



# THE TIMES

of



## Scotch Plains – Fanwood

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FIFTYCENTS

### Five Township Residents Seek Two Seats on Board of Education; Richard R. Meade Unopposed in Reelection Bid for Fanwood Seat

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

The Tuesday, April 21, election ballot asks local residents to vote on the 1998-1999 Scotch Plains-Fanwood school budget and to select three representatives to the Board of

#### School Tab To Go Before The Voters

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has asked residents to approve a \$43,148,449 budget for the 1998-1999 school year when they go to the polls April 21 for the annual budget and school board election.

The proposed budget represents a 2.22 percent, or \$937,958 increase over 1997-1998. The increase falls well below the 3 percent cap on budget increases established by the State of New Jersey.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools rely heavily on local property taxes for 89.8 percent of the district budget. The state funds 7.5 percent of the budget.

It costs \$9,646 to educate one child for one year in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, according to the New Jersey School Report Card. This figure includes such costs as tuition, transportation, equipment, facilities/acquisition costs and the cost to send students out of district.

The state average per pupil expenditure is \$9,089.

Under the proposed spending plan, local taxes would rise \$1,325,335 or 3.54 percent over 1997-1998. On the average assessed home in Scotch Plains of \$115,000, the school tax increase would be 2.24 percent or \$80.50 annually.

In Fanwood, on the average home assessment of \$83,000, the school tax increase would be 4.01 percent or \$124.50 per year.

The tax increase is attributed to the absence of free balance (\$250,000 in the 1997-98 budget), a decline in miscellaneous revenues of 33.41 percent and an increase in debt service of 7.12 percent.

Debt service reflects the 1993 bond issuance for capital improvements.

The budget also includes a \$303,007 or 10.34 percent rise in unrestricted state aid, which brings that sum to \$3,233,964. Restricted state aid totals \$393,094. Other state and federal grants declined \$31,201 or 3.21 percent since last year.

The 1998-99 spending plan breaks down into the following program areas: salaries, \$28,856,613; health, \$4,354,229; tuition for out-of-district placements, \$2,281,282; state and federal aid, \$940,728; benefits \$874,910; debt service \$522,208 and other \$5,318,479.

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Education, two from Scotch Plains and one from Fanwood.

Five Scotch Plains residents are vying for three-year seats on the board, including incumbent Donald E. Sheldon, who presently serves as board President. The challengers are Jean McAllister, Lance Porter, Thomas Randazzo and Norman Ross. Scotch Plains holds seven seats on the nine-member board.

In Fanwood, Richard R. Meade is running unopposed for re-election.

Dr. Sheldon, a 30-year resident of the township, is seeking his third term on the board. He is serving his fifth year as board President. Now retired, he was employed by the school district for 23 years, first as Director of Guidance, then as Director of Special Services.

He said the strengths he brings to board service include "a background in education plus years of experience in other districts as well as Scotch Plains-Fanwood."

"There is a recognition of integrity," Dr. Sheldon added, "plus my commitment to do that which is best for all, recognizing the different views of the community."

Mrs. McAllister has lived in Scotch Plains for five years. With a professional background in investment and pension services, she holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Economics from Boston College.

Mrs. McAllister and her husband are the parents of two young children.

"My strengths are in the skills I have gained through formal education and professional experience," said Mrs. McAllister, who is making her second run for the board.

"I am the only candidate who has attended virtually all of the board's meetings, including the regular

monthly meeting, the agenda setting meetings and all of the special meetings held regarding this year's budget," Mrs. McAllister said.

"I am a listener who is continually sensitive to the public's input..." she added, "and I feel I have a unique perspective as the only mother of pre-school aged children running for a seat."

Mr. Porter, a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, has lived in the township since 1970. He and his wife have two children who attend Evergreen Elementary School.

Mr. Porter is employed as a Supervisor of Engineering at the General Motors plant in Linden.

"I have a lot of community ties," explained the candidate, whose father, the Reverend Kelmo C. Porter, Jr., is the Pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

"I'm a product of the system," he added, "so I'm familiar with the system."

