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Scotch Plains - Fanwood



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WESTFIELD AVENUE DEVELOPMENT GAINS BOARD APPROVAL

Scotch Plains Planning Board OKs Apartments Above Park Ave. Stores

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board approved a minor subdivision application by Real Estate owner Morks Soorial to construct 10 second-story apartments above his existing building on Park Avenue.

The application, heard on November 5, proposed to build six, two-bedroom apartments and four one-bedroom apartments above the stores located between the Music Store and B.J.'s Dressing Room on Park Avenue. Mr. Soorial owns and operates the Highlander Restaurant, which is among those stores.

The proposed apartments will make use of the existing parking spaces in the municipal lot behind the building. The entrance to the apartments will also be in the rear and will include an overhanging, second-story arcade, similar to the one in an adjacent building. There will be an elevator and a stairwell from a central lobby under the arcade to the second story.

Architect for the plan, Richard Wanhouse of Middlesex, explained to the planning board and the public that the two-bedroom apartments will be approximately 840 square feet and the one-bedroom apartments will be approximately 450 square feet. Every apartment will have both window light and a living room skylight.

There was concern among planning board members regarding the

disposal of household refuse. Several options were considered and the board decided to explore adding an additional dumpster, in an enclosed area to the parking lot at the rear of the building.

Mr. Wanhouse also said that the exterior of the building would look similar in character to other, existing second story buildings in Scotch Plains, with Colonial features.

Professional engineer Ronald Sadowski of Edison described the details of a parking study, which he performed of the area. Mr. Sadowski concluded that there was ample parking to accommodate the residents of 10 apartments.

Despite his testimony, several Scotch Plains residents voiced their concerns that the parking in downtown Scotch Plains was insufficient and that this type of development would lead to more parking and traffic congestion problems.

Several board members, including Mayor Martin Marks, agreed that more traffic and more residents in the downtown area would mean more pedestrian traffic frequenting Scotch Plains' businesses.

Mr. Soorial told *The Times* that he was going to proceed on this approval very slowly and had no immediate plans to begin construction in the foreseeable future.

The board also unanimously approved a preliminary site plan application by Northeast Developers of

South Plainfield to construct 10, single-family homes on a lot on Westfield Avenue. The preliminary site plan will permit the owner to begin construction work on certain aspects of the development.

The development proposed to construct 10 lots out of one existing, 1.73-acre lot on a new cul-de-sac on Westfield Avenue near the corner of Evergreen Avenue. Each lot would be approximately 50 by 100 feet, with a four-bedroom house with attached garage. The driveway of the first house would exit onto Westfield Avenue, while the other houses would

have driveways exiting onto the new road.

The issue of excessive run-off and flooding of nearby yards was discussed at length. Town engineering consultant John Ferraro suggested that the owner be required to plant grass, which would remedy some of the run-off problems that have occurred since the lot was cleared of numerous trees.

The Mayor suggested that the owner also plant berms in order to replace some of the felled trees. The applicant agreed to the plantings.

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NEW AND EVERGREEN...The Scotch Plains Planning Board approved a preliminary site plan application by Northeast Developers of South Plainfield to construct 10, single-family homes on a lot on Westfield Avenue. The proposed site, would involve the construction of 10 lots out of one existing, 1.73-acre lot on a new cul-de-sac on Westfield Avenue near the corner of Evergreen Avenue, pictured above.

SP-F School Board, Public Discuss Impasse In Contract Talks With Education Assoc.

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

An unprecedented dialogue regarding the status of teacher contract negotiations between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and members of the public occurred during the November 6 board meeting.

Prior to that evening, the board had limited its comments during meetings to a brief statement from board member Lance Porter, spokesman for the board's negotiating team.

The meeting capped an unanticipated day off for Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools as teachers exercised their legal right not to work on Election Day. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) advised Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye of its decision on October 31. The superintendent's office mailed letters to parents on November 1, informing them of the schedule change. However, parents of the 1,080 Fanwood students did not receive the communication until November 9 due to multiple glitches in the mailing process.

