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THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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OUR 44TH YEAR — ISSUE NO. 22-44

USPS 485200
Periodical — Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, May 30, 2002

Published Every Thursday Since 1959
www.goleader.com

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FIFTY CENTS



MEMORIAL SPEECH...Inside Scotch Plains' gazebo, Congressman Michael Ferguson of the Seventh Congressional District addressed attendees of the Memorial Day ceremonies and parade, while flanked by township officials.



HERE COME THE HEROES...During the annual Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade, an almost endless line of fire engines made their way down Park Avenue, reminding parade attendees of the bravery of local rescue personnel.

Residents Debate Ordinance To Curb Underage Drinking

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains residents spent nearly two hours Tuesday night expressing their opinions about a proposed ordinance aimed at curbing underage drinking.

The future of the proposal remains unclear for the time being, pending another public forum on Tuesday, June 11.

More than half of the Township Council's meeting on Tuesday night was spent discussing the proposal, which, as currently being considered, would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

Eleven residents spoke on the matter during what Mayor Martin Marks called "an informal public hearing," with four individuals expressing support and seven registering their opposition. He admitted that, before any final decision can be made, certain questions still need to be addressed, including whether such an ordinance would be enforceable and whether it would have the desired results.

Offering a brief review of state legislative actions that allowed towns to enact such an ordinance, the Mayor

said he wished lawmakers had enacted a state law in this regard rather than "punting" it to local officials.

Calling teenage drinking "a major issue in this community," Dr. Richard Sharrett said he did not see a constitutional violation in permitting police officers to enter a private home — a major concern among opponents of the ordinance. He characterized the proposal as "fully appropriate."

Cathy Cvetovitch, coordinator of the local Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC), a group that works to prevent substance abuse and has been a prime backer of the proposed ordinance, stated the proposal would "not extend the rights of police officers to enter private property."

What it would do, she said, is "provide a penalty for those under 21 who are consuming alcohol on private property."

The new ordinance, if enacted, will "hold them directly responsible," she told the council.

When asked by Mayor Marks, Ms. Cvetovitch was unable to provide factual evidence that such an ordinance has been effective in other towns that have enacted similar measures. She said, however, that it was possible that underage drinking has been curtailed in "un-measurable ways," such as teenagers with knowl-

edge of the ordinance deciding against organizing a party that includes alcohol.

Several New Jersey communities, including Clark, Cranford, Kenilworth and Summit, have similar ordinances. The Mayor admitted that township officials have been unable to garner any "firm evidence" of the law's effectiveness in other towns, something "that's a concern of mine."

Carl Sicola, a former township police officer, said teenage parties where alcohol is available can often include illegal narcotics, as well. "What we're all looking for is to protect the safety of young children in Scotch Plains," he remarked.

Georgine Berg, a former MAC coordinator, said there has "been a lot of misrepresentation of this ordinance." She cited government findings on ties between adolescent drinking and future alcohol problems, as well as the risks of binge drinking.

"I'm afraid of doing nothing," she told the council.

Speaking in opposition to the proposed ordinance, Kristen Paparefla said underage drinking has been a problem for generations and felt the ordinance would not stop such behavior.

She called the proposal "a major violation of our civil rights" and added that, "we cannot expect the township to be the parents to our children."

Maria Sartor described the proposed ordinance as "a Big Brother problem" and called for increased education efforts instead of legislation.

Ray Pardon said he didn't favor the ordinance and said he feared other opponents were reticent to speak publicly out of fear of being labeled as favoring underage drinking.

He called for increased support of the MAC's activities rather than incurring legal costs involved in potentially defending the ordinance against lawsuits.

Geraldine Keogh gave council members a package that included a multi-part questionnaire regarding the proposal's ramifications and also discussed several scenarios in which she felt enforcement and prosecution could be difficult.

Donald Gaynor said he opposed the proposal "because a parent's primary responsibility should not be delegated to anyone else."

Thomas Russo, an attorney, said he had several concerns about the ordinance, noting that in his practice, he had had experience with similar laws in other towns, where he found it "to be the subject of abuse."

He questioned whether such an ordinance would be a deterrent, pointing out that there are existing laws and regulations that are ignored.

Elmer Terry, in opposing the ordinance, said, "Big Brother is becoming more and more in evidence." No timetable was given for any possible introduction of the ordinance; instead, the council will give the public another opportunity to speak on the proposal at its June 11 meeting.

