



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

of

# Scotch Plains – Fanwood



FANWOOD

OUR 39th YEAR – ISSUE NO. 40-98

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

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Published  
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS



**RETURN AWAITED...**A replica of the battleship *USS New Jersey* was on exhibit during the third annual "Fanny Wood Day" celebration in downtown Fanwood last Sunday. A flag-raising ceremony during the festival spotlighted ongoing efforts to bring the actual vessel back to the Garden State.



**SPECIAL EXHIBIT...**This display, presented by the Fanwood Fire Department during last Sunday's "Fanny Wood Day" festival, showcased equipment used by the department while also promoting fire safety. In addition to educational displays, the street fair featured an array of merchandise, food, and activities for all ages throughout the day.

## Scotch Plains Zoning Board Rejects Doctor's Day Care Center Appeal

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Times

Calling the proposal "unrealistic," the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment rejected, last Thursday, a request from local pediatrician Dr. Gail Siber to open a child day care center in a residential zone at 1650 Raritan Road. Neighbors opposing the center testified before the board, saying they objected to increased traffic and other noise associated with the business. The Board denied the proposal 6-1, with board member Jane Lorber voting in favor of the "D" use variance for the business. She pointed out that church day care and other schools operated in the same area.

Iammatteo explained that non-profit and public institutions are "allowed uses" in residential neighborhoods and that the board has no say in those cases. "This was the wrong place and the wrong property," Mrs. Iammatteo added, about the proposed day care lot. Dr. Siber operates her medical practice nearby at the corner of Raritan Road and Martine Avenue, for which a separate variance was granted in the past.

Dr. Siber, and her husband Ilya said they purchased the long, narrow lot sandwiched between two other houses a year ago, with the child care center in mind. They testified that it seemed like the perfect site for a

center and playground. The 100-foot frontage lot runs 1,065 feet deep and backs up to Ashbrook Reservation. Currently, a house sits at the site.

Auto traffic analysts testified that cars would back up to differing degrees on Raritan Road during the delivery and pick-up of children at the proposed day care center. Neighbors said cars would back up leaving the center as well, which would in turn, block traffic flow into the property as well.

"The traffic expert (testimony) played very, very heavy in the board's decision," Chairwoman Iammatteo said.

Dr. Siber testified that her day care

## Diner Owners Drop Drug Store

According to Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment attorney, Anthony Rinaldo, Park Place Restaurant owners Mr. and Mrs. George Filippatos definitely withdrew a request to add retail space at the diner site on the corner of Martine Avenue and Raritan Road. The Board voted unanimously to dismiss the case after they received a written follow-up to hints two weeks ago that the deal was floundering.

Approval of the plan would have allowed a Drug Fair to open up.

Residents had voiced objections to further commercial development of the lot.

The diner is "non-conforming" in a residential zone and across the street from Dr. Gail Siber's medical offices.

## Fanwood Board Approves Quick Chek Expansion; Hallmark Store Signs, and Garage Replacement



**STORE TO BE UPDATED...**The Quick Chek store on North Avenue in Fanwood will be expanded by an additional 750 square feet as part of a comprehensive effort to modernize the 20-year-old building. Company representatives successfully petitioned the Fanwood Planning Board on September 23 for permission to enlarge the establishment. Interior renovations will also take place, and the revamped site is also expected to give delivery truck drivers greater ability to maneuver their vehicles.

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Planning Board heard three appeals September 23 from businesses seeking to upgrade

their sites, as well as a couple's petition to replace their aged garage with a more efficient model.

John and Lorna Everhart of 19 Paterson Road were granted the nec-

essary bulk variances to demolish their existing garage, built in the 1930s, and install a new one which would decrease the angle at which a car must be driven into the structure.

Board members concurred that the new garage, which will be located a foot closer to the property line than the existing structure, had been well planned. Mr. Everhart agreed to Borough Engineer Richard Marsden's request that gutters be put on the new garage to prevent storm water from spilling into the next door neighbor's yard.

In the second appeal of the evening, Irma's Bag of Fanwood, Inc. on South Martine Avenue was given the green light to place several new signs on the building. The signs will bear the Hallmark company's new national logo with its Gold Crown banner.

The applicant had initially sought use and bulk variances for an internally-illuminated sign—the type recommended by Hallmark—to be placed at the store's front entrance, as well as for two placard signs for the exterior side walls. A use variance was

required since internally-illuminated signs are prohibited under local ordinance.