Referencing the union's decision not to attend Back-to-School Nights and not to work on Tuesday, November 6, Scotch Plains resident Margaret Ames urged the board "not to accept any messages sent to the board on the backs of our children."

She noted that no union representatives had attended any of the budget planning sessions, which preceded public approval of the 2001-2002 operating budget last April. The budget allows for a 4 percent

increase in salary expenditures this school year, along with an 11 percent increase in benefit costs.

"They waited until school started to say the tax increase wasn't high enough to cover salaries," stated Mrs. Ames, who went on to ask how much more of a tax increase the community could bear in the post-September 11 economy.

In response to a question from Scotch Plains resident Pat Krema, Board President Dr. Donald E. Sheldon said, "We can expect a settlement when both sides agree to the total cost of the settlement."

Ms. Krema added that she was "bewildered" that the same negotiators are being used by both parties. Dr. Sheldon answered, "The negotiators do not have the sole impact on the agreement. They represent what's on the table, from both sides. They simply are spokespersons for the group."

Susan D'Apuzzo of Scotch Plains said she had become a "little disheartened" by the contract situation, despite her "love" for Evergreen Elementary School and its teachers.

She asked if the board had made any plans to ensure this situation did not occur the next time the contract is negotiated.

Ms. D'Apuzzo questioned how the district could "keep attracting quality teachers when we have contract issues."

After stating that, "the board has not had a problem attracting teachers," Dr. Sheldon explained the board had "costed out" every item of the current contract along with the costs of various settlement options that have been proposed. He explained there are two elements at work: the total cost of the contract; and how the percentage increase is distributed across items such as tuition reimbursement, salaries and health insurance.

Board member Edward J. Saridaki, Jr. reminded those in attendance and the public at large that the contract between the board and SPFEA is a public document, copies of which are available in the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Public Libraries. He noted teachers automatically receive

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REMEMBRANCE...On November 8, an Interfaith service of memory and prayer was held at the Jewish Community Center in Scotch Plains in commemoration of Kristallnacht. Known as "the night of broken glass," the event related to the terrorist attacks of September 11. Pictured, above, Regional Director Charles "Shai" Goldstein of the Anti-Defamation League was the guest speaker.

Officials to Seek Ways of Curbing Violations at Fanwood Skate Park

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Borough officials have said that they plan to explore options over the next several months for what they hope will lead to a more effective operation of the new skate park at LaGrande Park in Fanwood.

Russell Wells, Chairman of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, expressed frustration during the governing body's agenda session November 1 with what he described as chronic violations of the rules at the skate park and what he felt was insufficient involvement by parents and police.

The facility, which opened in July, is designed exclusively for use by skateboarders and in-line skaters. It was created as a central location for enthusiasts to pursue their hobby, while discouraging such activities on public or private property in the community.

Located in the circular area of the park used in winter as an ice-skating

rink, the facility has been designated for use as a skate park from spring through fall. The area is enclosed by a four-foot-high fence, with regulations posted at the entrance.

The activity is not supervised, but participants are required to purchase permits to use the site and parents must sign waivers stating that they understand the way the skate park is operated. Mr. Wells said commission members had hoped youngsters would adhere to the "honor system" in terms of obeying the rules.

Regulations governing use of the park were compiled by the Recreation Commission prior to its opening and formalized through a council ordinance passed last month. Besides requiring permits, helmets and elbow pads, rules prohibit profanity, food and beverages, and bicycles at the facility.

Between July and the beginning of this month, Mr. Wells told elected officials, he spent about 70 hours in the park. He said there were an aver-

age of 15 youngsters using the skate park during each of his visits, and that virtually none of them were following established regulations.

Besides utilizing the facility without a permit, he said individuals were not wearing mandatory protective gear; misused the equipment; brought food, beverage bottles and bicycles into the enclosure, and were littering.

In addition, he said he had received complaints of skate park users being verbally abusive to the parents of younger children at the facility.

Mr. Wells revealed he had called a few parents about violations at the skate park and that their responses ranged from suggesting the police arrest their youngster to saying there was nothing they could do about the situation.

