

Letters to the Editor

Community Thanked for Generosity During Dollars for Students Campaign

The 31st annual Dollars for Students Drive was conducted over the weekend of March 28 and 29 by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to the local students who participated in our drive, and also to the generous citizens of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who made their efforts a successful venture.

The moneys collected will be presented as scholarships to graduating high school students at the annual awards night, to be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on Thursday, May 21, and to college students on Friday, June 12, at our awards reception at All Saints Episcopal Church.

This year we have received 107 applications for assistance, which is our highest number ever. Twenty-four of these come from college students.

We look forward to announcing our own Dollars for Students recipients, as well as those students who will be receiving monies from the 17 additional funds that we maintain, and from the 20 pass-through funds which we administer. This year, we will be administering in excess of \$71,000.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our neighbors who so willingly continue to show the young people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that they value them and their effort to continue their education.

Scouts Thank Vicki's For Much Hospitality During Cookie Sale

The Girl Scouts in Troop No. 68 want to say thanks to Vicki's Diner for their gracious hospitality during our recent cookie booth sale. On a cold day, with sleet and rain outside, Vicki and her staff welcomed us inside, offered us hot chocolate and encouragement throughout the morning. They even set an example to others by being our first customers. As a result, we sold more boxes at this booth sale than any in previous years.

Vicki, thanks so much for making our sale a success!

Victoria Wicks
Cookie Coordinator
Girl Scout Troop No. 68

If you were not at home when our students stopped by, or if you did not receive a request through the mail but would like to support our efforts, please send your contribution in care of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P. O. Box 123, Fanwood, 07023.

Ellie Kramps
President
Scotch Plains-Fanwood
Scholarship Foundation

Don't Express Anger By Defeating Budget

On behalf of the Presidents' Committee of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council, I would like to urge voters to remember that a vote against the school budget hurts all of our children.

If your child has received an unfair grade, if there is a school policy you don't like, or if a change has been proposed that you object to, by all means express your opinion, but don't do it with a "no" vote. A defeat for the school budget can result in program cuts and less opportunity for all students. Please, don't take your anger into the voting booth.

Vote with a clear head, keeping in mind that our most precious resource is at stake: the future of our community's children.

Mary O'Connor
Corresponding Secretary
Presidents' Committee
Scotch Plains-Fanwood
PTA Council

Alexander J. Schmidt Named to Dean's List At St. Bonaventure

Alexander J. Schmidt, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Schmidt, Jr. of Westfield, has been named to the St. Bonaventure University, Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.25 or better, out of a possible 4.0, during the 1997 fall semester.

He is a sophomore majoring in education.

St. Bonaventure University is located in St. Bonaventure, New York.

School Budget Forum Scheduled for Monday

An open forum on the proposed 1998-1999 Scotch Plains-Fanwood school budget will be held this Monday, April 13, at 8 p.m. at the Community House, located at the Fanwood Train Station's north side parking lot.

The event is being sponsored by the Fanwood Republican Club, and the program is open to the general public.

Further information about this program may be obtained by calling Pat Lindsey at (908) 322-8801.

Workshop Scheduled On Combating Abuse and Addiction

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County (NCADD) is conducting a workshop entitled "Sexual Abuse, Addiction and Recovery" on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NCADD offices at 300 North Avenue, East, in Westfield.

The presenter, Alberta Montano-DiFabio, has conducted sexual abuse and addiction workshops in both the United States and Europe. She maintains a private practice in Fanwood and is part of the staff for the Union County Rape Crisis Center.

Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis, and pre registration is required. For further information and registration, please call (908) 233-8810.

Judge Dismisses Complaint; County GOP Head to Select Clark Candidates

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

Union County Superior Court Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr. dismissed a complaint Monday by Nelson Kornstein, the Republican Municipal Chairman of Clark, against Frank X. McDermott of Westfield, and the Regular Republican Organization of Union County.

The complaint had sought to block the county party from holding a screening process to select candidates for the Clark governing body to run under the county GOP line. Mr. Kornstein, whose term as Clark GOP Chairman expires in June, had designated Clark candidates to run on the county line.

The court hearing was rescheduled from Friday after the plaintiff was taken to Rahway Hospital complaining of chest pains. Judge Beglin reported that he spoke with Mr. Kornstein's physician to assure his capability to appear at Monday's hearing.

Judge Beglin asked Mr. Kornstein if he felt he could physically participate in the afternoon's proceedings. After answering affirmatively to the Judge, Mr. Kornstein apologized if he seemed groggy, as he had received a shot of morphine during his hospital stay.

Mr. Kornstein had filed a civil action against Mr. McDermott, Chairman of the Regular Republican Organization of Union County, claiming that it was unlawful to allow Mr. McDermott to overrule the Republican candidates that he (Mr. Kornstein) and his committee had selected last month to run the regular GOP line in the Tuesday, June 2, primary.

Additionally, Mr. Kornstein claimed that Mr. McDermott had no right to hold his own hearing to pick candidates for the primary election.

Mr. Kornstein was the only one out of the 21 Union County GOP Chairmen who did not receive an authorization letter from Mr. McDermott allowing candidates to run on the regular party line.

According to Frank Meese, Secretary of the GOP County Committee, after hearing many complaints by Clark Republicans, Mr. McDermott decided to take action by withholding the authorization of Mr. Kornstein to put candidates on the party line.

"If the municipal chair is not functioning in a manner that is termed fair, then the county chair can take over the responsibility," stated Mr. Meese.

Clark Councilman Ernest Spies reported that last year he wanted to run for the Clark Township Council but was not allowed to take part in the screening process conducted in the township. Mr. Spies won his seat on the council by running off the party line in the primary.

This was also true for Sal Bonaccorso, who had to run off the line for his council seat. Five seats on the seven-member governing body are held by Republicans, with four of them due to expire this year.

Judge Beglin ordered that the

county Republican Party had a right to govern itself by whatever internal mechanism it had in place. He ruled that he found no wrongdoing by Mr. McDermott and the Regular Republican Organization of Union County.

He also stated that Mr. McDermott's actions were a valid use of his position, and that he properly utilized his power as county GOP Chairman. He concluded that the court does not get into the legal process in which a political party elects its officers. He stated that "this is the internal affairs of that political party."

When asked about the court's dismissal, Mr. McDermott responded that "this is a matter of politics where the legislature and the courts have decided that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution grants freedom and association, thereby allowing the political parties to develop their candidates for primary election."

After court, Mr. Kornstein commented that he felt Mr. McDermott's actions "were illegal," and that the ruling "destroys the whole political system." He added that "this ruling will have repercussions within the entire county."

A meeting was held last night for Republican Clark council candidates to be selected for the primary election. The candidates will be placed on the June 2 primary election ballot.

Raggini
2 x 5 1/2

Calderone
2x2

Elm Tree
2x5

Maria's
2x3

Labon
2x5

Marc Media
3x3

J&M
3x7

Gleek & Rust
3x4