



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

of



FANWOOD

Scotch Plains – Fanwood

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HONORED MUSICIANS...Nine students from Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains won coveted places in the Central Jersey Music Educators' Association (CJMEA) Regional Band this winter. The students will perform in the CJMEA's Region Band Concert on Sunday, March 28, at Manalapan High School. Pictured, left to right, are: back row, Kristen Wuest (flute), Greg Mathews (trombone), Mike Gleason (trumpet), Bruce Smith (French horn); front row, Malina Milonnet (clarinet), Nisha Tamhankar (clarinet), Sarah VanWagner (French horn) and Elizabeth Pilkington (clarinet).

Township Zoning Bd. Examines Proposal For Assisted Care Facility Near YMCA

By DEBORAH L. MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

There was standing room only at the March 4 Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment meeting, as residents showed up to oppose plans for a nursing home on land adjacent to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA on Martine Avenue.

Approximately 60 residents turned out to voice their concerns regarding the proposal to build Magnolia Gardens, a multi-care, assisted living-nursing home facility. Lapid Laurel, LLC, based in Mt. Laurel, N.J. has applied to the board of adjustment to build Magnolia Gardens.

Currently, there are two single-family homes on this site, which will be razed in order to make way for the two-story, 27,495-square-foot, 95-bed facility.

Dr. Steven Crystal, author of several books on the housing needs of the elderly and Research Chairman of Rutgers University's Division on Aging, was called on as an expert witness by the applicant's attorney, William Butler of Westfield.

Dr. Crystal cited numerous studies that indicate the emergent need for multi-care dwellings of this type in order to fulfill the housing needs of the ever-growing elderly population. He also testified that a residential neighborhood would be the appropriate place for this type of facility.

Dr. Crystal explained how assisted living care differs from nursing home care, and how this type of multi-care facility would have the flexibility to accommodate the changing needs of the residents, thereby eliminating the trauma of frequent moving that often plagues the elderly population.

He indicated that this particular facility would house 60 assisted living residents who may need some personal care assistance, such as help with dressing, bathing or moving around, as well as 35 nursing home residents who may need more intensive personal care.

He explained that the typical assisted living resident at this type of facility would most likely be female, in her 80s, and frail but ambulatory. To provide an environment similar to independent living, the 60 assisted living units would have private bathrooms, locked doors and private cooking areas.

Most residents would need assistance with medication, meal preparation and transportation. Congregate meals would also be provided. Most residents would not drive.

The 35 nursing home residents may be ambulatory, in wheelchairs or bedridden, and would require varying degrees of personal care. Most of the facility's residents would come from the surrounding areas.

Dr. Crystal explained that some services would most likely be provided in-house, such as medication supervision, physical therapy and recreational activities. Other services, such as podiatry, dental and eye care, would be provided by visiting professionals from the community.

When asked how the facility would benefit the surrounding community, Dr. Crystal responded that residents of Magnolia Gardens may also be placed in the area, while local families would also have the opportunity for their aging loved ones to live nearby.

During Dr. Crystal's testimony, Mr. Butler requested that board attorney Anthony Rinaldo, Jr. admonish the audience not to vocalize their disapproval.

Board of Adjustment member Frank Rossi asked Mr. Butler and Dr. Crystal if the applicant had looked into any existing facilities within a five-mile radius to determine if they might not satisfy the existing nursing home needs of the community.

Dr. Crystal stated that the 35 pro-

posed nursing home beds were slated as replacement beds for current nursing home patients, whose transfer was deemed necessary and verified by the state's issuance of a Certificate of Need to the applicant.

Mr. Rinaldo asked if Dr. Crystal had been to the nursing home site from which the existing patients were slated for transfer, to determine if, in fact, there was a need for such a transfer. Mr. Butler objected to these questions on the basis that the Certificate of Need permits this transfer and verifies the existing need.

