



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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FIFTY CENTS



David B. Corbin for The Times

DEDICATION FOR DIFRANCESCO... Former Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco was flanked by his family at half-time during a recognition ceremony held in his honor at Saturday's home football game. Mr. DiFrancesco received a plaque that notes the dedication of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School ballfields, to be called the DiFrancesco Varsity Field Complex. This action was approved by the Board of Education in a resolution in May.

Three Fanwood Seats Contested In Tuesday's General Election

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

A race for three open seats on the Fanwood Borough Council will be decided on Tuesday, with local Democrats hoping to reverse Republican control of the governing body. The GOP currently holds a 5-2 edge, including the mayor's seat and four council positions. Two of these seats are held by Councilmen Stuart Kline and Thomas P. Ryan, Jr. Mr. Kline is seeking a third, three-year term on the council dais, while Councilman Ryan opted not to run for a second term in this year's General Election. First-time candidate Andrew Calamaras has succeeded him on the party's ticket.

Challenging Mr. Kline and Mr. Calamaras are Democrats Jack Molenaar and Thomas Plante. Like their GOP opponents, Mr. Molenaar and Mr. Plante are both active in the community in various capacities. Mr. Kline, an attorney with the Union firm of Ciarrocca & Ciarrocca, has lived in Fanwood for 13 years. He presently chairs the council's Administration and Finance Committee, while also serving as council liaison to the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees and as liaison to Fanwood's Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Kline additionally is a member of the Fanwood Lions Club.

A resident of Fanwood for about four years, Mr. Calamaras is President of his own borough-based sales company, Dimarc Sales Associates, Inc. He is also a member of the Fanwood Planning Board.

Mr. Calamaras is a Past President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and is presently Assistant District Governor for District No. 7510 of Rotary International.

Fanwood Candidate Forum Scheduled

On Friday, November 1, at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Borough Hall, the candidates for Borough Council will participate in the Candidates Forum.

Fanwood TV-35 will telecast this forum that is sponsored by *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* and by the League of Women's Voters.

The public is invited to attend and to e-mail topics for the forum to editor@goleader.com.

Publisher's Note

Thank you for reading this issue of *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*. Each year on Thursday prior to election day, we mail this special edition that contains information about the candidates for office. We hope you vote Tuesday, November 5.

For those of you that are not subscribers, we ask that you become one. We never call to ask. Thank you to our advertisers and subscribers that make this possible.

He serves on the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Board of Directors and is also Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Greenwood Acres Property Owners Association of Blakeslee, Pa. Mr. Molenaar, who has lived in Fanwood for nine years, is a licensed professional planner and the transportation planner for Plainsboro Township. He is a member of the Fanwood Planning Board and also served on the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Mr. Plante, his running mate, is a

14-year Fanwood resident and is employed with Union County's Public Information Office. He is President of the Fanwood Democratic Club and a member of the Fanwood Democratic Committee. Mr. Plante is also active with the Fanwood Cultural Arts Committee.

The third contested council seat is presently held by Republican Councilman David B. Trumpp. Mr. Trumpp was named in May to fill the vacancy created a month earlier by the sudden death of freshman Councilman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Seats On All-Democratic Freeholder Board Sought By Republican Candidates

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Union County Republicans will be seeking to make a dent in the 9-0 all-Democratic Board of Chosen Freeholders in next week's voting, when three seats will be at stake.

Republicans Joel Whitaker, currently the President of the Fanwood Borough Council, is running with Anira Clericuzio of Cranford and Elyse Bochicchio Medved of Rahway against Democratic incumbents Angel Estrada, Nicholas Scutari and Rick Proctor.

Mr. Whitaker told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* earlier this year that the "overriding question to be addressed (in the campaign) is whether the county is well-served by having a 9-0 Freeholder Board. There is some doubt that it is."

The Republicans have been talking about what they see as unne-

sarily high property taxes in Union County during the past five years of all-Democratic control.

The Republicans also criticized the Freeholders several months ago for their preliminary plan to sell several acres of land purchased with county open space trust funds to a Summit church, a proposal the Freeholders backed away from a month ago.

