



SP-F BOE to Replace Seats At Terrill School Auditorium

By LANCE TUPPER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Replacing the 600 seats in the Terrill Middle School auditorium was one of a series of improvement projects the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education approved at its open agenda meeting last Thursday.

The projects approved last week are being funded from the existing 2013-2014 school budget. The board plans to adopt the 2014-2015 budget, proposed in March, at its next regular meeting on Thursday, April 24.

The board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the seats

through the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative System, which provides a cooperative pricing system for member schools, for a total cost of about \$123,000. The seats will be installed after the asbestos removal ceiling and floor project this summer.

Business Administrator Deborah Saridaki said, “The asbestos has to be removed anyway, so it’s cost effective to replace (the seats) completely.”

Ms. Saridaki said some of the existing seats “could break” and the “back row has already been removed.” She said the cost to refurbish

the seats is “about the same” as the replacement cost.

In answering several questions from board member and finance chairwoman Betty Anne Woerner, Ms. Saridaki said that quality and durability factored into the decision to purchase the seats. She added that “many different styles” were available and that the seats chosen “go with the architecture of the building.”

“It’s a big number,” Mrs. Woerner said, referring to the overall cost of the seats.

Board member Douglas Layne noted the cost per seat works out to about \$200, which he said is a “Staples price.”

Board President Trip Whitehouse said, given that the existing seats are 30 years old, “If we get another 30 years (out of the new seats) it works out to less than seven dollars a year.”

“Seven dollars is less than you pay to attend one of the performances there,” Mr. Whitehouse said jokingly.

Board member Jeanne Cleary said the new seats are needed because the auditorium plays “host to many events and is used by many members of the community.”

Regarding asbestos removal, the board approved the contract with Environmental Remediation Management Inc. for summer 2014 projects at four schools — Terrill, Brunner Elementary, Coles Elementary, and McGinn Elementary — for a total cost not to exceed \$80,000.

Resurfacing and repaving will take place this summer at the School One Elementary and Park Middle School parking lots. The board accepted a proposal by Potter Architects, LLC to prepare and submit plans and specifications to the state Department of Education to com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

County Tax Hike Now \$9.5 Million Over 2013

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

COUNTY — The Union County Freeholder Board introduced amendments to the 2014 county budget last Thursday, now placing the tax increase over last year at \$9.5 million for a total tax levy of \$327,061,905 in support of a budget of \$504,985,705. The introduced budget had taxes going up \$13.2 million. Of the total budget, \$175,423,786 are salaries and wages.

Bibi Taylor, director of finance, said the tax levy increase has been cut by \$3.7 million, or 2.99 percent, over the 2013 budget from the spending plan introduced March 13. She said the tax levy proposed represents the lowest increase for the county in five years. Ms. Taylor said the budget is “still subject to state approval.”

A public hearing on the amendments to the budget is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m. in the freeholders’ meeting room on the sixth floor of the county administration building in Elizabeth. A hearing and adoption vote on the budget will follow during the regular meeting the same night beginning at 7 p.m.

At Thursday’s budget hearing, which preceded the regular meeting where the amendments were introduced, a number of county residents made comments.

Former Summit councilman Tom Getzendanner, representing the Summit Taxpayers Association, applauded the board’s decision to privatize Runnells Specialized Hospital as opposed to shutting the Berkeley Heights facility.

In looking at the Union County tax increase, he noted that Morris County has held taxes flat for the second year in a row while Essex County’s levy is



PLAY BALL...Baseball teams participate in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Baseball League opening day ceremonies Saturday morning at Booth Field in Scotch Plains.

Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SP Zoning Board Okays PSE&G Substation Upgrade

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The zoning board of adjustment last week gave its approval to PSE&G’s plans to renovate and upgrade its Front Street substation in order to meet higher electrical demand.

After a four-hour hearing on April 10 that ended after midnight, the board gave its assent for the utility to construct several new structures that will help it meet an expected 12-percent increase in demand by 2022. About 15 residents, mostly from adjacent Malanga Court, attended the hearing and voiced concerns about the new structures’ impact on their property

values and quality of life.

