



YOU BE THE JUDGE... Judge Edward Beglin, Jr., center, is pictured with Westfield Rotary Club Service Chairman Doug Fasciale, left, and Rotary Club President Carl Peer, right. Judge Beglin spoke at a recent Tuesday rotary meeting on budget problems straining the Elizabeth courts.

Gov. McGreevey Addresses State's Pension Investments

TRENTON - Governor James E. McGreevey appointed a Pension Review Committee made up of New Jersey leaders to examine issues surrounding the poor performance of the state's massive \$60 billion dollar pension investment portfolio.

In the past two years, the system has lost about 20 percent of its value, and New Jersey's investment performance ranks near the bottom of comparable sized pension systems in other states. Former Governors Brendan Byrne and Thomas Kean, and Alan Blinder, Gordon S. Rentschler Memorial Professor of Economics, Co-Director of Center for Economic Policy Studies at Princeton University and is former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System agreed to serve on a Pension Review Committee. The Governor expects to receive their report within the next several weeks.

Treasurer John McCormac issued requests for proposals to national consulting firms asking for a fiduciary audit of the state investment operations in July.

Attorney General David Samson

is reviewing state pension investments to determine whether action should be taken to recover losses as a result of advice received from brokerage and investment companies or misconduct by corporate leadership companies in which the state invested its pension funds.

County Briefs

Senior Issues Forum: On Thursday, October 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., a senior forum will be held to discuss home and finances more secure. The forum will take place at Union County College in the Nomahegan building on Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

County Clerk, Joanne Rajoppi will discuss voting, veterans ID's and benefits; County Sheriff, Ralph Froehlich will discuss security; County Surrogate, James S. LaCorte will discuss wills, trusts and probate matters; and Freeholder Rick Proctor will speak about health services. For more information, call (908) 527-4200.

Candidate Campaign Release SP-DEM's Say Township Issues Must Be Confronted

SCOTCH PLAINS - Councilwoman Geri Samuel, who is running for re-election, and her running mates on the Democratic ticket, Shelia Ellington and George Gowen, feel that the voters in Scotch Plains have an important decision to make in this year's election. That decision is whether to leave control of the Township Council in the hands of politicians who make promises they have not kept, or to elect representatives who will honestly confront the issues of local government.

Mrs. Samuel, who has served on the council since 1999, said, "the Democrats elected as a majority in the 1998 election never had a chance to fulfill their initiatives. Due to the untimely deaths first of Councilman Franklin Donatelli and then Councilman Tarquin Bromley, the Democrats held the majority for only 10 months.

But even in that short period of time, significant goals were achieved. \$450,000 in grant money was brought into the town, which went towards the only real downtown improvement that we have seen. The Democrats also brought the Open Space Trust Fund to Scotch Plains, the only town in Union County with such a fund.

Mrs. Samuel said, "It was during my term as mayor in 1999 that proceedings started to deny the liquor license for Club Malibu, a source of constant trouble culminating in a homicide in November 1998. I don't know why the Republicans never took any action to do so in all the years they were in control. My only objective during that time was to serve the residents of Scotch Plains, despite the constant efforts of the Republicans to disrupt Council meetings. Had Councilman Donatelli not died in 1999, it would have been the Democratic majority which would have introduced the zero tax increase in 2000. I voted for a zero tax increase that year along with Democratic Councilman Bromley."

Mrs. Samuel, Ms. Ellington and Mr. Gowen make note that the Republican claim of being the party of lower taxes is a broken promise. "If the Republicans truly believed in lower taxes, they would have reduced taxes in 2000, rather than vote to maintain the tax rate established in the budget the prior year," Mr. Gowen said. "The fact that they voted to maintain that rate rather than lower it in 2000, and then raised the tax rate almost twice the 1999 increase over

the next two years, 4 points in 2001 and 5 points in 2002, demonstrates that their criticism of the Democrats was less than genuine. The Republican claim in this election that they have stabilized taxes is false."

The three Democratic candidates remind the voters that Republican Frank Rossi, who seeks to keep his council seat in this election, campaigned for office in 1999 by declaring that a 5 tax point increase was too high. In 2002, Mr. Rossi spearheaded the presentation of the 5 tax point increase contained in this year's budget. He called it a 4 plus 1 increase, as if the voters can't add.

"We don't need elected officials who play political games with our hard earned tax dollars," Mr. Gowen added. "I have managed large budgets in business, and I know how important it is to be straightforward in these financial matters."