The party also criticized the county for its plans to allow New York City trash to be transported via train through the county.

The Democrats' campaign has been a low-key affair, with the three incumbents promising to continue pushing various county initiatives aimed at students and senior citizens as well as continuing efforts at acquiring open space and striving to ensure adequate emergency preparedness.



David B. Corbin for The Times

CLASS OF 1962 SPIRIT... Members of the Class of 1962 from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School rooted for the home team during Saturday's game. Former Governor Donald DiFrancesco joined his class in celebrating its 40th reunion.

SP Dems Look to Regain Council Seats, While GOP Seeks Majority

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The six candidates for Township Council in Scotch Plains are wrapping up their campaigns, with Demo-

crats looking to regain seats lost in recent years while Republicans seek to gain the one seat that will give them a 5-0 majority.

Councilwoman Geri Samuel, seeking a second term, heads a Democratic ticket that includes Shelia Ellington and George Gowen, both of whom are making their first runs for local office.

The Democratic campaign has extolled what it says are the successes of the 10 months in 1999 when their party held power and Mrs. Samuel was Mayor. Namely, they point to downtown development grants, the ballot initiatives that led to the direct election of the Mayor and the establishment of the open space trust fund, and cost-saving measures instituted that year.

The Democrats have also cited numerous instances of what they term mismanagement by the GOP, includ-

ing cost overruns at Kramer Manor Park, failure to apply for state grants, the embezzlement last year by the township Treasurer, and the lack of progress on downtown issues.

The Republican ticket, headed by Councilman Frank Rossi, who is seeking a full four-year term, includes Councilwoman Nancy Malool, who was appointed to the council in late summer to serve out the last four months of an unexpired term, and Carolyn Sorge, who is making her first run for office.

The GOP has criticized the 1999 property tax increase passed by the Democratic-controlled council and contrasted it with tax increases in more recent years, calling the two parties' records a "clear contrast" between the local parties.

The party has also touted its achievements on parks and ballfields, specifically the new ballfield projects and the renovations of existing fields.



Scotch Plains Voting Places:

Districts 1, 2 and 3: Park Middle School Boy's Gym, 580 Park Avenue.

Districts 4 and 5: Scotch Plains Library, Children's Room, 1927 Bartle Avenue.

Districts 6, 7 and 8: Evergreen School, Third Grade Hallway, 2280 Evergreen Avenue.

District 9: Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Front Hall by Auditorium, Westfield Road.

District 10: Brunner Elementary School, Front Lobby, Westfield Road.

District 11: St. John the Baptist Church, 2387 Morse Avenue, Fellowship Hall.

Districts 12 and 13: McGinn Elementary School, Room 10, Roosevelt Avenue.

Districts 14 and 15: Union Catholic High School Lobby, Martine Avenue.

Districts 16 and 21: Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, 1776 Raritan Road, Baxel Hall (The Commons).

Districts 17 and 18: Terrill Middle School Auditorium Lobby, 1301 Terrill Road.

Districts 17 and 18: Terrill Middle School Auditorium Lobby, 1301 Terrill Road.

Districts 19 and 20: Coles Elementary School, Lobby, 16 Kevin School.

Fanwood Polling Places:

Districts 1 and 2: Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue.

District 3: Children's Specialized Hospital, 330 South Avenue.

District 4 and 5: Terrill Road Bible Chapel, 535 Terrill Road.

District 6 and 7: Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue and Tillotson Road.



Jennifer Pinto for The Times

DISTINCTIVELY PATRIOTIC... Gina Jadelis of Scotch Plains, portraying Betsy Ross, received a special prize from The Gift Monkey of Westfield after sweeping the category of "Most Distinctive" at the Downtown Westfield Corporation's Annual Halloween Costume Contest on October 26.

SPBPA Candidate Debate Brings Downtown Issues to the Forefront

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The six candidates for Scotch Plains Township Council met last week to discuss issues of importance to downtown business owners, with Democrats criticizing Republicans for not doing more to enhance the appeal of central business district and the GOP defending its record and promising a more active approach.

