

## Thirteen Candidates Seek 3 Seats on Freeholder Bd.

By PAUL PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COUNTY - Thirteen candidates, eight Democrats and five Republicans, filed nominating petitions in April 11 for three seats on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. This year's Primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 7.

Incumbent Democrats Angel Estrada, Rick Proctor and Nancy Ward will face George O'Grady and Marlene Abitano of Elizabeth and Becky McHugh of Linden, running under the line "Union County Democrats" and Robert L. Bender and Rebecca L. Williams, both of Plainfield, running under the slogan "New Democrats of Plainfield."

The incumbents will run under the Regular Democratic Organization of Union County line. They are running on a line with Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams, who was bumped earlier this month by the county Democratic organization in his quest for reelection to a third term as the city's mayor.

Republicans Stuart Kline, Patricia Quattrocchia, and Al Dill will face Pete Peterson of Summit and Jeff Katz of Springfield in the Primary Election.

County GOP Chairman Phil Morin said Mr. Peterson and Mr. Katz are running on a line headed by gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler. Doug Forrester was given the Regular Organization Republican line upon his second ballot victory at the GOP convention in March.

Democrats have held a 9-0 majority in the at-large freeholder board since 1998. The party took control of the board in 1997 after unseating the GOP in the 1996 election. Republicans had control the previous five years.

Mr. Estrada, a resident of Elizabeth, is serving his second, three-year term on the board. He served as chairman in 2004. He is employed as a Department of Motor Vehicles agent in Elizabeth.

Mr. Proctor of Rahway, who is currently serving as board chairman, was named to the board in 2002 to replace

Linda Stender of Fanwood, who resigned following her election to the State Assembly. Freeholder Proctor was elected to a full, three-year term in November 2002.

Ms. Ward, an attorney and resident of Linden, was named late last year to fill the vacancy of John Wolhrab, who resigned following his arrest for domestic abuse. Mr. Wolhrab had been appointed by the county's Democratic Committee to replace Nicholas Scutari upon Mr. Scutari's election to the State Senate. Mr. Scutari and Ms. Ward are also residents of Linden.

Mrs. Quattrocchi, a Garwood resident, is a research manager and recruiter for Sherbrooke Associates Inc., an executive search firm based in Clark. A graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, she attended the Taylor Business Institute in Plainfield. She is also a licensed domestic violence crisis intervention volunteer. She unsuccessfully ran for freeholder last year.

Mr. Kline, a Fanwood councilman who ran for freeholder in 2003, is an attorney. Now in his ninth year on the Fanwood Council, he has opted not to seek a fourth term.

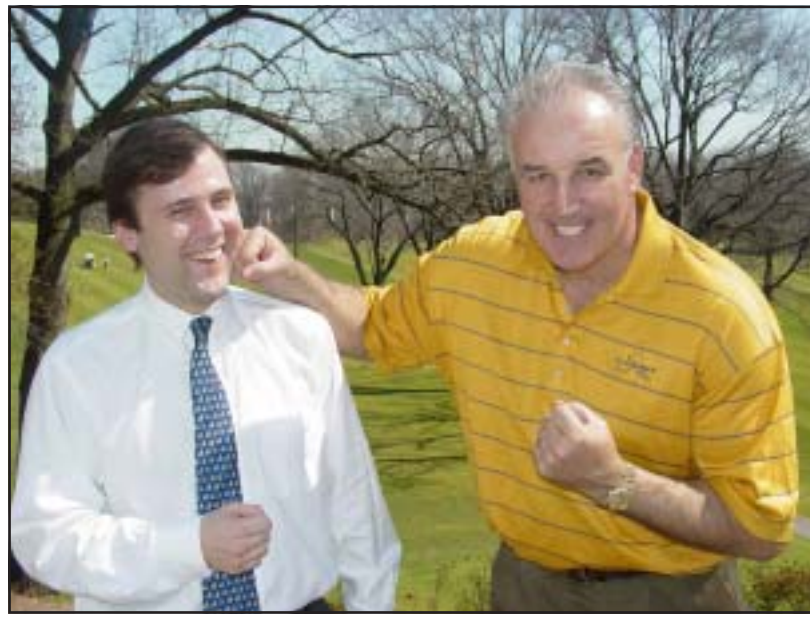
The candidate holds a Bachelor of Science degree from La Salle University, a master of business administration from Cornell University, and a law degree from Rutgers University.

Mr. Dill, a former Summit City Councilman, previously ran for freeholder in the 1990s. He is employed as an account executive with EEI, an Elizabeth-based technology firm.

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, a Democrat, is seeking a third, five-year term. She previously served 12 years as Union County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, an office that was merged into the clerk's office.

