



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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OUR 44TH YEAR - ISSUE NO. 30-44

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FIFTY CENTS

Ten Highest Paid Employees in Township of SP

10. Fire Chief and Fire Subcode Official - Jonathan Ellis - \$74,179.
9. Township Attorney - Douglas Hansen - \$75,000.
8. Police Sergeant - (all in rank) - \$75,026.
7. Police Lieutenant - (all in rank) - \$81,357.
6. Library Director - Norbert Bernstein - \$84,160.
5. Director of Public Property - Walter DiNizo - \$84,160.
4. Police Chief - Marshall Nelson - \$92,750.
3. Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer - Lori Majeski - \$95,000.
2. Construction Code Official, Zoning Officer, Building Subcode Official - Robert LaCosta - \$98,000.
1. Township Manager, Chief Executive Officer - Thomas Atkins - \$120,800.

Ten Highest Paid Employees in Fanwood Borough

10. Patrolman C - No one is currently in this position - \$57,011.
9. Patrolman B - No one is currently in this position - \$60,012.
8. Patrolman A - Joseph O'Neil, Jeffrey Pate - \$63,168.
7. Corporal - Eugene Chin, Mark Gottlick, Martin Haluza, Anthony Nassau, Steven Sanislo, Russell Yeager - \$63,918.
6. Sergeant of Police - Howard Drewes, Howard Jarvis, Thomas Jerdic, Fancisco Marrero - \$69,485.
5. Town Clerk/Administrator - Eleanor McGovern - \$72,755.
4. Lieutenant of Police - Richard Trigo - \$75,739.
3. Director of Public Works - Raymond Manfra - \$81,405.
2. Captain of Police - Edward White - \$82,555.
1. Chief of Police - Donald Domanoski - \$92,901.



FANWOOD RESCUE...Close to noon last Thursday, members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad and Fire Department united to remove the body of a tank-truck driver who was stricken with a heart attack. The driver was traveling along North Avenue when the truck reeled out of control, smashing through the fence of the Fanwood Recycling Center. Brigades from the fire departments and rescue squads responded along with paramedics, but efforts to revive the driver were futile. He died at the scene.

William A. Burka for The Times

Late Tax Bills: It's in the Mail

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

Some of the property tax bills in Union County municipalities, including those for Westfield, have not yet been mailed, while many property tax bills for other municipalities throughout the state were mailed later than usual.

Due to delays in certifying the state budget, some of the tax bills were mailed one to two weeks later than usual. However, most Union County towns, including Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside, were mailed on or before the statutory deadline of July 18.

Westfield Tax Collector Susan Noon told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that Westfield residents

have been calling her office to ask why they have not yet received their property tax bills. Ms. Noon said her office expected the tax bills to be printed and mailed by the county by July 26, although that date was not definite.

"We had the tax rate ready by June 14, but we had to wait for the state's statement of aid," Ms. Noon told *The Times*. The statement of aid, which offsets property tax, must be printed on the tax bills.

The state's figures were accessible via the Internet by July 8, one week later than usual, Ms. Noon related. If Westfield's tax bills are printed and mailed tomorrow, Friday, July 26, as expected, the grace period will be extended to Monday, August 19, Ms. Noon said.

A statement on Westfield's web site under the tax collector's link states, "the tax bills have not been received by the tax office as yet. We will keep you updated as to what the actual due date (will be) as well as (what) the delinquent date will be as soon as possible."

However, if a tax bill is paid later than the extended 25-day grace period, interest charges revert back to the original due date of August 10, Ms. Noon explained.

For Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside, which had their tax bills mailed on or before July 18, taxpayers have 25 days from the mailing date, which will be Monday, August 12, to make payment.

Fanwood Council President Joel Whitaker told *The Times* that the state sent the wrong information to the borough three times, which he said was partially to blame for the delay in mailing Fanwood's tax bills.

"Both the borough and the county were not to blame this year for the delay," remarked Councilman Whitaker. "It was in part due to the state's figures being incorrect and in part due to a Post Office problem."

Mr. Whitaker told *The Times* that despite being mailed on July 17, under the statutory deadline, Fanwood's tax bills were still sitting in the Fanwood Post Office on Monday after having made a trip to Kearny to be bar coded.

