# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 11 N | SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1970 | 15 CENTS A COPY


SCOTCH PLAINS LIBRARY 1927 PARTLE AVE SCOTCH PLAINS N.J. 07076 ATTN MR URBAN

## Are Senior Citizens The Forgotten "Silent Minority" In Our Towns

By JOAN MONAHAN

Today, the two communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood are home for thousands of families. The ages of the homeowners vary, but a good look reveals the fact that people over 65 are in a very definite minority. The total of $80 senior citizen tax exemptions in the two towns is 390 - 55 in Fanwood, 345 in Scotch Plains.

The realities of retirement age come with a shock for most. Couples who have spent 25 years with monthly mortgage payments finally own their homes outright, but pensions and social security don't stretch to meet our high taxes. Consequently, vast numbers of senior citizens who have made very worthwhile contributions to community life here and would like to live out their lives in a familiar setting are uprooted. They head for the low tax areas - Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Florida. Such a situation makes for an imbalanced community in our opinion. However, the problem is not peculiar to Scotch Plains and Fanwood. It is one which is readily acknowledge on state and national levels.

What happens when the old move out? More young replace them. The result is still more children to be educated from tax dollars, in an age when education costs are soaring. Today, for example, if each of the 390 senior citizen homeowners were to sell his home to a family with the national average of 2-1/2 children, the schools would be faced with 975 new students. Obviously, it behooves suburban communities to hold on to their Golden Agers for more than reasons of kindness and charity.

Two weeks ago, several senior citizens in Fanwood were quite vocal in offering objections to Fanwood's property revaluation. They told the Borough Council

Continued On Page 27

## Reports Fund Drive Progress

Donald DiFrancesco, Drive Chairman of the 1970 Scotch Plains Community Fund Drive, announces that the Drive is progressing smoothly and with encouraging results. He hopes that members of the community will be as generous as their income will allow. All division leaders of the Drive are very enthusiastic and anxious to complete the drive and perhaps greatly exceed the goal of $40,000.00.

Chairmen of the various committees are: Residential - Jean Rector, Howard Oakley and Marv Norcross; Business - Claire Reilly; Special Gifts - Mrs. Richard Dobyns; and Board of Education - Alice Holmgaard.

The Fund has as its slogan, "Get In Stride - Give With Pride."

The member agencies are: Rescue Squad, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, United Service Organization, American Red Cross, Association for Retarded Children, Jewish Community Center, Travelers Aid Association, Visiting Homemaker Service, Cerebral Palsy, Youth and Family Counseling Service, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and Union County Psychiatric Clinic.

## Oct. 18 Is "United Sunday" In Fanwood

Fanwood Mayor Roland M. Beetham, in recognition of the services rendered to residents of Fanwood by the United Community Services member agencies, proclaimed Sunday, October 18 as "United Sunday."

Fund drive co-chairmen Robert Kraus and Mrs. William Cameron believe this official gesture by Mayor Beetham will arouse the responsiveness of the community and inspire an effective and successful campaign.

A total of 24 district captains have secured the help of approximately 150 campaign workers who will endeavor to visit each of Fanwood's 2400 families on October 18th.

Mrs. William Cameron, who is heading the commercial solicitations, will enlist the support of more than 50 businesses in the community for the drive.

If Fanwood's residents, with their contributions, match the enthusiasm of the campaign workers, the drive is destined to be an enormous success. Call backs will be made to people who are not at home on Sunday the 18th. The results of the drive will be displayed on a large barometer installed near the Fanwood Community House.

Mr. Kraus and Mrs. Cameron have stressed the importance of each contributor giving "at least 8 cents more than last year" to meet the rising costs of each agencies operations.

They have also stressed the need for residents who gave at work to inform the campaign workers of their gift and place of employment, particularly if it is located in Union County. A rebate will be applied for if this information is communicated to the co-chairmen or campaign workers. This rebate will benefit local agencies which may not be covered on a county level.

The co-chairmen asked residents to consider splitting their gift if a gift was made at a place of employment outside of Union County.

Mr. Kraus and Mrs. Cameron are confident of meeting their goal of $15,000 with the help of the many generous people in Fanwood who always "pass with flying colors" when their concern for others is put to a test.

# Mayor Hails Martine Avenue Extension

## Lake And Martine Aves. To Return To Municipal Status

Mayor Albert Theurer of Scotch Plains has hailed the forthcoming Martine Avenue Extension project to be undertaken next year as a long sought and highly desirable improvement in traffic flow. He cited a number of advantages to the new road, which has been granted top priority among 1971 Union County road projects, and is the only road construction in the county scheduled to receive state aid funds for next year.

Last week the county freeholders reported that the state and the county will share equally in the $400,000 improvement.

