



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

of

Scotch Plains – Fanwood



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THE LUCK OF THE IRISH... Last Saturday, the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Union drew droves of Irish descent and plenty of revelers. Pictured, left to right, are: far left, loads of luck are offered to the parade attendants by a giant leprechaun; top, the Westfield Five & Drum Corps of Westfield marches proudly throughout downtown Union, and, bottom, the parade's General Chairman Michael Scanlon, Grand Marshal Joseph B. Sullivan and Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey join in the festivities.

SP Council Urges Convention To Reform NJ Property Taxes

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The push for a state constitutional convention to reform the property tax system got a boost on Tuesday night when the Scotch Plains Township Council passed a resolution urging such a get-together.

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers has introduced legislation calling for such a convention to address what the council's resolution termed "the archaic tax system in New Jersey."

If the legislation is passed, the question of whether to permit a convention would be put to the voters in November. If approved, a constitutional convention, which would address only the property tax system, would be held about a year from now, with recommendations ultimately submitted to the voters for their approval in November 2002.

"The only way to make things easier for our taxpayers," said Councilwoman Geri M. Samuel, is through changes in the state constitution.

Mayor Martin L. Marks said the property taxation arrangement in New Jersey was a system going back hundreds of years, to a time when property owners were considered to

be people of substantial means. "It's not that way anymore," he said.

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato called property tax reform "way overdue," adding that "the inequities (in the present system) are abhorrent."

The constitutional convention's aim would be to prepare proposals consisting of amendments to the state constitution and revisions to existing state statutes that, while revenue-neutral in their overall impact, would eliminate the inequities in the current property taxation system, ensure greater uniformity in the application of property taxes, reduce property taxes as a share of overall public revenue, provide alternatives that would lessen local governments' dependence on property taxes, and also provide alternative means of funding local government services.

In other matters, Mayor Marks announced that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will hold an informational seminar next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Route 22 Holiday Inn in Springfield, to address the redesign of airspace patterns in the tri-state area. He urged residents to attend and said they would be welcome to ask questions of FAA officials.

The council passed an ordinance altering the parking regulations on Kevin Road in front of Coles El-

ementary School. Currently, parking is prohibited there from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ordinance changes the no-parking restriction to 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and also extends the length of the drop-off zone in the mornings.

The governing body also approved an application allowing the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) to sponsor its annual farmers' market in the parking lot next to the Municipal Building. SPBPA President Ray Pardon also informed the council that the annual classic car show and street fair would be held in the downtown business district on Sunday, June 10.

In a related matter, Councilwoman Samuel said that trench-digging for installation of the new lighting scheme in the central business district would begin soon.

At the start of the meeting, the council passed a resolution congratulating the Black Student Union at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on their recent production of *The Wiz*. Officials also were entertained with a song by two of the cast members.

The council additionally passed a resolution congratulating Pamela Boright, a former Councilwoman and Planning Board member, for being honored by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women as one of the 13 outstanding women in Union County.

Four Candidates for SP-F BOE Cite Experience, Campaign Objectives in 2001 School Board Race

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

There are three candidates vying for two Scotch Plains seats on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education — first-term incumbent Lance Porter and newcomers to the board race, Craig Nowlin and Peter C. Tripet.

Pat Hoynes-O'Connor is running unopposed for the open Fanwood seat.

Mr. Nowlin is a resident of Graymill Drive. He and his wife,

Joyce, own a bookkeeping business. Their son attends McGinn School.

"Owning a business has given me an appreciation for managing costs, a requirement for a successful business," said Mr. Nowlin. "Every expense, from paper and pencils to computers and copiers are very important to making our business successful. If elected, I will bring the financial skills necessary for bookkeeping, and business skills necessary to run a business, to the Board of Education."

Mr. Nowlin, an active member of the McGinn Parent Teacher Association, served as Treasurer for the Citizens' Coalition to Support the Bond, which helped engender public support for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools Bond Referendum last December.