Keith Gillman, a resident of Brandywine Court, pointed out that the Certificate was granted on an expedited basis. He said it merely required an application, did not go before the Department of Health or the Department of Community Affairs, and that land use issues were not considered by the issuing agency, somewhat discrediting the validity of this Certificate.

Mr. Butler objected several times during Dr. Crystal's cross-examination, arguing that some questions had previously been answered, some were inappropriate for the witness, and some statements were irrelevant to the matters at hand.

These included questions regarding health insurance costs to the incoming residents, and methods of payment for their residency.

Dr. Stephen Shoemann, a neighborhood resident and an attorney,

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Township Woman Is Sentenced To Three Years for 1996 Crash

By KIM KINTER
Specially Written for The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — A Scotch Plains woman has been sentenced to three years in prison and fined \$1,150 stemming from a 1996 crash that killed a New York couple and seriously injured two of their children.

Kathleen Lautenklos, 34, formerly of Watchung and now of Scotch Plains, was sentenced March 5 by Superior Court Judge Timothy J. Sullivan, sitting in Hackensack in Bergen County. She is in the Bergen County Jail awaiting assignment to a New Jersey State Prison facility by the State Department of Corrections.

She was sentenced to the maximum prison term for two counts of assault by auto, according to Assistant Bergen County Prosecutor John Higgins.

The crash occurred on Thanksgiving Day in 1996.

Lautenklos had been working with a skeleton crew at a software company, where evidence shows she had been drinking alcohol, Mr. Higgins explained. She left at about 2 p.m. and struck a disabled car parked in

the shoulder on I-95 South.

The crash claimed the lives of Marion and William Holly. The couple's daughter, LaQuinta, lost her leg and their son, Jivon, sustained serious internal injuries, Mr. Higgins said. Another child and grandmother in the family escaped serious injury.

Lautenklos was given a blood alcohol level test and subsequently was indicted on two counts of manslaughter and vehicular homicide, according to Mr. Higgins.

In a trial that concluded in December, however, Lautenklos was acquitted of manslaughter and vehicular homicide in connection with the 1996 crash. She was convicted on a lesser charge of two counts of assault by auto, the assistant prosecutor explained.

"The jury concluded she had caused serious bodily injury, but did not recklessly cause death," Mr. Higgins said.

The December trial received attention from local Bergen County press and was marked by questions about the credibility of the state's lead in-

vestigator, a state trooper who was indicted on charges of unrelated official misconduct. Members of the family of the deceased couple have claimed publicly that Lautenklos was acquitted because the issue of the state trooper's credibility became such a focus throughout the trial.

Lautenklos' attorney, Brian Neary, of Hackensack, could not be reached for comment.

Dean Oil Property Applicants to Reduce Planned Apartment Units by 33 Percent

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

One of the developers seeking to build residential apartments on the former Dean Oil site in Fanwood confirmed Monday that he and his partner intend to reduce the number of planned units by 33 percent — though he denied the decision was in response to public opposition to their

initial proposal.

John D. Mollozzi and Vincent Bontempo, applying as LaGrande Realty Associates, LLC, recently petitioned the Fanwood Planning Board for permission to erect a three-story building containing 36 two-bedroom rental units at LaGrande Avenue and Second Street. Plans also called for 54 parking stalls in the building's lot.

The applicants have an option to purchase the acre-and-a-quarter property, which has been vacant since Dean Oil shut down its operations there a decade ago. The site was subsequently cleaned of contaminants which had seeped into the soil from underground storage tanks once located there.

A hearing on the apartment complex application was postponed February 24 after about 100 people turned up at the Planning Board meeting, exceeding the permitted capacity of the room. It has been rescheduled for

Thursday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Park Middle School in Scotch Plains.

Area residents have protested that the planned building constitutes overdevelopment of the property, and would have a negative impact on quality of life in the vicinity. Some also feel commercial development of the lot would be more beneficial in terms of tax rates.

Mr. Mollozzi told *The Times* he and Mr. Bontempo are now looking to construct a two-story building with 24 units on the site, which is situated across from LaGrande Park in a general-commercial zone.