He said he felt the majority of parents of the youths involved had "abdicated their responsibility" to correct such behavior, since they had previously signed forms indicating their youngsters would follow the rules of the skate park.

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Fanwood Awarded \$490,000 For Downtown Improvements

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood received good news last week from Washington. The borough has been awarded nearly a half million dollars toward improvements to the borough's aging downtown sewer storm system.

The \$490,000 grant, according to Brandon Waters, press secretary for Congressman Michael Ferguson (R-7th) who requested the funding, includes \$90,000 for downtown Fanwood revitalization to promote jobs and economic growth and \$400,000 to repair a failing storm drainage system, which has posed a health risk during recent floods.

The funding is included in the annual spending bill that finances

the departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the current fiscal year, which began on October 1.

HR 2620 passed the Senate, 87-7, and House, 401-18, on November 8. Noting the non-controversial nature of legislation, Mr. Waters said President George W. Bush is expected to sign the bill any day.

"They (the borough) can get the money immediately," he explained.

"The \$490,000 grant will help Fanwood to repair its failing storm drains and revitalize the historic downtown area to attract new jobs and businesses," Congressman Ferguson stated. "These federal funds are so important to our local communities, and I'm pleased that my col-

leagues in Congress agreed to include my request."

"It's a great hit for that town,"

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Early Deadline Posted By The Times Office

The office of *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* has announced that, due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 22, all press releases, letters to the editor, and advertising materials must be submitted as soon as possible.

The Times will be delivered to subscribers on Wednesday, November 21.

Fanwood Redevelopment Plan Passed on 1st Reading by Council

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

The first reading of the revised Downtown Redevelopment Plan was approved by the Fanwood Borough Council on Wednesday, November 7 at their monthly council meeting.

The plan was then referred to the Planning Board for a 45-day review. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 6, in order to present the details of the plan to the public and give the community an opportunity for input.

The Downtown Redevelopment Plan was crafted by professional planner Richard Preiss earlier this year. It establishes specific guide-

lines for redevelopment of a 6.5-acre block of the Fanwood downtown area, bordered by Martine, South and LaGrande Avenues and by Second Street and includes recommendations for developing housing and renovations to the mixed retail and residential area.

The plan will enable Fanwood to implement specific development criteria, which can override the current zoning ordinances that pertain to the designated area. A copy of the plan can be viewed at borough hall and at the library.

The plan was discussed at the council's November 1 agenda session, at which time several revisions were made. Those revisions included reducing the allowable density of

units per acre for various types of housing, reducing the permissible height of buildings from four floors to three floors and disallowing on-street parking to fulfill parking requirements.

Several council members expressed that they had reservations approving the plan without having a deeper understanding of the significance of the designated density numbers that were recently revised.

Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell expressed concerns, previously voiced by several business operators regarding the borough's intentions to exercise eminent domain in order to force businesses to relocate in conjunction with

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SP-F School Board, Public Discuss Impasse In Contract Talks With Education Assoc.

a pay increase each year, in accordance with the stepped salary guide that rewards teachers for work experience.

Betty Gasiorowski, a second grade teacher at Evergreen School, traded words with Superintendent Choye over her decision to postpone the teacher workshop scheduled for Columbus Day, October 8. The work-

shop was rescheduled for June 2002. "I wouldn't have moved it if I wasn't led to believe you wouldn't show up," stated Dr. Choye.

Alice Huether of Scotch Plains said she had been through negotiations four times with her children in local schools.

"It doesn't make sense why our town doesn't have funds to support

an educational program and our teachers' interests," she said.

Board member Jessica D. Simpson pointed out that a number of board/teacher contracts across the state had undergone an "upward spike," and that the SPFEA had anticipated an increase in pay because of that statewide trend. According to Ms. Simpson, "That increase would have been higher than the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education feels it can afford. The trend is in a different direction."

"It's an inherent problem with the process, not just the negotiators," added board member Craig Nowlin of the protracted process. "Negotiators don't have as much impact as the public perceives."

