

School Officials Express Concern About Rising Class Size in District

By MARIA WOERNER
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has added one extra teacher at Brunner Elementary School to cut down class size. Currently at Brunner there are 12 to 22 students in each class in kindergarten through fourth grade, and the fifth grade has 19 to 24 students, school officials said at Thursday's board meeting.

"We are required to add one new position to the staff to create an additional section, meaning we now have 18 new teachers," said Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes.

The BOE hired 59 certified staff for the district. The 18 new teachers replace the 16 who resigned and the two who retired. The new teachers' \$45,000 salary is being covered by

funds set aside in the budget for staffing and retirement.

"The district was very aggressive in going out to the local universities and we hired a credentialled staff that meets all of the New Jersey requirements and the No Child Left Behind Act," said BOE member Randal Kanter.

As of September 14, the district has 5,468 enrolled students. The number of students increased by 148 from last year and 672 from September 2001, officials said.

Ms. Hayes said that the district would monitor the increasing number of students in the schools and discuss ways of cutting down class sizes. One of the solutions the board is considering this year is the creation of an additional period in the middle school for the 2007-2008 school year.

"We are filled to capacity this year in both of the middle schools. We will be working on this issue," Ms. Hayes said.

"We are meeting with the principals of all the schools to determine what steps to take," said Anthony Del Sordi, BOE business administrator. The BOE also discussed the new nutrition policy. The board sent to parents the amended nutrition policy, which encourages parents to send in healthy snacks for birthday parties, holidays or events. The policy also says that food with no nutritional value is not allowed on the premises. "We are encouraging the parents to provide healthy treats," he said.

"It is being suggested but parents still have the option to bring in candy," board member Betty Anne Woerner said.

BOE member Jane Costello, a member of the McGinn Parent-Teacher Association, thanked the BOE for the nutrition policy.

"The response from the parents and teachers has been great. However, the website needs to be updated with the latest menus so parents can see what their children are being offered," Ms. Costello said.

BOE member Linda Nelson updated the board on the Trenton Public School Funding Reform Task Force. Ms. Nelson is a member of the Garden State Coalition, which is to provide Governor Jon Corzine with ideas for legislation to fund public schools by November.

"The atmosphere in Trenton is similar to that of which it was 15 years ago, which is what brought about the coalition. They are having a lot of discussions about how the public schools spend their funds, but they are not discussing how the Legislature is spending (tax dollars). I am concerned they are going to act in haste again," she said.



MEET AND GREET... Assemblywoman **HORACE R. CORBIN** for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times joins Fanny Wood Day last Sunday. Mrs. Stender is seeking to become the 7th Congressional District's Representative to the U.S. Congress.

Resident Wants to Move Richmond Ave. House

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — A homeowner on Plainfield Avenue has asked the township government to consider allowing him to move a house that is slated for demolition on Richmond Street to his own property.

The house in question, which is located at 2377 Richmond Street, was recently purchased by the township so that it can be razed and the property converted in additional parkland at Jerseyland Park.

At the township council's conference meeting Tuesday, Township Manager Thomas Atkins recommended township officials meet with the resident, who lives at the corner of Plainfield Avenue and Morse Avenue, so more can be learned about his plans.

"It is a bear" to move a house, Mr. Atkins warned, pointing to issues involving utilities connections. He said the homeowner has to "understand some of the complexities of trying to do this."

In August, the council approved a \$380,000 bond ordinance to purchase the Richmond Avenue property, which lies between Richmond Avenue and Beryllium Road, and merge the lot into the existing parkland in order to help square off the park property and expand the usable ballfields there.

Mr. Atkins said there are other issues to consider as well, including application of public contracts law and whether the Richmond Avenue home, once it is moved to the new property, would create requirements for variances of any type.

He said the homeowner would incur all costs involved in moving the house. Since the township would be incurring costs to raze the house, as was the original plan, he recommended the possibility of moving the house be investigated.

In other business, Mr. Atkins reported an auction held earlier Tuesday resulted in the sale of two township-owned parcels of land on Park Place. One lot was sold for \$185,000 and the other was sold for \$130,000.

The council will consider an ordinance to boost the fees it charges to organizations to hold raffles. The fee is presently \$20, with \$10 going to the state and \$10 staying in township coffers.

Township Clerk Barbara Riepe said the state is increasing its share of the fee to \$20 and urged that the township likewise increase its share to \$20. Mr. Atkins said an increase was justified due to the administrative efforts in processing applications for raffles.

