



Be Kind to the Earth on Earth Day - April 22



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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FIFTY CENTS

Solid Nutrition Found Online, Says Stromick

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

During the regularly scheduled meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on April 11, an instructional update was discussed in reference to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS).

Mrs. Georgia Stromick, a biology and nutrition science teacher at SPFHS, made a presentation on the Nutrition Science Course, which is now taught at the high school. The course receives funding through Mrs. Stromick's award of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for 2001-2002.

This new multimedia, bio-chemical course, an elective at SPFHS, was demonstrated by Mrs. Stromick through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mrs. Stromick outlined the course and demonstrated how students work together with this new online interactive class. Students use the course website, along with other educational websites, to learn about nutrition. She also has all homework assignments posted on the website, which allows students who are absent to keep up with their coursework.

Students learn to design lab reports, portfolios, and, most importantly, they become better acquainted with researching on the Internet.

"They could easily make their own PowerPoint presentation... it is part of their final grade," stated Mrs. Stromick.

The advanced course prepares students to work with computers. There are two students to a computer for this class.

"It is an excellent computer based course... Mrs. Stromick is an excellent teacher," stated SPFHS Principal Dr. David Heisey.

The complexity of the questions for the science competitions were also discussed by Mrs. Stromick and SPFHS student Ruppeth Chattopadhyay.

Bob Walden and Stephanie Heath of SPFHS presented the student liaison report. The students briefly addressed the board and the public about upcoming school spirit events between SPFHS and Westfield High School (WHS).

Bob discussed how they were working with WHS on some school spirit events. The students will participate in scavenger hunts, among other activities.

Board of Education Vice President Jessica Simpson jokingly told Bob, "Don't help them, they're our rival."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



DOWN TO THE WIRE... Ester Stuart, a Scotch Plains resident, visits the crowded Fanwood Post Office to file her tax forms. All post offices in the area, including the Fanwood facility, were exceptionally crowded with last-minute tax filers.

Underage Drinking Ordinance in SP Could Be Positive Step, Mayor Believes

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

After another round of discussion, some of it a bit heated, the Scotch Plains Township Council appears to be moving toward the introduction of an ordinance that would give local police the right to enter a private residence where underage persons are in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages.

The State Legislature has empowered communities with the ability to enact ordinances in this regard, and a handful of New Jersey towns have already done so. The proposed ordinance, which will be formally drafted by the Scotch Plains government's legal department, would permit police to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness or have reason to suspect the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance, a local group that works to prevent substance abuse, has been pushing for enactment of the ordinance.

The council heatedly discussed this issue early last year and then again in February, and Mayor Martin Marks

has been pushing for the governing body to come to some kind of final decision on the matter.

At its conference meeting on Tuesday night, the five council members spent close to an hour discussing the idea of an ordinance, with Councilman Frank Rossi saying it, "gives us a tool for some level of compliance" with underage drinking laws. Councilwoman Geri Samuel, perhaps the most ardent backer of an underage drinking ordinance, said it would make those under 21 years of age "responsible for their actions."

Councilman Rossi explained some of the legal aspects of an ordinance, noting that there already exist statutory guidelines for what accounts for criminal intent and possession. He said it was important for the local police to "act with the same discretion as with other criminal violations." He added that if the ordinance was passed, "we'd require the police department to provide education to officers. This ordinance needs to be

enforced the same as other criminal possession statutes."

He said the fact that those who would be involved will be minors doesn't change the application of the search and seizure laws. The ordinance, Mr. Rossi said, needs to be "applied with balance and with due regard for all search and seizure laws."

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato, who had been a vocal opponent of the proposed ordinance when it was first discussed last year, remained troubled by what she seemed to think was an unnecessary increase in police powers.

"I have a problem using (the ordinance) in a non-disturbing the peace situation," she said. Instead, she urged parents to take more responsibility for the actions of their children. Parents, she said, not the town, "should impose sanctions" on their minor children.

It's unclear whether Councilwoman Coronato will ultimately sup-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Union County Residents Oppose Plans to Develop Land Near Reservation

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Last week, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a bond ordinance authorizing the acquisition of property in Summit for open space purposes and then heard pleas from several Summit residents that none of the land be set aside for potential development.