Noreen Merainer, a professional planner with PSE&G who oversaw the preparation of its application to the board, spoke extensively about the project, which will include construction of two 115-foot-high A-frame structures to carry wires from the existing transmission towers to the new buildings that will support

the increased power output. New lightning masts will also be installed to protect the substations, which have been situated at that site since 1956. PSE&G will erect fencing—varying in height from 10 feet to 20 feet—along the right-of-way it occupies in an effort to not only keep noise from the upgraded substation away from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Watson Coleman Ready To Fight for 12th District

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

Editor’s Note: The following is the first in a series of articles on candidates running in the 12th Congressional District, which includes Fanwood and most of Scotch Plains.

Eight-term State Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-15th, Mercer) is one of four Democrats seeking to replace the retiring Rep. Rush Holt (D) in the House of Representatives in the 12th Congressional District.

When interviewed by phone by The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times on Friday, she said she entered the race because she believes she is the candidate who has been “outspoken on issues that are important to our

communities, whether it’s equal pay [and] equal rights for women, gun safety, [or] standing up for [2013 Democratic gubernatorial candidate] Barbara Buono...all those things that I think signal that I am the kind of leader that can represent the entirety of the 12th District.”

She said she believes it is important that “we need to send someone to Washington who’s willing to stand up, push back, fight and be a voice at the beginning of the debate, not be cautiously engaging waiting to see whether it makes sense or if its going to be a risk to be engaged.”

“We’re fighting battles that we thought we had already won, whether its equal voting rights, women’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Photo courtesy of Brian Horton

GUESSING GAME...A family takes a guess at how many chocolate eggs are in the container at the annual Fanwood Easter Egg Hunt at Forest Road Park on Saturday.

SP Recreation Commission Plans to Survey Residents

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township recreation commission plans to conduct a multi-part survey of residents in order to gauge satisfaction with recreation facilities and programs, get an idea of additional needs and interests and have an accounting of who is using parks and ballfields, as well as taking part in the recreation department’s programs.

Recreation Director Ray Poerio told the commission at its meeting on Monday that the objective of the survey “is to gauge the public and see what their interests are.” Surveying residents, he said, “gets everybody involved in the process.”

The survey will be conducted in three parts, with the first one focusing on recreation facilities such as parks and ballfields. Subsequent questionnaires will focus on golf programs at Scotch Hills Country Club and on recreation programs. Mr. Poerio said the surveys will also provide demographic information on who is using which facilities and programs, which members of a family are taking part in

various programs, when they are taking part and how often they are doing so.

With the recreation department’s five-year capital program currently being updated, Mr. Poerio added that the survey would be particularly useful in alerting recreation officials to larger expenditures that might be required in the coming years.

In other business, the new pavilion at Brookside Park will be installed in advance of the summer day camp programs getting underway. The new irrigation system at that park will be installed in the fall. The parking lots at Memorial Park and Kramer Manor Park will be repaved this spring, and Mr. Poerio said he expects the lots to be shut for no more than two days to allow for the new asphalt to be paved and then dry before line-stripping is done. The cart paths at Scotch Hills Country Club will also be worked on this spring.

All township parks and recreation facilities will be evaluated to determine any compliance issues with federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Mr. Poerio told the commission

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

EGG HUNT...Children race towards the brightly colored Easter eggs during the Scotch Plains Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday morning on the Alan Augustine Village Green.



Photo courtesy of Tom Kranz

WELL DESERVED...Eleanor McGovern, Fanwood’s borough clerk and administrator, was named Administrator of the Year at the annual dinner of the Gateway Chamber of Commerce at the Renaissance Hotel in Elizabeth this past weekend. Pictured, left to right, are: Fanwood Councilman Kevin Boris, Laura Palermo of Provident Bank, Fanwood Council President Russ Huegel, Mayor Colleen Mahr, Mrs. McGovern and Fanwood Public Works Director Clint Dickson.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3, 17	Education	9, 19
Editorial	4-5, 16	Sports	11-16
Police	6	Real Estate	11-15, 20
Community ...	6-8, 18	Classifieds	16
Obituary	8	A&E	19-20



For Listings
Joyce Taylor

Congratulations to Our
March
Sales Associates of the Month!

For Sales
Anne Weber

Westfield-West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.cbmoves.com/westfieldwest

©2014 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker® and the Coldwell Banker logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.