They require a use variance since apartments are presently not a permitted use in that zone, and several other variances were also sought in their initial proposal.

Planning Board Secretary Ruth Page acknowledged receipt of a letter from Mr. Mollozzi regarding the applicants' plans to adjust their pro-

posal, and Mr. Mollozzi said he and his partner expect to submit revised plans to the board soon.

Mr. Mollozzi remarked that he and his fellow applicant opted to modify their proposal for a number of reasons, noting that the new version

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Fanwood Council Debuts Budget With No Municipal Tax Increase

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

For the third time in five years, Fanwood's governing body presented a municipal spending plan last week that calls for no increase in the borough portion of residents' tax bills.

Introduced at a special meeting following the Borough Council's March 3 agenda session, the total \$5,651,321 tab includes \$5,317,321 in salaries and operating costs, plus \$334,000 in reserve for uncollected taxes.

The budget, in addition to funds set aside for uncollected taxes, reflects salaries and wages, other expenses, deferred charges and other appropriations, capital improvements and debt service.

With the flat municipal tax rate, borough residents will continue to pay \$1.40 per \$100 of assessed value on their homes. The average home in Fanwood is assessed at \$83,000, with a market value of between \$190,000 and \$210,000.

This year's spending plan will be supported with \$3,069,559 in real estate taxes, with the balance funded through grants, according to Council President and Administration and Finance Committee Chairman William E. Populus, Jr.

Municipal taxes represent 22 percent of residents' total bill, with school taxes assuming 61 percent and county taxes comprising the final 17 percent.

Council members also passed a resolution canceling unexpended balances amounting to \$65,622.26 from previous ordinances, which will be reallocated to fund capital projects in 1999. Using these funds to offset capital expenditures helped bring in the flat budget, officials said.

Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly praised municipal department heads for their efforts in helping keep costs down. Mr. Populus also commended Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern and Chief Financial Of-

ficer Barbara Brennan for identifying the unexpended balances that were ultimately reallocated to defray capital costs.

"With so few ratables, it's a challenge every year to keep the tax rate to a minimum," remarked the Mayor, who called keeping taxes low "the greatest thing" the governing body can do for Fanwood residents.

"Not only have we kept it (the 1999 budget) flat, but we didn't have to sacrifice any services. I think that's good news for the public," Mayor Connelly added. The budget is scheduled to be formally adopted on Monday, April 5.

Officials had previously delivered flat budgets in 1995 and again in 1997. Last year's adopted \$5.5 million spending plan reflected a 2 percent increase over the previous year's amount.

At the agenda session immediately preceding the special meeting, Borough Attorney Dennis Estis voiced concerns over certain aspects of the Union County Improvement Authority capital lease program through which the borough hopes to acquire

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Board of Elections Reps Present New Voting Machines to Council

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The next time Scotch Plains residents vote in an election, they'll be casting their ballots in modern, computerized machines that are replacing the familiar, decades-old devices

in which voters pulled levers for the candidates of their choice.

Officials from the Union County Board of Elections demonstrated the new machines, which have already been used in four county towns, including Westfield and Fanwood, at Tuesday night's Township Council meeting.

The new machine utilizes touch pads rather than levers as the mode of selecting candidates. Another difference is that candidates' names for each office are listed vertically rather than horizontally, with green lights indicating when a choice is made. The new machines also allow for changes in selection before a red button is touched to complete the voting process.

In addition, the machines' screen tilts forward to allow wheelchair-bound voters the opportunity to easily cast a ballot.

In other business, the council approved a bond ordinance to finance the capital portion of a lighting project at the Scotch Plains Public Library. Officials also approved a resolution accepting receipt of a state grant for renovations to the interior of the library.

Officials also okayed a resolution authorizing Scotch Plains to participate in a Union County program with NUI Energy Solutions Inc. that will,

according to Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr., "explore cheaper energy for the township" through various energy conservation projects.