The council also held a special public hearing to approve an ordinance that is required to ensure that Scotch Plains continues to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood insurance program.

On Tuesday, October 17, the Union County Bar Association will hold its annual memorial service at the Union County Courthouse to honor members of the county bar who died in the past year. Douglas Hansen, who served as township attorney from 2000 until his death last December, will be among the 11 deceased members who will be remembered.



HEALTHY EATING... Jane Costello, a McGinn PTA member, thanks the Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE for the district's new nutritional policy.

SP Will Pay \$25,000 to Cops In Reverse Discrim. Lawsuit

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The four township police officers who had filed a reverse discrimination lawsuit against the township police department, a former African-American police chief and the chief's white predecessor will each receive a \$25,000 payment, while their attorney will receive \$210,000 in legal fees, according to details of the settlement agreement provided to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

All parties involved formally approved the settlement, which was reached in April this month. Township Attorney Brian Levine told *The Times* the township settled with the four officers because of mounting legal expenses the municipal government was incurring and because "the publicity of a trial would not have benefited either the township or our officers."

The matter dates back more than six years, when police officers Kevin Lonergan, Brian Cheney, Matthew Fugett and Brian Garbinski were reprimanded by then-Captain Marshall Nelson for their performance during an April 2000 traffic stop involving four African-Americans men.

The four officers alleged that Mr. Nelson, an African-American who served as police chief from 2002 to 2004, had improperly reprimanded them for their performance during the traffic stop, had said that excessive force had been used on the men being stopped and had made racially-biased comments on the manner in which the four white officers "bumped the stop of the vehicle. The officers' lawsuit also claimed that, despite then-Chief Thomas O'Brien being made aware of Captain Nelson's unprofessional conduct, no measures were taken against the captain.

The court also said the officers, to support a hostile work environment claim under the state Law Against Discrimination (LAD), had to show that Mr. Nelson's conduct occurred because the officers were white. The court concluded that this had occurred "because the facts and the legitimate inferences that may be drawn from those facts suggest that Nelson would not have taken this action if the officers in question were black," the court said.

"It was worth it to put it to bed," Mr. Levine said of the lawsuit, adding that the township would have been very adverse either to the four officers or to the township. "Neither outcome" would have been very appetizing, he said.

In addition to the monetary payment from the township to the officers and their attorney, John Adler, the settlement agreement also calls for the removal of any verbal reprimand regarding the April 2000 traffic stop that is in the officers' personnel file. Furthermore, if any of the four officers seeks other employment, the police department will provide a letter of reference from the chief of police that will refer to the departing officer's "positive contribution" to the department.

Mr. Levine said the township's \$310,000 settlement payment would be funded via the Joint Insurance Fund in which the municipal government participates along with several other communities in the region.

Chemidlin Tells F-SP Rotarians Of Captivity In Sierra Leone

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Last April, Michael Chemidlin, 58, of Scotch Plains went to Africa, snapped a picture and landed in a Sierra Leone prison. He saw no signs posted saying he couldn't photograph the United Nations (UN) Courthouse.

"There were no laws against it," Mr. Chemidlin told members and guests of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club last Wednesday at its luncheon, at which he was the guest speaker. Nevertheless, he spent two months eating bread and water in the company of murderers and thieves, threatened with a possible 15-year prison sentence.

"He thought he was going to die over there in Sierra Leone. I thought he was, too," said Fred Chemidlin, Mr. Chemidlin's brother and a member of the Rotary Club. He introduced his younger brother to the club at its luncheon, which took place at Pantigis-Renaissance in Scotch Plains.

The guest speaker said, "I guess it was 37 years ago today that I left for Vietnam. Prior to that I had not been



COUPLE OF THE DAY... Mrs. and Mr. Fanwood (June McCarthy, left, and her husband, former borough councilman Bob McCarthy, right) join Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club past President Joe Qutub at the Fanny Wood Day festivities on Sunday.

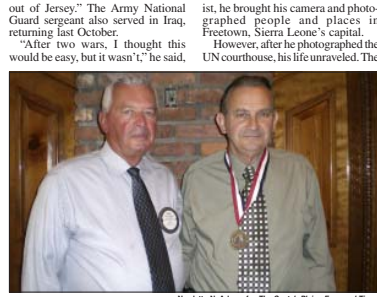
Chemidlin Tells F-SP Rotarians Of Captivity In Sierra Leone

out of Jersey." The Army National Guard sergeant also served in Iraq, returning last October.