Mr. Porter is a Superintendent of Manufacturing Engineering at the General Motors Plant in Linden.

"I am currently the only engineer on the BOE and my strong background in plant and facilities maintenance uniquely qualifies me to implement the bond referendum purpose as we enter the construction phase," said Mr. Porter, whose children attend Park Middle School.

Mr. Porter presently chairs the construction and negotiation committee for teachers and secretaries for the board. The contract with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association expires Saturday, June 30. "With two out of three BOE members not returning this year, I

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SP-F Board of Education Continues to Wrestle With \$50.3 Mil. Budget, \$44.7 Mil. Tax Levy

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

At a special March 8 meeting, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education continued to discuss if it should, and how it might, pare down the tentative 2001-2002 school budget of \$50,287,302.

The tax levy portion of the spending plan on the table is \$44,736,398. Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Carol B. Choye said, "The part that's most difficult is that, for the first time, we have a series of six budget items that are difficult to predict."

These items include out-of-district tuition for special education students, occupational and physical therapy costs, transportation costs, health benefits and the cost of utilities.

Board member Richard Meade continued to hammer at the need to

increase the budget's free balance, which presently stands at just over \$154,000.

Assuming the district can keep a lid on spending throughout the balance of the present school year, Business Administrator Anthony DelSordi anticipates having an additional \$148,790 to add to that balance at the end of June.

"We need to build up savings for a

rainy day," said Mr. Meade. "We need to have that here (in the budget) and we don't. It shouldn't be remedied by happenstance."

The \$50.3 million tentative budget is divided as follows: 79.25 percent, salaries (\$32,409,062) and fringe benefits, (\$6,051,147); 6.22 percent, tuition (\$3,030,110); 3.45 percent, transportation (\$1,680,268); 2.11 percent, utilities (\$1,028,116); 1.44 percent, capital outlay (\$700,817); 7.86 percent, other (\$3,831,998), which includes texts, supplies, and instruction-related materials.

Mr. DelSordi offered examples of how this year's actual expenditures are grossly out of sync with last year's projections. While the projected cost of natural gas for the 2000-2001 school year is \$571,568, the current budget is \$345,660. The estimated budget for 2001-2002 is \$412,000.

As Mr. DelSordi said, "That doesn't even cover the cost for this year."

Jean McAllister asked what happened to the \$723,000 generated by the second questions in the 2000-2001 budget.

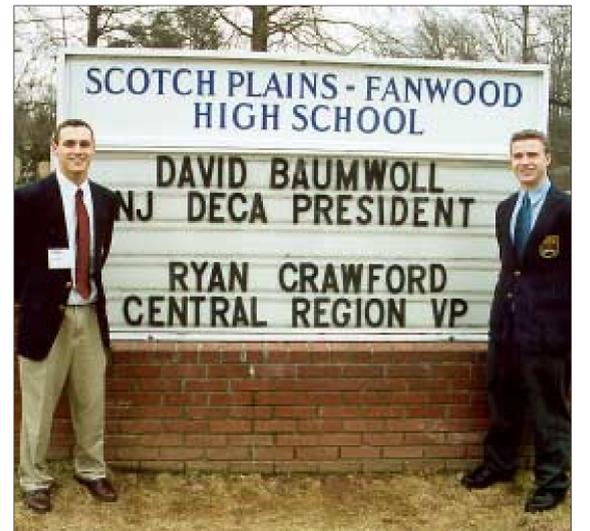
"If that is part of this year's base...we should have had some play here. Where was it eaten up?" asked Mrs. McAllister.

Mr. DelSordi explained the funds, which were spread across world languages, facilities improvements and technology, will continue to be used during the coming year. The only portion of those funds that was a one-time expenditure was the high school media center security system.