Sponsored by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) and moderated by the group's President, Steve Goldberg, the hour-long forum brought out a number of ideas as well as allowing the non-incumbent candidates to express themselves on a host of issues.

Republican Carolyn Sorge spoke of the importance of having the input of the entire business community, as well as residents, in determining the types of new businesses to be attracted to the downtown.

Democrat Shelia Ellington said it was important to focus on marketing the business district to potential new firms. She defended the 10-month Democratic administration that held power in 1999, noting that her party had been able to secure \$450,000 in downtown development grants that helped finance a number of aesthetic improvements to the business district.

Democratic Councilwoman Geri Samuel, seeking a second term, also defended the grant funding that had been secured during her time as Mayor in 1999.

Republican Councilwoman Nancy Malool, currently serving out an unexpired term while she seeks a full four-year term, said grants "are always a good source" of funding but said that the \$450,000 grant in 1999 would have been received by the township regardless of which party was in power.

"We can always count on those," she said. When questioned, she said the establishment of a Special Improvement District for the downtown area "is definitely something to consider." She also favored hiring a professional downtown manager whose primary task would be to recruit new businesses and market the present businesses.

Democrat George Gowen, briefly addressing the issue of grants, said it was important to always keep applying for whatever grants are available. But he said that "downtown Scotch Plains has been talked to death," noting what he termed the numerous meetings, consultants and groups in past years. "It's time to move forward," he said, noting that he favored the hiring of a rental agent to seek out businesses.

On the issue of the sale and commercial development of the hedge property on Park Avenue next to the Municipal Building, there were differing degrees of opinions on what to do, and the answers transcended party

lines. Councilman Frank Rossi, a Republican seeking a full four-year term, said he saw the property as "the potential linchpin for downtown development" and said the township needed to move forward on the sale or lease of the small tract of land.

Mrs. Sorge, saying it was important to get input first, cautioned that she didn't think "we should rush into this."

Mrs. Malool said she was "not convinced we need to develop that property right away," noting that it was "the only remaining green space in downtown."

Mr. Gowen said it would be "foolhardy" to sell the property. "Once it's sold, we have no control over it," he said. "Scotch Plains needs income streams to alleviate the tax burden."

Mrs. Ellington asked "how much more investigation is needed?" She said it was "time to take some action."

Mrs. Samuel pointed out that local zoning ordinances do allow the local government some say over the types of businesses that could be housed in any development, so that should not be a concern.

Speaking further of the idea of a township-employed downtown manager, Mrs. Samuel said grant money

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POLITICAL EDITION 2002

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK



Rafael J. BETANCOURT

**Westfield Councilman, 2000 to present
Council Liaison to Planning Board, 2000 to present
Chairman, Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Committee**

- Partner, Pisano, Triarsi and Betancourt, L.L.C.
- 17 year resident of Westfield
- Former Municipal Prosecutor, Town of Westfield
- Former Municipal Defender, Town of Westfield
- Former Board of Governors Treasurer and President, Nomahegan Swim Club
- Patron, Westfield Symphony Orchestra
- Foundation Partner, Westfield Foundation
- Former Y's Mens Club Member
- Former Member of NJ Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Ethics
- Former Union County District Chair of NJ Supreme Court Fee Arbitration Committee
- Former Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Former Assistant Prosecutor, Union County Prosecutor's Office
- Married to Esperanza; sons, Diego and Andres

Thank you for your trust and support. Please vote on November 5th. RF



Paid for by Betancourt for Council Committee, Jay MacDonald Treasurer, 219 Linden Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

SPBPA Debate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
could initially fund what she termed "an excellent position to create."
Mr. Rossi said the "idea of having someone to dedicate significant resources to getting new business and taking care of existing ones" is "a good idea to explore."

Three Seats Up In FW Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Councilwoman Carol Wood.
Democrat Donna Dolce is running against Mr. Trumpp to serve out Mrs. Wood's un-expired term, which ends on December 31, 2003.