As a business professional with a technical background, Mr. Porter said his experience with building and facilities management would be beneficial as the district addresses the challenge of repairing and expanding its own facilities in the years ahead.

He also said the experience of having college cooperative students working with him would help "bridge the gap between academic needs and business requirements."

Mr. Randazzo and his family have lived in Scotch Plains since July, 1996.

He and his wife are the parents of two pre-school children. He is Vice President of Ambac Assurance in Manhattan where he works in municipal and asset-based financing.

"I believe my background could help the board find different, more innovative financing structures," said

Mr. Randazzo.

Having worked professionally with school districts, Mr. Randazzo would like to see the board "accelerate the exploration of what expenses you can cut now that don't affect students."

Mr. Ross, who ran unsuccessfully for a board seat in 1997, is retired from a 30-year career teaching emotionally-disturbed children at Rahway High School.

He has three grown children who were educated through the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools. Mr. Ross has taught various adult school courses across New Jersey.

He admits the local adult school "is all I think about" with respect to school board interests and resents the fact that board policy limits public comment to two minutes per person.

Mr. Meade is an in-house attorney for AT&T in Basking Ridge. He has lived in Fanwood since 1992. First appointed to the board in 1994 to complete the term of James L. Martin, following the latter's resignation, Mr. Meade was named to his first full term in 1995.

In commenting on the potency of the present board, Mr. Meade said, "As individuals, we bring different strengths to the table. As a group, we're good at bringing out the best in each other."

"Discussion and disagreements occur, but they're done in a healthy way, with respect for each other," he added, "and the decisions we come up with are generally good ones."

Mr. Porter agreed that the board members "do have the ability to work together on most issues."

However, he added, "I do think the board could use more diversity as far as career backgrounds."

"It's healthy to have different views



Lance Porter



Dr. Donald E. Sheldon

Photos not available for Thomas Randazzo, Norman Ross or Richard R. Meade



Jean McAllister

and perspectives, especially when dealing with issues where there are no clear cut solutions," said Dr. Sheldon.

Mr. Randazzo believes the board needs "better communication of programs."

"They don't publicize what they're doing as much as they should," he said.

"Don't assume people will search for information. That information should be readily available," he added.

The candidate focused on the "account deficit" in the free balance portion of the budget.

"If they're drawing down that fund," he said, referring to the board's use of free balance over the past three years, "they should tell people where it's going. If there's a plan, what is it?"

Mrs. McAllister praised the "professional diversity of board members over the past few years" and the board's "becoming more demanding of the administration and of itself in the due diligence processes required when making critical decisions."

"The one weakness that stands out in my mind is the board's public image," she added. "The majority of the population does not understand how the board operates, its charter and how laws restrict its perceived effectiveness. There have been efforts to remedy the situation, but they have been the efforts of individuals on the board and not the board as a body," she explained.

"I would like to see improvement in the relationship the board has with the teachers," said Mr. Meade. "We should help them better understand what we do, and what our goals are."

"I would like the board to develop a relationship with the teacher's association as a group that focuses more on our common concerns for children rather than those areas where our interests diverge," he said.

The incumbent would particularly like to avoid prolonged negotiations such as those which occurred in the most recent contract talks. The teachers' present contract will expire June 30, 1998. Negotiations are underway.

Most of the candidates are supportive of the proposed 1998-1999 school budget of \$43,148,449 though Mr. Ross said he "would never vote

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### Grouping by Ability, Redistricting Among Candidates' Night Issues

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

During the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Candidates' Night, incumbents Dr. Donald E. Sheldon of Scotch Plains and Richard R. Meade of Fanwood (who is running unopposed), as well as Scotch Plains challengers Jean McAllister, Lance Porter and Thomas Randazzo, weathered the antics of perennial candidate Norman A. Ross to respond thoughtfully to questions regarding their credentials for board service, and their perspective on issues confronting the board.

Sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Council, and held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), the program can be viewed on Channel 34. SPFHS Junior States Association representatives timed candidates' responses.

With respect to grouping by ability, also known as leveling, candidates agreed it is a positive approach,

provided flexibility and consistency are built into the program.