"The money continues to be dedicated for the purposes for which it was originally intended," said the business administrator.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board reached consensus that the administration would go through the numbers once again to see where cuts could be made. One proposed cut that has generated much discus-

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ELECTION WINNERS... Scotch Plains-Fanwood DECA students, juniors David Baumwoll, left, and Ryan Crawford, won their elections to the statewide office of New Jersey DECA. David was elected as the new State President of the New Jersey Association of DECA, which has a membership of over 6,200 pupils. Ryan was elected as the Central Region Vice President. This is David's third year in DECA and Ryan's second year as a DECA member. The students won their state office at DECA's recent Leadership Conference in Cherry Hill.

Fanwood Long Range Committee Presents Final Report to Council

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

As the culmination of an endeavor spanning more than two years, Fanwood's governing body received a final report last week from the borough's Long Range Planning Committee, outlining recommendations the committee hopes will serve as a blueprint for community development over the next five to 10 years.

During a half-hour presentation at the top of the Borough Council's March 7 agenda session, Committee Chairwoman Donna Dolce recapped the group's work since its inaugural meeting in July of 1998, including compilation and analysis of data and development of recommendations regarding specific goals and accomplishments.

The committee was one of three — the others representing Downtown Revitalization and Communications/Volunteerism — which evolved from the Fanwood Community Assessment Committee that was appointed in the spring of 1997 to develop improvement strategies for those areas considered especially vital to the

borough's success in future years.

In her overview of the 31-page report, Ms. Dolce highlighted for governing body members her committee's 10 "Strategic Goals and Objectives" for 2001-2010, some of which are already underway. The top three were identified as downtown redevelopment, collaboration and management.

Collectively, the three objectives call for Fanwood to establish and implement a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the downtown, including South Avenue; a "viable plan and process" for integrating resources between and/or among neighboring municipalities and various government levels, and ensuring an effective management structure within the borough to "enhance and maintain a high quality of service."

The remaining strategic goals — not listed in order of priority — were categorized as: management, funding, recreation, community relations, transportation, volunteerism, safety and rescue and monitoring in evaluation.

Ms. Dolce thanked various indi-

viduals for their contributions to the committee's efforts since its inception, including her fellow members, as well as past and present elected officials, among them former Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly and former Council President William E. Populus, Jr.

"It certainly was not a process done in a vacuum," she said. "We had what we felt was ample representation of diversity from the community."

Ms. Dolce commented that she hoped the governing body would adopt the document and that it would be "used actively" as a foundation for fulfilling long-range objectives in the next decade.

Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz called the committee's report "a very impressive body of work," while Mayor Louis C. Jung praised it as a "terrific resource and checklist." Ms. Dolce told officials that, in submitting the report, her committee's mission was now complete.

Under other business last week, officials discussed the creation of a Sign and Facade Committee to help alleviate confusion frequently experienced by local merchants over the types of signage permitted in Fanwood, and to develop recom-

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Scotch Plains GOP Screens Candidates For Assembly, Council

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains Republicans were set to meet last night to select a candidate for this year's Township Council election as well as to name a choice to be submitted to the Union County Republican organization for consideration as a State Assembly candidate.

Four individuals were vying for the nod for this November's council election, which is being held to fill out the remaining year of the four-year term of the late Democratic Councilman Tarquin Jay Bromley, who died last September.

Guy Celentano is a member of the Township Planning Board; Carolyn Sorge is a member of the township rescue squad and was the first female member of the township fire department; Eric Urbano was the GOP candidate for Union County Clerk last year, and Bruce Yakre was recently appointed to be a member of the

Downtown Task Force. Sharynn Porter, a Democrat who was named to fill Mr. Bromley's seat last October, has yet to indicate her plans for the election, in which the Republicans will be attempting to expand their current 3-2 majority on the governing body.

The choice of local candidate for State Assembly, meanwhile, pitted the present Scotch Plains Mayor, Martin L. Marks, against two former Mayors, William F. McClintock, Jr. and Gabe Spera. Whoever is ultimately elected this fall will succeed incumbent Richard H. Bagger, who is running for the State Senate seat being vacated by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco.