"After two wars, I thought this would be easy, but it wasn't," he said.

ist, he brought his camera and photographed people and places in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital.

However, after he photographed the UN courthouse, his life unraveled. The



FREE AT LAST... Fred, left, and Michael Chemidlin attend the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club luncheon last Wednesday. Michael spoke to Rotarians and guests about his two-month imprisonment in Sierra Leone earlier this year.

referencing his visit to the countries of Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

He said while serving as a guard for food services facilities in Iraq last year, he met African men who worked in the kitchen. Soon they began meeting for Bible study, and he promised one day he would visit their country.

Mr. Chemidlin, who'd taken a course in missions through the Terrill Road Bible Chapel in Scotch Plains earlier in his life, left for Africa April 13. He anticipated spending two weeks in Ghana and two weeks in Sierra Leone. Coincidentally, he also would attend a weekend religious conference in Ghana sponsored by a ministry with which he is affiliated, he told the audience.

In Sierra Leone, about two days before his departure, he ventured out to sightsee with a man named Felix Rogers, whom he'd met during fellowship meetings. Like any other tour-

ing building housed former Liberian president Charles Taylor, accused of the war crimes of supporting rebels who murdered and tortured thousands of people during Sierra Leone's civil war that ended in 2002.

Recalling the furor after he snapped his photo, Mr. Chemidlin said, "The Mongolian UN force instigated the whole thing. They called and blew the whistle on me and had me brought in by the police."

In a July interview with *The Star Ledger*, Mr. Chemidlin said, "They feared Charles Taylor because of what he did to them. There are people walking around in Sierra Leone with no hands and feet because of what his (militias) did to them."

He told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that he saw the maimed walking around the country. He met some of them in prison.



REMEMBERING ROBERT... Mariana Cassidy presents Ryan Cleary with an art-inspired playground sign that will greet children entering the school's enhanced play area - "Robert's Rainbow Playground of Learning and Fun." Ryan's parents donated money for the playground in memory of their son Robert, who passed away two years ago.



HARLEY'S ANGEL... On Sunday, thousands joined in New Jersey Rolling Thunder's "Ride for Freedom XI" from Warrman Park in Roselle to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel. Rolling Thunder is a volunteer group that dedicates itself to helping veterans and seeks a full accounting of POWs and MIAs. See additional photos on page 6.

PAGE INDEX			
Regional	2-3, 6	Education	11
Editorial	4-5	Obituary	12
Community	8-10	Sports	15-20
		Real Estate	15-24
		Classifieds	26
		A&E	27-28



Harold A. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times STRUTTING THEIR STUFF...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School marching band and color guard cheer on the Raider football team at its game against East Side High School on Saturday. The Raider gridgers won the contest, 14-7.

SP Considers Stormwater Management Ordinances

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council will hold a public hearing next week on a set of ordinances that will affect most residents and homeowners and are designed to bring Scotch Plains further into compliance with stormwater management regulations that were issued two years ago.

The six proposed ordinances, which were introduced at last week's council meeting, address litter control, the improper disposal of waste and the proper disposal of pet waste and contaminated yard waste, grants and establishing a yard waste collection program and prohibiting illicit connections to the municipal storm sewer system.

The state regulations are designed to curb contamination of ground water, waterways and the ocean that results from activities such as lawn fertilizing, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering.

Stormwater is defined as water resulting from precipitation such as rain and snow that runs off the land's surface, is transmitted to the subsurface, is captured by separate storm sewers or other sewerage or drainage facilities or is conveyed by snow-removal equipment.

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato said the ordinances, which actually amend existing municipal statutes, are required so that Scotch Plains remains "eligible to receive EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) grants and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) money if needed."

Mayor Martin Marks said the new ordinances are a result of federal regulations that were passed down to the states for enforcement and then passed down to municipalities to ensure compliance.

The litter control ordinance would make it unlawful to discard any litter of any nature anywhere except in a litter receptacle and would extend to litter thrown from a vehicle. The fine for violating this ordinance would be \$100.

A second ordinance to be enacted by the township would prohibit spilling, dumping or disposing of materials other than stormwater into the

municipal storm sewer system. There are a number of exceptions in the ordinance including water line flushing, uncontaminated ground water, irrigation water, residential curbside water and swimming pool discharges and flows from the clean water rinsing of items such as beach maintenance equipment and salt and de-icing equipment. The ordinance would include a \$500 fine for violators.