For fifteen years Scotch Plains officials have requested that Martine Avenue be extended beyond Raritan Road. One of the top traffic problems in the community has been in the area of Martine, Raritan Road and Lake Avenue. Drivers heading south must jog left into Raritan, then right into Lake, and heavy congestion occurs daily because of the heavy influx of out-of-town drivers going to the Union County vocational school on Raritan Road, the Ashbrook Golf Course, and Union Catholic High School. The route is also heavily used as a link between U.S. 22 and the Garden State Parkway.

In recent years, northbound drivers travelling along Lake Avenue attempted to avoid the Lake Avenue-Raritan Road backup by cutting through a small residential street, and the Township Committee was forced to curtail turns there.

Theurer noted that the traffic problems were virtually insoluable because both Lake Avenue and Martine Avenue ended at Raritan Road, and neither was a through intersection, which condition disqualified them for traffic lights.

Further complications in traffic were caused by the presence of the south-side fire house on Raritan Road. Firemen have had difficulty getting out of the firehouse without traffic signals, and were unable to see around the bend, he said.

The new extension will be 46 feet wide, according to County Engineer Joseph Komich. The existing portion of Martine Avenue is 40 feet wide. Komich said the extension will run from Raritan Road to Lake Avenue, just before the ramp near Bayberry Gardens apartments.

Plans have not yet been drawn for the extension, and Komich said that a starting date has not yet been set. He said that under terms of the original request for the extension, portions of Lake Avenue and Raritan Road now under county control will be returned to municipal status.

According to Theurer, the return of these two streets to municipal control would mean that the township would now be responsible for maintenance and repair, and also plowing and cleaning. However, Theurer said the township had already been supplementing county efforts in plowing and leaf pickup there, since residents had sometimes complained that county services were not equal to municipal efforts.

Theurer also said that there will be no industrial development along the new road. During the past 15 years the township has acquired rights-of-way, spending a total of $88,000. The rights-of-way for the entire extension are owned primarily by the township and by the Union County Park Commission.

The new road is also expected to improve traffic flow to the

Continued On Page 33

## Don't Lose Your Vote

Apply before October 26 for your absentee ballot. College students, businessmen on trips, vacationers, "At-Homers" - please contact Fanwood's Borough Hall, (322-8236) for your application.

## To Parents Of Children Under Eleven

Numerous groups interested in protecting the health of children are cooperating to make the immunization drive against German measles (rubella) a success in Union County on October 18.

The State Department of Health is providing the vaccine and the technicians to give the innoculations with hypospray injectors instead of needles.

Municipal health officers have helped to select and staff the Immunization sites and have also helped with publicity.

Physicians will be present at every site.

Nurses, and other volunteers are all contributing to the overall effort to assure that children in the county aged one year through ten are protected against German measles.

Parents are again urged to bring their children one through ten to the site most convenient to them between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Immunization will be offered simultaneously at 12 locations throughout the county. In this area the vaccinations will be given at the Edison Junior High School on Rahway Ave. in Westfield and at the Terrill Junior High School on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains. Other sites will be located in Plainfield, Summit, Cranford, Clark, Rahway, Union, Linden and Elizabeth.

## Where Oh Where Are The Sex Surveyors???

If anybody in Scotch Plains has been questioned regarding their attitudes towards sex and the laws governing sexual behavior, they either have no attitudes or they're keeping them quiet.

Supposedly, the National Opinion Research Center, part of the University of Chicago, plans to interview residents of Scotch Plains among 3,000 U.S. citizens to be queried on the question. The research center notified the Scotch Plains Police Department on September 22 that they anticipated the survey in Scotch Plains to begin the following week, but to date nothing further has been heard.

According to Captain Joseph Powers of the Detective Bureau, anybody who plans door-to-door sales or surveys in the community should have a Police Department permit, but no applications have been made for same to date.

The interviewers will also carry identification cards from the research association and a printed statement from the Better Business Bureau.

## DeGross Says "Deal" Bad For Scotch Plains

Pierce DeGross, Scotch Plains Republican campaign manager, today called the deal between the Venezio-Moore-Andrusky-Schnitzer forces and the DeLuca-Spingler Democrats a bad deal for Scotch Plains.

"It is difficult to understand," Mr. DeGross stated, "how the same Democrats who objected so vigorously to Mr. Schnitzer's candidacy three years ago because he was employed by the Board of Education, can now support him. That they would now enter into such an alliance with the very Republicans they fought for years should raise a lot of questions in the minds of every citizen regardless of party affiliation.

Mr. Schnitzer, who has variously described himself as a regular of independent or loyal Republican, has turned out to be a 'Let's Make a Deal' candidate who favors some type of multi-party government with himself as the big wheeler-dealer.

The Republican Party has fulfilled its obligation to Scotch Plains' residents by presenting a capable, honorable candidate, Alan Augustine, He is a man with a deep concern for Scotch Plains and all its citizens, and I certainly believe that Independents, Democrats and Republicans will join me in supporting Alan on election day and will reject the 'bad deal for Scotch Plains' offered by his opponent."