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The Westfield Leader

Special Election '97 Edition

OUR 108th YEAR — ISSUE NO. 44-97

USPS 680020
Periodical — Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

Republicans Seek to Hold Majority on Town Council; Races Taking Place Tuesday in Three of Westfield's Four Wards

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Editor's Note: The following election wrap-up story includes statements which were made at last week's Candidates Forum, combined with some platform information issued by the candidates. More information can be found in the editorial and in advertisements placed in the newspaper by the candidates.

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This year's municipal election has the potential to be one of the biggest in the history of the town. After last year's surprise sweep by Democrats in the Mayoral and Third and Fourth Ward races, the party could take over the majority for the very first time this November with the gain of just one seat.

The Democrats are looking to pick up seats in the First and Third Wards, while retaining one of the two seats they hold in the Fourth Ward.

Republicans are hoping to retain the seat in the First Ward which has been occupied the past six years by Councilman Norman N. Greco. Republican Gregory S. McDermott and Democrat Marc A. McCabe are running for the seat.

Incumbent Republican Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. is being challenged by Democrat Kenneth Rotter in the Third Ward, while Democratic incumbent Donnell Carr is being challenged for his Fourth Ward seat by Republican and former Councilwoman, Janis Fried Weinstein.

During last week's Candidates Night forum conducted by the Westfield Area League of Women Voters, Mr. McCabe said if elected that he

would bring "stability and harmony" to town government, bringing back a vibrant downtown, "and an end to partisanship" on the council.

One area Mr. McCabe and his runningmates said needs to be addressed is the town's system of payment for garbage pickup. The Clark Street resident said that a senior citizen who generates just one garbage bag a week pays the same monthly rate as his family, which fills up two trash cans each week.

Mr. Rotter, of Greene Place, echoed these sentiments, noting a number of seniors in town have told him the current system is not fair. He proposes a per-bag payment system.

Mr. McCabe is employed as Assistant Vice President of Insurance and Risk Management for Acordia Northeast in Morristown.

On the issue of trash collection, Mr. Sullivan, whose employment background is in the banking industry, noted that collection bills for Westfield residents could drop substantially if the proposed lease agreement between the Union County Utilities Authority and the contractor of the county solid waste incinerator, Ogden Martin Systems, is approved.

Under the proposal, disposal costs at the burner would drop from \$83 per ton to \$50.

Mr. McDermott, a Lawrence Avenue resident and the son of former State Senator and current Republican Party Chairman in Union County Frank X. McDermott, said his community involvement began six years ago as a baseball coach in town.

He currently is a Director and a coach of the Westfield Soccer Association Girls Division.

Through his membership on the



Gregory S. McDermott
Republican for 1st Ward



Matthew P. Albano*
Republican for 2nd Ward



Neil F. Sullivan, Jr.*
Republican for 3rd Ward



Janis Fried Weinstein
Republican for 4th Ward

Union County Improvement Authority, on which he serves as Vice President, he believes he would be an asset to the council.

The Authority is an \$11 million government corporation, "that uses its negotiating and financial resources to secure funds" for the 21 municipalities in Union County which are seeking improvements through capital leasing projects and equipment purchases, etc.

The candidate also cited his experience as a member of the Westfield Revenue Expenditure Committee, a committee which has been charged with reviewing expenses in the annual budgets from the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Departments of Public Works and Administration.

Although not opposed in his quest for a second term on the Town Council representing the Second Ward, Matthew P. Albano, of East Broad Street, noted that under his leader-



Marc A. McCabe
Democrat for 1st Ward



Kenneth Rotter
Democrat for 3rd Ward



Donnell Carr
Democrat for 4th Ward

ship as Chairman of the Public Works Committee last year, the town developed a new method of leaf collection in town which "proved to be more

effective and cost efficient over prior years."

The program, which has been kept in place this year, involves the simultaneous collection of leaves on both the north and south sides of town.

While the leaves on the north side have been shipped to the county's compost facility in Springfield, south side leaves have been trucked to the town's Conservation Center on Lamberts Mill Road.

The change on the south side, where leaves used to be sent to Springfield,

helped reduce disposal fees by allowing crews more time to collect rather than haul leaves. In addition, last year's equipment rental costs dropped, thus yielding an even greater savings for the town.

Mr. Albano noted that last year the committee initiated a program on road repairs which consisted of a list of those roads most in need of repair "based upon usage as well state of repair." He said over \$300,000 has

*Incumbent

said it will continue to look at plans to fund future roadway improvements

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NO EXPLOSIVE FOUND AT ELDERCARE NETWORK Bomb Scare Leads to Evacuation Of 227 Residents at Care Facility

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A bomb scare prompted the evacuation Tuesday morning of the Westfield Center — Genesis Eldercare Network on Lamberts Mill Road. No one was injured and no explosive device was found at the scene, authorities said.

Captain Bernard F. Tracy of the Westfield Police Department confirmed that shortly before 9 a.m. an adult female called in the threat to the facility, which houses 227 residents, most of whom are elderly.

