

## Hayes Presents SP-F Public Schools' Strategic Plan For 2014-2017

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS – Seeking Excellence Together, the title of the 2014-2017 Scotch Plain-Fanwood school district's strategic plan, was presented Tuesday evening. Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes gave a presentation of the new strategic plan and how it was formed.

In the presentation, Superintendent Hayes noted that the district's mission statement is to educate and empower the students to be a commu-

nity of learners and successful citizens of the world.

She also noted that last spring there were three meetings held to have members of the community work together to craft the new strategic plan. Board of Education Chairman Trip Whitehouse stated that these meetings were attended by students, teachers, administrators, parents, community leaders and many other citizens of the two communities. He also stated how important it was to have so many different people attending the meet-

ings, giving their input and helping to mold the education of the district's youth. He added that both communities had their mayor and police chief in attendance.

The plan noted that all students are to have a safe environment to learn, have individualized attention and become highly engaged in their learning process. In her presentation, the superintendent also stated that the strategic plan is molded to have an active role from the community and the students' families and to have school staff recognize the potential and individuality of each child.

The strategic plan model used for all three meetings, entitled 3D Determination, Dream and Destiny by Design, was conducted by state facilitator Gwen Thorton.

After all the compiling work was done at these three meetings the many members of the Strategic Plan Committee put together the following five goals.

The first goal has to do with technology, not only for the students' use in their education but advances for use in managing students' records and effective communication with the community. The second goal is to provide a safe and secure learning environment by mandating and upgrading district facilities within the confines of the school budget and the state mandated 2-percent cap. Goal number three has to do with early childhood initiatives by maximizing all district resources for all early childhood learners. The fourth goal is to always provide authentic learning experiences by engaging students from pre-k through senior year in problem-based learning. The last district goal to come out of the strategic plan is to explore partnerships with colleges, businesses and government and to provide shadowing opportunities for students with experts and professionals.

Ms. Hayes concluded her presentation by noting, "The amazing turnout to our meetings by our commu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Christina Hinkle for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

**HARVEST FESTIVAL...**The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Community Renewal hosted the 32nd annual Union County Harvest Festival at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside on September 29. The festival gives event-goers a chance to see early American culture and history come to life.

## Sheriff Candidate Ince Runs On Law Enforce. Background

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKLE**  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

COUNTY — Republican candidate for Union County Sheriff Michael Ince, a retired FBI agent and former police officer, is running on a platform as someone who has law enforcement experience.

Mr. Ince is in contention with Acting Sheriff Joseph Cryan, a Democratic Assemblyman from the 20th Legislative District. Mr. Cryan became acting sheriff in July following the death earlier that month of Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, who held the position for 37 years until his passing.

"When Mr. Froehlich passed away I felt this was an opportunity for someone like myself, who had a professional background in law enforcement, to step up. I feel like with my early police experience, my experience with the FBI for nearly 25 years, my educational background was a pretty good fit for the position," Mr. Ince told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood*

*Times* Friday.

"In order to perform the job the way it should be and to be able to communicate with your staff and other agencies, I think to be most effective you need to have a law enforcement background," Mr. Ince said.

Mr. Ince was a special agent with the FBI, where he conducted foreign counterintelligence work, which he said is "similar to organized crime investigations," and electronic surveillance work. He worked mostly in New York. Mr. Ince was born in Rahway and raised his family in Westfield. He and his wife recently moved to Garwood. From 1977 to 1988, Mr. Ince was a patrol officer in Clark. He holds a political science degree from Montclair State University and studied criminal justice at Union County College.

"I would try to use my background. The balance of my career was electronic surveillance work... In terms

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Rob Connelly for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

**CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF...**Republican candidate for Union County Sheriff Michael Ince, right, a retired FBI agent and former police officer, who is running on a platform as someone who has law enforcement experience discusses his campaign with *Times* Assignment Editor Paul Peyton on September 29.



Photo courtesy of Brian Horton

**FANNY WOOD DAY...**Booths line Martine Avenue as the crowd fills the street during the 17th annual Fanny Wood Day in downtown Fanwood on Sunday.

## Democrat Janice Kovach Seeks 7th District Congressional Seat

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKLE**  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

STATE — "There needs to be a better mix of men and women serving in Congress. For me, I wanted to be a part of that, and frankly, I don't think my interests are being represented any longer," said Janice Kovach, Democratic candidate seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the 7th Congressional District, in an interview last Thursday with *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. Republican Leonard Lance, a Clinton Township resident, has held the seat since 2009.

Ms. Kovach has served the Township of Clinton as its mayor and a council member. Additionally, she has served as director of the New Jersey Division on Women, a position appointed by the Governor.