Separately, the council approved special use permits allowing Extreme Cuisine on Park Avenue to place tables and chairs on the sidewalk outside its premises, Congregation Beth Israel to hold an off-premise raffle in June, and St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church to hold raffles in September.

Mayor Geri M. Samuel appointed Robert Finke, Steven Greenspan and John Morgan to the Technology Advisory Committee. She also proclaimed the month of March as Middle Level Education Month, singling out Park and Terrill Middle Schools in Scotch Plains for their contributions to middle school education.

Democratic Councilman Franklin Donatelli was absent from the meeting. The council's next regular session will take place on Tuesday, March 23, when officials have anticipated that their 1999 municipal budget will be introduced.

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William A. Burke for The Times

GOING FOR THE GOLD...Sixteen-year-old Monica Anderson, a member of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girl Scout Troop No. 561 and a junior at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, surveys the Health and First Aid Seminar which she organized as her Gold Award project. The event was held last Saturday at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains. The Gold Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Girl Scouts.

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Zoning Board Examines Assisted Care Facility

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asked Dr. Crystal if he knew of any other comparable facilities in residential neighborhoods to validate the appropriateness of Magnolia Gardens' placement.

Dr. Crystal cited the numerous group homes that have been created in residential neighborhoods to de-institutionalize developmentally disabled citizens, as well as multi-care facilities of this type in Massachusetts.

Dr. Shoemann stated that he was present at this meeting only to represent himself, as a neighborhood resident, but that he would file a lawsuit should this application be approved.

John Quinn of Fenimore Drive expressed the contention of many of his neighbors that the proposed location was not the ideal site for this facility.

Mike Brady of Inverness Drive asked Dr. Crystal about the number of ambulances that might be called to the facility in any given period of time. Dr. Crystal replied that he did not have any such statistics.

Irene Karpf, a local resident, asked if the facility would be using the township's rescue squad or if the facility would provide private ambulance service.

Dr. Crystal repeatedly reminded the public that this facility was like any other residential dwelling in the community, and would most likely utilize community services.

Other concerns voiced by both board members and local residents involved the average number of visitors on a daily basis; service providers and deliveries, which Mr. Butler pointed out would be addressed by traffic experts slated to testify later during the hearing process.

Mr. Butler then called on Julius Szalay, a civil engineer with Menlo Engineering, the firm that designed the site plans. Using a four-color diagram, Mr. Szalay showed the board and the audience the layout and landscaping of the proposed site, and how it would affect those parcels of land as well as surrounding lots.

Mr. Szalay described how landscaping, including numerous trees and shrubbery, would be provided in order to buffer the site and help it blend in with the neighborhood. He explained that the site comprises four and a half acres, of which only 15 percent will be utilized by the proposed structure.

Roughly, 33 percent is covered by unusable wetlands to the rear of the proposed facility.

There will be 17 parking spaces in the front of the facility running along Martine Avenue. A six-foot-high, decorative brick wall with decorative pillars would partially hide these parking spaces from view. A 32-square-foot sign would be placed at the driveway's entrance on Martine Avenue.

Separate variances would need to be obtained for both the wall and the sign. Mr. Szalay and Mr. Butler assured the board and others in attendance that the sign would not be internally or externally illuminated.

There would be 23 parking spaces running along the south side of the facility adjacent to the YMCA property, for a total of 40 spaces. Mr. Szalay told the board that these spaces have been deemed as adequate to accommodate visitors as well as staff.

Decorative gas-type lighting fixtures would be used throughout the property to offer the least obtrusive lighting, while still fulfilling the state's minimum requirements for outdoor illumination.

There would be one 150 watt light to illuminate the back patio, which Mr. Szalay claimed should not be obtrusive nor spill into anyone else's property. He cited the sufficient number of trees, as well as the nearest house being at least 250 feet behind the proposed structure, to support his testimony.

Mr. Szalay said that members of his staff met with Scotch Plains Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis to discuss what fire regulations should be incorporated into the applicant's site plan. Some of the revisions requested by Chief Ellis included relocation of the existing fire hydrants, adequate radius of fire lanes, and sufficient ground support to withstand the weight of emergency equipment and vehicles.