In concluding the discussion on the contract situation, Dr. Sheldon stated, "The bottom line is it is not a mutual give and take. One side says, 'take; you give.' There's just so much money and there are going to be unanticipated expenses."

The parties are scheduled to meet with the state mediator on November 27 to try to resolve the contract.

In his bond referendum report, Business Administrator Anthony DelSordi said block walls are going up for new construction at Park Middle School and School One Elementary.

He anticipates a November 15

completion date for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School auditorium, providing seats and carpeting are delivered on time.

He reported that fencing has been erected at Terrill Middle and Coles Elementary Schools, with work at Terrill beginning with creation of additional parking spaces in the front of the school. Foundations for new construction at both schools should be laid by the end of this month.

In a response to a question from board member Pat Hoynes-O'Connor regarding receipt of state reimbursement for construction costs, Mr. DelSordi said he was expecting money to start coming in approximately six to eight weeks.

The board continued to discuss the need for a policy to address e-mail from the public, especially when it is addressed to select board members. Public Information Coordinator Kathleen Meyer announced that a new e-mail address was in place that would ensure all board members receive the same e-mail: boe@spfk12.org.

Mrs. Meyer will print out letters to that address, and then prepare hard copies for all board members. E-mail to that address will be processed as regular correspondence, which means the board will deal with it one to two times per month.



FIRE SAFETY... Firefighters from the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department visited all of the students at Westminster Preschool in Fanwood to team them about fire safety. The students learned to "stop, drop, and roll" if their clothes are ever on fire, how to exit their homes in the event of a fire, never to play with matches, and much more. The school is grateful to the fire department for this annual instruction.

Board OK's Apartments Above Park Ave. Stores

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Next door neighbors, Gus and Joanne Wolf, told the board that they looked forward to the development, but had a few concerns regarding the construction phase. The Wolfs said that excessive amounts of dust had been blowing onto their property and into their home since the trees had been removed. They requested that the site be periodically hosed down during construction in order to reduce the excessive dust.

Planning Board substitute Chairman Joseph Doyle said that the town would look at the ordinance to see if they could impose that condition.

The Wolfs and other residents also told the board that they have been experiencing water pressure problems in the neighborhood for some time and that the new development would possibly make the problem worse.

In light of the homes being priced at over \$400,000 each, Mr. Wolf said that new residents would probably expect to be able to run their washing machines or flush their toilets while taking a shower at the same time, which, currently, the residents of the neighborhood could not do.

The Mayor asked the residents who had low water pressure to sign a petition, which he would present to Elizabethtown Water Company in order to encourage a remedy.

The Wolfs also expressed concern over the close proximity of the new, proposed homes to their daughter's bedroom window, which would compromise her privacy. They requested that the new owners be required to plant buffers in order to protect their privacy.

Mr. Doyle explained that the board could not impose that condition on private property owners. He suggested that the Wolfs ask the developer to contribute to a hedge on their own property to shield their privacy.

Cedar Street resident Frank Quigley voiced his concerns that a car speeding down the proposed 300-foot cul-de-sac could inadvertently jump the curb and land in his backyard, which abuts the end of the development, injuring his children.

The board agreed to ask the designers to reduce the length of the proposed dead end street by 10 feet and to plant either trees or cement blocks at the end in order to protect Mr. Quigley's backyard from stray vehicles.

The application was approved with the conditions that the owner immediately plant grass seed and berms to reduce dust and run-off. He was also required to cover a large mound of dirt with a tarp, also to reduce dust in the area and he agreed to redesign the street, 10 feet shorter.

Fanwood Redevelopment Plan Passed on 1st Reading by Council

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carrying out the Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

Council President Joel Whitaker explained to the council that the Planning Board would review the plan and incorporate their recommendations regarding density into the plan, before returning the plan to the council for a second reading and final approval. He also said that the borough would be obligated by state law to partially pay for the costs of relocating businesses.

"The guiding philosophy has been that redevelopment is a good thing in the public interest and the borough will make that as painless as possible if a business has to be moved," Whitaker said.

He added that there were no plans to condemn any businesses at this time.

