

Candidate Campaign Release - District 21 Candidates Advocate Choice For Clean Money Campaigns

DISTRICT 21 - The current election campaign fundraising system allowed by law is a problem not being fully addressed by the state legislature. A solution is for choice in how candidates may run their campaigns either with Clean Money or PAC and corporate sponsors.

Green Party Assembly candidate Ryan Reyes said, "Cut the ties that bind elected officials to corporations by instituting Clean Money campaigns."

Clean Money for candidates eliminates corporate cash and political action committee (PAC) money but does not violate freedom of speech as decided by the courts for other piecemeal solutions.

Why should residents of New Jersey be concerned by campaign finance reforms? "Anytime you give money it changes the relationship between candidates and PACs or corporations," answered Teresa Migliore-DiMatteo, Green Party candidate for Senate.

Legislators are often referred to as leaders but what of their being public servants first and foremost.

"The problem with current campaign financing is the spin those receiving PAC and corporate donations must impress upon the voter. An illusion for people is developed with a reality for corporate interests in action known as legislation," stated George DeCarlo, Green Party candidate for Assembly.

Improving the community life of New Jersey is a challenge hampered by the effects of current financing. And, Clean Money is not a secret to the New Jersey legislators, and a Green Party presence in both houses of that body will continue to legislate and inform the voter of a new direction.

Candidate Campaign Release - Westfield Experienced Echausse Enjoying Campaign Season

Seeking his second full term as Westfield's First Ward Republican Councilman this fall, Peter Echausse still enjoys the opportunity to discuss town issues with his constituents on the campaign trail.

Although his public service philosophy hasn't changed over the past three years, his level of experience has, as he is the only council member to serve on five different committees, as well as one board.

"I like to stay engaged on all of the issues affecting the community, and the best way for me to do that is to be involved at the committee level," said Councilman Echausse. "I may not have all the answers, but it gives me a broad background on all of the issues that I can share with voters."

Councilman Echausse's work on so many committees recently led Mayor McDermott to appoint him to the Library Board, where he is currently leading efforts to improve communications between the Library and Town Council.

"I respect Pete's ability to be so efficient with his time. Anyone on council will tell you that public service is a difficult balance between your family, your profession and your government responsibilities. He has an ability to move things forward quickly and get things done," said Mayor McDermott.

As a member of the Law and Rules Committee, Councilman Echausse recently examined fees, which hadn't been changed in decades that could be raised to help lower property taxes. He is also working with his colleagues

to change the town construction code to limit the heights and square footage of homes to ensure that new constructions or additions are in keeping with the style of the neighborhood.

On the Finance Committee, Mr. Echausse oversees the Town's operating budget and capital plan, and on the Public Safety Committee, he has spearheaded plans to get citizens involved in a speed limit enforcement program to be rolled out later this month.

In addition to the Building and Town Property Committee, Councilman Echausse also sits on the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, which focuses on parking and traffic issues around Town. Key projects for 2003 include working with the Board of Education to find a reasonable parking plan for high school seniors and juniors in residential neighborhoods around the high school, and hiring safety expert, Wilbur Smith, to do a traffic safety study around Franklin Elementary school and analyze accident data for safety improvements along Dudley Ave and the Tuttle Parkway bridge on North Avenue.

"Every month, the council makes important decisions regarding Westfield's future," said Councilman Echausse. "I'm going to continue to do my best to keep my constituents informed of our progress, and I encourage every citizen to take on a more active role in local government by contacting your council person and by attending our council meetings. The more participation from the public, the more effective we can be as a local government."



Peter Echausse



FANWOOD GOP...Fanwood Borough Council Republican candidates recently posed for a photo during one of their walks campaigning in the borough. Pictured, left to right, are: Council President Joel Whitaker, Mayor Louis Jung and Councilman Dave Trumm.

Candidate Campaign Release - Westfield Candidate Working to Resolve WHS Parking Issues

WESTFIELD - Susan Jacobson, candidate for re-election in the Fourth Ward believes the recent Candidate's Debate was informative.