Redistricting and moving the Board of Education offices out of Evergreen School were supported as options to managing class size. Mr. Porter credited the administration for placing aides in classes where the teacher is "overextended," due to the number of students.

Candidates with children in the school system said they could support redistricting even if it directly affected their own children.

When asked why the board did not pursue moving its offices from Evergreen sooner, Dr. Sheldon said, "In retrospect, we should have."

Mr. Meade said it would not have been appropriate to move the offices before now.

With respect to moving the pre-school program into Park Middle School, nearly every candidate believed the move, if made, should fit within the district's long-range fa-

ILITIES plan.

Senior citizen Otto Pickard supported the budget "because the value of my home is directly related to it."

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### Republicans Reveal Candidates For Township Council Vacancies

By JEANNE WHITNEY  
Specially Written for The Times

Candidates for three Scotch Plains Township Council seats must register by today, Thursday, April 9, for the Primary and General Elections which will be held Tuesdays, June 2 and November 3, respectively.

The Republican slate of candidates includes former Mayor and incumbent Councilman Robert E. Johnston, Board of Adjustment member Paulette Coronado, and local Realtor James Fawcett.

Democratic candidates — if any — for the slots went unnamed after local party leaders failed to respond to inquiries from *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* by press time yesterday.

Independent candidates must file with the county by the end of today. Council terms are for four years. The five-member body elects a Mayor from among themselves every year under the township form of government.

Republican candidates were culled from a field of eight hopefuls by local

committee members, according to Republican Committee Chairman and former township Mayor, Gabe Spera. Those chairing the election campaign for the Republican slate are Anthony Albanese and Nancy Malool, Legislative Aide to State Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine.

Mr. Spera described the Republican candidates as "fiscal conservatives" with an interest in "preserving open spaces" such as the former Scotch Plains Zoo property. The current all-Republican council has said it hoped

to purchase the 5.5 acres for a park. Long-time resident Mrs. Coronado said her first exposure to local issues was grappling with the effects of the so-called Mount Laurel decision over low-to-middle income housing quotas in 1985, as a member of the township Planning Board.

Mrs. Coronado was also a member of the state Board of Human Services from 1985 to 1990. She spent four years on the township Environmental Commission, and currently serves on

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### Fanwood Council Hears Updates On Downtown, Historic District

By SUZETTE STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

Officials heard back-to-back presentations concerning preservation of the community's economic and historic resources during the April 1 agenda session of the Fanwood Borough Council.

Jack Molenaar, Chairman of the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee and Vice Chairman of the Fanwood Planning Board, updated members of the council on continuing efforts to give the borough's business district an economic boost.

Mr. Molenaar revealed that his committee, comprised of about 10 members — many of whom have business or local government backgrounds — is seeking to organize a business association in Fanwood similar to the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association.

Such an organization, the committee feels, would encourage local merchants and professionals to meet more often and to work more closely in realizing goals for the business district, Mr. Molenaar said. He commented that members would also have an opportunity to be listed, by category, in a special planned brochure.

He also revealed that new benches and banners will be installed in the downtown this year, and that the FDRC

is finalizing plans regarding planters which will be placed in the area as well.

Mr. Molenaar added the FDRC also anticipates holding a "design workshop" in the summer for people to contribute their ideas for entryway

treatments to designate a particular section of the borough, such as the downtown.

He said he envisioned these treatments as being either signs or simply "architectural statements," noting

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DRUGS HURT KIDS...Brownie Troop No. 877 from Brunner Elementary School, Scotch Plains, recently had their work cut out for them. Purple ribbons were tied throughout the community to remind everyone that drugs and alcohol hurt kids.

#### Publisher's Note

Our staff at *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* hopes you enjoy this special "community awareness" issue to assist all citizens with their deliberations for the school board elections and the budget.

We have included profiles of candidates running for the Scotch Plains Township Council and the Fanwood Borough Council. We have additionally included columns by some of your elected officials which can be found on Pages B-8 and B-9.

If you're not a subscriber, we invite you to become a subscriber. By subscribing you will receive, each week, up-to-date coverage of issues and events in our communities. Please call us at (908) 232-4407 for information on becoming a subscriber, or fill out the subscription form on Page A-12.