"I don't understand why it took

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Construction In Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools Appears to Be on Schedule For 2002-2003 Year

By JENNIFER PINTO and JEREMY LIPSTEIN
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is currently supervising numerous construction projects in the school district. The district is working with \$11.6 million in state funds from the "Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act"



WALLS GO UP AT MCGINN...Preparing to complete renovations by September, construction crews have almost completed the exterior structure of the new multi-purpose room at McGinn Elementary School.

tour of the school district to review construction and changes in each school.

All eight schools are undergoing serious construction, but none as extreme as Park Middle School, which is being completely renovated.

Park Middle School represents the biggest construction project in the district, mostly due to the fifth graders moving to the middle schools.

"The school will be completely renovated," said Mr. Del Sordi. Renovations at Park Middle School will cost the district an estimated \$10.1 million.

All asbestos at Park Middle was removed and the whole school is under construction. New additions include an 8,800-square-foot gymnasium and corridor, costing \$1.3 million, connecting the gym to the school for easier accessibility to different corri-

under Governor James McGreevey. The total expenditure, with town and state funds, brings the total construction budget to \$35.7 million.

Last week, Administrator and Board Secretary Anthony Del Sordi took *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* on a two-day construction

dors. Due to the new corridors, the cafeteria will be smaller but will still accommodate all of the students during lunch. Other renovations include a new science room, art classroom and two new music rooms. The old gym and two computer labs are also being renovated. In addition, new telephone/intercom systems are being installed; the faculty lounge and all lockers are being renovated, as well as the media center, that is expected to be 5,000 square feet. The auditorium seats have been refurbished, new carpets have been added, and stain glass on the ceiling has been cleaned.

The Park Middle School project is due to be completed by September.

Evergreen Elementary School is currently expanding and separating itself from the administration building. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is making its office kitchen area smaller in order to accommodate two adult bathrooms, costing a total of \$47,250 for both projects. Currently, the administration staff is using the bathrooms that will now be part of Evergreen School. These adult bathrooms are being remodeled into student bathrooms costing \$35,500. Two administration offices located in the hall that separates Evergreen from the main administration area are also being remodeled and made into instructional classrooms, costing the district \$46,410.

As far as Evergreen is concerned, the school is working on new student bathrooms, a new corridor, an addi-



NEW GYM AT BRUNNER...Children attending Brunner Elementary School on Westfield Road will be glad to see the construction of a new multi-purpose room, set to be completed at the end of this year.

tional parking lot, and it's biggest project, the new multi-purpose room that will also include an office and a storage room, costing \$481,050.

Other upgrades include a telephone/intercom system and electrical upgrades. According to Mr. Del Sordi, all projects will be completed by the start of school in September. The estimated total cost for projects at Evergreen School, including the administration offices, equals \$1.8 million.

Coles Elementary, the only school



A GLIMPSE OF WHATS TO COME...Upon returning to school in September, students at Park middle school will be able to use the newly renovated lab classrooms like the one pictured above.

that is completely air-conditioned, is undergoing a \$2.6 million project. The main projects at Coles are the multi-purpose room and four new classrooms, including two new kindergarten classrooms.

Other renovations include replacing the acoustic ceiling, new classroom walls, new doors, new chalkboards and telephone system upgrades.

School One's construction project will cost \$4.84 million. It includes a new multi-purpose room including a storage room, an office, a stage with new curtains, lighting and sound sys-

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Donna Dolce to Run For Fanwood Council

Assemblywoman Linda Stender, Chairwoman of the Fanwood Democratic Committee, has announced the selection of Donna M. Dolce as the candidate

for the Fanwood Borough Council vacancy created by the sudden death of Republican Councilwoman Carol Wood on April 7.

Mrs. Wood's unexpired term is currently being filled by Councilman David B. Trumpp.

Ms. Dolce is Director of the Volunteer Center for the United Way of Essex and West Hudson

County in Newark. She has more than 20 years of experience in management of non-profit organizations.

Previously, she worked as an organizational planning specialist with the Girl Scouts of the USA and as a management consultant with the YWCA of the USA.

An active community volunteer, Ms. Dolce has served on multiple borough committees. She chaired both the Fanwood Strategic Planning Committee and the Fanwood Strategic Assessment Committee and also was a member of the Fanwood Sign Ordinance Task Force.