"A forum like this is a great opportunity for the voting public to see the different candidates and hear their positions on various issues," Councilwoman Jacobson said.

One topic not discussed was the Westfield High School parking issue. Councilwoman Jacobson recently received this email asking for help: "I'm writing to see whether the time line has been set to sort out the parking on Coddling Road. This morning a gang of boys told me to shut up because I am a stupid b--h. This was as I was trying to drive down the road with

my young son in the car. One of the boys had triple parked his truck in the middle of the road blocking my access. They were all stood around the car talking. Is there anything more immediate that can be done."

Councilwoman Jacobson copied the email to Parking Director Captain John Morgan asking for his help. She asked Dr. Robert Petix to read it to the students so they understand why the High School Parking Committee is recommending fee-based permit system that allows seniors, living a specific distance from the school, access to parking.

A member of the Parking Committee, Councilwoman Jacobson has convinced council to understand this is a neighborhood issue.

"Putting restricted parking on streets only if requested by residents just moves the problem to another street," she said.

She hopes residents who surround the school area will understand the committee's recommendations for new parking restrictions treat all streets equally.

"I know the students in our schools are great kids. How sad that a just a few disrespectful students cause these problems," Councilwoman Jacobson concluded.



Susan Jacobson

Times Set For Airing of WF Candidate Forum

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Candidate Forum will air, Monday and Wednesdays immediately preceding the Town Council Meeting at 8 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

It will run at these times through Election Day.

The forum, which features all of the candidates for Westfield Town Council, was held on October 2.

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Candidate Campaign Release - Fanwood FW Residents Praise Whitaker For Sidewalk Repair Program

FANWOOD - During a recent campaign stop at a home on Cray Terrace, Fanwood Council President Joel Whitaker was greeted with the words, "You're the one who fixed my sidewalks." It seems Fanwoodians have good memories.

Six years ago, while campaigning for his first term, Council President Whitaker noticed the hazardous condition of sidewalks damaged by Borough trees, and talked with residents who had suffered broken bones when they stumbled while walking on those sidewalks.

During his first year in office, he persuaded the council to set aside money to repair and replace, as necessary, all sidewalks in Fanwood that had been damaged or destroyed by Borough tree roots. In 2000, a survey was done by Borough Engineer Rick Marsden and an Eagle Scout who ranked the sidewalks in order of seriousness of need for repair.

"To predict and control costs, only sidewalks that had been damaged by Borough tree roots, and only those which had been evaluated by the Borough engineer, qualify for the program," stated Council President Whitaker.

The initiative is now in its fourth year and continues to be part of the capital budget. The sidewalk program has been responsible for the repair or replacement of 1,600 square yards - nearly a mile - of sidewalk since its inception.

"It's been a very popular program,"

stated Mayor Lou Jung. "The sidewalks get repaired more quickly, and individual homeowners don't have to bear the brunt of the cost."

According to Mayor Jung, the next major section of Fanwood sidewalk scheduled for replacement this fall runs along Trenton Avenue, leading toward McGinn Elementary School.

"Some towns do all the repairs themselves; some do nothing and expect the homeowners to pick up the tab for sidewalk repair," said Councilman Trumm. "In Fanwood, we feel we've found a good middle ground. It's gratifying to get the positive feedback we hear from residents."

Red Cross to Conduct Babysitter Training

WESTFIELD - The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross, headquartered at 321 Elm Street in Westfield, will host a "Babysitter's Training" course for youngsters ages 11 to 15.

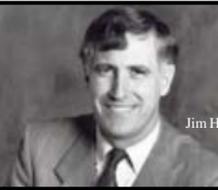
Classes will take place on Saturdays, October 18 and November 1, from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. each day. In addition, a two-day training session will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 6 and 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. There is a fee for the course and each participant will receive a small first aid kit and handbook. Interested individuals may call the chapter at (908) 232-7090 or e-mail johnsonl@crossnet.org.



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