Mayor Louis Jung announced that he had received word from Congressman Michael A. Ferguson's Office that the borough has received a \$490,000 legislative grant from the Federal Government.

Of that total, \$400,000 will be applied to renovating the storm sewer systems that were prone to flooding along the northeast corridor bordering Westfield Road and the Northwest corridor near Park Middle School, while \$90,000 would be applied to the Downtown Revitalization Project.

In other business, the council made a formal resolution honoring all of the heroes of the World Trade Center tragedy, including publicly thanking Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco for representing New Jersey citizens in New York during the aftermath of the disaster.

Anthony Pecora, a Fanwood resident who was also honored for his heroic efforts, along with eight of his co-workers, for saving the life of John Abrozio, a wheelchair-bound paraplegic, by carrying the 250-pound man down the stairs from the 69th floor of one of the World Trade Center towers.

Mayor Jung announced that the borough was honored to have such a hero in their midst as he presented Mr. Pecora with a proclamation.

During the meeting, Fanwood Police Sergeant Richard Trigo was sworn in and promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Sergeant Trigo has been with the borough since 1991

and was promoted to sergeant in 1995. He qualified for the promotion by achieving the highest score on the exam.

The borough has purchased a white oak tree, of the same species as the original Fanwood Oak, to plant in the Carriage House Park. Borough residents were encouraged to purchase shares of the tree. Shareholders included more than 25 families, individuals and organizations and each shareholder will receive a written resolution for their participation.

The mayor announced several proclamations to honor various causes, including designating the week of November 13 to November 16 as American Education Week in the borough; designating Thanksgiving week of November 18 to November 24 as National Family Week, while the entire month of November has been designated as National Epilepsy Awareness month in the borough.

North Avenue resident Eric Pratt was also honored for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Pratt designed and carried out a project teaching seniors how to use computers. He also created a computer manual and spent more than 79 hours on the project at the library.

Seventeen Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students were honored for their participation in a project that involved writing reports about some of the borough's historic buildings. The mayor and council adopted a formal resolution honoring each student for their participation in preserving the borough's history.

Mayor Jung announced that the renovation project at the Fanwood Train Station was progressing and the 55 additional parking spaces were expected to be ready by the end of the month.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 13, to discuss a home occupation ordinance, which governs operation of home-based businesses. The second reading of the newly adopted sign ordinance will also be held on December 13.

Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz suggested that a booklet detailing the complete sign ordinance would be helpful to borough residents and business.

SPFHS DECA Chapter's Annual Toy Drive Set

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an Association of Marketing students, is sponsoring its 11th annual toy drive to aid the needy and homeless during the holiday season.

Working with the Union County Interfaith Council and the Scotch Plains Welfare Department, DECA is raising funds for the purchase of toys, clothing and household items for over 200 children and 100 families of the Interfaith Council.

Many of the families reside in temporary shelters, living in various churches and synagogues in Union County, until permanent housing becomes available.

Billed as a Toy Drive, DECA is requesting cash donations to be used for the purchase of new toys, basic clothing and household needs. DECA is encouraging the communities in Union County to join in their efforts to help these families as they try to rebuild their lives.

DECA Chairperson Jay Cordes stated, "The children would not have much of a holiday to celebrate without this effort. We are hoping many residents and businesses will help us."

"We want to make sure that every child and every parent receives at least one holiday gift," he concluded.

In addition to toys, DECA has, in the past, been able to provide basic necessities such as shoes and socks, underwear, shirts, jackets, linen sheets, blankets, and other items.

To make a contribution, or if any business would like to co-sponsor this activity, call DECA at (908) 889-8600, as soon as possible.

Holiday Open House

Nov 16th, 17th, 18th

Enjoy the bright holiday decorations and warm hospitality at our 15th annual Gift Shop Open House.