Mr. Szalay stated that all of these requirements have been satisfied and

written into the revised plans. He also stated that existing sewers and utilities are available, and that all necessary permits will be acquired.

The engineering firm of Ferraro Engineers has been retained by the board to review the site plans proposed by Menlo Engineering. In a memorandum dated January 6 from Paul Ferraro to Mr. Rinaldo, the former cited several revisions needed in order to insure that the site structurally complies with regulations.

When asked by board Vice Chairman Thomas Barth if all of these structural revisions raised by Mr. Ferraro in his memorandum had been satisfied, Mr. Szalay said that his firm would be meeting with the Ferraro team again to guarantee that they were.

Other concerns voiced by board members, as well as residents, focused on whether fire lanes were adequate to accommodate large pumps and ladder trucks, and whether there was sufficient turn-around space or if these trucks would have to back out.

Mr. Szalay explained that he designed the plans according to Fire Chief Ellis's specifications, and that he would check with him again to insure that all specifications had been met.

When asked if the front parking area could be moved to the rear of the building, Mr. Szalay said that this was not possible due to the non-usability of the existing wetlands.

Concerns were also raised over future utilization of the single-family home lot located at the corner of Fenimore and Martine Avenues, which the applicant has an agreement with the owner to purchase. Mr. Butler assured the board that this lot would remain a single-family home, even if purchased by the applicant, and no future attempt would be made to expand onto this lot.

Harold Maltz of Hamal Associates, retained by the board as its traffic expert for the application, voiced his concerns that there were numerous traffic-flow hazards involved in the site design. He suggested numerous changes to correct these flaws.

Cited as a traffic-flow problem was the six-foot decorative wall, which he said could obstruct drivers' field of vision between cars backing out and pulling in. He also felt there was a potential for head-on collisions as cars maneuvered around an island located directly in front of the driveway's entrance.

Mr. Maltz also questioned what he described as the inadequacy of the turn-around space in the fire-lanes for emergency vehicles.

Paul Paparella, Chairman of the Scotch Plains Environmental Commission, expressed his concerns over how the drainage directed to Martine Avenue may compromise the integrity of the wetlands behind the facility.

Mr. Butler objected to these questions, stating that the plan had been approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Other concerns brought forth by residents included the issue of whether foliage would block outdoor lighting, as well as traffic congestion, noise created by outdoor generators, and whether water pressure was adequate to accommodate numerous bathrooms in the facility.

Mr. Szalay said that a water pressure volume study would be done to determine if water pressure was adequate or if other modifications would need to be made.

The board scheduled two additional meetings on the application for Monday, March 15, and Wednesday, March 24, with a tentative final meeting on Tuesday, March 30, if needed.

Normally, the board has 120 days from the original date of the filing of the application, which in this case would be November 8, 1998, in which to hear a case and vote. However, due to the extensive amount of testimony and expert witnesses required in this case, a continuance has been granted which will be extended no later than Thursday, April 1.

Traffic experts and other witnesses are slated to testify on March 15. There will also be more opportunities for residents to voice their concerns and ask questions.

Dean Oil Applicants Seek Reduction In Apartments

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will address concerns expressed by various municipal agencies regarding the tentative project.

He said reducing the number of apartments would enable LaGrande Realty Associates, LLC to comply with state standards requiring two parking stalls per two-bedroom unit, while providing an additional four stalls beyond what is prescribed. Two spaces will be cut from the original total, he explained.

By eliminating two stalls, he maintained the proposed complex would meet the 15-foot side yard setback requirement on the Second Street side of the corner lot. In addition, he said scaling back the scope of the project would also mean less intense use of the property, and bring the height of the building under 35 feet.

Mr. Molozzi stated he believed that public opposition to the plan had been fueled by rumors the apartment complex would contain affordable housing units, which he insisted are not part of the plan. He described the proposed units as "luxury garden apartments" that would rent for between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per month.