A third ordinance would set requirements for the proper handling of yard waste and prohibit "the owner or occupant of any property, or any employee or agent of such owner or occupant engaged to provide lawn care or landscaping services" from sweeping, raking, blowing or placing yard waste such as grass clippings or leaves—unless contained—into the street. Violation would carry a \$100 fine.

A separate ordinance states that such yard waste would only be allowed to be placed in the street uncontainized during the seven days prior to a scheduled and announced municipal collection and would not be permitted to be placed closer than 10 feet from any storm drain.

Councilwoman Coronato said the township government is "trying to avoid mandatory bagging [of leaves]" because of the burden it would place on residents, especially older homeowners and those with large properties.

The pet waste ordinance would set out requirements for the proper disposal of pet waste by mandating an immediate removal and proper disposal of pet waste from any property owned or possessed by the owner of that pet.

Proper disposal would include placement in a waste receptacle that is regularly emptied by a refuse collector. There would be a \$100 fine for violation of this ordinance.

The final ordinance would make it illegal to illicitly make connections to the municipal storm sewer system in order to discharge residential sewage, process wastewater or other industrial waste. Violators would face a \$500 fine.

The public hearing on the ordinances will be held at the council's Tuesday, September 26 meeting.

Board Reviews Complaint On Driveway Application

By SARA MAGNOLA
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The borough's planning board reviewed a letter during its Monday night agenda meeting from a resident regarding a driveway variance being requested by Gerald Vidas of Oakwood Court, who seeks to widen his driveway from its existing 11 feet to 14 feet. According to the letter from the anonymous resident, which was signed "A Fed-up Resident and Taxpayer," the request as submitted by Mr. Vidas is "not quite accurate since Mr. Vidas" widened his driveway and has been using it for at least six months (in violation of the borough's ordinance). The resident then questioned "why the construction was allowed to take place without a variance being in place and why Mr. Vidas has been allowed to use the driveway."

Mr. Vidas is scheduled to make his formal request for the four-foot variance during the board's Wednesday, September 27 meeting. Board member Andrew MacDonald said he was asking to abstain from voting on the issue, as recommended by board attorney Clifford Kuhn, since Mr. Vidas has "contributed to Mr. MacDonald's (political) campaigns in the past."

Also during the September 27 meeting, the board will hear a request from a LaGrande Avenue resident for a deck variance, as well as the re-application for the Goddard School. The planning and zoning board of adjustment voted in June to deny a development application by Scotch Plains attorney Robert Kraus of Fanwood Plaza Partners for a branch of the Town Bank and Goddard Day Care Center to be located at 14 South Avenue. Although board members favored the project 4-2, a fifth affirming vote was required because a use variance was needed.

During the fire department said the building needed to be 15 feet from the curb in order for the fire department to be able to access the roof from a fire-truck ladder.

Paul Ricci of the civil engineering firm T&M Associates was absent from the agenda meeting, but the board did review the Transfer of Development

Rights (TDR) demonstration project status report sent from the firm. The report explained how "public outreach has been a critical component of the TDR demonstration in Fanwood."

Fanwood applied for a grant in 2004 to establish a TDR program, which enables interested property owners in one section of town (Fanwood's historic district, in this case) to sell a portion or all of their future development rights, preserving their properties indefinitely.

Willing participants in another part of town (in this case, along portions of South Avenue beyond the boundaries of the ongoing redevelopment program) can buy these development rights within the so-called "sending district" in exchange for their credits to build or redevelop on their properties in the so-called "receiving district."

The report said the borough held special "informational meetings throughout the planning process" and residents "participated in three visionary workshops to establish the foundation of the South Avenue Corridor Vision Plan." Also, during the planning process residents were able to ask for a description of project milestones and frequently asked questions "utilizing a link on Fanwood's homepage."

During a special meeting on Thursday, September 28, T&M representatives will "present a draft of the TDR plan element to the planning board, including value and use of credits, restrictions, prioritizations of contributing and non-contributing properties, tax implications and administrative matters." According to T&M's timetable, the approved plan should be submitted by Friday, December 22.

In response to past discussion regarding the use of home addresses, which could reduce the number of variances brought before the planning board each year, Zoning Officer Nancy Koedertiz presented the board with a "general survey of the types of projects that have received permits so far in 2006."