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Special Savings All Giftware *20% OFF Only

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These are a few of the many items available:

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SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5**
- Vandalism was reported to two vehicles parked in an Alton Way driveway. Both vehicles were scratched with an object in several locations.
 - Police received a report of the theft of a bicycle taken from an unlocked garage on Stout Avenue.
 - The front window of a Winchester Drive residence was vandalized. A rock was thrown through the outer pane.
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**
- An engagement ring was reportedly taken from a Westfield Avenue residence.
 - Construction equipment was reportedly taken from a Jerusalem Road construction site.
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**
- Someone reported the theft of a ring taken from a locker room at the YMCA on Martine Avenue during the evening hours.
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9**
- The theft of a cellular phone taken from a parked vehicle on Canterbury Drive was reported.
 - A man was reportedly assaulted during a dispute at Terrill Middle School at approximately 4 p.m. There were no visible injuries and the victim was referred to Scotch Plains Municipal Court.
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11**
- A Westfield Avenue resident reported receiving harassing telephone calls.
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 22**
- A Jerusalem Road resident reported finding three nails in a rear
- tire after parking his car in the driveway overnight.
- A Cook Avenue resident reported finding a door leading from the basement to the kitchen forced open. It appeared the house was not entered and nothing was taken.
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23**
- An Oxford Road resident reported finding the two side windows to his 1993 Nissan smashed while parked in front of the residence during the night.
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24**
- A Route 22 service station reported finding a front bumper assembly removed from a 1990 Honda that was parked in the lot.
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**
- A Watchung Terrace resident reported that sometime during the night a car drove onto the lawn and damaged the grass.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**
- A Jerusalem Road resident reported finding the driver's side rear view mirror knocked off of his vehicle.
 - A person visiting a Mountain Avenue residence reported having a pumpkin thrown through their vehicle's back window, sometime overnight. A Little Falls Way resident reported graffiti painted on the exterior of his fence in white paint.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28**
- Miguel A. Lopez, 31, of North Plainfield was arrested giving false information to a police officer after he was stopped for a traffic violation on Route 22, West.

Officials to Seek Ways of Curbing Violations at Fanwood Skate Park

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Mr. Wells noted the Recreation Commission had met with Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy regarding the skate park in the early part of the year and had faxed police copies of regulations, including a list that had at one point been modified to address residents' concerns.

He stated the commission had been under the impression that police would back up enforcement of the rules at the skate park, but subsequently learned that police believe the regulations are basically unenforceable.

He said that while officers had been to the park several times while he was there, and that he had heard about other visits, he felt greater police visibility was needed to curb violations at the skate park.

Mr. Wells maintained the Recreation Commission had been asked by borough officials to establish the regulations, but did not have the resources to enforce them, leaving commissioners feeling caught in the middle.

"We were told we had to put the rules in place and we feel like as soon as we did, we were told they were unenforceable and 'you're on your own,'" Mr. Wells told members of the governing body.

Chief Carboy told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* a few days later that while the department had received calls about such matters as youths in the park without permits, bicycles in the enclosure and graffiti, they had not had complaints about fighting or other dangerous behavior, and at present did not see the need to beef up police presence in the park.

He also noted the difficulty of enforcing rules against profanity and other types of offenses that have been reported at the skate park, and that police must give priority to more urgent matters.

Councilwoman Katherine

Mitchell asked Mr. Wells at the agenda meeting what measures communities with similar facilities have taken. The commission chairman responded that in Medford, the activity is staffed and insured, while in Hillsborough, an officer is on duty at the site on weekends.

Councilman Thomas Ryan, Jr., who serves as council Liaison to the Recreation Commission, remarked that while the skate park "serves a good purpose in town," some sort of management program is necessary.

Despite his own disappointment with certain occurrences during the skate park's debut year, Mr. Wells also expressed hope that things will take a turn for the better in 2002. "Hopefully, we can work out the details that are problematic right now," he said.

Fanwood Top Grants

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added Brian Donahue, Congressman Ferguson's Deputy Chief of Staff. "This is a real victory for that town. We're really excited."

He noted that Congressman Ferguson's push for the funding received a big boost from Morris County Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-11th), a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Donahue noted that the money will be centered around the borough's downtown revitalization efforts. He said upgrading the infrastructure is important in attracting new businesses to the borough.

Flooding in stores from the existing outdated sewer system had been a deterrent to new business growth.