In a related matter, Mayor Marks set aside the initial public comment time at Tuesday night's meeting to allow residents to discuss a political cartoon that appeared in the May 16 edition of *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

In the cartoon, Adolf Hitler was depicted reading a newspaper headline about the proposed ordinance and gloating that he was "back in business."

All five council members wrote letters of protest to *The Times*, as did the chairmen of the local Democratic and Republican parties in a joint letter. In last week's *Times*, Publisher Horace Corbin offered an apology for the cartoon.

At Tuesday's meeting, three individuals spoke about the cartoon. Terri Warmbrand of the Union County Committee Against Hate said her initial reaction to the cartoon was "how stupid it was" and urged increased responsibility on the parts of both adults and journalists.

Dr. Sharrett said he was "chagrined at the abuse of the freedom of the press that has taken place." Bruce Yakre said he was offended at the inclusion in the cartoon of the swas-

Vandals Caused Sewage Spill; Water Supply Was Uncontaminated

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

According to Earl Jackson, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW) in Scotch Plains, a small sewage spill in Kramer Manor Park on Saturday afternoon was caused by vandals who intentionally clogged a sewage pipe.

Rocks and debris had been thrown into a sewage pipe, after someone removed a locked manhole cover in a wooded area of the park. Mr. Jackson said that it may have been kids who broke the lock and threw the debris into the pipe.

The DPW was notified by the Scotch Plains Police Department about an odor coming from the park, said DPW Director Walter DiNizio. The sewage pipe carries raw sew-

age from residences to a sewage treatment plant, Mr. DiNizio explained. The spill leached raw residential sewage up the pipe and onto the ground, covering an area approximately 10 square feet, Mr. DiNizio reported to *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*. A small amount of the sewage spilled into a stream that is a tributary of the Rahway River.

Mr. DiNizio said that the DPW removed the rocks and debris from the pipe and spread limestone on the ground to contain the spill.

"This was a very small spill and there was never any threat to public health," Mr. DiNizio told *The Times*.

The police Media Communications Officer, Sergeant Brian Mahoney, told *The Times* that a resident saw the sewage spill and reported it to the police. The police report had no other information on the cause of the spill, according to Sergeant Mahoney.

Donna Gregory, Director of Corporate Communication for Elizabethtown Water Company, issued a press release confirming that the sewage spill did not contaminate any of Elizabethtown's water supply.

The sources of Elizabethtown's water supply are the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, not connected to the Rahway River, the press release stated.

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New Restaurant Featuring Japanese Cuisine Gets Nod From Fanwood Planning Board

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

A site plan application for the Ginger Sushi Restaurant, slated to open this summer, was approved by the Fanwood Planning Board at its monthly meeting on May 22.

The restaurant's owner, Chulho Jung, will begin renovations to the interior of the building at 264 South Avenue this week. Mr. Jung testified before the board with translation assistance from his daughter, Kim Jung.

The restaurant will occupy the former site of Clothes Encounters, next door to China Moon, a Chinese restaurant. It will feature eat in or take out Japanese food and a sushi bar.

"This is a different type of cuisine than China Moon," said Clayton Pierce, Coordinator for the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee, "and the restaurants will complement each other."

The board conducted a lengthy discussion regarding how to best regulate the flow of traffic in and around the rear parking lot that will be shared by the two restaurants and an adjacent dry cleaning business.

Much of the discussion concerning traffic flow focused on the efficacy of changing traffic patterns, which people had become accus-

tomed to for over 60 years.

Board members discussed the traffic problems of cars queuing up on Martine Avenue and the jockeying of parked cars in the lot. Currently, drivers have been accustomed to entering and exiting the parking lot using any of the three driveways as two-directional.

Planning Board members eventually agreed that the driveway adjacent to the dry cleaning store, previously used as either an entrance or an exit onto South Avenue, will become an exit only, with the further condition that only right-hand turns onto South Avenue will be permitted.

The driveway closer to Irma's Hallmark will serve as an entrance only from Martine Avenue and the driveway closest to China Moon will become an exit only onto Martine Avenue.

Traffic devices such as "Do Not Enter" signs, stop signs and arrows to indicate traffic flow will be employed. The parking lot will also be re-grid in order to reduce the number of spaces and to make traffic flow safer.