The 63-acre parcel of land, which abuts the Watchung Reservation and is owned by the New Jersey American Water Company, will be purchased using some \$9 million in funds from the county's open space trust fund.

After the board voted 7-0, with Freeholders Mary Ruotolo and Alexander Mirabella absent, a group of Summit residents who live near the site spoke to the board about their hope that no consideration be given to subdividing the property for development. Freeholder Chairman Lewis Mingo, Jr., without providing any details, admitted that, "consideration to subdivide is an option we do have." He emphasized that no decisions on the possibility are pending and said the main thrust of the land purchase is to conserve open space.

The Summit residents said they opposed any development because they wanted to keep open space and also to avoid what they said was a potential flooding problem in the area if any development occurred. Freeholder Daniel Sullivan pointed out that before the open space trust funds were available, the water com-

pany had been in "very serious" negotiations with developers to more fully develop their land. "We're doing everything we can to preserve open space."

The Freeholder Board will introduce its 2002 budget at its April 25 meeting, with a public hearing and vote set for May 23. Mr. Sullivan told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WF, SP-F APPROVE SCHOOL SPENDING PLANS Mountainside Voters Reject BOE Budget

BY LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times

Westfield, which has 18,856 registered voters, passed the \$65.4 million school budget 1,997 to 1,446.

Westfield Superintendent Dr. William Foley said, "I am pleased that Westfield residents have supported the school budget and the resulting tax increase. We have all faced difficult decisions, balancing academic goals with even greater fiscal challenges."

"The future of school funding needs to be addressed by the Governor and the Legislature," he contin-

Mountainside Council for review.

Mountainside's Chief School Administrator, Dr. Gerald Schaller, commented on the defeated budget to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*. "This will be a hard pill to swallow for our system. We've already cut 1.8 million (from the budget). I'm concerned it will hurt programs for our students. It's up to the Borough Council now."

According to Borough Administrator James Debbie, Jr. the council will receive the complete budget in two business days, and will have one month to review and make any changes they feel are necessary. The

For Westfield Board of Education:
Three Seats Available • Four Candidates
✓ Marks the Winner



Arlene Gardner (Incumbent)
✓ 2,070 votes



Alice Hunnicutt
✓ 2,080 votes



William Ziff
✓ 1,845 votes



George Kattak
1,669 votes

Westfield 2002-2003 Budget: APPROVED
1,979 vote yes 1,446 vote no

For SP-F BOE:
Three Seats Available • Three Candidates
✓ Marks the Winner



Susan Dyckman
✓ 654 votes



Tripp Whitehouse
✓ 1,376 votes



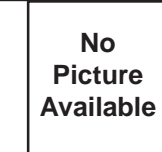
Edward Saradaki
✓ 1,348 votes

SP-F 2002-2003 Budget: APPROVED
1,680 vote yes 1,425 vote no

For Mountainside BOE:
Two Seats Available • Two Candidates
✓ Marks the Winner



Peter Goggi
✓ 742 votes



John Perrin
✓ 717 votes

Msde 2002-2003 Budget: VOTED DOWN
463 vote yes 604 vote no

ued. "The extent of school funding that is currently supported by the local Westfield homeowner is close to 90 percent. This has to change."

In Scotch Plains, which has 14,183 voters and Fanwood, which has 4,674, the \$55.2 million budget passed narrowly, 1,680 to 1,425.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Superintendent Dr. Carol Choye stated, "I want to express my sincere thanks to the voters for reaffirming their understanding of the importance of education."

She added, "We will continue to work hard to provide a strong academic program to meet the learning needs of all our students. Educational excellence is an investment in the future of our students and our communities."

In Mountainside, where there are 4,617 voters, 1,128 residents came out to vote. They defeated the \$10.9 million budget, 463 to 604; 161 voters did not answer the budget question. The budget will now go to the

budget will then be returned to the school board, which will either submit it to the state for approval, or appeal to the State Commissioner of Education in Trenton.