Nancy Malool, chief legislative aide for Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains, has said she will not attend the Scotch Plains screening out of respect for her boss, who has been ill. Mr. Augustine has yet to announce if he will seek reelection.

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While Train Commuters Seek Alternatives, Residents Complain Over On-Street Parking

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- The only incontrovertible fact that everyone in Westfield can agree on is that there is a parking problem. Commuters, shoppers and employees all vying for less-than-adequate numbers of spaces, creating competition in a simple supply and demand enigma. Meter feeding, illegal parking, price gouging and commuter cars congesting residential side streets have all been par for the course in this first-come-first-serve parking dilemma.

The latest chapter in the parking saga has been the implementation of two-hour limit signs on Carleton Road. Joining the ranks of many of the other streets surrounding the train station, Carleton has now been alleviated of the plethora of commuter cars which used to congest that residential neighborhood.

The residents of Carleton, like their neighbors on Summit and Rahway Avenues and Westfield Road, got fed up with having bumper-to-bumper commuter cars parked in front of their homes, and asked the town to remedy the problem.

The result of this partial-remedy has been to displace those commuters to other nearby side streets, such as Park Place and parts of Westfield Road or to push them further up Carleton, to where there are no hourly limits.

Not that the commuters and the residents are not sympathetic to each other's plights, but each side has made some valid points regarding their needs and rights.

"I used to be a commuter and I am sympathetic to their need to get to work," said Carleton Road resident Rodger Bilheimer. "But the whole complexion of the neighborhood changed when the commuter cars were moved off the block."

"The town needs to find a solution for both the residents and the commuters; not solutions that are only helpful to one, and detrimental to the other," he added.

Park Place resident Sally Wright said that now that Carleton has been restricted, there are even more commuter cars parking on Park Place in front of her home.

"When my rides come to get me, they have nowhere to pull over. They have to stop in the middle of the street. I'd like to see some equity for our street now. They've simply relocated the parking problem to Park Place," she said.

On the other side of this parking dilemma are many disgruntled commuters who feel that the town, in implementing these parking restrictions, has abandoned them.

"It is reprehensible that they are pushing us further and further away from the train station," said Westfield resident and daily commuter, Rachel Pujol.

"The town had a responsibility to find a suitable alternative for the commuters before taking away our only options," she added.

Like many Westfield commuters, Mrs. Pujol was told that there is a five-year waiting list for a permit in the train station lot.

"It is not an acceptable solution to ask me to wait five years for a parking space. How am I supposed to get to work? I cannot walk alone at night, half a mile to some isolated parking lot," she said.

Mrs. Pujol is referring to one of the proposed solutions, that commuters can soon obtain permits for the Watterson Street lot, approximately half a mile from the train station.

Mrs. Pujol said that despite repeatedly calling the office of Town Administrator Thomas B. Shannon, her calls have not been returned. "It was also suggested to me that I could rent a spot from a nearby business for an exorbitant monthly fee. So price gouging is okay, but parking on a residential street isn't?" she asked.

"When I was considering moving here, this town was sold to me as being great for commuters. I feel that the town has an obligation to live up to that promise," she added.

Mayor Gregory S. McDermott pointed out, "Our administration is aware of the ballooning-effect of this problem; we resolve the problem on one street, only to see it balloon out on another. We've been working diligently trying to resolve these problems in more effective ways for both commuters and the residents."

The Mayor said that there have been numerous discussions over the past year to refine and implement a variety of solutions. Although many of the proposed answers may seem like only partial solutions, each one can alleviate some of the parking problem and,



Rodger Bilheimer of Carleton Road:

"I'm sympathetic to the commuters, but I don't want wall-to-wall cars in front of my house, blocking my driveway. The town needs to accommodate both the commuters and the residents."