A lifelong Fanwood resident, Mr. Trumpp ran three times for the Borough Council before being named to fill Mrs. Wood's seat. He is a Marketing Coordinator for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

The candidate's résumé includes having served as President of the Fanwood Lions Club, as well as membership on the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission and in the Fanwood Republican Club. He is the son of former Fanwood Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp.

Ms. Dolce, a borough resident for 14 years, serves as Chairwoman of the Fanwood Strategic Planning Committee. She also headed the Fanwood Strategic Assessment Committee.

She additionally was a member of the Fanwood Sign Ordinance Task Force and the 1993 Fanwood-Scotch Plains School District Facilities Committee. Ms. Dolce is Director of the Volunteer Center for the United Way of Essex and West Hudson County in Newark.

In another race involving a Fanwood resident, Borough Council President Joel Whitaker is one of three Republicans vying for a seat on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Whitaker, a Fanwood resident for more than 20 years, has been a member of the municipal governing body since 1998.

GOP Incumbents Run Unopposed In Mountainside

*By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times*
MOUNTAINSIDE -- Mountainside Borough Council incumbent candidates Paul Mirabelli and Keith Turner, both Republicans, will run uncontested for re-election next Tuesday.

Mr. Turner is seeking his fourth term on the council, and has been a resident of Mountainside since 1958. He has served as Council President, and on the Recreation Commission, Fire Commissioner and Planning Board Liaison.

Mr. Mirabelli has been a borough resident since 1990. This will be his third run for council. He has served on the Fire and Police Department Commissions, and has been Liaison to the Planning Board, Rescue Squad and Tax Assessor's office.

Mr. Mirabelli has been a borough resident since 1990. This will be his third run for council. He has served on the Fire and Police Department Commissions, and has been Liaison to the Planning Board, Rescue Squad and Tax Assessor's office.



Keith Turner of Mountainside since 1958. He has served as Council President, and on the Recreation Commission, Fire Commissioner and Planning Board Liaison.

Mr. Mirabelli has been a borough resident since 1990. This will be his third run for council. He has served on the Fire and Police Department Commissions, and has been Liaison to the Planning Board, Rescue Squad and Tax Assessor's office.

Westfield Mayor Post, Four Council Seats Up For Election Next Week

*By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times*

WESTFIELD -- In Westfield, one council seat from each of the four wards, as well as the mayor's seat, are up for election next week.

There is currently a 5-3 Democrat majority on the council. This year, Republicans hold only the Mayor's position and one council seat that is up for election. Republican Mayor Gregory McDermott will face Democrat Tom Fuccillo in the mayoral race.

This marks Mr. McDermott's second run for Mayor; he was elected in 2000. Prior to that, he was elected as First Ward Councilman in 1997 and was re-elected in 1999.

In 2001, Mr. Fuccillo ran for the Second Ward seat, but was defeated by incumbent Republican Matthew Albano.

Carl Salisbury's decision not to run for a third term in the First Ward brings two newcomers, Democrat



Gregory McDermott

Mark Kuehn and Republican Sal Caruana, to the race.

Republican Rafael Betancourt, seeking his second term for council, faces Democrat challenger David Owens in the Second Ward.

Incumbent Democrat Claire Lazarowitz, who has served on the council since her 2000 appointment, is running against Republican Andy Skibitsky in the Third Ward.

Democrat Councilman Larry Goldman, seeking his fourth term on the council, is being challenged by Christopher Panagos in the Fourth Ward.

For more information on all of the Westfield candidates, please see their individual biographies on pages 12 and 13.



Thomas Fuccillo

WF Councilmen Say Lazarowitz Did Not Violate Ordinance

*By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times*

WESTFIELD -- Two weeks ago, Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott told *The Westfield Leader* that Third Ward Democrat Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz violated one of the town's Common Cause ordinances by handing out a letter from the town with her campaign literature during the weekend of October 5.

Councilwoman Lazarowitz told *The Leader* last week that she "did not do anything wrong" and that she wants to clear her "good name."

She had previously acknowledged that she distributed the town letter with her campaign material, but stated that they were not clipped together.

