



AN UNEXPECTED BOOM... A van catapults from the Quick Chek parking lot when a driver believing the car is in reverse steps on the gas, resulting in a collision with an east-bound vehicle on Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains Monday evening.

Cooper Road Island Devel. Hearing to Continue In June

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should be granted because, despite the applicant's inability to secure additional land from the adjacent township-owned property, the lot lines are not visible or even obvious, given that the border between the two halves of the island is a heavily wooded area.

Board Chairman James Fawcett read from a Scotch Plains Police Department memorandum assessing the property from a traffic safety standpoint.

"The Cooper Road island is not the safest place to build a house," the memo stated. Mr. Fawcett wondered whether the police and the neighbors might know a particular area better than a professional planner.

Toward the end of the meeting, Marc Rogoff, an attorney representing Vince DeLisi, a Cooper Road

resident, began presenting testimony in opposition to the development, with an engineer outlining what he said were deficiencies in the application, including several omissions and inaccuracies in the site plan drawings.

At next month's special meeting on Thursday, June 15, it's expected that several dozen neighbors, who have formed a group, "Save The Island," to oppose the development, will speak out in opposition to the application. Formed late last year, the group claims that, besides the property being smaller than allowed by township zoning ordinances, building a house on the island would negatively impact the local environment and ecosystem, increase storm water runoff and be a detriment to the neighborhood in general.

Daniel Ingram Elected Gov. Of JSA's Mid-Atlantic State

SCOTCH PLAINS — Daniel Ingram, a junior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was elected to the position of Governor of the Mid-Atlantic State (MAS) of Junior State of America (JSA) at the organization's spring convention, held in Philadelphia from April 9 to 10.



Daniel Ingram

JSA is a national student-run debate and government club for high school students. The Mid-Atlantic State is the largest JSA territory in the country and includes New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Daniel will oversee 90 chapters, comprised of over 2,100 total students, in the New Jersey and South Atlantic Regions.

This year, Daniel served as New Jersey Region Mayor, the first student in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School JSA chapter's history to be elected to a regional position.

During the 2003-2004 school year, Daniel represented the chapter on the

regional level as State Assembly Representative and also served as Director of Debate on the New Jersey Region Cabinet.

As MAS Governor, Daniel will have the responsibility of selecting and managing a cabinet and planning and running three weekend-long conventions in Philadelphia and the District of Columbia.

As part of his duties, Daniel will serve on the nine-member Council of Governors, which is JSA's national student governing body. Over the next few months, he will be traveling to JSA headquarters in San Francisco to attend two Council of Governors' meetings and to Los Gatos, Calif., to help plan and run the annual JSA National Leadership Summit.

He will also participate in the Junior Statesmen New Jersey Symposium on Leadership and Politics at Princeton University in August.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ingram of Scotch Plains, he will begin his term on Wednesday, June 1, and serve throughout the 2005-2006 school year.

Owner of Steakhouse Seeks To Buy School Property

By ANNA GITHENS
Specially Written for The Times

GARWOOD- During the public session of Tuesday night's Borough Council meeting, Robert DeStefanis of Myrtle Avenue, owner of Robert's Steakhouse in Garwood, announced his interest in purchasing the former St. Anne's School property in Garwood.

Mr. DeStefanis expressed his intentions to the governing body to design the building to be a senior citizen home or 55 and over condominiums.

"We would like to get a feel from the town and feedback from the council and planning board," said Mr. DeStefanis, who is also the owner of DeStefanis Properties.

"That's the first we've heard about that proposition," replied Mayor Dennis McCarthy. Previously in a letter to the church, Mayor McCarthy and the council had extended their best wishes to the church with regard to finding a successful buyer that will meet the

"It's a wet lands area so there is really not much that can be done with it," Mayor McCarthy said.

He also said that there are apartment buildings with children on the north side of the borough and it could turn out to be a nice size piece of property with parklands.

The borough's regular meeting was conducted by the Garwood Student Council in front of a congregation that consisted of the Garwood Board of Education, administration and staff, family and friends.

Kristen Reynolds, in the role of mayor, called the meeting to order on behalf of Mayor McCarthy. Adam Kipnis, as council president, took over for Council President Walter Tucker. Jessica Rusin, served as municipal clerk for Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma.

Alan Chu, Lauren Czaplak, Soha Mahmoud, Jacquelyn Schadewald (daughter of Councilman William Schadewald) and Leah Warner were



HELPING OUT...Garwood students conduct the borough's business at the meeting of Mayor and Council in Garwood Tuesday. The students, as members of the council that evening, pose with Garwood Mayor Dennis McCarthy.

needs of the congregation.

