

SP-F BOE Candidates

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said being on the board has allowed her to participate in her children's education.

She laid out her goals if reelected, saying her first goal is to maintain "reasonable" class sizes. She also wants to take technology "to the next level" so parents can "access homework and lots of information on the web." She said the district has laid the groundwork but more needs to be done.

She said she wants to address parking issues. "The town's growing and the parking lots are not."

Mr. Gowen, who ran against Mrs. Woerner in last year's board election, is the father of two and a 10-year resident of Scotch Plains.

He stressed two "pet projects" he hopes to achieve if elected. "I consider myself to be a person of new ideas." Both projects, he said, would generate more money in the district. One goal is to spearhead a "one less bullet, one more book" campaign, a "grassroots" effort to ask the federal government to "re-direct money incrementally back into education."

He said, "We need to put our money into education the way we have in our defense system."

When asked if this goal is realistic, he said, "Absolutely. We're the ones who have children who will be shortchanged because of ignorance at the top end. Unless we say 'stop, don't do that,' it will continue to get worse."

He also proposed a tax on real-estate commissions to generate more money for the district. "The thing that's establishing real-estate values is school grades," which are based on the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) tests, he said. "We need to be able to tap into a resource that's rightfully ours."

Mr. Gowen suggested that realtors give a small percentage of their commission back to the schools. "My kid is not part of a real-estate deal," he said, adding that he does not want to cut budgets. He wants to "find the money."

Mr. Gowen, who was a vice president of information technology at an investment company for 17 years and is now "semi-retired," said his prior campaign was very "polite" and "soft spoken." Now, he said, "the gloves are off."

Newcomer to the race Mr.

Gorbunoff is the director of Operations for a company that gives money to schools and libraries nationwide for internet access and telecommunications.

"I see all the good that comes from working in my job and helping school systems across the country," said the father of three. "I want to devote some of that energy to help the school system here."

Mr. Gorbunoff, whose children attend SPFHS and Terrill Middle School, said, "It's our job to ensure that we do the best that we can for our children."

He said curriculum, facilities and staff are all important. "In many ways it's a balancing act."

He said he wants to ensure things are done "in a common sense way" and that no detail is overlooked. "It's time to start making sure we're doing the kind of long-range planning, strategic planning, that's so important so that things don't creep up on us."

He stressed the importance of teacher contract negotiations and finding a new principal for Terrill. He emphasized that with the changes in grade levels at the school, different needs have to be met. He said he hopes for an active search to "bring in the best candidate, whether from inside the district or outside."

Scotch Plains Council

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board's meeting being halted due to overcrowding, the council stated its formal opposition to the proposal. After several dozen township residents attended the freeholders' regular meeting in Elizabeth on February 16, the proposal was withdrawn.

Calling the county's decision "a somewhat satisfactory ending, at least for the time being," the mayor thanked deputy mayor Nancy Malool for attending the freeholders' meeting.

She lauded residents, saying they "did an excellent job" in presenting their opposition. "It was democracy at its best." She noted that Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella had said that the county's \$10-million purchase of the property was the county's biggest open-space purchase ever, and that "something will be done" with the property. "The issue is what," said Mrs. Malool.



BENEFITTING MOUNTAINSIDE...Borough Mayor Robert Vigilanti (right) poses with members of the newly formed Blanche and George Watts Mountainside Community Foundation, a \$3.5-million fund, which will award annual grants of \$140,000.

FW Planning, Zoning Board

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Adjacent residents told *The Times* that they are opposed to such a large development on these lots because it would greatly devalue their homes and create traffic problems in their neighborhood. Residents complained to the board that there has been a major standing water problem in their neighborhood and on these lots for many years.

Engineer James Watson of EKA Associates, testifying on behalf of the applicant, stated that he was confident that if the property were well-maintained the standing water prob-

lem would be resolved.

Due to the standing water problems and the fact that the property is in a flood hazard area, the board rescheduled the hearing until the applicant obtained a letter from a wetlands expert, showing the suitability of the lot for redevelopment. The continuation will be heard at a special meeting scheduled for Monday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

A second application, submitted by Fanwood Plaza Partners, to construct a daycare center and a bank on South Avenue was also heard before the board. The applicant proposes to construct an 8,252-square-foot branch of the Goddard School Day Care Center, with two adjacent playground areas, accommodating approximately 120 pre-school students.

The proposed 2,966-square-foot branch of the Town Bank will have three drive-through lanes in the rear parking lot. The two buildings would share a common entrance driveway on South Avenue. Both buildings would be one-and-a-half stories, with the upper half-story used for storing maintenance equipment only. The buildings would be designed in accordance with Fanwood's Victorian style, architect Peter Steck testified.

The site requires several variances, including a D variance for combining three lots into one lot containing the two buildings.

The property is located adjacent to the rear parking lot of Children's Specialized Hospital. The application proposes to enter into a shared parking arrangement with The Chelsea at Fanwood, also on South Avenue, in order to provide parking for office workers that currently use these lots for parking. The Goddard School would provide 56 parking spaces for customers.