Councilwoman Lazarowitz said that the ordinance, "doesn't even apply," because it has to do with fundraising. She also said that she ran off more copies of the letter using her own money so that they could be distributed to residents.

In a follow-up statement last Friday, Mayor McDermott said, "I do not believe that Claire's actions were consistent in keeping with the spirit and intent of our Common Cause ordinance."

The common cause ordinance, which was passed in March of 1999, bans "the use of government buildings and government equipment for political fundraising."

The ordinance states several "prohibited forms of fundraising," including "using municipal letterhead to solicit or accept contributions." The ordinance does not mention the distribution of campaign literature.

When asked if Councilwoman Lazarowitz was in violation of the ordinance, Fourth Ward Democrat Councilman and attorney Lawrence Goldman responded, "Not as far as I'm concerned."

Mr. Goldman said that the ordinance clearly targets political fundraising. He was Chairman of the Laws and Rules Committee in 1999 and is a current member of that committee.

Second Ward Republican Councilman, attorney and Laws and Rules Committee

member Matthew Albano told *The Leader*, upon review of the ordinance, that it applies to political fundraising and not to campaigning.

Approximately 120 copies of the letter were printed by the town on Westfield letterhead with Councilwoman Lazarowitz's name and contact information. The letter notified residents of an upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting to "address concerns expressed by residents in regard to the proposed traffic light at Central Avenue and Clover Street."

When Councilwoman Lazarowitz was unable to distribute all of the letters, Al Horta, from the Department of Public Works (DPW), distributed approximately 73 letters on October 7.

Mr. Horta distributed to homes on Central Avenue, Francis Terrace, Belmar Terrace, Clover Street, Pinegrove Avenue and Marlboro Street.

Mr. Horta, whose regular duties for the DPW are as a land surveyor for the town, also hand delivers public notices for the Planning Board.

According to Town Administrator James Gildea, it is "not in our (the town's) realm to support any candidate." He added that a similar letter had been mailed to several residents in the Second Ward, for Republican Councilman Rafael Betancourt, to give notice of a Transportation Parking and Traffic Committee (TPT) meeting.

Mr. Gildea said that, because Councilwoman Lazarowitz wanted so many letters to be sent out, it was not cost effective for them to be mailed.

The letter was also sent home in the backpacks of children at Jefferson Elementary School. According to Westfield Board of Education Public Information Officer Lorre Korecky, Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley gave permission for the letters to be distributed with the children.

Harry Pozycycki, Chairman for Common Cause, explained to *The Leader* that he did not know all of the issues involved, but stated that if Councilwoman Lazarowitz was not asking for political funds, the matter would not be covered under the ordinance.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren was unable to review the ordinance and comment to *The Leader* prior to press time.

THE TIMES

of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

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- SCOTCH PLAINS
POLICE BLOTTER**
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**
- The theft of \$300 cash from a residence on Carol Place was reported. No entry to the residence was reported.
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**
- A 37 yr old Northfield, N.J. resident reported that he was approached on Myrtle Avenue at approx. 11:50 p.m. by an unknown suspect who demanded money. The victim handed over \$17 cash. No weapons or injuries were reported.
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23**
- Burglaries to two businesses in the 2000 block of route 22 were reported to have occurred during the early morning hours. Entry was gained by breaking out windows. An undetermined amount of cash was taken.
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**
- Reported theft of \$250 cash from a business on Terrill Rd. during the morning of Thursday, October 24. No forced entry was used.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**
- John J. Bartkiewicz, 47, a resident of Warren was arrested and charged with committing a disorderly persons offense. Bartkiewicz dialed 911 and hung up and once police arrived to question Bartkiewicz it was determined that he was intoxicated, and was a danger to himself and the public.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**
- The manager of CVS pharmacy reported a shoplifting incident. The manager explained that a male entered the store and removed 12 bottles of vitamins and numerous bottles of Tylenol Gelscaps. The suspect left the store before police could arrive.
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 28**
- A Front St. resident reported having their 2002 Honda Accord stolen. The owner states that the vehicle was parked on Front St. approximately ten minutes later the vehicle was gone.