According to Michael Glassett, Vice-President of Irma's Bag, the store is being renovated in conjunction with its 25th anniversary this year. The new signs, he told board members, will help give the business a "fresh, contemporary, up-to-date look."

Board Chairman Gregory S. Cummings, while saying he looked forward to the enhancements, felt that alternatives for the front entranceway, such as an externally-lit sign rather than an internally-illuminated model, should be explored.

He also wondered what Hallmark establishments were expected to do in communities which, like Fanwood, have restrictions against internally-lit signs.

Board members expressed concern that an internally-illuminated sign in front of the store could pose a distraction for motorists and pedestrians.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## School Board Approves Kindergarten Aides, Extends Calendar for 1998-1999 by Two Days

SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

Kindergarten teachers at McGinn Elementary School got the help they needed during last Thursday's Board of Education meeting, as Superin-

tendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye approved two full-time aides to support the teachers during their morning and afternoon classes. There are approximately 90 children spread across four sections of the kindergar-

ten program. Scotch Plains resident Kevin Harper remarked that he appreciated the "speed with which the board addressed the aide issue," at the meeting, but added, "It shouldn't have come this late."

During the meeting, the board approved revisions to the calendar which extends the 1998-1999 school year by two days to Friday, June 25, 1999. The last two days of school are designated as single-session days.

In addition, the calendar reclaimed Tuesday, February 16, 1999 as a full school day, shortening the President's Day holiday weekend to three days.

Board member Jessica D. Simpson asked if the administration planned to continue with the scheduled Friday, October 23, Staff Professional Day "since teachers are not likely to attend" if a new contract settlement

is not reached.

The date is scheduled as a single-session day for students, in order to make time for an afternoon of professional development activities.

"Can we keep the Professional Day in if a contract is in place, and make it a full day if the contract is not in place?" she asked. The Superintendent will revisit the issue at the board's Thursday, October 8, agenda session.

In other business, Director of Pupil Services Eleanor McClymont highlighted changes to New Jersey's special education code.

"The big thing," she explained, "is that expectations for classified students have been brought in line with those for regular education students. The focus is on student achievement."

With a reduction in the types of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## StreetFest '98 to Showcase Scotch Plains Community

Scotch Plains Day/StreetFest '98 will take place in the Towne Center this Saturday, October 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with activities planned for all ages throughout the day.

In addition, the 10th annual Health Fair sponsored by the Scotch Plains Health Advisory Board will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue.

The health fair is open to Scotch Plains residents exclusively, and most of the tests are free. Dog and

cat rabies inoculations will be available at the northside Fire House behind the Municipal Building from 8 to 10 a.m.

"It really looks like an exciting day and the forecast is for good weather," Mayor Joan Papen said.

The annual event was hampered by rainstorms the past two years.

Music, races, fashion shows, flea markets, sidewalk sales, civic awards and high spirits are all expected to be part of the event, organizers said.

Recreation Director Laura Sanson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

**INDEX**  
Business ..... Page 17    Mountainside Page 3    Social ..... Page 6  
County ..... Page 2    Obituary ..... Page 10    Sports ..... Page 13  
Editorial ..... Page 4    Religious ..... Page 9

## Teachers Picket School Bd. Offices As Talks Drag On

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

Members of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) picketed in the dark along Cedar Street outside Board of Education offices prior to the 8 p.m. start of the September 24 regular board meeting.

While some SPFEA members expressed reluctance to go into the board meeting, approximately 35 of their colleagues sat silently for the first 15 minutes of the meeting, then filed out en masse. The meeting took place in Evergreen Elementary School's multi-purpose room to accommodate the larger-than-usual (albeit temporary) crowd.

Union members ignored Board President August Ruggiero's invitation to stay and listen to an open letter from the board regarding negotiations.

The letter concluded, "Since the board's offer is better than average for Union County in salary and benefits, the responsibility for the con-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## A Gunman Robs South Ave. Bank

An armed bank robber, apparently acting alone, took an undetermined amount of cash from the First Community Bank on South Avenue in Scotch Plains yesterday morning.

No one was injured in the heist. As this newspaper went to press yesterday afternoon, the suspect was still at large. No car was seen in connection with the crime.

Scotch Plains Police Captain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



**SP-F TEACHERS LEAD A SIT-IN...**Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Educators Association, who are teachers in the district, sat in a district school board meeting last Thursday with signs asking for a contract settlement over wages. Others paraded outside the meeting. When board members asked the group to stay for comments, they left after 35 minutes without responding.

