, presented the Bibles to the youngsters.