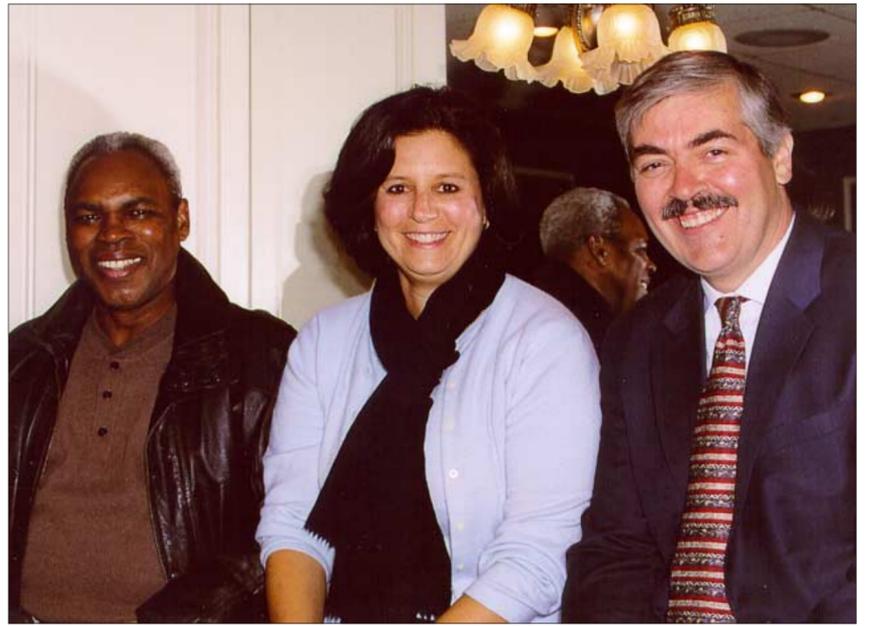




Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GOP SWEEP!... Republican Councilmen Werner Schon, left, and Glenn Mortimer celebrate their victory in Mountainside.



Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SAVORING THEIR VICTORY... Union County Freeholders Lewis Mingo, Jr., Mary Ruotolo and Daniel P. Sullivan enjoy their victory at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Mortimer And Schon Victorious In Race for Mountainside Council

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times
MOUNTAINSIDE — In the history of Mountainside a Democrat has never held a seat on the Borough Council. Tuesday's election results did not change that fact. GOP incumbent candidates Werner Schon and Glenn Mortimer will retain their seats on the Mountainside

Council for another three years after defeating Democratic candidates Steven Brociner and John Shackelford, by a percentage of 64 percent to 38 percent, with all nine districts reporting. Councilman Mortimer received 1,556 votes, Councilman Schon garnered 1,555 votes, Mr. Brociner tallied 930 votes and Mr. Shackelford

received 945 votes. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve the community," Councilman Schon, who is currently in his 17th year on the council, stated. Councilman Mortimer, who will be serving his second term on the council, stated, "I'm very happy. We spent every Saturday and Sunday out walking (door to door in Mountainside)."



Ingrid McKinley for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WATCHING THE RETURNS... State Assembly candidate Thomas C. Jardim, center, and other Westfield Democrats watch the returns come in on Election Night in Westfield.

Both candidates expressed their gratitude to those who helped with the campaign, especially Dona Osieja and Clarke Landale who managed their campaign. Councilman Mortimer also thanked Councilman William Lane's children, William and Mackenzie, who helped make their walks fun by going door to door with them. Mr. Shackelford stated that though he was disappointed by the loss, he was encouraged by the higher percentage of votes over last year.

Mr. Shackelford went on to say, "We didn't do as much this year. We were not able to do a mailing due to lack of funds. Now I will be the watchdog for the neglected citizens of Mountainside." Mr. Brociner was not available for comment.

Democrats Sweep Freeholder Race; Froehlich Wins 8th Term as Sheriff

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL and DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MOUNTAINSIDE — The race for three Freeholder seats in Union County reflected similar percentages as were seen across the State, with Democratic incumbent Freeholders beating the Republican challengers by a margin of

more than 50 percent overall. Freeholders Daniel P. Sullivan of Elizabeth, Lewis Mingo, Jr. of Plainfield and Mary P. Ruotolo of Westfield retained their seats against Republican newcomers J. Ricky Badillo of Roselle Park, Andrew MacDonald of Fanwood and R. Jeffrey Schundler of Westfield, by cap-

ting large Democratic majorities in most of the 21 municipalities that make up Union County. Democrats have swept county government races every year since 1995. They will have a 9-0 command on the Freeholder board again in 2002, marking the fifth consecutive year that they will have total control of the board. Democrats have had the majority since 1997.