A group known as Fanwood Citizens for Responsible Development (FCRD), which has opposed development of the property for apartments, issued a statement this week saying that while it is

pleased the applicants have decided to reduce the number of units, it remains wary of the overall concept at that location.

FCRD member Tom Ryan remarked in the statement that "we are still concerned about the effects of adding such dense housing to our community."

"We envision that adding this many apartments will severely strain our schools, streets, parking and recreational facilities, and will add further work for Fanwood's fire and rescue volunteers," he continued.

Mr. Molozzi argued that the building would generate much less traffic on a daily basis than a commercial development. He said he and his partner planned to market the apartments to working individuals and couples, and predicted that not of all of them would own cars since the site is within walking distance of the Fanwood Train Station.

The applicant did not feel the apartment building would result in a significant influx of students into the school system, saying people with school age children would typically purchase homes rather than apartments.

He also said Mr. Bontempo had spoken with area merchants who expressed concern that commercial development of the property would hurt existing businesses.

Scotch Plains Residents Want Birds to Fly Away

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A consensus appeared to develop around a broader pyrotechnics campaign that would, in one resident's words, "disperse rather than relocate" the flock.

The major issue with pyrotechnics is the noise level, although it was pointed out that the effort would take place evenings between 7:30 and 9 p.m.

Mayor Geri M. Samuel asked that a plan be developed that will go into effect in July, when the birds arrive for their three to four month stay.

Mayor Samuel also asked Mr. Snyder to see if any federal or state grant money was available to help with the cost of any bird dispersal program. Last year's effort cost about \$4,000 for the five days it was in effect.

Mr. Snyder said he felt that an "extensive one-week program should be effective" in ridding the neighborhood of the birds. He promised the Council to

have a solution ready for its approval by the end of March or beginning of April.

In other matters discussed at the conference meeting last week, the Council announced it will receive a \$100,000 reimbursement from the state for clean-up costs associated with the fierce storm that hit the township on Labor Day.

The state's assistance will reduce the Township's \$240,000 cost to \$140,000.

In addition, the township will use a separate \$50,000 state grant for library improvements, primarily new furnishings. This is being done in conjunction with new carpeting and new lighting being installed at the library.

Mayor Samuel said the Technology Advisory Committee is recommending the installation of a new telephone system at Township Hall, as well as Internet and cable lines linking Township Hall, the Police Department and Fire Department with e-mail capabilities.

Enchantments Announces Special Anniversary Events

FANWOOD — Enchantments, a gift boutique located on South Avenue in Fanwood, is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Owned by Helen Ling, who began her career working for a large jewelry retailer in New York, the establishment features unusual gifts, jewelry and keepsakes. The store's inventory ranges from antique reproduction jewelry to contemporary pre-trends. Staff assistance and free gift wrap is available.

Enchantments has also sponsored the Little Miss Fanny Wood Contest, donated prizes and baskets to local schools, and is currently assisting the homeless through the sale of nonprofit designer pines.

The store will kick off its Anniversary Celebration Festival this month, with special events planned for Saturdays at either Enchantments or Enchantments, Too!, the

expanded party goods shop adjacent to the original store. The schedule is as follows:

• March 13 — "Bride's Day" with a demonstration of how to make wedding favors.

• March 20 — "Anniversary Day," featuring ideas on how to mark the special event.

Enchantments will sponsor a special drawing for all couples celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in 1999, and every day the shop will give any child celebrating a 10th birthday a special gift.

Special gift events will be sponsored later in the year featuring Mary Engelbriet, Grandmother's Button Jewelry and other merchandise.

For more information about Enchantments' Anniversary Celebration Festival, please call (908) 322-6161, or visit the store.

FANWOOD POLICE BLOTTER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

• Esmond Sutherland, 54, of Jersey City was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation on Park Avenue just south of Second Street, authorities said. Sutherland was released on his own recognizance.