She has been an Earth Day volunteer since 1996 and served on the 1993 Fanwood-Scotch Plains School District Facilities Committee.

"My interest in seeking a position on the Borough Council is a culmination of my belief in community service and my desire to continue to keep Fanwood a great place to live," Ms. Dolce said.

"Through my past and current volunteer experience, I want to ensure that projects and plans started are seen to a conclusion that is in the best interest of the citizens of Fanwood," she remarked.

In addition to her local community service, Ms. Dolce is also a current member of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council, serving as Second Vice President and Chairwoman of the Fund Development Committee.

She represented the council in 1999 as a National Council Delegate and chaired the council's Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Dolce additionally is a member of the YWCA of Eastern Union County, as well as of the First

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SCOOP SERVERS...The Borough of Fanwood recently welcomed a new establishment, Double Dipper Cafe, where cool and yummy scoops of ice cream are served. Joe Cohen of Absolute Dessert & Beverage Company took time to pose with Double Dipper owner Arlene Bauman.

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Mary Lynne Pomerantz, 44, Mourned by Westfielders

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times

At the age of 44, Mary Lynne Pomerantz had given 100 times that in service to the Westfield community during the 10 years she had lived in town.

Mrs. Pomerantz, who became ill and was hospitalized last Saturday, died on Sunday from what was determined to be Necrotizing Fasciitis (NF), a bacterial infection commonly known as "flesh eating" disease.

Lynne, as most knew her, was involved in multiple activities in town. She was on the Board of Trustees for the United Fund; was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; was an active tennis player with the Westfield Tennis Association; was a member of the Musical Club of Westfield and was a home-work helper at the Westfield Community Center, among many other activities.

In 1999, she led the United Fund's Gifts Campaign.

She was also instrumental in founding the performing arts center at McKinley Elementary School with then Principal Charles "Chic" Hansen.

United Fund Executive Director Linda Maggio, who worked closely with Mrs. Pomerantz, said her friend and colleague, "was in a class all by herself."

Mrs. Maggio spoke of the energy and passion with which Mrs. Pomerantz undertook many projects.

Over 400 people attended her funeral at St. Paul's Episcopal



Lynne Pomerantz

Church in Westfield on July 24.

Dr. Mark Mandel, Chief of General Surgery for Overlook Hospital, told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that NF is, "very unlikely to be communicable."

Dr. Mandel cited a cluster of cases of the disease that occurred in England approximately 10 years ago. He stated that although there were several cases, they were diagnosed within the same time frame, implying the individuals had not contracted the infection from one another, but rather from an outside source.

According to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) website, there was a report on the Internet that NF was being contracted from bananas. The CDC then issued the following statement, the "FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and CDC agree that

the bacteria cannot survive long on the surface of a banana."

Dr. Mandel said the treatment for the disease involves radical surgery, as well as support for the patient with fluids, antibiotics and breathing assistance. He added that he had no knowledge of cases that did not result in surgery, because antibiotics will not treat the source of the infection.

According to Dr. Mandel, the disease has an incubation period of several days and usually goes undetected. Patients often complain of pain accompanied by a fever, although some will present with an external blistering, dark patch or abscess.

He stated that most of the time, the disease comes from an ongoing internal infection, usually in the abdomen. According to Dr. Mandel, the disease is typically caused by a mixture of different bacteria, including strep and Clostridium.

The infection stays deep in the skin and the fat below and secretes toxins that affect the small blood vessels. It then gets into the blood stream.

According to the CDC's website, Group A streptococcus, commonly known as strep throat, is the type of strep which causes NF. The CDC has reported that there were approximately 8,800 cases of invasive strep in 2000, of which 6 percent were NF.

According to the CDC's website, approximately 220 people died from NF in 2000, but there is no indication if these cases were world-wide or national.

Construction In Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools Appears to Be on Schedule For 2002-2003 Year

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tem and a new corridor connecting the facility with the school, which equals roughly \$1.1 million.

The rest of the funds will go towards new classrooms, resource rooms, a nurse's office, a faculty lounge and an additional workroom.

Terrill Middle School is similar to Park Middle School in regards to the necessary adjustments being made to accommodate fifth graders during their move from the elementary schools to middle schools.