Borough Attorney Robert F. Renaud suggested that Mr. DeStefanis should have his attorney pursue the matter with the planning board because the mayor and council do not have the authority to give him an answer.

Also during public workshop, Garwood resident Anne Leonard of Myrtle Avenue spoke about her concern with the Brookside detention basin, which is owned by Hedi Properties. Parts of the basin are in Westfield, Cranford and Garwood.

Mrs. Leonard said she would like to see private homes built in that area as opposed to another park. Mayor McCarthy replied that there is not too much open space left in the borough.

served as council members. The students conducted the meeting and provided thorough and informative committee reports.

In summary of the reports provided, Mayor McCarthy has proclaimed this week, "Police Week in honor of our police officers who continually serve our community with selflessness and dedication." This Sunday, May 15 is also "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

The mayor and council also paid tribute to Garwood Patrolman Thomas P. Haughton who lost his life in the line of duty in November of 1995.

The Garwood Fire Department will be conducting their annual Fireman's Memorial Service on Wednesday, May 18, at 8 p.m. at the firehouse.



COLOR GALORE...Mindowaskin Park was the scene of an explosion of color on Tuesday afternoon as local nursery schools gathered there for the annual Balloon Parade hosted by the Presbyterian Nursery School. This year, the parade was a celebration of the Month of the Young Child. Approximately 600 children, along with their parents, participated in the parade, each carrying a balloon in one of nine different colors signifying their specific school.

SPFHS World Language Dept. Holds Career Day

SCOTCH PLAINS — In an effort to promote an appreciation for the value of learning a second language, the World Language Department at Scotch Plains-

Fanwood High School (SPFHS) recently sponsored a Career Day at the school where students could hear from guest speakers about the second languages they use regularly in their work.

World Languages Supervisor Linda Kouril and Linda Lombardi, teacher of Italian at SPFHS, planned the program to underscore the importance of speaking multiple languages in today's world, and to celebrate 2005 as The Year of Languages as designated by national language educators.

Approximately 20 members of the community, representing various professions and fields of commerce, shared with the World Language classes their first-hand experiences relating to the benefits of a second language in their chosen careers.

Community presenters included Liber Nudell, Dr. Juan Grana, Gloria Rios Pagan, Anna Mastroianni, Joseph Snodgrass, Vincent Ferrante, Elliot Hoffman, Nathalie Centinaro, Charles Centinaro, Melina Wilson, Annie Vann, Jeanne White, Robert Waks, Janet Cubelli, Sasha Slocum, and Brian and Laura Bradov.

Speakers discussed their careers in medicine, law, retail, real estate, import/export, filmmaking, the military, and educational research.

Positive feedback from students indicated that the Career Day planners were successful in achieving their goals for the event.

Sophomore Jennifer Gaglioti said, "The day put into perspective how valuable languages are for the future and how they can help you succeed in your career."

Sophomore Colleen LaForge added, "We got to see the real-life application for what we're learning in Spanish class!"



SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Carol A. Ganczewski, 40, of Scotch Plains was arrested on outstanding warrants.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

George T. Davis, 49, of North Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop.

Curtis Hill, 37, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop.

MONDAY, MAY 2

Justin J. Mojica, 29, of Scotch Plains was arrested on numerous warrants after a motor vehicle stop.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Warren L. Luck Jr., 30, of Plainfield was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer and resisting arrest, after police attempted to pull him over for a motor vehicle violation. After a brief foot chase he was found hiding under a truck. He was remanded to the Union County Jail. Bail was set at \$9,000.

Marvin Chambliss, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

A resident of Kempshall Terrace reported that between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. an unknown person threw a rock through their house window.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

Thomas Sweeney, 80, of Fanwood was arrested for shoplifting.

Council Okays Mun. Budget; Property Taxes to Increase

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Marks. State lawmakers "just don't have the political backbone, spine or courage" to enact significant reforms.

In other business, the council awarded a bid for its spring clean-up next month to Midco Waste Systems, which will be paid \$69.99 per household permit. Township Manager Thomas Atkins said that \$33 of that figure is for labor, benefits, fuel and other related expenses and the other \$36.99 is for tipping fees.

The council also passed a resolution endorsing the installation of a field maintenance storage building at the township public works facility on Plainfield Avenue that will be shared with Fanwood and the board of education. The 2,200-square-foot building will consist of five bays and be used to store field maintenance equipment and materials.