• An incident of criminal mischief was reported, in which a parked van was struck with a paint ball while parked in the 50 block of Chetwood Terrace.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

• A Scotch Plains resident reported to police that she was struck with a paint ball thrown from a passing motor vehicle while talking with a friend in a driveway in the 200 block of Terrill Road.

The victim described the vehicle as gray or green in color and possibly a 1999 Honda. Police are uncertain whether the incident was related to one the previous day in which a van was struck with a paint ball.

SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

MONDAY, MARCH 1

• A Park Avenue business reported that someone had partially disassembled an entrance door. Entry to the office was not gained. The incident occurred some time over the weekend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

• Paul Hopping, Jr., 42, of Edison was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

• Burglary to a residence on Essex

Road was reported. The incident occurred some time during the previous several days. The resident returned home and found a rear door forced open. At this time, it was unknown who may have been taken.

• A vehicle was reported scratched while parked in the parking lot of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

• The theft of four tires from a vehicle parked on Country Club Lane was reported. The resident returned home and found the vehicle on concrete blocks.

Fanwood Budget Debuts With No Tax Increase

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several vehicles and other pieces of equipment for the municipality.

The program, in which several towns may finance capital purchases at a low rate ensured by the county's Triple A bonding, permits the authority to retain title for the equipment until all payments are made by the participating communities.

Mr. Estis said he wanted clarification on several points related to the lease agreement, such as the length of the lease and how communities involved might be impacted if one of the towns should default on payments.

Fanwood seeks to acquire a new dump truck, two police cars, a fire truck, an emergency generator for the rescue squad, police department firearms and additional equipment for Channel 35 through the Improvement Authority program.

Under other business, it was revealed that Fanwood has received certified local government status from the state. Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz said this designation will put the borough in a better position to apply for and receive grants which can be used for historic preservation.

Officials are continuing to look at the prospect of having a historic district in Fanwood included on both the state and national registers of historic districts.

Finally, officials confirmed that a volunteer fair organized by the Fanwood Community Assessment Committee will be part of the borough's annual Earth Day festivities on Saturday, April 24.

Representatives from local groups such as the fire department and rescue squad,

as well as volunteer boards and commissions, are invited to participate in the event, which will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community House at the Fanwood Train Station.

The purpose of the fair will be to familiarize residents with various volunteer opportunities in the borough, and to encourage more people to offer their services. It will follow the borough's annual community cleanup, which will take place that morning.

Arts Association

Slates Demonstration

SCOTCH PLAINS — Burton Longenbach will demonstrate oil painting techniques on Wednesday, March 17, at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Railway Station on North Avenue.

The demonstration will be of a still life arrangement on a toned ground, in contrast to the white background usually used. The artist will explain his methods and techniques as the painting develops.

He received his professional education at Kutztown State University and Columbia University. He instructed and supervised art education in the Cranford Public School system.

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association sponsors this free program for the public. For more information, please contact Thomas Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

Students from Israel Visit With High School Classes

SCOTCH PLAINS — Two high school students from Israel are visiting Union County through Sunday, March 7.

The purpose of their visit, which is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey and the Israeli Consulate in New York City, is to introduce Israeli high school students to their American counterparts in order to acquaint Americans with the life of young people in Israel.

The students, one male and one female, both 17 years of age, will talk about their lives in Israel, as well as general aspects of social and political life including relations between different faiths, ethnic groups including Arabs, and the Israeli-Arab peace process.

The students will speak to International Affairs classes from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. today, Thursday, March

4, at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains.

They will address Social Sciences classes tomorrow, Friday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon at Plainfield High School, and talk to students at Westfield High School from 12:25 to 2:45 p.m.

The visitors from Israel met yesterday with Social Science and History classes at Elizabeth High School.

The principals of the different schools welcome students from other countries to address their schools since it provides an opportunity for the young people to exchange ideas and ask questions, according to Dr. Luis Fleischman of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

For further information, please call Dr. Fleischman at the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey office, (908) 889 5335, Extension No. 325.