Three main additions are being made to Terrill Middle School: an 8,000-square-foot multi-purpose room and corridor costing \$1.6 million; 12 new classrooms totaling 15,000 square feet (\$1.96 million) and the renovations and expansion of the Media Center (\$667,000).

There has also been a roof put on the gym, due to past leakage problems, as well as the addition of new lockers and an elevator. The media center is still far from being completed; the foundation has been set and in the next two weeks the steel will be set along with the rock walls.

McGinn Elementary School is currently working on a \$2.3 million project. A new multipurpose room is being built to include a storage room and an office costing \$483,150; these additions will be connected by a \$177,500 corridor. The multipurpose room is a more complex job than the

others being built at other schools. The multi-purpose room is being built at an angle that has required

to being completed," said Mr. Del Sordi.

The High School construction is



NEW HALLS FOR A NEW YEAR...New halls on the second floor of School One, surrounding the media center, will be a pleasant treat for students returning this fall.

more work. It has also been faced with other obstacles such as the discovery of an underground storage tank and bad soil, which required two weeks of additional digging.

The multipurpose room is to be finished by October.

Another large addition is the new media center wing, which is similar to School One's facility. The media center will be surrounded by six new classrooms, that are already in place. This wing needs flooring, doors, and windows, but is mostly complete. The wing is to be completed by the start of school in September.

Brunner Elementary School is undergoing a \$1.7 million project. A new 3200-square-foot multi-purpose room, including an office and a storage room, costing \$480,000, will be added. The multipurpose room and the connecting corridor should be completed by mid October. The school has also renovated classrooms, adding permanent walls as opposed to partitions sometimes used to separate classrooms. Four classrooms and two resource rooms have been added to the new media center wing in addition to the connecting corridor, costing \$552,500.

"Mostly everything is in place...besides dropping ceilings and painting walls, it is almost on its way

estimated to cost \$5.9 million. The most noticeable project at SP-F High School is the window replacement costing \$1.6 million. Old windows are be-



NEW GYM AT EVERGREEN...Students at Evergreen Elementary School will have a second multi-purpose room this fall, seen above in a primitive state.

ing replaced with new tinted windows. Currently, SPFHS is removing asbestos tiles on the second floor. The auditorium has been renovated with new curtains, carpets and refurbished seats.

Another significant project at SPFHS has been the installation of new bleachers on the soccer, football and baseball fields. New sprinkler systems have also been installed on the fields. The next project that the high school will work on will be the \$730,000 second floor link, which is scheduled to be complete by January.

All schools in the district also used budget monies to update the schools to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards as needed.

Ongoing Street Projects, Schedules Are Updated in Town of Westfield

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- Assistant Town Engineer, Kris McAloon has updated the 2002 project list and anticipated schedules of the Department of Public Works as described below.

Curb replacements are scheduled for Standish Avenue from Birch to Cedar Terrace and for Coleman Place from Dudley Avenue to Seneca. The contract has been awarded on June 18 and the work is scheduled to start on July 29.

The contractor bid was awarded on June 18 for various sidewalk improvements throughout the town. This project is scheduled to begin on July 22.

The contract was awarded on June 18 for the improvement of Channing Avenue and Dickson Drive. Work is scheduled to begin on August 26.

Contractor bids were received on July 8 and are scheduled to be awarded on August 6 for curb replacement and installations at Hanford Place from Edgewood to dead end, Forest Avenue from Seneca to Longfellow, Edgar Road from Lynwood to Rahway and Boynton Avenue from Pearl to Twin Oaks.

Contracts were awarded on July 2 for road improvements on Dudley Court, Maye Street, Kimball Turn, Topping Hill Road from Kimball Avenue to Wychwood, Canterbury Road from Kimball Avenue to Winyah, Summit Avenue from Park to Washington, Pine Street from Columbus to town line, Clover Street from Central to Boulevard, Pennsylvania Avenue and Knollwood Terrace curb replacement area. Construction of

handicapped ramps and raised manholes are currently underway and resurfacing is tentatively to begin on July 29.

Contractors are being contacted for road improvements to Tamaques Way from Ardsleigh to Norwood.