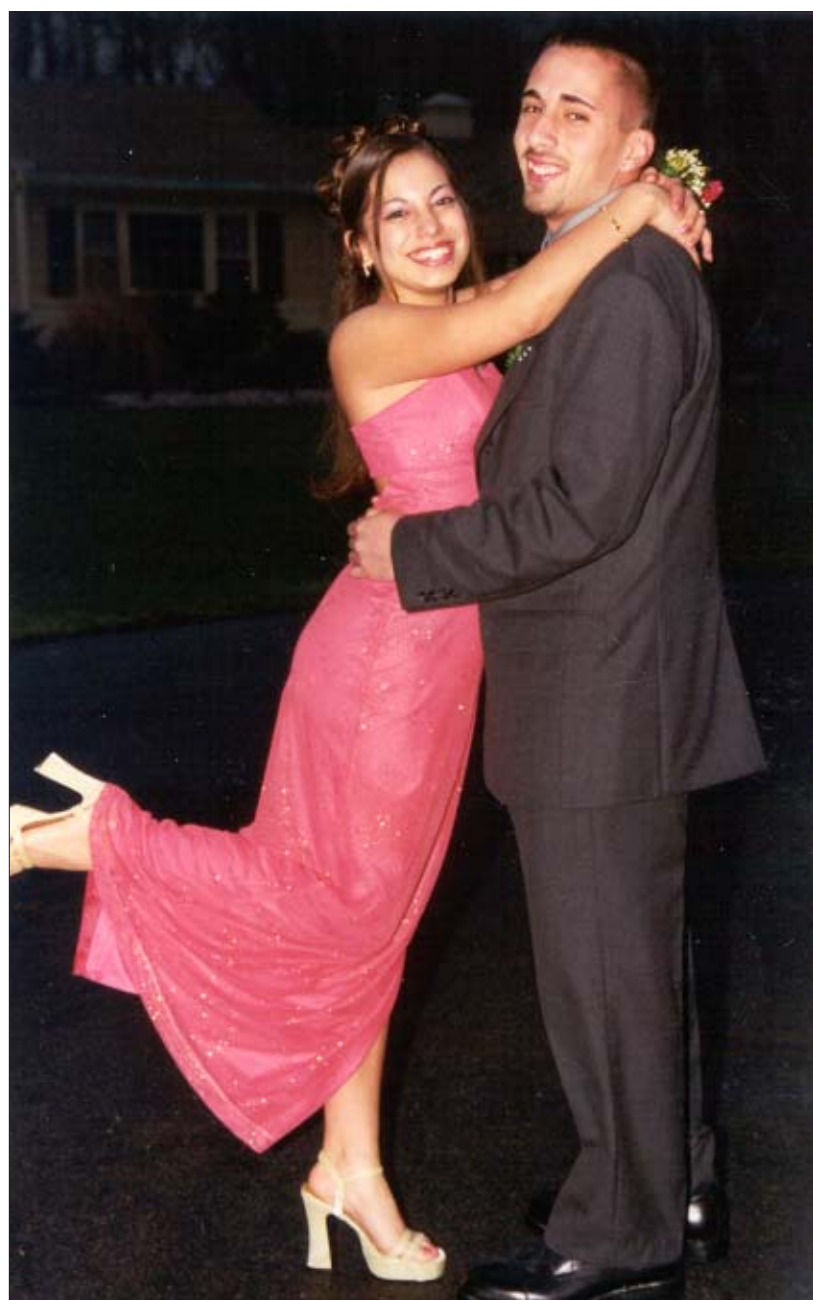
In Westfield, incumbent and Board of Education President Arlene Gardner won re-election with 2,070 votes. Ms. Gardner has worked as Assistant Counsel to the Governor of New Jersey, and in private law practice. She has been a member of the school board since 1996.

Newcomer Alice Hunnicutt was the top vote getter with 2,080. She currently serves as the director for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network's Transition from School to Adult Life program.

William Ziff, who received 1,845, also won election to a three-year term. He is an attorney with Ziff and Ziff, Esqs., with offices on Elm Street.

George Kattak, a certified public accountant, licensed school accountant and a certified fraud examiner,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



KICKING UP HER HEELS... Emily Caballero, a junior, and Michael Buffardi, a senior, from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, danced the night away during their junior prom at The Westwood in Garwood on Saturday.

Cheri Rogovsky for The Times

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2	Obituary	17	Real Estate	16
Editorial	4	Education	18	A&E	19
Community ...	6	Sports	9		

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