Resolve Board Announces Addition of Brian Kelleher

SCOTCH PLAINS — Resolve Counseling Center, Inc., a non-profit mental health agency, has announced the addition of Brian F. Kelleher of Scotch Plains to its Board of Directors.

Mr. Kelleher is a senior management executive with experience in creative and multimedia environments. He holds over 25 years of experience in finance, administration, business affairs, licensing, royalty accounting and marketing with companies such as Polygram, CBS Records, Sony and MCA/Seagrams.

Mrs. Judith Dillon, Board President, stated, "With Mr. Kelleher's experience and expertise in big business, Resolve's Board of Directors will be reinforced with someone who has been involved with troubleshooting and an entrepreneurial style. Resolve will definitely benefit with Brian's participation."

"We are very fortunate to have someone like Brian, who has an enormous wealth of knowledge in business and financial affairs, volunteer his time and energy to Resolve. We look forward to a long relationship."

Mr. Kelleher is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Fordham Univer-

sity. He has been a Scotch Plains resident since 1978. He, and his wife, Nancy, are the parents of three sons. Resolve serves individuals and families on a sliding scale basis.

VFW Announces

Essay Winners

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10122 of Scotch Plains-Fanwood and its Ladies Auxiliary recently sponsored the local VFW Youth Essay Contest for seventh, eighth and ninth grade students.

The theme for this year's contest was "What Freedom Means To Me." Students were required to write an original essay between 300 and 400 words.

Chairpersons Olga Bruce and Joe McCourt have announced the winners: First Place: David Campbell - Park Middle School/eighth grade; Second Place: Jessica Bering - Mount Saint Mary Academy/ninth grade; Third Place: Arthur Silber - Park Middle School/eighth grade.

Each winner will be presented with a U.S. Savings Bond and a Certificate of Merit at an awards ceremony.

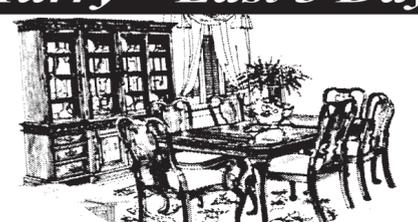
David Campbell was declared the second place winner in the VFW District No. 5 (Union County) contest. He will be presented with awards by the District No. 5 staff.

HARDEN SALE



Semi-Annual HARDEN Furniture Sale

Hurry — Last 3 Days



Mackie Furniture

— Est. 1892 —

320 Somerset Street, North Plainfield
(908) 756-3274

Featuring: Harden • Nichols & Stone • Stiffel • Lexington
Mon-Sat 10 to 5:30 - Thursday until 8pm - Closed Wed



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...Enchantments, a boutique offering gifts, jewelry and keepsakes, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Pictured, left to right, are: Helen Ling and Joan Bonner of Enchantments with two young customers, Victoria Fosdal and Andrew Funcheon.

Fanwood TV-35 Weekly Schedule March 12-18

Friday, March 12, 8:00 P.M.
Cop TV, (Community Oriented Policing). First telecast of a new show featuring Fanwood & Scotch Plains Police Depts.

Sunday, March 14, 8:00 P.M.
FYI-Fanwood First telecast of a new show which is a sit-down with mayor Maryanne Connelly

Tuesday, March 16, 8:00 P.M.
Rebroadcast of March 11th Fanwood Council Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 8:00 P.M.
Fanwood- 100 Years Later

College Club to Feature Irish Harp Music At Upcoming Meeting

SCOTCH PLAINS — The College Club of Fanwood - Scotch Plains will meet on Monday, March 15, at 8 p.m. at the First Methodist Church, 1171 Terrill Road, in Scotch Plains.

The meeting will feature entertainment by Jean Famworth, who will play a Celtic harp and 12-string guitar as she sings historic ballads, Appalachian work songs, chorus sing-alongs and Irish traditional tunes.

The presentation will explore women's changing roles in society and culture through select songs from medieval through modern times.

For more information, please call Lucille McGann at (908) 232-3589.

For membership information, please call Anne Johansen at (908) 232-4308.