The list showed 37 additions, 29 fences, 19 decks, seven sheds, four porches, four pools, three detached garages, two new houses and two patios. Ms. Koedertiz will give board members another update by the end of the year.



David Samsky for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times HOT RIDE...Rich Sulzer of Westfield and Fairlane Sumlimer in the Long Hill Senior Citizens' antique and classic car show on Sunday afternoon in Stirling.

POLICE BLOTTER

Scotch Plains

Friday, September 15, a resident of Lambertville Road reported being the victim of online fraud. The victim told police that one or more unidentified individuals made unauthorized purchases via the Internet using the victim's credit card.

Friday, September 15, a Fanwood resident reported that his bicycle was stolen from Park Avenue. The value of the bicycle is \$150.

Friday, September 15, Juan A. Serrano of Plainfield was arrested on an active warrant out of Plainfield after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

Fanwood Monday, September 11, Arthur D. Frink, Jr., 53, of Middlesex was arrested and charged with outstanding warrants out of Metuchen and Bridgewater after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, September 11, Michael G. Steirman, 33, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road, which revealed an outstanding warrant out of Clifton.

Tuesday, September 12, Christopher B. Briggs, 35, of Cranford was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road, which revealed an outstanding warrant out of Fort Lee.

Tuesday, September 12, Richard J. Kutney, 43, was arrested for an outstanding Watchung warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Scotch Avenue.

Tuesday, September 12, Colin E. Reid, 34, of Jacksonville, Fla. was arrested and charged with an outstanding Mount Olive warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Wednesday, September 13, Laketisha M. Jackson, 33, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with interfering with a police investigation. Jackson was also charged with providing a false identity, police said.

Thursday, September 14, Lawrence M. Dicks, 38, was arrested and charged with an outstanding Mount Olive warrant after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue.

Thursday, September 14, Loretta M. Cable, 45, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with credit card theft and receiving stolen property. She was transported to the Union County Jail where bail was set at \$4,500.

Friday, September 15, Raschem M. Ailes, 27, of Elizabeth was arrested on a Superior warrant out of Newark and Elizabeth after a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue.

Friday, September 15, a manager of a South Avenue gas station reported that an

unidentified customer paid with a counterfeit \$50 bill.

Saturday, September 16, Raed M. Alasmir, 26, of Howard Beach, N.Y. was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana and controlled dangerous substance (CDS) paraphernalia. He was also charged with an outstanding warrant out of Jersey City.

Saturday, September 16, Christopher D. Cassett, 18, of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. Baron, 18, of North Plainfield, a passenger in the vehicle, was also arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. Shaun R. Mason, 18, of Plainfield was charged with possession of suspected marijuana and hindering apprehension.

Sunday, September 17, Jamal W. Hester, 31, of Dunellen was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding warrant for outstanding warrants out of Dunellen and Piscataway.

Sunday, September 17, seven juveniles between the ages of 14 and 16 were brought into headquarters for trespassing on an abandoned property. The incident is under investigation.

Tuesday, September 19, Wilver Valdez, 26, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with an outstanding Springfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Tuesday, September 19, Jesenia V. Gonzalez, 23, of Jersey City was arrested and charged with an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue.

Westfield Tuesday, September 12, Marcus Rawls, 38, of Newark was arrested at the Bergen County Jail on an outstanding Westfield warrant for \$50.

Wednesday, September 13, Michael Bonilla, 32, of Jersey City was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Mountain Avenue and North Chestnut Street on an outstanding Wildwood criminal warrant for \$185. He was released after posting bail.

Thursday, September 14, a resident of the 500 block of Hillcrest Avenue reported that her home was burglarized and jewelry taken from the residence. There were no signs of forced entry, police said.

Friday, September 15, Thomas Roche, 46, 21, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding traffic warrants out of Beachwood and Fanwood. He was released after posting bail.

'One Strike' Policy OK'd For Bounced Lunch Checks

By TED RITTER
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

GARWOOD — The borough's board of education Tuesday night approved a measure aimed at addressing a problem regarding the manner in which school lunches are purchased. Board member Gary Maher said the problem stems from parents giving their children personal checks to pay for their lunches. He said some of the checks have bounced, causing the district to lose money.

Mr. Maher said that the new, board-approved regulation adopts a "one strike and you're out" policy, meaning a student can still buy lunch with a personal check, but if a check bounces, that student would then have to pay in cash from that point on and cover both the bad check and any bank fees.