## Tree Planting Process Aimed at Replacing Those Lost in Storm

By BOBBIE BALDASSARI TURSI  
Specially Written for The Times

Union County Freeholder Linda d. Stender kicked off a stepped-up tree-planting program by dedicating a tree at a ceremony held last Thursday in LaGrande Park in Fanwood. This ceremony is expected to start a tree-planting process that will continue throughout the county into next spring.

Mrs. Stender, a diehard tree advocate and the Freeholder board's Liaison to the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board, took shovel in hand stating "this ceremony is about affirming the county's commitment in its effort to plant hundreds of new trees along county roadways and in public parks hardest hit by the recent hurricane force winds this past Labor Day."

Fanwood's LaGrande Park alone lost 11 huge mature trees as a result of the damage. Fanwood, Rahway and Plainfield were hit pretty hard and suffered serious tree loss. According to the Union County Shade Tree Advisory, close to 1,500 mature

trees have been lost in total.

Mrs. Stender stated her concern about the state's role in all of this. "We are calling on government and legislature not to forget us. I think it is the proper role of the state to come in and label this as a state of emergency; even if the state eventually provides emergency disaster relief to Union County, the funds would primarily cover manpower expenses such as overtime pay to emergency workers." She continued, "Because of the state's inaction specifically regarding tree damage, the county is taking action of its own."

Mrs. Stender further mentioned, "I believe in the role of trees. This program is important both aesthetically and environmentally to the county." According to Mrs. Stender, "The city budget has appropriated for tree loss; the damage and loss from this past storm has now defined the goal of that fund. We hope to replace approximately 200-300 trees; the state doesn't think about the value of trees in a community."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



**SYMBOL OF RENEWAL...**Members of the Fanwood community gather at LaGrande Park last Thursday for a tree planting and dedication. The event kicked off a campaign to replace trees lost throughout the county during the devastating storm on Labor Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Union County Freeholder and former Fanwood Mayor Linda d. Stender, Recreation Commission Chairman Fred Leahy, Shade Tree Commissioner Earl Phillips, and Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz.

## Fanwood Board Approves Expansion of Quick Chek

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trians on Martine Avenue. In addition, Nancy Koederitz, Fanwood's Zoning Officer and a member of the board, remarked that granting permission for the Hallmark store to have an internally-lit sign could potentially set a precedent among other downtown businesses.

The board ultimately endorsed the appeal in a unanimous vote after store representatives amended their application and agreed to an externally-illuminated sign for the front of the business. No changes were made to the planned side wall signs.

Next on the board's agenda was an application by Quick Chek Food Stores, Inc. for preliminary and final site plan approval, as well as use and bulk variances, for the company to construct a 750-square-foot addition onto its existing store at 572 North Avenue.

Robert A. Delia, Director of Real Estate for Quick Chek, said the company has a contract to purchase an adjacent piece of property to the east of the store, which is earmarked for the planned expansion.

Quick Chek attorney Christopher DeGrezia said the firm plans to raze a dilapidated house on the site and clean up the property as part of the consolidation effort.

Mr. Delia explained that the anticipated expansion is part of a campaign by the company, based in Whitehouse Station, to reconstruct or remodel its stores. Quick Chek operates a 100-store chain in northern New Jersey, he said.

He noted that the 20-year-old Fanwood store has never been updated, adding that the addition will enlarge the total floor space to approximately 4,000 square feet.

Mr. Delia said there would be no substantial increase in the number of employees or in delivery truck traffic as a result of the expansion. He confirmed that plans are underway for the store to be open 24 hours, like the one in Scotch Plains.

Christopher K. Richter, a licensed professional engineer and Project Manager for Quick Chek, said the planned addition will expand the store's shelving area. In addition, the company plans to enlarge the existing ingress and egress lanes to allow for designated right- and left-hand turns.

The store's vestibule will also be enlarged, interior renovations will be made, and a dumpster enclosure will be added as part of the project, Mr. Richter stated.

In addition, he said the expansion will improve the loading area and create a circulation lane for trucks to maneuver away from pedestrians and parked cars.

Quick Chek also plans to landscape the consolidated property and extend an existing stockade fence which separates the lot adjacent to the store and another residential property, pending a determination of ownership of the fence.

As with the previous application, a discussion ensued between Quick Chek and the board over future signage for the store.

Quick Chek plans to install a new,

slightly larger sign on the front of the building, and to relocate a free-standing, 28-square-foot sign from the westerly to the easterly side of the parking lot entrance for greater visibility from the road.