The applicant is applying for a sign variance for additional signage in excess of the allotted number designated by ordinance.

Landscape Architect David Chewey described the extensive landscaping plans for the site. Robert Freud, an engineer for the development, discussed the storm-water management plan.

Testimony will be continued to a special meeting on Monday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

In other business, the board appointed attorney Clifford Kuhn to the board as counsel, and it reappointed T&M Associates to serve as the board's planning consultant.

After discussion, the board decided not to take any action on the existing side-yard setback ordinance for corner lots. The board deemed the existing ordinance would be adequate and any deviations would require a variance application.

Paul Ricci reported to the board on the status of the oversized homes ordinance, also called the McMansion ordinance. The most significant aspect of this issue was disproportionate heights, Mr. Ricci told the board. He said the decision regarding what to allow should also be based on what other houses in a neighborhood look like in order to maintain continuity. Mr. Ricci said he would present a more formal report at next month's meeting.

The planning board's monthly agenda meeting will be held on March 20 and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on March 29. Both meetings will be held in the council chambers at 7:30 p.m.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Friday, February 17, a motor vehicle was vandalized while parked at a business in the 600 block of North Avenue. Someone ran a sharp object along both sides of the vehicle, leaving deep scratches in the paint.

Friday, February 17, a resident of the 2000 block of Grandview Avenue reported his unlocked motor vehicle was burglarized while parked in his driveway. Ten dollars in assorted change was removed from the vehicle.

Friday, February 17, Bernard Jennings, 49, of Plainfield was arrested in the 200 block of Elm Street for shoplifting razor blades from an Elm Street grocery store and on outstanding criminal warrants from Garwood and North Hunterdon and a traffic warrant from Fanwood.

Jennings was released with a summons on the shoplifting charge and released on his own recognizance on each of the warrants.

Saturday, February 18, someone threw two rocks through the front window of an unoccupied home in the 100 block of Lincoln Road, causing the window to shatter.

Sunday, February 19, Michael Macalle, 39, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield traffic warrant following a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. Macalle posted the \$127 bail and was released.

Monday, February 20, Michael Frio, 27, of Westfield was arrested at South and Windsor Avenues and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was later released to a responsible individual.

Monday, February 20, a North Euclid Avenue resident reported that her home was burglarized. One or more individuals apparently gained entry through a basement window, after which the master bedroom was ransacked and an undetermined amount of jewelry was taken.

Monday, February 20, Thomas J. Cunningham, 46, of Garwood was arrested in the 200 block of East North Avenue and charged with obstructing justice for allegedly attempting to elude police investigating a suspicious person report. Police also discovered Cunningham was wanted on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant and turned him over to Sheriff's department authorities.

Wednesday, February 22, Randy Roane, 41, of Plainfield was arrested at the Port Authority Police Station on outstanding traffic warrants from Westfield and Dunellen. Bail for both was set at \$500. He was transported to the county jail.

Thursday, February 23, Kenneth Pope, 29, of Newark was arrested at South Avenue and Cacciola Place and charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly giving police a false name and date of birth. He also was arrested on outstanding criminal war-

Foundation

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ners. After providing for her sister, they were at a loss for what to do with the remainder of their estates. The couple talked about how much they enjoyed living in Mountainside and how much the services available in town meant to them. Doing something to assist those services was the natural evolution of that discussion.

A committee of nine trustees has been organized to direct the foundation, which is to be called the Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation. At the organizational meeting Nicholas Bradshaw was elected president. Jack Clifford, Bart Barre and Dewey Moser, will serve as vice-president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. Susan Winans will serve as the chairwoman of the grants committee. The other trustees are John Amalfi, Christopher Belden, Patricia Connelly and Vasy Honecker. All trustees are active residents of the Mountainside community.

The first grant of the foundation will be a gift to the borough of a hand-capped-equipped community bus. Grants may be made only to tax-exempt organizations, not to individuals.

Applications for grants may be obtained at the municipal building and at the library.

Authorities Seek Murder Suspect, Request Public's Help

HILLSIDE — Union County authorities Tuesday released a sketch of the man believed responsible for a murder in Hillside over the weekend.

Detectives from the Hillside and Union County Prosecutor's Office are attempting to identify the suspect, a black male approximately 25 to 30 years of age who was spotted running off to a waiting getaway car, believed to be a black Acura TL, either 2002 or 2003, around 9:47 p.m. on Friday. "We want to bring this killer, the person responsible for this terrible tragedy to justice," said Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, who said the shooting may have occurred during an attempted carjacking of the victim's vehicle. The gunman had a light complexion, stood about 6 feet tall weighing 190 pounds with an athletic build and wore a black hat with a visor and earflaps, a black coat, black pants and black hi-top shoes or sneakers. "Someone who recognizes the face, the clothing, should take a minute and call to tell us what they know."