The board raised concerns about the new restaurant's garbage disposal plans. Plans call for Ginger Sushi to share a dumpster with China Moon, which has had garbage odor problems during past

summers, according to board members.

Ms. Jung explained that because of the type of food served, there would be very little waste involved in the new restaurant's operation.

"Sushi is very expensive and cus-

tomers do not leave much over," Mr. Jung added.

Mr. Jung has hired a highly-skilled and experienced sushi chef to supervise and prepare the food at his establishment.

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MUSICAL MARCHERS...Members of the Westfield Fife & Drum Corps marched down Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, filling the township with memorial melodies during Monday's festivities.

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Westfield Memorial Day Celebration Recalls Past In Light of the Present

By TRACY EVANS
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- "Regrettably, this year we can add 3,000 more names to the list of those we remember today," began Mayor Gregory McDermott, bringing Monday's parade into focus for the crowd donned in red white and blue. "Most were not soldiers, but all died on September 11 and were the first casualties in the War on Terrorism."

Mayor McDermott added, "The tragedy of 9/11 serves to underscore the meaning of Memorial Day, not just a day to remember our veterans, but as a day to reflect on the meaning of their sacrifice."

The juxtaposition of a new memorial for September's tragic losses with background of the Veterans Memorial monument gave new meaning to the annual celebration. Emcee Peter Hogaboom, the American Legion chaplain, joined the mayor and commanders of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in reflecting upon the heroes of the past as well as those fighting for our country today.

Mr. Hogaboom opened the ceremony by addressing the large showing of local citizens, who sat in lawn chairs, strollers, and on the curbside. He reminded the crowd that everyone assembled for the day is a patriot of our country. As heads were bowed in prayer and remembrance, the meaning of "never forget" grew strong within the hearts of all gathered for the parade.

This year, speakers drew upon great figures of our past as a way of understanding the holiday and its significance in our lives. From "In Flanders Fields," to the speeches of Lincoln, the valor of our soldiers remains a principle element of how we define and defend our country. Mayor McDermott recognized the importance of the veterans on this day, as "democracy's torchbearers, illuminating the way to liberty."

The New York Lambs Artillery fired three rounds, preceding the presentation of wreaths commemorating those who gave their lives in war. A series of musical tributes followed, including Westfield High School Marching Band's "Star Spangled Banner," Echo Taps, played by Christopher Velderman, Dave Heinhart, and Dr. Theodore Schlosberg, added a somber remembrance of the fall, when Dr. Schlosberg and his students returned to the monument to play during each September day of mourning, as the flags were held at half-mast. "God Bless America," performed by Kerry Stubbs, rang clear, not only in song, but in the conclusion of many of the speeches offered for the day.

Following the ceremony, the bell at the United Methodist Church rang out nine consecutive times, followed by eleven as a final remembrance of the important date in our nation's recent history.

Grand Marshall Richard Manrodt was accompanied by the police and National Guard, who led the parade down East Broad Street. The mayor and the Town Council joined the Veterans' Contingent in the loop around Elm Street and Mountain Avenue.

The Westfield Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and local civic and

youth organizations were represented as well, all adding to the enjoyment and anticipation of the street-lining spectators. Continuing along East Broad Street, the parade paused at the Revolutionary War Cemetery, as well as the World War II Memorial Plaque in front of the Municipal Building, before concluding at Fairview Cemetery.

James Brennan, commander of the Martin Wahlberg Post No. 3 American Legion, drew upon the words of

the poet Robert Or; "They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind."

The familiar sign of American pride, the flag, flaps in the wind on porches and is plastered in nearly every store window and car. This Monday in Westfield, flags were found in abundance once more, merging a present awareness of our nation at war with a Memorial Day remembrance of the past bravery this country has shown on the battlefield.

Brick Layers Union Walks Out at WHS, Workers Claim Wage Law Violations

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- On Wednesday morning, the Brick Layers Local No. 4 walked off the construction job at Westfield High School.

Though the workers were still running the heavy machinery on the north side of the building, no other work was being done.

Ken Simone, a representative for the

Scotch Plains Council Mtg.

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tika symbol and said the image was an insult to war veterans who died fighting to eliminate that symbol.

Mayor Marks said Mr. Corbin's "small written apology in last week's issue" consisted primarily of "an explanation of why the paper did what it did."