An unidentified object was discovered at the center and a decision was made to evacuate the residents, along with 125 staff members. Some of the senior citizens were taken from the building in wheelchairs and on stretchers.

The object found at the facility was determined not to be an explosive, but remains under investigation by the Westfield Police Department's Detective Bureau.

Westfield Deputy Police Chief John P. Wheatley declined to reveal what the object was or where it was found at the center, pending the outcome of the investigation.

Westfield Fire Chief Paul Battiloro confirmed that residents and staff va-

cated the building, "as per the center's evacuation plan," and with the assistance of emergency medical units from several towns.

All of the people were evacuated within an hour, stated Detective Sergeant John Parizeau of the Westfield Police Department. They were taken to St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Rahway Avenue and the West Lake School on Woodacres Drive in Mountainside.

Rescue squads from Westfield, Scotch Plains, Cranford, Linden, Winfield and Roselle assisted with the evacuation, along with Union County Sheriff's officers and the Westfield and Cranford Fire Departments, Westfield police said.

"The community's cooperation aided in a fast and safe evacuation of the center," Deputy Chief Wheatley and the Fire Chief acknowledged in a joint statement issued later that day.

The building was subsequently searched by Union County and Essex County bomb squads with canine units, Westfield police confirmed.

Staff and residents were allowed to return to the Westfield Center at 12:22 p.m., after authorities determined that the facility was secure.

Lisa Eck, Senior Director of Admissions at Westfield Center, remarked later that day that "the community really pulled together" in helping to make the residents comfortable during their temporary relocation.

She said that lunches were served to the residents while they were at the church and the school, adding that everyone "was doing fine" despite their ordeal that morning.

Three of the Westfield Center resi-

dents had been evacuated to Rahway Hospital, authorities said. Ms. Eck confirmed that none of them were taken there for treatment related to the incident, and that one had already returned by the end of the day.

A Special Edition For Our Readers

As a public service, we are distributing *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* to all Westfield and Fanwood residents as well as to our regular circulation in Scotch Plains and throughout the region. The full coverage of these two areas is to provide as much local election information as possible on the candidates who are running for office.

This special issue represents several firsts for Watching Communications. One is the borough-wide distribution of our paper and the other is the fact that several pages of the paper are in full color. We hope to be able to produce more color pages in the future through the support of our advertisers who help us meet the increased production costs. This has been exciting and challenging for us.

The Westfield Leader can also be viewed on the Internet. The Internet version of our newspaper now contains full size color illustration pages. Our Internet address is: www.goleader.com.

We hope our readers find this special edition interesting and useful. The enthusiastic support of our advertisers made it possible.

We dedicate this edition to the many citizens who campaign tirelessly seeking election to public office, win or lose.

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Mayor Awaits Recommendation From Commission On Whether Town Should Endorse Incinerator Lease

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

After looking over the terms of a proposed 25-year lease of the Union County-owned incinerator, Mayor Thomas C. Jardim called the issue "complicated" and said Tuesday that he will await the recommendations of the Westfield Solid Waste Advisory Commission before the council decides whether to okay the measure.

"This commission has been looking at waste flow options for 10 months now," he said. "We definitely cannot make a decision on this by (Saturday) November 15."

The Union County League of Municipalities has asked towns to decide whether they are in or out of the agreement by that date, according to officials.

According to Mayor Jardim, Union County has been refused a financial "bail-out" by the state for its \$35

million portion of the \$283 million worth of bonds issued to build the facility, after state law mandated that counties manage their own trash disposal in the mid-1970s.

Ogden Martin Systems — the company that built and which manages the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway — has agreed to lease the facility and absorb the county's debt, if it can be guaranteed 250,000 tons of waste a year.

Westfield, one of seven county municipalities that does not regulate waste flow, generates nearly 18,000 tons of trash per year, officials said. This is one of the largest amounts in the county, they added.

Westfield currently uses private trash haulers who are not required to use the county incinerator for disposal.

Scotch Plains Mayor Irene T. Schmidt has organized a meeting

scheduled for tonight, Thursday, October 30, with representatives of the seven towns — including Scotch Plains — with unregulated waste flow, to consider the impact of the proposed lease agreement.

According to Mayor Jardim, Union County Freeholder Chairwoman Linda d. Stender has "pleaded" with municipalities to look at the leasing deal as "going forward" in the business of waste management for the county.

Details of the lease include a tax or penalty fee per ton for trash hauled out of state or elsewhere by towns that do not regulate flow, according to officials.

Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman suggested "taking a strong position" against the penalty and leasing deal.

"I'm willing to play hardball on this, to see where it goes first," he said. On a different topic, the council



William A. Burke for The Westfield Leader

ALL IN THE FAMILY....The Bass family, from left, Hannah, Benjamin and Sophie, are ready for Halloween as evidenced from this picture taken during last Sunday's Halloween Parade in Westfield.

Tax Collector's Office Slates Evening Hours

The office of the Westfield Tax Collector will be open on Monday, November 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. in addition to the regular office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Full campaign coverage starts on Page A-5

Remember **VOTE** on **November 4th**