The company had proposed that each of the signs be internally-illuminated, prompting concerns among board members about the aesthetic impact of the lighting on the surrounding community.

Quick Chek representatives later amended their application, which was then unanimously approved by the board.

The amended application substituted an externally-illuminated sign for the internally-lit one which had been proposed for the building's facade, although plans for relocation of the free-standing sign remained the same.

This sign, which is currently 18.2 feet from the curb line, will have a 10-foot setback once it is moved to the opposite side of the driveway, and will still be internally-lit.

Both the building sign and the free-standing sign will display Quick Chek's new off-white and forest green corporate logo, company representatives said.

The final application was presented by representatives of the Exxon Corporation, who outlined the company's bid for a use variance for an additional sign at the company's service station at South Avenue and Terrill Road.

Attorney Lawrence Vastola and licensed professional planner Roger DeNiscia, testifying on behalf of Exxon, argued that the existing service station sign is only visible to traffic on Terrill Road, but not South Avenue.

They proposed the addition of a seven-foot-high, 50-square-foot, ground-mounted sign with a five-foot setback, which would be visible to South Avenue.

The proposed sign, which slightly exceeds the size permitted under local ordinance, would display the company's brand name, prices, and that diesel fuel is sold there - a product which is not available at all service stations.

Mr. DeNiscia said the sign had to be large enough to include all three messages. He maintained that the proposed setback was determined by space limitations at the service station, adding that the permitted 10-foot setback would cause the sign to be obscured.

Noting that the intersection of South and Terrill is a busy one and does not have directional lanes, Mr. Cummings said additional signs could be a distraction to motorists. He proposed that turning the station's existing free-standing sign to a 45-degree angle would solve the visibility problem for traffic on South Avenue.

Toward the end of the meeting, Mr. Vastola opted to present that recommendation to Exxon for the company's consideration. The public hearing on this application is expected to continue at the Planning Board's next regular meeting on Wednesday, October 28.



GO TEAM!...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Show Band encourages its team at a recent Raiders' football game.

## Raider Band in Full Swing For New Football Season

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Show Band launched its fall performance campaign with a half-time show at the school's season-opening football game against Hudson Catholic High School in Jersey City on September 19.

Under the tutelage of Band Director Vincent Turturiello and Show Designer Durand Thomas, the band will play at 19 events during the fall season, including football games, marching band competitions, and other special programs.

Comprised of 105 instrumental and Color Guard members, the band performs a repertoire entitled "Waking Up From a Yuletide Nightmare." Led by student Drum Majors Jessica Biegelson, Gary Fletcher and Lisa Yagi, the Raiders' band blends intricate musical movements, precision marching techniques and dance routines.

This group of teenagers started its season with a rigorous two-week band

camp in late August. During the fall, the band practices for two to two and one half hours on two weekday nights. This is augmented with additional practices on weekends prior to the football games and music competitions.

The SPFHs Raider Show Band has been recognized as one of the premier high school bands in New Jersey, according to Joe McCourt, a spokesman for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Music Boosters Association.

The band will perform at the following home football games: Cranford High School on Saturday, October 10; Linden High School on Saturday, October 17; Rahway High School on Saturday, October 24, and Irvington High School on Saturday, October 31. Members of the community are invited to attend.

The home football games are played at Perry Tyson Field at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

## Tree Planting to Replace Those Topped in Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She further stated that, "this storm was really a reminder that our community has mostly older mature trees; with all the development going on in our county, trees are an afterthought."

Other county officials attending the ceremony were Fred Leahy, Chairman of the Recreation Commission; Earl Phillips from the Shade Tree Commission; Karen Schurtz, Councilwoman, and Raymond Manfra, Fanwood's Director of Public Works. Mr. Manfra, who volunteered to shovel out the hole for the symbolic tree to be planted stated, "In my 37 years of working in this county, I

have never seen wind damage like this." Mr. Manfra also commented that the county was very helpful and cooperative with clean-up due to the storm's aftermath.

Councilwoman Schurtz, stated "It's nice to know these trees can be replaced, and I am very glad the county is taking steps to replace them; our children and grandchildren will benefit from all of this."

Mrs. Stender's goal to begin the tree-planting process without delay is in full swing.

## StreetFest '98 Set for Saturday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Botto explained that the day is "a community-wide event to celebrate all that Scotch Plains is."

"It's fun and festive," she added. The tradition began 19 years ago with the dedication of the Village Green park next to the Municipal Building by former township Mayor and current state Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine.