Noting that he had invited Mr. Corbin to address the council and that *The Times*' Publisher had failed to attend, the Mayor said that, "speaking for myself, the apology is not accepted."

Fanwood Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Mr. Pierce, there are no plans in the immediate future to renovate the facade of the building, except for a new sign for the Ginger Sushi restaurant.

Approximately 30 residents showed up for a scheduled public hearing on an appeal by Verizon Wireless for a minor site plan to construct a facility on the existing Public Service Electric and Gas transmission tower on property at Elm and North Avenues.

The application, however, was postponed until the board's next regular meeting on Wednesday, June 26.

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Local No. 4, stated that the workers have chosen to walk out because of a violation in the prevailing wage laws.

According to Mr. Simone, it is not a union versus non-union issue. The problem, he added, is that workers on the site are supposed to be paid the same wages whether they are union or non-union, and non-union workers are not being paid properly. These allegations came to light through conversations between the workers on site.

Mr. Simone added that general contractor, Cram Construction, has contracted with Vistula Masonry, who is then sub-contracting the work out.

"(There are) residents that live in this town, that are members of this organization, who can't get a job on this project," Mr. Simone said.

He went on to say that even apprentices to the union from Westfield High School have not been able to work on the job.

Mr. Simone stated that the problem is money, and that sub-sub-contracting was cheaper labor than having to deal with legitimate business.

The State Department of Labor has been notified by the union and will be looking into the matter.

Scotch Plains, Fanwood Students Will Attend Fairleigh Dickinson

Fairleigh Dickinson

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Teaneck-Hackensack and Florham-Madison campuses of Fairleigh Dickinson University have revealed that students from Scotch Plains and Fanwood will attend the university in September.

John Egan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Egan of Scotch Plains, will attend the Florham-Madison campus. He will graduate from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and plan to major in political science.

Lisa Mortkowitz of Scotch Plains will also attend the Florham-Madison campus in the fall. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mortkowitz, Lisa will graduate from Union Catholic High School.

Fanwood resident Elizabeth Black will attend the Florham-Madison campus as well. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Roderick Black, Elizabeth will graduate Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. She plans to major in psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson.

Poet Lockward Teaches At Park Middle School

SCOTCH PLAINS — Poet Diane Lockward, a poet-in-the-schools for the New Jersey Writers Project, conducted four days of lessons in poetry writing, reading, and revision earlier this spring for Team 7-D's Language Arts classes at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains.

Ms. Lockward's residency was primarily funded by a grant awarded to Gail Williams, seventh grade English teacher at Park School, as a 2001 Joan Vagelos Currie award winner in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district.

The New Jersey Council on the Arts, co-sponsor of the Writers Project with the Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, matched funds for this residency. During student classes, Ms. Lockward led students into poetry writing through several brainstorming sessions, based on varied realistic and imaginative topics.



IBOOK TECHNOLOGY...Joanne Arvay, Technology Coordinator for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, recently visited Rosalie Gamba's second grade class at Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains, where she instructed students in the use of iBook laptop computers. The students, including Michael Steinfeld and Paris Nwana, pictured above, especially delighted in hooking up to the Internet website of the Hubble space telescope.

Parking Permit Waiting Lists Fluctuate In Westfield, Three Permits Available

By SETH AUGENSTEIN
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- In an effort to curb parking problems in downtown Westfield, various parking permits are available to needy commuters, employees and residents in the area.

Commuters are defined as the group of Westfield residents that need spaces to leave their car in during the workday, mostly because of the commute into New York City by train.

The employees that are eligible for permits are those who come into Westfield from out of town to work in the downtown area, and need ensured spaces for their cars.

These two kinds of permits are designated by the lot number. There are two lots that are open to commuters. Lot number three at the Westfield

Train Station's south side holds approximately 469 cars. Lot number six at Watterson Street is much smaller, holding 104 cars.

There are also two lots available to employees. The "Citgo" parking lot, which is named for the gas station that used to be there, is lot number eight, and it has roughly 88 spaces. The bigger employee lot is number nine, which is called the "Shell" lot for the former gas station. It holds about 162 cars.

The fees for lots three, eight and nine are the same. All the rearview mirror tags cost \$540 annually, and \$300 semiannually. The Watterson commuter lot is considerably cheaper, at \$360 annually and \$180 semiannually.