Horace R. Corbin  
Publisher

### Candidates Launch Campaign for Seats On Fanwood Council

By RUSSELL R. WATKINS  
Specially Written for The Times

Issues such as tax relief, improved community services, and a rezoned downtown business district top the agendas of the four candidates who are seeking election to the Fanwood Borough Council this fall.

Two Republicans and two Democrats, who announced their candidacies this week prior to today's filing deadline for the June Primary Election, are vying for two open seats on the governing body.

These vacancies are currently held by Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz and Council President Bruce H. Walsh, both Democrats, whose seats expire at the end of this year.

Mr. Walsh, who has served three terms on the council since January of 1988, has announced that he will not seek reelection this year.

The Democratic nominees include Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, who is seeking her second term, and Katherine Mitchell, the Fanwood Democratic Committee Chairwoman, who previously ran for the

governing body in 1993. They will be challenged by Republicans David Trumpett, making his second bid for a seat on the governing body, and first-time candidate Will Coronato.

The Democrats are hoping to maintain their 4-3 edge on the council in the General Elections on Tuesday, November 3. Republicans need only to gain one seat to take control of the council. Currently, Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, a Democrat, is the tie-breaking vote.

Each candidate recently submitted a personal profile and spoke with *The Times* about the issues they hope to raise before the elections.

Councilwoman Schurtz, who resides on Chetwood Terrace with her husband and three daughters, currently chairs the council's Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee. She is also a member of the Public Safety and the Education, Health and Welfare Committees.

She has additionally served as a Liaison to the Planning Board, the

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## Residents Seek Three Seats On SP-F Bd. of Education

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for the budget," and Mr. Randazzo believes it falls short of what the district really needs.

"It's unrealistic," said Mr. Randazzo, "to have a free fund of \$12,000 on a \$43 million budget. That's cutting it thin." He equated the situation to someone with a \$40,000 annual salary having \$12 at the end of the year.

"We were reasonably successful in our commitment to contain costs for educating our kids," said Dr. Sheldon in commenting on the budget. "While this is the largest (tax rate) increase in recent years, it's still very conservative. We were able to maintain existing programs, and expand and improve in several areas."

"I think the budget should pass," said Mr. Porter. "The 3 percent increase keeps pace with inflation, and the board was fiscally responsible in keeping close to last year's budget."

"I think this is the most responsible budget this district has seen," added Mrs. McAllister. "When discussing the budget, the public has to realize that approximately 88 percent of the budget is comprised of salaries, benefits and health insurance for the district's employees. That leaves only 12 percent to the board's discretion."

If elected, the candidates list different priorities on their respective "To Do" lists.

"Our immediate priority is to deal with space limits at the elementary level," said Dr. Sheldon. "We will continue to review and revise the curriculum to see that it's aligned with the state core curriculum."

He added, "We should continue to emphasize professional development for staff to better utilize the curriculum and technology advancements."

"We need to continue on the good progress that's been made," said Mr. Meade, "on defining the curriculum and establishing curriculum guides. The new assessment materials (recently approved

by the board) offer an opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of what's working well in terms of delivering the curriculum and where areas of improvement lie."

He complimented Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. John R. Crews, saying "They've done a lot to lead us in the right direction in this effort."

Mr. Porter identified three priorities: "building and facilities; the cohesiveness of the board; and the major attrition of teachers."

"Re-staffing to maintain the standard of excellence in the district is of paramount importance," he said.

Mrs. McAllister wants to see financial data gathered to support the district's options regarding facilities management and enrollment projections.

"Clearly we need to know the cost of any change before we make the best possible decision on the nature of that change," she said.

A participant in the Language Arts/Social Studies Curriculum Review Committee, Mrs. McAllister would also "dedicate myself to learning all there is to learn about the other content areas and the options available that affect curriculum design and materials."

Mr. Ross would demand a "total investigation of the adult school program."

He suggested the board "cut or enhance the adult school as part of its effort to manage their portion of the budget better."

In addition, he would encourage attendance at meetings, elicit participation from senior citizens and students, and support "open discourse."