"We need [students] to eat, but there's no such thing as a free lunch, right?" said Mr. Maher, adding that the policy change was needed to clear up a "difficult situation for the parents."

Board member Christine Guerroero said a notice about the policy would be included in the next Parent-Teacher Association newsletter.

Local resident Peggy Staba asked the school board to consider allowing parents to purchase lunch tickets in advance, which their children could then use in the cafeteria. "I think I would feel a little more comfortable [with lunch tickets] instead of sending kids to school with large amounts of cash," she said.

Responding to a follow-up question from resident Bruce Paterson, board officials said while no bank fees have been incurred to date as a result of bounced lunch checks, the bank the district uses has merged and the fees policy is expected to change.

The meeting's full agenda was primarily devoted to addressing administrative issues left over from the sum-

mer months, as well as other issues related to the recent start of school. Among them was a date change for Back-to-School night. The revised date is Monday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

Superintendent Bill Murphy reported a "smooth opening of school" and said enrollment in the Garwood school district stands at 407 students, slightly smaller than the tally of 411 recorded in June.

Board member Monty Brown said district employees worked 168 hours of overtime during the late summer months in order to get school buildings ready to reopen. Although Mr. Brown said the overtime was within budget, local resident Mike Hajduk asked the school board to provide the actual cost of this overtime at the October meeting "to see if there are other options" for reducing expenses.

Also on Tuesday night, Mr. Murphy announced final plans for the "works" for a children's after-school program at the district's Lincoln School building. However, the superintendent said the program, to be run by the Westfield YMCA, would not begin "until Oct. 1 or even later." He said officials haven't had time to put the finishing touches on the program due to the busy start of the new school year.

School board officials announced that next month's meeting would likely include a presentation of the district's standardized test scores, as well as an appearance by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick.

Mr. Bramnick is sponsoring legislation that would allow the Garwood and Mountaineer school districts' budget caps and surplus limits, given payments they are expected to receive from the

of the Union County Regional High School District's 1996 dissolution.

The Garwood school board approved a resolution supporting this legislation Tuesday night.



Horace Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times ENFLAMED...This hot item on display at the car show during Fanwood Day last Sunday attracted attention with its blonde 'bombshell' mannequin.

Let the Hayrides Begin!

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Free Hayride with Can of Food
Sept. 23rd & 24th

Our Fall Festival begins this weekend. Saturday and Sundays we will have our pumpkin picking, ponyrides, hayrides, and our haunted house. Bring in a can of food for our food drive this weekend and receive a FREE hayride.

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Chemidlin Gives Talk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Before being sent to Freetown's Pandemba Road Prison, Mr. Chemidlin stayed in Freetown's police lockup for 10 days without being charged and slept on the floor, suffering symptoms of malaria. Authorities accused him of being a spy and conspiring to free Taylor.

The African newspapers broke the story with headlines like "Man Held as Spy." Mr. Chemidlin told *The Times* that afterward, officials brought him before the magistrate and said, "We were about to free you, but..."

According to Mr. Chemidlin, police felt pressured by media coverage to officially charge him with espionage. Once charged, he ended up in prison, where hardened criminals tormented young boys upon arrival by stripping them naked.

"Everything was forgotten about but my faith. This whole ordeal turned my world upside down," he said.

"The legal system is very good but only good as pertaining to law. God, to me, is higher than all that. Getting through this ordeal, there was nothing, really, anyone could have done. There was nothing—the government, the FBI,

the State Department, the family, the church people, my magistrate, no one, my solicitor—there wasn't anything that could have been done. The bottom line, to get my freedom, I have to say, was really an exercise of faith."

On July 4, the Sierra Leoneans directed him to the airport where he boarded on July 7 returned his passport. He arrived in America two days later. Having given up his apartment before he left, Mr. Chemidlin stays with a relative in West Harlem.

He told his audience the experience affected him profoundly. "I don't have the set times to go to lunch, have breakfast, go to sleep, what to wear, things that we accustom ourselves to in everyday living. You have to see pretty much what's important in life. I felt all of these people fear me."

"After several months, I have to tell you, I'm still unsettled as to where to live. I'm most afraid to settle down again, and the fear of malaria, fear of lack of food, it's almost, I guess, like something that prisoners of war go through. It was a trying experience to say the least," he said.