



REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES...GOP campaigners conferred in Fanwood last Saturday. Pictured, left to right, are: Andrew Calamaras, Congressman Mike Ferguson, Joel Whitaker, Stuart Kline and David Trump. Mr. Calamaras and Mr. Kline are candidates for Fanwood Borough Council. Mr. Whitaker is a candidate for Union County Freeholder, and Congressman Ferguson is running for reelection to represent the 22nd District.

Scotch Plains Republicans Support Tax Referendum

SCOTCH PLAINS - Republican Township Council candidates Frank Rossi, Carolyn Sorge and Nancy Malool have unanimously backed the much talked about referendum that will appear on this November's ballot in Scotch Plains. The non-binding referendum calls on the state to convene a constitutional convention that would address the over-reliance on the property tax to fund public education, municipal and county budgets.

Deputy Mayor Rossi said, "It is disappointing that the state legislature would not take action to put the referendum on the ballot statewide. It would have brought us one step closer to actually convening the convention. At least the voters of Scotch Plains will be able to have their voices heard."

Earlier this year, the Scotch Plains Township Council took the initiative to place the referendum on the ballot locally after legislators in Trenton could not muster the votes for a binding state referendum.

"There is no question that the property tax is the number one issue on the minds of Scotch Plains voters," stated Ms. Sorge. "We have already begun visiting with citizens in their neighborhoods and this is the recurring

theme. The property tax is the most unfair tax of all in that it does not take into account the ability to pay. The burden is particularly difficult for those living on fixed incomes with no children in the school system, like our seniors. We would like to see these pillars of the community be able to stay in the homes that they have lived in for decades. Unfortunately, lawmakers in Trenton have only been able to provide relief programs and never real property tax reform."

Councilwoman Malool said, "It was a great source of pride for me to have State Senator Robert Martin attend my first council meeting and actually issue my oath of office. Senator Martin has been one of the main sponsors and proponents of property tax reform in Trenton. It was his Bill that would have placed the Constitutional Convention referendum on the ballot statewide."

"I'm hoping that passage of municipal referenda like ours, and those in other communities, will provide Senator Martin the ammunition he needs to convince his fellow legislators in Trenton that the taxpayers of New Jersey want this convention, a serious dialogue on property taxes and then ultimately real reforms enacted."

Public Dedication of 9/11 Memorial Set for Sept. 21

WESTFIELD - The public is invited to the formal dedication of Westfield's September 11th Memorial Park. The dedication will be held on Saturday, September 21 beginning at 6 p.m. The park is situated at the intersection of North Avenue and East Broad Street near the train station.

The evening ceremony will include prayers, reflection, song and illumination of the 11-foot glass spire monument etched with the names of the 3,024 individuals who perished on September 11, 2001 in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

The park has been under construction since May and was built in memory of the twelve individuals who were lost from the Westfield community a year ago. Twelve stone pillars line a walkway through the center of the park. Each bears a name of the Westfield men who perished on September 11.

Hundreds of area residents and businesses contributed to developing the park with donations including money, landscaping, materials,

equipment and labor. Teams of volunteers worked each Saturday throughout the spring and summer, readying the park for its September opening.

The ceremony is one of several activities planned in Westfield that weekend to mark the official opening of the park. At 9 a.m., Friday, September 20, the spire will be unveiled and prayer, the playing of Taps and the ringing of church bells will signal the beginning of a 33-hour vigil that will be held at the park site.

Honor guards comprised of Westfield police, fire, rescue squad personnel and community volunteers, will stand vigil from Friday through Saturday. Beginning at noon on Saturday, the names of all the victims of September 11 will be read.

Also on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon, "A Walk for Dads" will take place in nearby Mindowaskin Park. Hundreds of schoolchildren from Westfield are expected to participate in the walkathon to raise funds for the September 11th Memorial Park.

Candidate Fuccillo Says WF Website Needs Upgrade

WESTFIELD - Tom Fuccillo, candidate for Westfield Mayor, says the town should seek innovative ways to upgrade its website, to make it more useful while cutting the costs of government. "Moving Westfield's website technology forward is important, given the benefits that these website advances can provide by delivering government services to residents in a more efficient and cost effective manner," the candidate said. "Advanced e-government websites offer that promise."

"Westfield's official website, westfieldnj.net, is a 'first generation' website, so-called because it provides basic information about the town government. In that mission, it does a good job. But it is time that we take the necessary steps to upgrade our presence on the Internet so that we have a website that not only puts Westfield's best face forward to visitors, but is also a valuable tool to deliver government services more efficiently and cost effectively," said Mr. Fuccillo.