"I would make sure the district has a firm financial plan for the next five years," said Mr. Randazzo, "then let everyone know what that plan would be. There is no putting off a decision regarding cutting expenses, raising revenues or financing capital improvements."



Katherine Mitchell



David Trumpp



Karen M. Schurtz



Will Coronato

## Candidates Launch Their Campaign for Council Seats

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Fire Commission and the town's senior citizens.

Mrs. Schurtz, who has lived in Fanwood for 14 years, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from LaSalle University in Philadelphia and a Master of Arts Degree in Student Personnel Services from Kean University in Union.

She teaches religion part time at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains and is a member of the Campus Ministry team. The candidate is also a Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

As the municipal representative to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance Committee, Mrs. Schurtz has worked with local senior citizens and tried to raise public awareness on substance abuse.

The councilwoman noted that, as a member of the Borough Council, "you can't just wait for something to break down," before seeking a solution. A self-described "proactive" councilwoman, Mrs. Schurtz said she would like the council to discover more creative ways of accessing money at the state and county levels.

This, she pointed out, would reduce the local tax burden for community services.

Mrs. Schurtz would also like to attract more businesses to the downtown area by reforming the borough's zoning ordinance and amending the community's Master Plan. She also seeks to have the borough's Carriage House listed on the Register of Historic Places, thereby protecting the prominent downtown landmark.

Ms. Mitchell, a resident of Fanwood since 1954, currently lives on North Avenue. She is a registered nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey in Woodbridge.

The candidate also serves as the Treasurer of the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees. A founding member of the Fanwood Recycling Association, she has served as President, Vice President, and Secretary of the organization.

She also served on the Fanwood Environmental Commission from 1987 to 1995, and on the Earth Day Committee from 1991 to 1995.

Ms. Mitchell is active with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, where she is a Eucharistic Minister and serves as Social Concerns Coordinator, overseeing the parish's blood drive, homeless program and Thanksgiv-

ing Food Program, among other events. She is also a member of the Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults Team.

Efforts by *The Times* to contact the candidate by press deadline proved unsuccessful.

Mr. Coronato, a Fanwood resident since 1992, lives on Cray Terrace with his wife and two sons. A civil trial attorney with McDonough, Korn, Eichorn & Boyle in Springfield, Mr. Coronato is a member of the New Jersey and Union County Bar Associations.

He graduated magna cum laude in 1987 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and received his law degree from the same school in 1990.

Born in Brooklyn, but raised in Clark and Scotch Plains, Mr. Coronato has worked for former Governor Thomas H. Kean, former Congressman Matthew P. Rinaldo and current State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco.

The candidate said that, if elected, he wants to concentrate primarily on tax relief and borough services. "Taxes are too high — especially when you consider the services we receive, or rather, do not receive," he explained.

Mr. Coronato said he is also seeking elected office out of a sense of civic responsibility.

"I have been fortunate to live in a town like Fanwood and I want to give something back," he said.

Mr. Trumpp is again seeking a position on the Borough Council, after being narrowly defeated in his first effort last year. The candidate, who lives on Arlene Court, was born and raised in Fanwood and is the son of former Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp.

He is currently employed with the Marketing, Customer and Patron Service of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, a position he has held for three years.

Mr. Trump previously worked seven years with the United Way of Union County as Information and Referral Liaison. He is a 1986 graduate of Alfred University in Alfred, New York, and is in the market for his first home in Fanwood.

The candidate was out of town and could be reached for comment by *The Times*. However, former Mayor Trumpp, who is Fanwood Republican Municipal Chairman, said his son remains "shocked" at the high level of taxes residents must pay and would like to bring tax relief to residents, especially to young families and young couples.



SPREADING HOPE...Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains recently participated in the Daffodils for Hope Day, a nationwide fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Students were given the opportunity to buy a single flower or a pot of miniature Tete-A-Tete daffodils in remembrance of a friend or family member who died of cancer. Their names were also put on a scroll in the school lobby. Student Council officers who organized this project, pictured left to right, are: Jannell Andes, President; Regina Filus, Kathryn Rooney and Heather Vogel. The high school raised nearly \$500 through this spring's fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

## FANWOOD POLICE BLOTTER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**  
 • Michele Craig, 25, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and with refusal to take a breath test after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation on Terrill Road, according to police. She was released on her own recognizance.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**  
 • An employee of a Terrill Road service station reported that a motorist left the station without paying for \$17 worth of gasoline.