This year, Mayor Papan and members of the Scotch Plains Township Council will honor 13 women veterans of the military, and dedicate the gazebo on the corner of the Village Green, beginning at 10 a.m.

The gazebo was realized through donations to the township from local businesses, with work done by students at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains.

Volunteers and township employees who have died will be recognized during "Memorial Moment." Retirees will also be honored. Over 125 vendors will be part of the flea market in the parking lots at the Municipal Building. The USATF Certified 5-mile Road Race begins at 9 a.m. at the Village Green. Prizes will be awarded.

The Farmers' Market will also be a part of the event, and pony rides and a petting zoo will be available for children.

Ms. Botto and Nuts N' Plenty owner Ray Pardon headed up a year-long committee to organize the day, now in its fourth consecutive year.

## SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- Police received a report that a motor vehicle had been keyed while it was parked in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School lot on Westfield Road on September 18.

- A cellular telephone was reported stolen from a vehicle parked at a recreational facility on Route No. 22. The incident had occurred the day before.

- A bicycle was reported stolen from a Country Club Boulevard residence the day before.

- Police received a report that a bicycle was stolen from the rear of a Park Avenue business.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- A motorist reported that a bottle was thrown at his car from a passing school bus on Raritan Road, smashing the windshield.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- An employee of a Plainfield Avenue business reported the theft of a computer from her work station. The theft occurred sometime between late Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- A burglary to a residence on Valleyscent Avenue was reported. Entry was gained through a bedroom window. It was unknown at press time what items were taken.

- A student at Union Catholic High School on Martine Avenue reported the theft of a laptop computer.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Andrew Piscitelli, 33, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with transportation, according to police, after he was found allegedly throwing rocks at passing cars on Mountain Avenue and creating a hazardous situation.

CDC  
2x4

## Calendar Year Extended To Make Up Lost Days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

student classifications, Mrs. McClymont has predicted a significant decline in the number of local students qualifying for special education services.

In anticipation of former special education students spending more time in regular classrooms, she and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. John R. Crews are discussing ways to help regular education teachers give these students the support they need to achieve their potential.

All students presently receiving special education services are grandfathered until their triennial evaluation by the district.

There are also logistical scheduling challenges to face as the district complies with the new state code. For example, a student's regular education teacher must now be included in meetings related to the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), along with the parent(s), special education teacher, a Child Study Team member, district representative, pupil (when appropriate) and other individuals whose knowledge or expertise could be of benefit.

In other business, the board voted 5 to 3 to table a motion regarding a board resolution on the state's school-to-career program.

Before it meets in October, the board will consider language drafted by board member Richard R. Meade which states that while work experience is "valuable if appropriate or desired by the student," it should not be mandatory.

In a related matter, the board accepted a \$5,000 Education Summit Grant for the district's efforts to integrate the state's Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards.

The board also passed a resolution honoring the efforts of municipal officials, police departments, public works employees and emergency volunteers from Scotch Plains and Fanwood in the wake of the Labor Day storm.

The resolution described how "...these individuals worked in total cooperation with Superintendent of Schools, Carol Choye, and other school administrators to assess the condition of district buildings and grounds and the safety of public thoroughfares and walkways for the good of our students."

## Gunman Robs South Ave. Bank

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marshal B. Nelson described the armed bandit as a bearded white male, with blond or light brown hair, about 40 years old, 5 feet and 7 inches tall, and weighing about 180 pounds.

He was wearing a light-colored baseball cap with a dark bill, a light tan, zippered jacket, and dark pants, Captain Nelson said.

He revealed that the FBI had been called in on the investigation. Bank robbery is a Federal crime.

Two customers and four tellers were in the bank at the time and surveillance cameras were running.

The gunman presented a note to a female teller, demanding money, and showed a handgun. When she surrendered the undetermined amount of cash, he stuffed it in his pockets and left the bank through the west door, into the parking lot, police said.

Someone answering a telephone call to the branch bank on Wednesday said she couldn't talk about the incident and only voice mail was available at the main bank office in Clinton.

Captain Nelson, who was Acting Police Chief on Wednesday while Chief Thomas O'Brien was out of the office, assigned Detective William Schultz to the crime.

A bank at the same location, Franklin State, was robbed 25 years ago, Captain Nelson said. He was a detective at the time and said he solved the crime four months later.

## Scotch Plains Zoning Board Rejects Day Care Petition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

center philosophy included providing hot meals, medical care and outdoor exercise for children. She claimed too many children eat "junk food" all day in centers and then parents worry when their child will not eat a meal.