Ms. Kovach is a business consult-

ant in business operations and management. Previously, she was a director in charge of a 24/7 call center and a marketing project management group at Prudential. Ms. Kovach earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Thomas Edison State College. She is married with three children.

Ms. Kovach says her time on council in the Township of Clinton has proven she can work across party lines, noting she was the sole Democrat in a majority-held Republican council.

"We work really well together. We have accomplished more in the two-and-a-half years working together than I thought we would accomplish in four. We turned around a lot of the financial issues that the town was facing. We worked on infrastructure and we did it together," Ms. Kovach said.

"I take Democrats to task as much as I take Republicans to task. If someone is not doing something that will benefit my municipality and I think they are hurting my municipality, I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican or Independent, I am going to let you know what I think," Ms. Kovach said.

This mindset of a focus on com-

munity is something she wants to bring to Washington. "I think that there is not a lot of conversation with what is happening in our backyards, and that to me is extremely important," Ms. Kovach said.

She also has a stance on the U.S. involvement regarding the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), immigration reform, environmental changes, gun laws and the Affordable Care Act.

In regards to the U.S.-led coalition striking ISIS, she said she would need further information she is not privy to in order to make a judgment call.

"I'm a mother and I have a daughter who is 24 and two boys in middle school. Do I want them to have to go to war? No. At the same time I understand we need to protect what is important to us, our democracy. We need to make sure we appear as a strong community as the United States," she said.

She does feel that politics can get in the way. "And I hope we can start to get away from that and focus on what we are trying to accomplish here..." Ms. Kovach said.

President Barack Obama's stalled immigration reform, which partly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## DWC Recaps Summer, Discusses Fall Events

By **DOMINIC A. LAGANO**  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the management entity of Westfield's Special Improvement District (SID), held its monthly board of directors meeting this past Monday night.

The board recapped summer season events, discussed several upcoming events to be held in the fall in the downtown area, and approved grants for several businesses.

Executive Director Sherry Cronin briefly discussed the 18th annual Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival. Held on consecutive Tuesdays in July and August, the festival provides the opportunity for residents to enjoy the music and the many restaurants in the downtown area.

Ms. Cronin stated many restaurant owners in town petitioned the DWC to extend the Jazz Festival into September. A brief discussion ensued about the possibility. Ms. Cronin stated it was unlikely the Jazz Festival would be extended for the entire month of September, but suggested it might be possible to extend it one more week as a "sending off" of the event for another year.

Ms. Cronin next promoted upcoming events for the months of September and October.

Restaurant Week began this past Sunday and will continue until Thursday, October 9. Restaurants offer discounted fare with prix fixe pricing. The specials do not extend to Friday and Saturday nights.

Participating restaurants include:

16 Prospect Wine Bar & Bistro, Akai Sushi Lounge, Amuse, Boulevard Bistro, The Brick Oven, Chez Catherine, Cosimo's, Ferraro's Restaurant, Limani Seafood Grill, Mojave Grille, Mulberry House Restaurant, Robert Treat Delicatessen, RoosterSpin, Splash of Thai, Subway (Quimby and South Avenue locations), Sweet Waters Steak House, Theresa's, Tinga Taqueria, Turning Point Restaurant, Xocolatz, CoolVines, The Liquor Basket, Bovella's Pastry Shoppe, Carlo's Bakery, Cold Stone Creamery and Let's Yo Yogurt.

More information may be found at the DWC's website, located at WestfieldToday.com.

Girls Night Out, a biannual shopping extravaganza, will be held on Thursday, October 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. Most businesses stay open later that evening and offer discounted items. Several restaurants in the downtown area also participate in the event, by providing discounts on meals. Live entertainment will also be featured.

Participants who register online with the DWC will receive a gift as a token of appreciation. Interested parties can pre-register for the event online at WestfieldToday.com. On the night of the event, the registration center will be located at Coldwater Creek at 126 Central Avenue.

Ms. Cronin announced that Lord & Taylor will sponsor Westfield's first ever Men's Night Out. Advertised as a "night of shopping, socializing and style," the event will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Rob Connelly for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**READY FOR CHANGE...**Janice Kovach, Democratic candidate seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the 7th Congressional District, met with Assignment Editor Paul Peyton at the office of *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* on September 28. Republican Leonard Lance, a Clinton Township resident, has held the seat since 2009.

### PAGE INDEX

Regional .....	2-3	Education .....	15-16
Editorial .....	4-5, 16	Sports .....	9-15
Police .....	16	Real Estate .....	9-18
Community ...	6-7	Classifieds .....	15
Obituary .....	6	A&E .....	17-18



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

Whether Your Real Estate Needs Are Local, National, or International

**Your Move Is Our Move** and We're Ready To Assist You Every Step Of The Way.

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest

©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT LLC