Contractor bids have been awarded on June 18 (awaiting NJDOT approval of award) for road improvement work on Lawrence Avenue from Hillside Avenue to Mountain Avenue. This work is funded through The Transportation Trust Fund.

The contract was awarded on June 18 for road improvement work on Scotch Plains Avenue from West Broad Street to Dartmoor. Work is scheduled to begin September 23.

The contract was awarded on June 18 for road improvement work on Dudley Avenue, West. Work is scheduled to begin July 29.

Road improvement work on Park Street is currently under construction and is to be completed by August.

The Rahway Avenue Traffic Calming project is 85 percent complete. The flashing crosswalk will be installed mid-August, while the street-print is yet to be constructed.

Construction for the Downtown Streetscape and Central Avenue improvements are 40 percent complete.

Contractor bid documents are complete for dredging Tamaques Park Pond. Required state permits have not yet been released due to drought restrictions.

The contract for improvements to Gregory's Pond Dam is on hold due to current drought restrictions in the state.

The Mindowaskin Overlook project is complete. Dedication ceremonies

were held on June 15. Lights will be connected at the beginning of August.

The status of projects will soon be posted on the town website at www.westfieldnj.net.

The Department of Public Works and Zoning have also changed their office hours. Please refer to the office hours chart printed below.

Westfield Building Department Hours

(Effective July 29, 2002)

Monday

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Zoning Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(No Evening Hours)

(Closed on all Holidays)

Contact Information

Main Phone Number

(908) 789-4100

Kenneth Marsh, Town Engineer

(908) 789-4100, extension no.

603, engineer@westfieldnj.net

Kathleen Neville, Zoning Official

extension no. 609,

zoning@westfieldnj.net



Fanwood- Wonderful 4 Bedroom 1 & 1/2 Bath home. The two year old Kitchen boasts solid maple cabinetry, Italian tile counters, Pennsylvania blue slate floor, and built in Bose speakers. The first floor also features a new full Bath, refinished oak floors, and Living Room with a wood burning fireplace. The oversized property has been professionally landscaped and is further accented by front and back stone patios and walkways. **\$359,000.**



John Aslanian
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Family Discounts Now Available From Symphony

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) has reported the creation of a new Family Membership plan, which will include half-price subscriptions for children 12 through 17 years of age and free subscriptions for children 6 through 11, when purchased with full-price adult subscriptions.

All Family Membership subscribers are also invited to pre-concert lectures, which are geared specifically to children.

WSO Music Director and Conductor David Wroe stated, "I believe that it is vital for parents to pass their love of music on to their children. The Symphony is making it as easy as possible for people to expose their kids to the power and beauty of live concerts, because these are the audiences of the future."

Louis Franz, President of the Board of Trustees, added, "Westfield is one of the few towns of its size in the country that can boast a fully professional symphony of the caliber of the WSO with a conductor as exciting and accessible as Maestro Wroe. We want to encourage parents in our area to take advantage of this wonderful cultural and educational opportunity."

Prices for Family Memberships vary according to seating level and number of people. They are available in either 3-concert or 5-concert packages. Regular adult memberships and senior prices are also available.

To order or to receive a free brochure listing all concert information

Family Discounts Now Available From Symphony

for the 2002-2003 season, please call the WSO at (908) 232-9400 or visit 224 East Broad Street, Suite 5, Westfield.

Donna Dolce

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Unitarian Society of Plainfield.

Ms. Dolce holds a master's degree in Human Resource Management from Rutgers University in New Brunswick; a master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree from Bethany College in West Virginia.

A Fanwood resident for 14 years, she lives on Carsam Street with her partner, Lynn Sorf, a Fanwood native.

Ms. Dolce will be campaigning for election on the Tuesday, November 5 ballot along with two other Fanwood Democrats, Tom Plante and Jack Molenaar, both of whom are running for three-year seats on the Borough Council.

Mr. Plante and Mr. Molenaar are seeking election to the seats currently held by Republicans Thomas Ryan and Stuart Kline.

Councilman Kline is running for a third term on the governing body, while Mr. Ryan is not seeking re-election. Mr. Kline will be joined on the Republican ticket this year by Andrew Calamaras.

DONALD D. VANARELLI

CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY*
By the National Elder Law Foundation,
Accredited by the American Bar Association

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