• John Pritchard, 49, of Plainfield was charged at the Fanwood Train Station with failure to pay his train fare, authorities said. He was issued a summons and released.

• Rahtesh Vance, 21, of Plainfield was charged with supplying false information to police following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Terrill Road, according to authorities. He was released on his own recognizance.

• A tire was reported stolen off of a vehicle at the south side train station, police said.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**  
 • A Farley Avenue resident reported the attempted theft of a 1991 Ford which was parked in front of the house during the night.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2**  
 • A 1987 Oldsmobile was reported stolen from the north side train station, according to police.

## SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2**  
 • A Front Street apartment was burglarized sometime during the day, during which a videocassette recorder was reported taken. Entry was gained by forcing open the front door, police said.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
 • An armed robbery took place at a Route No. 22 gas station, according to police. The attendant told authorities two men entered the station on foot and that one produced a small handgun and demanded money. An unknown amount of cash was taken.

## Republicans Reveal Candidates For Township Council Vacancies

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the Architectural Review Committee.

Mr. Fawcett was a founder of the annual Freddie Spencer Memorial Bicycle Race that raises money for the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. He serves on the Historic Preservation Committee and has lived in the township since 1981. He works with a local realtor in Westfield.

"We're fortunate that we can talk

### Architect Kevin Mason Named to Commission

Architect Kevin Mason was recently appointed by Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly to the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission for a four-year term.

The commission was established to help the borough identify historic resources and to advise all Fanwood agencies, property owners and citizens' groups regarding the techniques of historic preservation.

Mr. Mason, a local resident and a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from Columbia University. After working with firms in New York City, he established his local practice in 1991.

He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, AIA New Jersey and the National Historic Trust, and is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registrations Boards.

He also holds licenses from both New York and New Jersey.

about quality of life issues in Scotch Plains," he said, citing property values, education and other key topics.

"I hope to take what's good about the town and make it better, and what's not so good and improve it," Mr. Fawcett said.

Councilman Johnston is a retired oil company manager who served as township Mayor in 1995, when he won a council seat after being appointed to finish out a year of former Councilman George Brown's term.

In addition, he spent 17 years on the Planning Board, some of that serving as Chairman, according to Mr. Spera.

### Erratum

A story which appeared in the April 2 edition of *The Times* incorrectly identified Victoria Manduca as a member of the testing committee which created the tests for grades 1 and 2 in Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools.

Mrs. Manduca was a member of the assessment committee which explored alternative standardized tests to replace the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in the district.

It should also be noted that the board eliminated standardized testing in grade 2 in favor of a district-developed test. We regret the error.

## Fanwood Council Hears Update On Downtown, Historic District

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that rumble strips in the roadway could even be used to remind pedestrians to slow down as they enter the business district.

Other concepts supported by the FDRC are sidewalk cafes; a campaign to encourage merchants to maintain both the front and back areas of their businesses, and a partnership with the school district whereby students could create murals on blank walls in the downtown as an art project, according to Mr. Molenaar.

The second presentation to the council was made by Linda Sargent, Chairwoman of Fanwood's Historic Preservation Commission, who discussed a report the commission had recently received regarding the borough's historic resources.

The report was compiled by Nancy L. Zerbe, a professional architectural historian from Metuchen, who conducted a survey, funded by the borough, of 350 acres which had been known in the late 1800s as "Fanwood Park" before the area was designated as a borough in 1895.

Ms. Zerbe has identified a section of this acreage as a potential historic district and has recommended to the Historic Preservation Commission that the area be nominated for inclusion on state and national registers of historic districts, according to the commission chairwoman.

Mrs. Sargent said the proposed district involves "about eight or 10 streets" including sections of North and Martine Avenues, as well as others north of the Fanwood Train Station extending almost to the Scotch Plains border. She acknowledged that boundaries of the district would have to be established as part of the nomination process.