Those with information should contact the Hillside detective bureau at (973) 926-5800 or use the 24-hour Crimestoppers hotline number at (908) 654-TIPS.

Richard Plinio, 42, died at around 1:30 a.m. Saturday after being shot in the chest

rants from Newark, for \$500, and Livingston, for \$305. Pope was committed in default of bail.

Thursday, February 23, Antwan D. Clark, 23, of Linden posted bail on a \$500 Westfield traffic warrant after surrendering himself.

Thursday, February 23, Nicole Wiley, 38, of East Orange was arrested at the Somerset County jail on open warrants from Westfield for \$691, and Paramus for \$355. She was committed to the county jail.

Friday, February 24, Alan Ozdamar, 18, of Westfield posted bail on an outstanding \$300 Union traffic warrant after turning himself in at Westfield police headquarters.

Saturday, February 25, Jennifer Corisdeo, 23, of Piscataway was arrested in the 800 block of East Broad Street and charged with DWI and with refusal to submit to chemical testing. She was later released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, February 25, Darren Certosimo, 41, of Newark was arrested in the 10 block of Prospect Street on contempt of court warrants from Mount Olive, for \$1,000; Hackensack, for \$500; Washington Township, for \$500, and Newark, for \$450. Certosimo was turned over to Mount Olive authorities.

Saturday, February 25, Scott Diaz, 19, of Clark was arrested at Lenox and Central Avenues and charged with DWI and with possession of alcohol underage. He was later released to a responsible individual.

Scotch Plains

Monday, February 20, David Rozar, 42, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with resisting arrest following a police investigation into criminal activity that occurred in Warren. According to police, Rozar attempted to flee from police during questioning. He was processed and released to the Warren Police Department.

Tuesday, February 21, a resident of Fenimore Drive reported being the victim of harassment, stating that an unknown person or persons telephoned him and used offensive language before hanging up.

Thursday, February 23, a resident of Front Street reported being the victim of a hit-and-run. The victim stated an unknown person struck her motor vehicle while it was parked in front of her house and left without reporting the incident.

Saturday, February 25, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported being the victim of harassment, saying a classmate threatened to hit him. The incident is under investigation.

Saturday, February 25, a resident of Canterbury Drive reported being the victim of criminal mischief. The victim stated someone struck his motor vehicle, which was parked in front of his house, with a soft drink bottle, causing damage to the mirror.

Fanwood

Wednesday, February 22, Joann Bynum-Busby, 43, of Middlesex was arrested on active warrants following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Wednesday, February 22, Jose O. Toribio, 48, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road revealed outstanding warrants.

Wednesday, February 22, Michael A. Dodson, 31, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue revealed outstanding warrants.

Wednesday, February 22, Juliette L. Johnson, 43, of Scotch Plains was arrested in the 200 block of South Avenue on numerous outstanding warrants after a field investigation.

Wednesday, February 22, Seung R. Kim, 56, of Edison was arrested after a motor vehicle stop at Midway Avenue and Paul's Place revealed outstanding warrants.

Monday, February 27, James L. Bass, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue at Third Street on a no-bail warrant. He also was charged with hindering apprehension.

Monday, February 27, Paul G. Kamichoff, 30, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue at Forest Road that revealed outstanding warrants. He also was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and drug paraphernalia.

Fanwood TDR

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historical integrity of their homes. Homeowners would have some flexibility with the types of restrictions they chose to implement. For example, a building expansion might be permitted if it did not affect the historic character of the home, while vinyl siding might not be allowed.

Fanwood was one of five municipalities in New Jersey selected to participate in the TDR program. It is the only municipality to consider implementing the TDR plan to preserve an historic district. The other four municipalities are utilizing the TDR program to preserve open space and farmlands. Fanwood's use of the TDR program in this unique way would be the first of its kind, Mayor Mahr told *The Times*.

The mayor explained to the audience that the TDR program could offer the borough many benefits, while preventing unwanted devaluations of borough properties and neighborhoods.

Vito Brancatella, owner of the Wonder Years Day Care Center located next door to the A & P, participated in the group discussions along with approximately 20 Fanwood resi-

dents. Many of the residents were enthused at being asked for their preferences regarding the development of this corridor. However, several residents told *The Times* that they did not completely understand some of the aspects of the TDR program as the session progressed.

The mayor agreed that this was a complex redevelopment tool to understand and that was why the borough was holding these visioning sessions to allow the public more time to become familiar with all of the aspects and advantages of the program. Two more sessions are planned for Thursday, March 9 and Thursday, March 30. Both sessions will be held at the Forest Road Park Recreation Building on Forest Road at 7:30 p.m.

Updated information about the TDR program can also be found on the borough's website at www.fanwoodnj.com.

Mayor Mahr told *The Times* that representatives also planned on reaching out to property owners along the South Avenue corridor to include them in the planning and implementation of the program.

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