

## John Murphy Visits Area In Quest for GOP Nod

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. He said spending over \$63 million as Mr. Corzine did in his 2000 primary and general elections races combined is "obscene" and puts opponents at an extreme disadvantage. "Trying to raise a family in New Jersey is a difficult thing to do these days. And I think most people in New Jersey would relate to me better than they would relate to a multi-millionaire like Jon," said Mr. Murphy. He said having Mr. Forrester at the top of the GOP ticket could cause Republicans to lose one of their biggest campaign issues, namely Mr. Corzine's attempt to "buy" the governor's office.

"I think I am better to make that criticism having not put a dime of mine own money in (the campaign) versus someone like Doug who has spent millions previously and who has said he will spend millions (this year)," said Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy said Acting Governor Codey was likely "boxed out" of the race for governor by Democratic leaders to eliminate a "divisive" primary race.

Mr. Murphy has proposed legislation where by both parties' nominees would receive \$6.4 million in matching state campaign funds to run for office. His plan would forbid candidates from spending their own money and would not require candidates to raise the \$3.2 million to be eligible for matching funds as is currently required under state election law.

He likens his campaign strategy to former Congressman Bob Franks who captured 48 percent of the vote in his 2000 U.S. Senate despite being significantly outspent by Sen. Corzine. "We plan on taking a page out of the Bob Franks book," he said, by being a "retail politician" at the grassroots level.

The candidate said his campaign is also concerned with ballot integrity to ensure that only properly registered voters cast their ballots.

Mr. Murphy of Morris Township has been a Morris County freeholder since 1998. He was freeholder director in 2002 and again in 2003, and served as deputy director in 2000 and 2001.

He is a former member of the Morris Township Committee, a position he held from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Murphy, a partner in and financial advisor with the Morristown Financial Group, is also a former commis-

sioner of the Morris County Sheriff's Crime Stoppers program.

Mr. Murphy is a volunteer firefighter in Morris Township and a former captain and president of the Woodland Fire Company.

Also seeking the GOP nomination are Bogota (Bergen County) Mayor Steve Lonagan, Assemblyman Paul DiGaetano of Nutley, and Washington Township, Bergen County Councilman Robert Schroeder, and former Bergen County freeholder Todd Caligire.

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## McCready Seeks Westfield BOE Seat; Incumbent Hunnicutt Vies for Reelection

By **BETSEY BURG DORF  
AND PAUL PEYTON**  
Specially Written for The Times

**WESTFIELD** — Gary McCready of Mohican Drive in Westfield launched his campaign this week for one of three seats in this spring's board of education race.

A computer systems manager with Sumitomo Mitsui Bank in Jersey City, Mr. McCready has lived in Westfield for 10 years. His oldest child attends Roosevelt Intermediate School and his two youngest are students at Wilson Elementary School. The family moved briefly to California where the candidate had taken a job but moved back to Westfield less than a year later.

Mr. McCready was involved in the district's strategic planning committee in 1998 and was co-president of the former Advanced Learning Program. That committee was replaced by the Gifted and Talented Program.

"I feel I could contribute a lot (to the board) especially in the area of technology," Mr. McCready commented.

The candidate said he would like to see more community involvement. He proposed having forums available on the district's web site where residents could comment on school issues. "I would like to get more of the community involved in passing ideas onto the board," said Mr. McCready.

Incumbent Alice Hunnicutt will be vying to maintain her seat on the



**COUNCIL MEMBERS?...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA members who ran the Scotch Plains Township Council, pictured, left to right, are: Dan Birnbaum, Kyle Rzonca, Stefano Gaetano, Caroline L'Heureux, Michael Baumwoll, Eric Ajuluchukwu, Elizabeth Elko and Jay Hankin.**

board and told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "I have a comfort level being in the role (of board member), it is a learning experience for me too." She was elected three years ago to the three-year term and is hoping for a chance at a second term.

Mrs. Hunnicutt and her husband, George Bogatoo, have lived together in Westfield since 1984, although George is a native Westfielder. They were both professional musicians living in New York City when the opportunity arose to purchase George's childhood home from his ailing mother. They jumped at the chance to return to Westfield.

Mrs. Hunnicutt is no longer a professional musician and currently works for Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN). SPAN receives federal money in order to help educate parents with children 14 and over, who have disabilities, transition from the school environment into the real world. She has personally reaped the rewards of her commitment to SPAN because her oldest son was diagnosed with developmental disabilities and was considered multiply handicapped. She stated that his transition has been successful and he is currently employed.

Mrs. Hunnicutt is the mother of five children ranging in age from 15 to 25. She currently has two sons attending Westfield High School. One is a freshman and the other, a junior. Her other three children are products

of the Westfield school system.

Her current position on the Westfield Board of Education is as the Facilities Chairperson and she was involved in the track and field project that recently passed in a bond referendum.