Commuter Lisa Kraus:

"I have to get dropped off and picked up. It's not always convenient, but we've only been on the permit list for a year and a half."



Anton Kouraeva and mother Natalia Kouraeva of Carleton Road:

"When the commuters parked on Carleton, my son, Anton's school bus had nowhere to pull over and had to stop in the middle of the road. It was very unsafe."



Commuter Eric Bass:

"I missed the 8:39 a.m. train because the walk from where I had to park my car was too long. It's a very punitive system."



Park Place resident Sally Wright:

"The hourly restriction on Carleton simply relocated the problem to our street. Where's the equity in that?"



Commuter Jennifer Scott:

"I park in the Watterson Street lot. It's not ideal, but it's satisfactory."

All photos by Ingrid McKinley for The Times

taken together, he believes, can remedy a majority of the problems.

Several of the proposed solutions, including a jitney service to and from various lots, permits for additional lots, additional spaces at the train station, car pooling, valet service, in addition to the proposed parking deck, are in the process of being implemented or are being looked into.

Mayor McDermott added that although the Prospect and Elm Streets parking deck is not being proposed for commuter parking, it will permit shoppers and employees to park in the deck, thereby freeing up much needed spaces for commuters closer to the train station.

Additionally, the town is in the process of hiring a consulting firm to find suitable candidates to fill the newly

created position of parking manager, who will oversee all of these parking issues and solutions.

Part of the problem, admits Mayor McDermott, has been resources and manpower. It has taken much longer than expected to update and issue new permits for the south side lot, delaying the process of issuing permits for other lots, such as Watterson Street.

The Watterson Street lot remains more than half empty during the week, requiring permits that have not yet been issued.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Chairman of the Transportation-Parking and Traffic Committee said that there was a great need for better management of this situation and the lack of management led to these delays in implementing solutions.

"Town government has not acted with an appropriate sense of urgency on this issue," he said. "The focus should have been overall management and not just on the deck."

He expressed his confidence that hiring a consultant to seek out candidates for the position of parking man-

ager is a valuable and worthwhile service at this time.

"It's important for everyone to understand that there is no magic bullet solution to all of the parking problems. Every option is being given the thorough and careful consideration it deserves and there are no sacred cows at this point," Mr. Sullivan pointed out.

Much to the chagrin of the residents in neighborhoods surrounding the train station, one of the alternatives suggested by some commuters has been to temporarily suspend the hourly limits on those side streets until such a time as viable parking alternatives have been found for many of the commuters. Similarly, alternative side of the street parking has also been suggested as a possible, temporary solution, until other options materialize.

"We are not going to be able to provide everyone with a space at the train station," Mr. Sullivan pointed out. "We do have other options, but that is just not one of them."

In the meantime, Mrs. Pujol, like many other commuters, would still like to know, "Where am I supposed to park?"

SP-F BOE Candidates Cite Experience, Campaign Goals

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feel it is important to maintain some experience and consistency in the aforementioned areas," he said.

The incumbent also cited strong ties to the community as further qualifications for continued board service. He serves on the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA board of directors and is a trustee at St. John's Baptist Church, where his father, Reverend Kelmo C. Porter, has been Pastor for 35 years. His wife, Sharynn, is a member of the Scotch Plains Township Council.

"My strong family and community roots keep me in touch with the community in which I serve," said Mr. Porter.

Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor, who elected to leave her career in public relations and stay home with her children when they were babies, operates a small typing service and does research work from her home. Before her children entered school, she was active in the Fanwood Recreation Commission for several years and helped renovate both borough parks during that time.

"Since my children have been in school, I have been highly involved in building, district and state school issues, and I believe that my long-term commitment is my best qualification for service on the school board," stated Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor, whose children attend Coles Elementary and Terrill Middle Schools.

"I have a well-rounded understanding of school issues and a knowledge of how to effectively address issues as they arise," she said.