Placement on the state and national registers, the commission chairwoman explained, would not restrict private homeowners from making alterations to their homes.

It would, however, compel government agencies to review plans for road renovations or other projects before proceeding with the work, in order to evaluate the potential impact the work might have on historic resources in the community, Mrs. Sargent said.

She revealed that a key component in having the proposed historic district listed on state and national registers is a program of community education.

Toward that end, the commission is working with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district's Social Studies Supervisor on a plan to re-ignite interest in local history by incorporating it into the social studies curriculum.

Mrs. Sargent said the Historic

Preservation Commission is also discussing a proposed Internet web site with Fanwood Memorial Library Director Dan Weiss, which would feature photographs, documents and other memorabilia spotlighting Fanwood's history.

The commission received a Union County Educational Award for Historic Preservation for having sponsored a 1995 walking tour of Fanwood's historic area.

## School Tab To Go Before The Voters

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Other Expenses include: transportation, \$1,120,400; instructional supplies, \$1,726,210; non-instructional supplies \$645,520; maintenance, \$1,680,463; and capital outlay, \$145,886.

Board members emphasize they control approximately 10 percent or \$4,198,079 of the budget. Seventy-nine percent of the overall budget constitutes contractual obligations associated with salaries, benefits and health.

While maintaining existing instructional and extra-curricular programs, the proposed budget allows for several instructional improvements.

These include: \$50,000 for the English/Language Arts Cyclical Review; continuation of the cyclical review process in eight other subject areas; five new teaching positions; a second Pervasive Developmental Disorder class; two middle school distance learning labs; distance learning capabilities at Evergreen and Brunner Elementary Schools; and blueprints for the technological infrastructure at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Terrill and Park Middle Schools.

For 1998-99, the administration was charged with creating a spending plan based on the actual expenditures of prior years rather than budgeted amounts. The board believes the proposed budget more accurately reflects line by line spending, and includes guidelines for a higher degree of accountability.

Seventy-five percent of the district's 4,302 students come from Scotch Plains, while the remaining 25 percent reside in Fanwood. District schools actually serve 4,234 students. The balance of 68 children attend school out-of-district or receive bedside instruction. These figures reflect the district's official enrollment as of October 15, 1997.

## Ability, Redistricting Among Issues on Candidates' Night

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He expressed concerns about the possible "dumbing down" of a district like Scotch Plains-Fanwood under state spending guidelines for education.

All candidates agreed interaction between the board and the youth of the community was important. Mr. Randazzo suggested use of the Internet as a possible vehicle.

Frances Gonzalez asked if teachers should instruct students in general history or black history during February, traditionally designated as Black History Month. Candidates Meade, Sheldon, McAllister and

Porter concurred that black history would be better incorporated into the regular curriculum all year long.

Mr. Ross's comments focused on the salary of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye, the community adult school program, his lack of support for the budget, and the two-minute time limit on comments at board meetings.

Other questions addressed board shortcomings, standardized testing, promoting a melting pot in the schools, incumbents' proposals to reduce overcrowding and hiring minority teachers.

### Library Announces Health Screenings, Guest Speaker Visits

The Healthy Avenues van will be parked in front of the Fanwood Memorial Library, at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, on Wednesday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for free blood pressure screenings and on-the-spot cholesterol screenings for a \$10 fee.

That evening at 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs program room, the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library will sponsor a program on cruciverbalism (crossword puzzles).

Richard Hughes, whose own puzzles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Star Ledger*, will discuss the art of constructing and solving crossword puzzles, as well as the history of American crossword puzzles.

Participants will receive handouts of sample grids to try their hand at their own puzzle making, and some of the best puzzles of other constructors.

On Thursday, April 23, Edwin Aaron, who was the proprietor of the Fanwood Pharmacy from 1947 to 1996, will visit the library from 7 to 8 p.m.

He will discuss "Pharmacy Past and Present," including medications and their side effects and interactions, and afterwards will conduct a question-and-answer period.

Previously, he had taught chemistry and served as University Tutor at the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, and also served as Director of Pharmacy at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside for five years.

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