Last year, the newspapers were filled with disturbing news about Scotch Plains. "We need elected officials who will keep their eye on the ball and who have the ability and experience to keep the dealings of government above-board," Ms. Ellington stated. "I have served the people of New Jersey as a Deputy Attorney General and prosecuted corrupt officials, and I also served the residents of Union County as a prosecutor in the Union County Prosecutor's Office. I will bring that experience to bear to ensure that the decisions and actions of our government and its employees are honest and in the best interests of our residents."

Fanwood GOP Will Hold Champaign Brunch Fundraiser

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Republican Campaign Committee 2002 will be holding a Champaign Brunch in honor of Borough Council candidates, Councilman Stuart Kline, Councilman David Trumpp and Andrew Calamaras.

The brunch, hosted at the home of Dr. Richard W. Dobyns, 131 Graymill Drive, Scotch Plains, will be on Sunday, October 20 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and is \$25 per person. Checks should be made out to the Fanwood Republican Campaign Committee 2002 and mailed to Tom Drubulis, Treasurer, 47 Montrose Avenue, Fanwood 07023 no later than October 15.

For additional information, contact Ted Trumpp at (908) 889-6774.



PLAY BALL... Scotch Plains Republican Council Candidates Frank Rossi, Carolyn Sorge and Nancy Malool appear at the site of the new baseball and soccer fields now under construction on Plainfield Avenue.

Candidate Campaign Release SP-GOP Candidates Tout Fulfillment of Ball Field

SCOTCH PLAINS - "It was a promise made and a promise that is being kept," said Deputy Mayor Frank Rossi. "In 1999, Republican Councilmen Bill McClintock and Martin Marks presented to the community a *Recreation Plan for the 21st Century*. The centerpiece of the plan was a promise to construct five new ball fields in five years. When I joined the Township Council later that year, I took that promise to heart and asked to be assigned as council liaison to our Recreation Commission. It is now three years later and I am pleased to say that we have a combination baseball and soccer field at the Vo-Tech site on Raritan Road, a soccer and baseball field under construction on Plainfield Avenue, and our Field of Dreams project being designed at the Park Middle School site which will yield two new baseball fields and improved soccer fields amongst a completely renovated state of the art recreation complex. With the help of a Union County grant and the combined efforts of the Board of Education, the Borough of Fanwood, and the Township of Scotch Plains, this complex will be a real destination and a facility to be quite proud of."

"And it doesn't stop there," commented Republican Council candidate Carolyn Sorge. "With the foresight of our Recreation Commission and the energy of our Recreation director, our existing fields are undergoing extensive renovations that will make them safer and more enjoyable to use. Kramer Manor Field will be ready for play shortly now that renovations including extension of field boundaries, new sod, an irrigation system, re-grading, and new fencing were put into place. Bids have recently been received for similar renovations soon to be underway at both Farley and Jerseyland fields. Also, a deal was struck with the county as part of our Field of Dreams endeavor for upgrades at the Route 22 baseball field next to McDonalds and also at the Vo-Tech fields. With

some additional park improvements, our Recreation Commission will have no less than eight significant projects ongoing in the coming months."

Councilwoman Nancy Malool added, "We have so many children involved in youth soccer, baseball, and football, not to mention the many adults that participate in organized athletic leagues. Having adequate playing fields is a real quality of life issue for a suburban community like Scotch Plains. I'm pleased that it was the Republican Council members of the late 90s that heard the requests of our ever-growing recreation participants and got the field projects moving. I am proud to be a part of the Township Council in 2002 that is actually seeing this promise and these fields come to fruition."

Flu Clinic Schedule

The Westfield Regional Health Department has released the following flu clinic schedule open to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield only:

- **Thursday, October 17:** Springfield Municipal Building located on 100 Mountain Avenue in Springfield, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the court room.
- **Tuesday, October 22:** Westfield Municipal Building located on 425 East Broad Street in Westfield, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the court room.
- **Thursday, October 24:** Mountainside Municipal Building located on 1385 Route 22 East in Mountainside, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the court room.
- **Monday, October 28:** Fanwood Municipal Building located on 75 North Martine Avenue in Fanwood, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the court room.
- **Tuesday, October 29:** Garwood Municipal Building located on 403 South Avenue in Garwood, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the court room.
- **Saturday, November 2:** Roselle Park High School will sponsor a Flu Clinic & Health Day from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (registration is required).

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