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato said the building's cost of \$100,000 will be split among the three entities, with the \$80,000 cost of four of the bays being shared in a 40 percent Scotch Plains Township, 40 percent board of education and 20 percent Fanwood Borough split. The \$20,000 cost of the fifth bay, which will be shared by the two towns for general storage needs, will be evenly split between Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The council renewed its participation in the Union County S.L.A.P. (Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program) initiative, which makes non-violent offenders available to municipalities to perform certain jobs, such as cutting grass along roads, litter pickup, light stream clean-up, etc. The program, in which Scotch Plains has

participated in a shared arrangement with Westfield and Clark for the past several years, will cost the township \$13,276, which will pay for county law enforcement officers that accompany the individuals working in the program.

A \$174,400 bid was awarded to Mark Paving Inc. of Kearny to resurface a quarter-mile portion of Plainfield Avenue from Jerusalem Road to Hamlette Place this summer.

At the beginning of the council's meeting, a resolution was passed honoring the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, which is celebrating 68 years of service this year.

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Marks issued a proclamation declaring Sunday, May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

Fanwood Council

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Road Park. The majority of work on the new center was completed about a year ago, but the kitchen is still being built.

She asked the council when seniors would be able to utilize this new center, which will accommodate up to 100 people when completed.

Mayor Mahr said a great amount of time and energy has gone into creating a high-end kitchen at the center, which was requested by the borough seniors. The kitchen should be ready for use over the next few months.

The new center may also be rented out for other events by borough organizations.



SCIENTISTS...School One in Scotch Plains held its Science Fair on April 15, which included 63 projects from 94 students. All participants received a patch and a certificate for their efforts. T-shirts were presented to the following fourth-graders who have participated in science fairs every year of their eligibility at School One: Kathleen Colonna, Melissa Gara, Hannah Greeney, Sonali Kamath, Colin Okell, Gabriella Testa, and Robert Zukofsky. Pictured, left to right, Amy Sato, Thomas Weideli and Alicia Fung-A-Fat show their certificates and patches.

Tickets Available for DECA's First 'Dunk' Charity Event

SCOTCH PLAINS — DECA, an association of marketing students at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), will be sponsoring its first-ever basketball competition on Tuesday, May 24, beginning at 7 p.m. in the new gymnasium at SPFHS.

The evening will take the form of a "hot shot" contest, in which participants will be shooting from various spots in the gym to win prizes.

This charity event will raise money for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and their fight against Cancer. The money will be sent directly to the Children's Oncology Ward.

DECA's goal to raise \$400 can only be reached with the participation of community members.

Participants of all ages and skill levels are invited. The contest will be arranged by age groups and participants can register their own local teams.

Various foods will be donated by local eateries and DECA parents.

There is a fee of \$5 to shoot hoops, \$3 to eat enjoy the buffet, or \$7 for both activities.

Tickets are still on sale and can be easily purchased by calling DECA at (908) 889-8600. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Union County Vo-Tech HS Plans Open House June 2

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union County Vocational-Technical High School will open its doors on Thursday, June 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. to Union County families with high school-aged children seeking trade/technology careers.

Located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, the school will offer tours of the facilities, with instructors, students and trade professionals on hand to answer questions.

Principal Patrick Mauro said, "We invite every parent and student in the county to join us on June 2 for Open House and learn how a technical education can help their sons and daughters prepare for life after high school."

The Vo-Tech offers more than 20 different career and technical programs, which will be open to visitors, including automotive technology, auto collision, baking, building trades, carpentry, child development, commercial art, computer aided drafting and design, computer repair, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary arts, electrical technology, graphic communications, office systems technology, masonry and welding.

At no cost to parents, the school provides shared-time and full-time

technical training to students seeking either immediate employment upon graduation, including apprenticeships, or a two-year or four-year college education after high school.

Shared-time enrollment is open to high school juniors and seniors. These students take academic courses at their local high school for half of their school day and attend Union County Vocational-Technical High School for the other half of the day, taking a technical training program.

As of September of 2002, full-time pupils were admitted to a new four-year program providing both academic and technical training on site at the Scotch Plains campus. Here, a student will follow a comprehensive high school program schedule while "majoring" in a technical career. The student's home high school provides transportation for shared-time and full-time students to and from the Vo-Tech campus.

Both shared-time and full-time programs combine an integrated curriculum with hands-on experience and real world training using only the latest state-of-the-art technologies.

For more information on the shared-time programs, please call (908) 889-8288, extension no. 341 or e-mail bkaczmarek@ucvts.tec.nj.us.

For details regarding the school's full-time programs, please call (908) 889-8288, extension no. 403 or e-mail jdbiase@ucvts.tec.nj.us.

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