As part of its coverage of the election campaign, The Times asked each candidate to identify the top three Board of Education and/or school issues about which he or she feels most passionately.

Mr. Porter listed four key issues: successfully implementing the bond referendum purpose over the next two years; successfully negotiating a good teacher contract; educating the community on how certain factors, such as special education or tuition affect the budget and their tax dollar, and dealing with enrollment increases which include the fifth grade move to the middle school.

Mr. Nowlin identified new construction and renovation of schools, the transition of the fifth grade to the middle school, and the budget as the top three issues.

"The new construction and renovation to our schools have just begun," he said. "We have two to three more years

until completion. Having worked on the coalition which helped garner support for the bond, I feel an ongoing responsibility to make sure we "get what we paid for."

"The move and transition of the fifth graders to the middle school will require careful management and monitoring," continued Mr. Nowlin. "Parents' input is important as is keeping parents informed. A plan needs to be developed to ensure that the children's transition is easy and that life at the middle school is as good or better than in elementary school."

Regarding the 2001-2002 school budget, Mr. Nowlin said, "How do we keep improving the quality of our educational system while keeping costs in line and within the capacity of the community?" He suggested the innovative use of technology to help the district spend money more efficiently, from purchasing supplies on-line to more efficiently processing documents and information.

Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor said, "Our immediate challenge is to successfully complete the bond building projects and manage the transition of fifth graders into the middle schools. I think we are in a good position to accomplish this well, and I'm confident that my past involvement on this issue prepared me very well to contribute."

"The more difficult issues facing our district are financial. In times of full employment, how do we attract high quality staff? How do we keep class size reasonable, expand athletic offerings at middle school, keep our band equipment in good repair, become competitive in technology? How will we be able to meet the growing program demands of the NJ Core Curriculum? This community has repeatedly proven its commitment to education, but there are limits."

"I'm committed to working towards honest 'state-mandate, state-pay' legislation in Trenton," continued Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor. "While a school board member can't change the tax code, I can work to raise awareness about how much of our budget is dictated by Trenton but paid for by you. As a 'rich' district, we get less than 10 percent in state and Federal aid, yet have discretion over less than 10 percent of expenses. Other districts get much more, paid for by you through income taxes."

The Times was unable to reach Mr. Tripet for comment.

BOE Budget Analyzed by Bd.

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sion is that of the language arts supervisor at the middle school level.

Board member Thomas Russo believes if the administration feels there is room to cut there, the cut should be made. Jessica Simpson, on the other hand, suggested the administration consider making other administrative positions half-time spots rather than lose the language arts supervisor. She pointed to the assistant principal for academics at the high school and district substance awareness coordinator slots as two possibilities.

Other information requested by board member Dr. Donald E. Sheldon is a sense of what the board's contract settlement with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association will likely be. Dr. Sheldon asked for a projected breakdown of itemized costs beyond simply salary considerations.

"We're trying to be as responsible as we can so we can say with confidence to the public that we're exploring every avenue," said Board President Theresa Larkin.

The board's budget presentations to each school's Parent Teacher Association began on Monday. The public hearing on the budget will take place Monday, March 26, at 8 p.m. at the board offices.

Long Range Committee Presents Report to Council

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mentations that are expected to serve as the basis for a new sign ordinance.

The existing sign ordinance was not updated in conjunction with last year's revision of the borough's zoning ordinance and has not changed significantly since the 1950s, according to Council President Joel Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker heads the council's Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee and is the council representative on the Fanwood Planning Board.

Describing signage issues as the chief source of complaints received by Fanwood Zoning Officer Nancy Koederitz from merchants, Mr. Whitaker said the proposed committee could "develop recommendations and solutions" that would make regulations easier to understand.

Councilwoman Schurtz agreed,

noting that new merchants often become confused because certain types of signs, such as internally illuminated models, are not permitted under the current ordinance, yet are used by some businesses which were covered by a grandfather clause.