Additionally, there are permits des-

igned to provide parking for residents who live in the downtown area. By placing one of the residential decals in their back window, residents become exempt from the two-hour parking downtown that would so often otherwise call for a horrid game of "musical parking spaces."

Residents are eligible for this decal according to their address, which are fairly well-established for most apartments in the downtown area. Each of these residential permits costs \$10 in administration fees.

There is a waiting list that is continually fluctuating to accommodate the equally fluctuating needs of commuters and employees in the Westfield area. (Residential parking permits are sorted through for eligibility more quickly.)

In order to streamline this constant cycle of parking permits and tremendous amounts of paperwork, Westfield created the Office of Parking Services, which is headed by Barry Sommers.

The first-come, first-serve lapse of the waiting list cannot be predicted, but Mr. Sommers ensures that every action has been made immeasurably more efficient since the office's creation in February.

"It's a computer-driven operation, and everything here that we do is driven by ordinances, and that is why people have their permits and documentation. Everything is done to the letter of the town code, and will be done in an efficient, competent and expeditious manner," he stated.

The creation of Mr. Sommers' self-described "diligent operation" was timely, considering that three times the amount of spaces are planned to be created in the next two years.

SPFHS Model U.N. Captures Outstanding Delegation Award

SCOTCH PLAINS — Earlier this spring, the Model United Nations (U.N.) organization from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) secured a coveted Outstanding Delegation Award at the YMCA's 30th annual Model United Nations Assembly program held in Hershey, Pa.

The award is given to recognize delegations for their prompt delivery of all program forms, close adherence to all program rules, and preparation of the student participants.

The YMCA Model United Nations Program is intended to provide high school students with the opportunity to simulate the debate and problem solving that occurs at the U.N. in an atmosphere that promotes respect for people of differing views.

In addition to the delegation award, individual Scotch Plains-Fanwood students also received recognition. Deryk Middleton earned the YMCA Character Development Award for demonstrating the core values of the Model U.N. Assembly, which are caring, honesty, responsibility, and respect.

Sophomore Barie Salmon was selected as an alternate for the YMCA

Youth Conference on National Affairs. That conference will focus on national and international concerns, increasing understanding of the Federal government, enhancing communications at the Federal level, increased understanding of the needs, responsibilities, and opportunities of youth in government, working creatively with youth and adults, and strengthening the values of the YMCA.

Sophomore Ryan Weber was selected to the 2002-2003 Youth Secretariat that will work in conjunction with the Secretary General and Model U.N. staff to develop, plan, and run next year's program.

SPFHS Students Honored For Language Undertakings

SCOTCH PLAINS — Nisha Tamhankar and Jillian Demair, students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), have each been recognized recently for their outstanding achievements in the study of world languages.

Nisha won one of 12 National Junior Academic Scholarships from the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), making her one of the top juniors studying Spanish nationally.

She was commended for demonstrating a high level of proficiency in the speaking and writing of Spanish in the essay and interview video she submitted as part of the scholarship competition. As a scholarship winner, she must also submit a Spanish essay detailing her plans for the future that will be published in the AATSP publication, *Albricias*.

Jillian is one of 39 juniors nationwide to win a four-week all-expenses paid study trip to Germany this summer. She

was one of almost 25,000 students who competed for the study-trip by participating in a nationwide German testing program administered by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), the only national organization representing German teachers at all levels of instruction.

The study-trip awards have been made possible annually for over two decades by a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. and are the most prestigious honor bestowed on students by the AATG.

Jillian and the other trip winners are due to leave for Germany in late June and will return in late July. While in Germany, the participants will live with families, attend classes at a German secondary school, and take part in excursions of cultural and historic interest, highlighted by a visit to Berlin. Jillian has been taught at SPFHS by Jillian Ritchie.



MEDALIST...Daniel Kurter, a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) junior, was selected as this year's recipient of the Homer S. Pace Medal, which is awarded to high school juniors who have achieved academic excellence in the college preparatory program and who intend to pursue a career in accounting or other business fields. The award makes Daniel eligible for application privileges at Pace University and possible scholarship programs. Pictured, above, Daniel receives his award from Dr. David Heisey, SPFHS Principal. An active member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter at SPFHS, he was nominated for this honor by FBLA adviser, Fran DeSalvo.

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