"I would view an effort to expand the capabilities of the town's website as a positive and much needed step forward," said webmaster Darryl Walker. "An interactive website where users can transact business with the town can streamline those tasks for both residents and the government departments involved."

"The next step for Westfield to take is to transform its official website into a 'second generation' website,

one that will allow for interaction with users for purposes like applying for permits and paying tax bills online," Mr. Fuccillo added. "The difficulty often voiced by town governments, particularly those with smaller tax bases, is that they don't have the resources to pay for the technology or the programming necessary to update their websites."

"Fortunately, there are private enterprises and public-private partnerships out there that specialize in providing 'out-of-the-box' website solutions that Westfield should be exploring. Many of these enterprises provide low cost website products specially tailored to municipalities with functionality that would allow for residents to get information and transact business," Mr. Fuccillo said. "As mayor, I would see to it that these opportunities are explored."

"Westfield needs the kind of leadership that can take it into the 21st century," Mr. Fuccillo said. "We must take concrete, pro-active steps now to make the government work best and most efficiently for the people."

Volunteers for the campaign or residents who wish to share their thoughts and concerns with Tom Fuccillo are encouraged to call (908) 232-0205 or visit the campaign's website at www.TomforMayor.com.



WELCOME...Mark Elsasser, the new Chief Executive Officer of the Westfield Y, is welcomed to membership in the Westfield Rotary club on September 10 at their weekly meeting. Pictured, left to right, are: Rotary President Carl Peer, Mr. Elsasser and Rotary International District Governor Marsha Carlodon.

Westfield Rotary Club Slates Various Luncheon Speakers

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Rotary Club has arranged a diverse roster of luncheon speakers this fall. Interested parties and prospective new members are invited to attend from 12:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Westfield Y second-floor meeting room. Please call Douglas M. Fasciale, Esq., at (908) 232-9944 for details. The speaker schedule is:

- September 24 - Judge Edward W. Beglin Jr., Assignment Judge, Union County Superior Court, will speak.
- October 1 - Moogie, a mystery speaker, will appear.
- October 8 - Maestro David Wroe, Westfield Symphony Orchestra conductor, will address the group.
- October 15 - Ken Tillman, Rotary

International Foundation, will speak.

- October 22 - Ralph G. Froehlich, Union County Sheriff, will address the group.
- October 29 - Richard Solomon will discuss the history of the Ed Sullivan studio.
- November 12 - Linda Maggio of the United Fund of Westfield will speak.
- November 19 - Congressman Michael Ferguson will address the group.
- November 26 - Diane Colony, Volunteer Director, Center for Hope Hospice, is scheduled.
- December 3 - Regina Thomas, N.J. Secretary of State, will speak.
- December 10 - to be determined.

Union County Recycling Schedule

COUNTY - The County of Union will sponsor two special recycling days this month: One will be for "Household Special Waste" on Saturday, September 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carl H. Kumpf School located at 59 Mildred Terrace in Clark. This includes oil-based paint and varnish, antifreeze, aerosol cans, pool chemicals, corrosives and cleaners, pesticides and herbicides, solvents and thinners, fire extinguishers, motor oil and motor oil filters, gasoline, batteries, thermostats, unbroken fluorescent bulbs, and mercury switches.

The second recycling day, for used

electronic equipment and old automobile tires, will be on Thursday, September 26, from noon to 6 p.m., held at the parking lot of the Warinaco Park ice skating center, off St. Georges Avenue on the Roselle/Elizabeth border. Residents may bring up to six tires each (no rims) for recycling at no charge. All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost. Pre-registration is not required for these recycling days.

For further information, please call the Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at (908) 654-9889, or visit www.unioncountynj.org/oem.

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FANNY WOOD DAY

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NOON TO 5PM & RAIN DATE OCT. 6

FANWOOD, NJ AT THE CORNER OF MARTINE AVE. & SOUTH AVE.

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

DOWNTOWN FANWOOD (MARTINE & SOUTH AVE.)

THIS YEARS EVENTS INCLUDE;

AMAZING CRAFT & STREET FAIR, MOON WALK,

ROCK CLIMBING WALL, PONY RIDES,

TRACKLESS TRAIN, FIRE TRUCK SLIDE,

DELICIOUS FOODS,

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS...AND MUCH MORE!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY!

12:30-BANTRY BOYS-IRISH MUSIC

1:30-AL MADISON-BLUES/BALLADS

2:45-TERRI CERRITTO-PATRIOTIC SONGS

3:00-LITTLE MISS FANNY WOOD CONTEST

3:15-CELEBRATION SINGERS-BROADWAY & SOFT MUSIC

4:00-SWEET ADELINES-FEMALE BARBER SHOP QUARTET

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