"With the population growing in Westfield, this is a good way to allow the community to have better usage of our fields," Mrs. Hunnicutt commented.

She has also been extensively involved in the renovation of the auditorium at the high school. Mrs. Hunnicutt stated that her music background will help in designing an auditorium that, "with the right kind of acoustics, can provide more of a curriculum for those students who are interested in directing."

She also stated that she would be carefully looking at the current curriculum, which is up for review this year, to make sure, "we are reaching all populations." She also said that with the foreign language program now being introduced in third grade, students are entering junior high and high school with more knowledge.

"That's exciting," she said, adding that it also requires that the foreign language curriculum in sixth, seventh and eighth grades needs to be revisited.

One goal she has for the future of the district is to bring more students back from out-of-district placement. She acknowledged that it would require teachers being prepared and educated in order to instruct children with disabilities.

"Kids are like rubber bands. The farther you stretch them, the farther they go," she said.

### DECA Responsible For SPFHS Front Sign

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — DECA has been given sole control over the new announcement board in the front of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS).

The board will display school information, community updates, and town and private organization meeting dates.

DECA will also post general, as well as charitable advertisements for members of the community at an affordable price.

The sign can also be used for birthdays and personal messages.

To purchase space on the board, please call DECA Advisor Joe Franzone at (908) 889-8600.



**FLOCKING TO THE CLUB...**A group of geese enjoyed the pleasant weather on Sunday at Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains.

## Property Revaluation In SP May Be Near, Mayor Says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cant increase in property tax revenue. The value of some properties will be higher, he said, while others will be lower and some will remain the same.

In what has become an annual custom, Tuesday's council meeting was run by eight students from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA program, an association of marketing students. Michael Baumwoll played the role of Mayor Marks, Elizabeth Elko sat in for Deputy Mayor Carolyn Sorge, Eric Ajuluchukwu filled in for Councilwoman Paulette Coronato, Caroline L'Heureux sat in for Councilman Frank Rossi and Stefano Gaetano filled in for Councilwoman Nancy Malool. Jay Hankin sat in for Township Manager Thomas Atkins, Dan Birnbaum filled in for Mr. Hansen and Kyle Rzonca sat in for Township Clerk Barbara Riepe.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Marks said the municipal budget will be posted on the township's website, www.scotchplainsnj.com, sometime in the next few weeks. Al Muller of Ramapo Way had suggested this at the council's January 25 meeting.

Mayor Marks noted that the council "has yet to sink our teeth into the budget" it received from Mr. Atkins

two weeks ago and said that "once we've done that, we will have something to post."

The council deferred action on a bid for the upcoming deer management program in the Ashbrook Reservation. Mr. Hankin, speaking for Mr. Atkins, said that two bids have been received, but since the township is conducting the deer hunt in conjunction with the county and the reservation is on county property, Scotch Plains officials want to receive the county's input on the bids and the firms who submitted those bids.

In addition, the township is waiting to receive the actual permits from the state that will allow the deer hunt to take place before the end of the winter season.

Final approval was given to an ordinance formally appropriating \$160,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for roadway improvements on a section of Railway Road between Lenape Way and Cooper Road.

Another ordinance was approved that sets fees for copies of documents distributed by the police department or through the municipal prosecutor for discovery purposes in municipal court.

A resolution was approved to award contracts for the purchase of \$120,142 worth of equipment needed by the recreation department and the Scotch Hills Country Club.

The council passed a resolution securing the services of Commerce Insurance Services to conduct random drug and alcohol testing on all township employees holding a commercial driver's license (CDL). Mr. Stefano, speaking for Councilwoman Malool, said that several township employees working for the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments hold CDLs and would be subject to the testing.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Baumwoll, speaking for Mayor Marks, read a proclamation declaring February to be Black History Month in Scotch Plains.

### FDU Magazine Features

#### Story on SP Resident

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The winter/spring 2005 edition of *FDU Magazine*, published at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), includes a story about Scotch Plains resident and alumnus Wayne Hallard.

Mr. Hallard, who received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1980 and his Masters of Business Administration from FDU, discusses his involvement in purebred dogs in the article, "A Dog-Beat-Dog Affair."

To view the full story, please visit [www.fdu.edu/newspubs/magazine/05ws/hallard.htm](http://www.fdu.edu/newspubs/magazine/05ws/hallard.htm).

## SP-F BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

almost \$1.5 million. It was explained that this increase comes due to rising healthcare costs, and that retirees are included in the figures.

The next budget session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m.

## YMCA Seeks to Expand Parking, Add Mezzanine for Wellness Ctr.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

onto southbound Martine Avenue.

Mr. Maltz said that most of the traffic heading to the YMCA comes from the north, so left turns out of Peach Court should not be a problem, adding that this also makes it improbable that enough cars would be backed up on northbound Martine Avenue waiting to enter the YMCA parking lot that southbound drivers would be blocked from turning left on to Peach Court.