She has a master's degree in public administration from Seton Hall University. Ms. Rajoppi received her undergraduate degree from Case Western Reserve University.

Republican Sandra P. Spector of Plainfield, a substitute teacher, is challenging Ms. Rajoppi this year in the November general election.



THE MAIN EVENT... "Gentleman" Gerry Cooney will take a job at Senator Tom Kean at the Celebrity Boxing and Dinner event hosted by the Westfield Boxing Association and Mr. Cooney to be held at Temple Emanu-El on Saturday, April 30. The event will benefit the family of Tammy Giannobile, who has been battling cancer for two years, to assist with staggering medical bills.

## Forrester Unveils Plan To Cut Property Taxes

CRANFORD - Republican New Jersey gubernatorial candidate Doug Forrester unveiled his property tax relief plan on Monday at the Cranford Municipal Building. His proposal features a 30 percent property tax reduction for New Jersey homeowners in three years - guaranteed by a constitutional amendment.

"My plan - 30 percent in three, guaranteed - will cut property taxes 10 percent the first year, 20 percent the second year, and 30 percent in the final year," Mr. Forrester said. "The cuts will be guaranteed by a constitutional amendment."

Mr. Forrester said his property tax relief plan - which targets New Jersey homeowners, not corporations or second homes - "would finally bring accountability to state government and make rebates automatic."

He said he would eliminate "the corruption tax, which costs taxpayers millions of dollars every year."

"I'm going to take a business approach to the state budget, using zero-based budgeting to justify every dollar of state spending," Mr. Forrester said. "We are going to force the state to fund property tax relief and make the spending cuts to pay for it."

Mr. Forrester said his plan will permanently cut the property tax burden of New Jersey families 30 percent over three years. The average New Jersey taxpayer would receive a \$600 property tax cut in the first year, \$1,230 cut the second year, and \$1,900 cut the final year.

The state's Office of Legislative Services has estimated that the state would need to identify another \$700 million in fiscal year 2007, an additional \$1 billion for fiscal year 2008 and \$1.2 billion for fiscal year 2009 to support Mr. Forrester's program.

For more information, visit Mr. Forrester's new web site at [www.30in3.com](http://www.30in3.com).

## Volunteers Needed For Park Clean-Up

WESTFIELD - A spring cleanup is scheduled for Mindowaskin Park on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers and organizations are urged to participate and bring gloves and rakes. Volunteers will meet in the bandstand area of the park to sign in.

The event is being organized by the Friends of Mindowaskin.

## Stender and Green Opposed In Assembly Reelection Bids

By PAUL PEYTON  
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AREA - Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Assemblyman Gerald Green have filed for reelection in the 22nd Legislative District (which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood) by the April 11 deadline. They will face a challenge from Barbara Todd Kerr and Charles F. Booker, both Plainfield residents who are running on a line with Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams, in the Tuesday, June 7 Primary Election.

Mayor McWilliams was bounced last this month by the Union County Democratic Committee in his quest for a third term. Plainfield is in the 22nd Legislative District.

Mr. McWilliams, reportedly, lost favor with County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo when Mr. McWilliams was said to have endorsed Plainfield City Council President Linda Carter for Assembly over Mr. Green.

Republicans running for the two Assembly seats are Nancy Malool, a Scotch Plains Councilwoman, and Elyse Bochicchio Medved of Rahway. They are unopposed in the primary election.

Assemblywoman Stender, a second-term assemblywoman from Fanwood, previously served nine

years on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and was chairwoman in 1997.

She currently serves as Vice Chairwoman of the Assembly Tourism and Gaming Committee. Assemblywoman Stender is also a member of the Transportation Committee.

Assemblywoman Stender, who is employed as volunteer services coordinator at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights, served a term each as Mayor as a member of the Borough Council in Fanwood.

Assemblyman Green, a resident of Plainfield, is seeking his seventh term in the General Assembly, where he has served since 1992. He is currently Chairman of the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee. He is also a member of the Health and Human Services Committee.

He previously served as a member of the freeholder board from 1982 to 1984 and 1989 to 1991, serving as chairman in 1990.

Mrs. Malool, who has been a member of the Scotch Plains Council since 2002, was previously employed as chief legislative aide to the late Assemblyman Alan Augustine of Scotch Plains.

Ms. Medved, a former Rahway City Councilwoman, ran unsuccessfully for freeholder in 2002.



VOWING TO CUT TAXES... Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Forrester discusses his plan to reduce property taxes during a press conference held Monday in front of the Cranford Municipal Building. Also pictured, left to right, are: Roselle Park Mayor Joseph Delorio, Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks, Roselle Park Councilman Ricky Badillo, Forrester for Governor spokeswoman Sherry Sylvester, Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21), and Mr. Forrester's wife, Andrea.

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