Benefits Offered to Workers Impacted by WTC Tragedy

TRENTON — The New Jersey Department of Labor is providing unemployment insurance benefits and working with other state and federal agencies to assist the workers, families and employers affected by the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center. At the New Jersey Family Assistance Center at Liberty State Park, created by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, and through its One-Stop Career Center System, the department offers an array of services including unemployment insurance payments and reemployment assistance. Any New Jersey resident who was employed in New Jersey and who recently lost his or her job may apply for unemployment insurance payments by telephone. Residents of northeast New Jersey may call the Union City Call Center at (201) 601-4100. The Freehold Call Center serves residents of northwestern and central New Jersey and can be reached at (732) 761-2020. Residents of southern New Jersey

should call the Vineland Call Center at (856) 507-2399. New Jersey residents of Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, Passaic and Union counties who lost jobs in New York must file their claims with the New York unemployment insurance system by calling (888) 209-8124. New Jersey residents of other counties who lost jobs in New York may file an Interstate Claim with New York by calling (877) 358-5306. New Jerseyans who need help finding new jobs or career services can use the resources of New Jersey's One-Stop Career Centers. Information is available at www.WNJPIN.net. Employers and workers can find out how to contact their nearest One-Stop Center or find out about services of the New Jersey and United States Departments of Labor by calling (877) US-2JOBS (877-872-5627). Veterans, National Guard and Reservists can find out about programs to assist them by calling (866) 4-USA-DOL.

Gathering at L'Affaire on Route 22 in Mountainside on Tuesday night, more than 100 Democratic supporters and campaign volunteers watched the numbers go up on giant oak-tag boards as the votes were telephoned in after the polls closed. By 10 p.m., with seven out of 21 towns in, the mood was jovial and high-spirited, as it was clear that the Democratic Freeholders would likely sweep the election. Total vote counts after all of the towns were tallied showed Mrs. Ruotolo out in front with 69,913 votes, Mr. Sullivan with 67,662 and Mr. Mingo with 65,523 compared to Mr. Badillo who garnered 45,149, Mr. MacDonald who received 44,253 and Mr. Schundler who picked up 44,705 votes. Even towns that have historically voted Republican, such as Westfield, Fanwood and Mountainside, showed strong support for the Democrats with surprisingly competitive numbers. Freeholder Ruotolo expressed that the Democratic team was excited over how Westfield, which traditionally voted Republican, came in with a Democratic majority for the first time in the town's history. Mr. Badillo told the small crowd of Republicans gathered at the Westwood in Garwood on Tuesday night, "We ran a hard race. I thought we had the right issues. The people wanted these three back (Mr. Mingo, Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Ruotolo) and we have to respect that, but we will be back next year. We have to regroup and figure out what is going on at the county level. Sometimes you learn from your losses." Ron Frigerio, Union County Chairman of the Republican Party, told the crowd, "It's important to note that we have regained control in Cranford. The Republican party is going to come back in this state." The Cranford numbers came in at 11,304 for the three Democratic Freeholder incumbents and 11,306 for the Republican hopefuls. Assemblywoman-elect Linda d. Stender of Fanwood, who along with Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield edged out Republican Assembly candidates Gabriel Spera of Scotch Plains and Patricia Walsh of Green Brook, said that they didn't know what to expect due to the redistricting, but were very pleased by the surprising upsets in those traditionally Republican towns. Freeholder Sullivan attributed the Democrats' win to their previous track record and, he said, "The Republicans ran their campaign with no ideas. You've got to tell the voters what you're going to do; not just run a negative campaign against the other guys." Freeholder Mingo in addressing the crowd of supporters exclaimed, "We have made history tonight in Summit," referring to capturing two on the Summit Common Council, a traditionally Republican town that hasn't elected Democrats in more than 93 years. Also capturing the Democratic votes in most Towns in Union County, Ralph G. Froehlich won an eighth term as the County's Sheriff against challenger Nicholas Berkey of Union, by a margin of approximately two to one. With 76,220 votes to Mr. Berkey's 38,426, Sheriff Froehlich said that the numbers didn't surprise him. "It was interesting that some towns voted Democratic, but when you do your job, people don't care whether you're Republican or Democrat," Mr. Froehlich remarked.

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