Through her medical practice, Dr. Siber said she also discovered a need for good quality infant care in the area.

Board member Paulette Coronato said, "We all agreed Dr. Siber's philosophy on childcare was fantastic, but the traffic was a major, major problem."

Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien told the Board in a written report that after 19 cars stacked up waiting on the lot itself, other vehicles would soon back up on Raritan Road. Left-hand turns in and out of the center would also back up traffic, they said.

A resident of Black Birch Road, Marvin Kaplan, said it takes him at least five minutes to turn left onto

Raritan from Black Birch during rush hours.

Dr. Siber said she planned to enroll 40 to 60 children at the center but board members said the size of the proposed building and its number of bathrooms would allow up to 120 children at the center, under state law.

Resident Jon Schweitzer, living directly across from the proposed center, called Raritan Road "a nice little country road" and proffered the results of a study that, he said to the Sibers, "Suggest your site would be better located farther away from here." At least 25 neighbors at the public hearing, applauded his comments.

An expert planner testifying before the board for Dr. Siber claimed that a Newark court upheld in two instances, the "inherent benefit" that a childcare center provides.

"We didn't think they proved the negative criteria outweighed the inherent benefits," Mrs. Coronato said, referring to Mr. and Dr. Siber.

## Teachers Picket BOE Offices As Contract Talks Drag On

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tinuing lack of a settlement belongs to the SPFEA leadership."

The text of the board letter appears on Page 5.

While SPFEA President Barbara McGuane planned to respond in writing to what she called "inaccuracies" in the board letter, her response was not available by press time.

When asked by *The Times* why the union did not use the public forum of the meeting to make a statement, Mrs. McGuane replied, "We have never negotiated in public."

Picketing at schools began the morning following the board meeting, and continued this week. Staff members picket from 7:50 and 8:15 a.m.

With a job action in place, the SPFEA Action Committee could authorize members not to work legal holidays, such as Election Day and Veterans Day, November 3 and 11. If Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye must close school on those

days due to lack of staffing, it could break havoc on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school calendar.

The calendar was recently revised and the school year extended to make up days lost to the devastating storm which swept the area September 7. If the district closes school on November 3 and 11, and is forced to close schools this winter because of snow, the superintendent will pull from the spring recess of Friday, April 2, through Friday, April 9, 1999, to make up the days as necessary.

The SPFEA is awaiting reconfigured salary guides from the board negotiator. Their availability could precipitate a meeting between both sides prior to the scheduled mediation session on Monday, October 5.

Stop By Our New  
Downtown Office At 1906  
Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains

Elm Tree  
2x3

FOLD

## Recent Home Sales

**SCOTCH PLAINS**  
James E. Canterbury to Walter G. and Cheryl A. Halma, 1969 Church Street, \$180,000.  
Gerald S. Hymanson to Charles T. Herman, 26 Harwich Court, \$177,500.  
Raymond Kostyack to William T. and Maureen Jackson, 1989 Mountain Avenue, \$255,000.  
Daniel DiMaio to Ethel and Larkin Combs, 522 Hunter Avenue, \$221,000.  
Gilbert H. Stewart, 3rd to Kevin C. and Karen A. Ryan, 2295 Edgewood Terrace, \$372,000.  
John Kozic, Jr. to Charles F. and Kathleen M. Young, 31 Country Club Boulevard, \$175,000.  
Victor Y. Black, 2nd to Susan Walz, 2218 Shawnee Path, \$252,000.  
William A. Conway to Ronald J. and

Deborah A. Beaugard, 2122 Jersey Avenue, \$205,500.  
Jonathan L. Ginsberg to Kevin L. Whitmer and Regina DePeri, 5 Balmoral Lane, \$465,000.  
Dorothy H. Mueller to Andrew and Jill Weber, 1700 Oakwood Terrace, \$260,000.  
Kenneth Boff to David and Lisa Barattucci, 514 William Street, \$185,000.  
**FANWOOD**  
Edward Marchelitis to Robert Mullin, 37 Shady Lane, \$202,000.  
John Durante to John L. Ginsburg, 73 Montrose Avenue, \$225,000.  
James C. McLoughlin to Glenn Resnicoff and Judith M. Ribbitto, 87 Montrose Avenue, \$225,000.  
James M. Spencer to Jerome and Audrey Pereira, 26 Town Place, \$230,000.

Westfield Art  
2x5½