His assessments were challenged by Peach Court resident David Bard, who spoke of his concerns that any increase in vehicular traffic would hamper his ability to get in and out of his street.

"I consider it dangerous" to make a left-hand turn out of Peach Court, Mr. Bard said. He added that he was concerned that the proposed exit driveway out of the YMCA parking lot would be near enough to the Peach Court intersection to create a potentially dangerous situation if cars were simultaneously making left turns out of Peach Court onto southbound Martine Avenue and out of the YMCA lot onto northbound Martine Avenue.

Mr. Maltz said the two roadways would be 78 feet apart, which he said was a "sufficient distance" to allow two vehicles to see each other "very well."

David Chewey, a landscape architect, presented plans to create a four-foot high beam in front of the expanded parking lot to screen the lot from Martine Avenue as well as the homes across Martine Avenue. Trees would be planted atop the beams and, within a few years, would grow to-

gether sufficiently to create a nearly complete screen.

Several residents questioned YMCA representatives about buffers at the rear of the property, which abuts residential properties on Brandywine Court and Fenimore Drive. Mr. Chewey described plantings that are being planned for that area and said they should provide an adequate buffer.

## Incumbents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion policy in New Jersey and France.

Perspective board of education candidates must get the signatures of at least 10 residents who are registered voters. All first-year school board members are required by law to attend a New Jersey School Boards Association training program on the roles and responsibilities of school board members.

The deadline to file an official petition to run in the election is 4 p.m. on Monday, February 28.

### Kindergarten Signups

#### Slated for Evergreen

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Kindergarten registration for Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains will be held Monday, February 28, through Friday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school office.

For more information, please call the school at (908) 889-5331.

## Fanwood Council Delays Vote; Approves Changes to Downtown Redevelopment Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the first project is completed "a tremendous amount of interest will occur," and other owners will want to commence work on their locations. All owners must come before the council for approval of their plans. If a property has any code violations, such as building or fire codes, they will be required to remedy the situation within five years.

A major concern regarding the downtown plan was the lack of attention paid to pedestrian routes and safety. "We tried to pedestrianize the entire block. There were excess curb cuts, which interfered (with pedestrian safety) and were dangerous. There was no connection to the train station."

"A clear pathway on South Avenue was needed," stated Mr. Roberts. The new plan calls for an interior parking area with a pedestrian path to the train station, a 50-foot easement along South Avenue, 14 feet wide alleys, and wider sidewalks. Stores will be required to have dual entrances, from the front and rear, as well as pedestrian walkways from both doors.

Another concern was whether the new construction would keep within the look of Fanwood in general, and it is now mandatory to keep with a Victorian architecture style.

Fanwood's Planning Board has reviewed the downtown plan and made suggestions they feel are necessary. The board wanted the solid waste collection and disposal to be consolidated and suggested ways to screen in those waste containers.

Also, previously it had been thought that retailers would be allowed to have outdoor displays within five feet of the store's entrance, however the board felt this

would result in unsightly problems. These suggestions have been incorporated into the new plan.

As for the Dean Oil site, any developer wishing to build residential properties at this location will be required to "clean it up to residential standards," explained Mr. Roberts. It is believed that the ground might be contaminated.

Previously, when only retail was going to be built there, it would have only been needed to be brought up to commercial standards.

In answer to a question from Councilman Stuart Kline, Mr. Roberts said that plans for incentives for property owners have not been specifically decided on yet, but it is thought it might be in the form of property tax relief for five years. If the project were to become larger, with more development the number of years offered might increase.

John Cavanaugh, a McDermott Place resident, came to the podium and asked questions regarding the plans for parking and the height of buildings. The drawing shown by Mr. Roberts shows no cut through for cars from the interior parking lot to South Avenue.

Mr. Roberts said he cannot guarantee that there will be no access from the parking lot to the street, but that is the current plan. The residential buildings will either provide their own parking or will be required to contribute to a fund for construction of more parking.

As for height, the maximum will be three stories. However, they will be required to look like two and a half story structures, with the use of dormers or pitched roofs.

The subject of density has been a much-debated issue during the en-

tire redevelopment plan process. Many residents have expressed serious concerns regarding the quantity of residential units to be built. Councilman Andrew Calamaras said that it sounds to him that the ultimate decision regarding density is a "work in progress."

Mr. Roberts explained that "the redevelopment plan can always be amended at any time, the council can decide to make adjustments, and they might have more density if the parking is adequate."

It was originally thought that the council would take a vote and adopt the new redevelopment plan at Tuesday's meeting. Instead, this meeting was used to accept the changes suggested by the planning board. The final vote on the new plan will occur at the regular council meeting on March 8.

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