"It's a guessing game," she conceded. "We need to clarify that 'this is what you can do' and 'this is what you can't do.'"

Mayor Jung added that updated sign regulations should complement the Victorian streetscape theme currently being implemented in Fanwood's downtown. The project is designed to infuse the borough with a 19th-century ambience that officials and others hope will attract new businesses and increase patronage.

Later in the meeting, it was announced that a resolution would be voted on at the council's regular meeting tonight authorizing the Fanwood Recreation Commission to establish a skate park at LaGrande Park.

Equipment for the skate park, to be used by skateboarders and in-line skaters, will be paid for with money from a Parks Renewal Fund which the Recreation Commission has built up over the years through fundraisers.

Skate park users will be required to purchase a permit to use the facility and parents will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging that youngsters will be using the skate park at their own risk, according to Councilman Thomas P. Ryan, Jr., Liaison to the Recreation Commission. The activity will not be supervised.

He said rules and regulations for use of the skate park, which is expected to be open by the spring, have already been established by the commission. Revenue from the sale of permits will pay for upkeep of the skate park equipment and help defray recreation costs.



DANCING WITH DAD...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girl Scout community recently held their annual Junior/Cadette Father-Daughter Dance. This popular event was organized by Leaders Cathy Smith and Maura Berger and attended by 125 couples. Girls danced with their fathers to the music of DJ Phil Blancato and feasted on food provided by a local bagel store. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Kathryn Abanes-DeMair and Annie Smith; back row, Megan Dhaliwal, Emily Jones and Christine Leide.

Union County Vo-Tech Schedules Open House

SCOTCH PLAINS — Parents and students from Union County are invited to learn more about the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools (UCVTS) at an Open House scheduled for Thursday, April 5, on the Raritan Road campus.

The annual Open House will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include guided tours of all available programs and facilities. The Open House is designed to ensure visitors get a comprehensive look at the Vo-Tech's occupational and skills training courses.

"The Vocational-Technical School provides hundreds of students with the hands-on training they need to successfully pursue careers in their chosen fields," Superintendent Dr. Thomas J. Bistocchi said. "We invite every parent and student in the county to attend the Open House and learn more about the exceptional resources available here at the Vo-Tech School."

The Open House will include demonstrations of the latest technology in each of the school's instructional areas. Auto Technology students will highlight the Dynometer, the latest in emissions testing, culinary arts students will provide samples of gourmet specialties from the school's bake shop, and the Graphics Communications program will

demonstrate the latest technology in desktop publishing.

In addition to refreshments, all visitors will be invited to shop at special prices in the UCVTS Tech World Supermarket, take advantage of blood-pressure screening administered by the Allied Health program, visit the greenhouses in the Horticulture Program, and enjoy a basic manicure from the Cosmetology Program.

All visitors will receive free raffle tickets and prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. The prizes will include an Adirondack chair and foot rest, a garden bench, baskets of groceries, cosmetology and health and beauty products, a flat of bedding plants, and gift certificates for computer training.

The UCVTS is located on Raritan Road and shares a campus with the Union County Magnet High School. Today, more than 850 high school students from Union County attend the share-time Vocational-Technical School and the four-year Magnet School.

For additional information regarding the April 5 Open House and the Vocational-Technical High School programs, please call the UCVTS Day Admissions Office at (908) 889-8288, extension no. 340 or extension no. 341, or visit the school Web site at www.ucvts.nj.us.

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FAA Set to Hold Hearing Tuesday On Airspace Redesign
SPRINGFIELD — The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will hold a hearing this Tuesday, March 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Route 22 in Springfield as part of the agency's redesign of the New York - New Jersey metropolitan airspace.
The FAA's last redesign of the airspace was in 1987.
"I would like to encourage attendance by residents concerned about aircraft noise," said Jerome Feder, the Westfield representative and Acting Chairman of the Union County Air Traffic Advisory Board.