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FIFTY CENTS

Gail S. Vernick Chosen by GOP To Run for Mayor

Gail S. Vernick, a two-term member of the Westfield Town Council, announced her candidacy for Mayor this week. Councilwoman Vernick will be the Republican Organization candidate in the June Primary Election, having



Gail S. Vernick

been unanimously nominated by the Westfield Republican Committee.

As a member of the Westfield Town Council, Councilwoman Vernick has made public safety one of her top priorities. After her election in 1994, Councilwoman Vernick spearheaded the effort to bring pedestrian crossing signs to the downtown district after a First Ward mother and child were struck by a vehicle while crossing East Broad Street.

After researching the issue and visiting various New Jersey municipali-

ties, Mrs. Vernick dedicated herself to efforts to avoid future pedestrian accidents.

In announcing her candidacy, Mrs. Vernick said, "I have the experience and creative ideas to lead Westfield into the next millennium. Many of my initiatives, such as the Farmer's Market, pedestrian crossing signs, which will be re-installed this month, and

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Mr. Brammick, Mrs. Lund Join '98 GOP Ticket

Westfield Town Republican Committee Chairman Robert W. Cockren has announced the GOP's slate for the 1998 election. Heading up the Republican Party ticket will be Mayoral candidate Gail S. Vernick, who currently serves as a Town Councilwoman from the First Ward. The Republican Party ticket brings three new faces to town politics together with two Town Council veterans.

Running for reelection in the Second Ward is incumbent Town Councilman James J. Gruba, who currently serves as Chairman of the council's Finance Committee.

The balance of the 1998 GOP Town Council ticket includes First Ward

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GOP KICK-OFF...Westfield Republican Committee Chairman Robert W. Cockren, third from left, congratulates Republican Mayoral candidate Gail S. Vernick, center, on her nomination by the committee to head the party's 1998 ticket. The balance of the Republican slate, left to right, are: Thomas Cusimano, Fourth Ward candidate; Noreen Lund, Third Ward candidate; Jon Brammick, First Ward candidate, and Second Ward Councilman James J. Gruba, seeking reelection.

Democrats Put Together Full Ticket for Town Council Seats

The Westfield Town Democratic Committee has announced that for possibly the first time in the town's history, the party will put forward a full ticket of candidates for both the Mayoral and Town Council seats.

The Republican Party currently holds a 6-3 majority on the governing body. Democrats are hoping to gain seats in the First and Second Wards. The party last held a seat in the First Ward in 1994 when Anthony M. La Porta served.

Seeking reelection to a second term are Mayor Thomas C. Jardim and his 1996 running mates, John J. Walsh and Lawrence A. Goldman, representing the Third and Fourth Wards, respectively. The three candidates swept their opponents in a stunning victory in 1996.

They are joined this year by Carl A. Salisbury in the First Ward and Second Ward candidate Joe Stoner. Mr. Salisbury is an attorney with the firm of Killiam and Salisbury, P.C., of East Hanover. Mr. Stoner is a businessman and an engineer.

Mayor Jardim has focused on com-

muter issues including improvements to NJ Transit's Raritan Valley Line as well as direct service to New York City. Also among his initiatives

during his first term, he has worked at pursuing a grant for the state's Neighborhood Preservation Pro-

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KICKING OFF CAMPAIGN...Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, left, and Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman, right, are joined by Second Ward council candidate Joe Stoner during the official announcement of their campaign at the Westfield Train Station. Not pictured are their running-mates, Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh and First Ward candidate Carl A. Salisbury.

Educator Recommends Consistency For Middle School Music Program

By KIM A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

There was standing room only at Tuesday night's Westfield Board of Education meeting, as concerned parents came to hear about and discuss the district's music program. Linda King, Supervisor of Fine Arts for Westfield schools, made an extensive presentation outlining some of her proposed improvements to the existing music department.

During the presentation, Ms. King said that at the middle school level, progression in terms of the number of days students received musical instruction was inconsistent. She also observed that the two middle schools have separate music programs.

Ms. King explained that students who so choose have an opportunity to start with a given instrument in the fourth grade, and have lessons once a week.

She has proposed revamping the middle school program so that by the sixth grade, students will have music twice a week until ultimately, by grade 12, they will take music

five times a week.

School district officials are currently studying the option of pull-out lessons, whereby students are taken out of a class on a rotating basis for individualized lessons, according to Ms. King.

She also talked about having some music periods as team-taught classes. This, she felt, would allow teachers more opportunity to focus on a particular group of students who may need some additional instruction.

In order to do this, Ms. King did state that additional music staff may need to be hired. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William J. Foley, added that there is no final decision on staffing, as projections for enrollment in the music programs are currently being studied.

Dr. Foley did state that if a child wanted to truly excel in music, then private lessons, outside of school, are an option. The Superintendent said he does not favor pulling children in the middle schools out of academic courses.

He conceded, however, that he

would be agreeable to students taking lessons during lunch or study periods, or in place of physical education on some days.

Dr. Foley and Ms. King are also currently reviewing a proposal to offer lessons before or after school as an alternative to altering a student's regular schedule.

Many parents who came to the meeting were very concerned about the topic of pull-out lessons. The majority of them felt that the lessons were essential to the music program.

Catherine Marchant of Dorian Road

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Publisher's Note

Our staff at *The Westfield Leader* hopes you enjoy this special "community awareness" issue to assist all citizens with their deliberations for school board elections and the budget. Also, for Westfield residents, we have included profiles of candidates running for the Westfield Town Council and the Mayor's office. We have additionally included columns by some of your elected officials which can be found on Pages B-8 and B-9.

This edition is being mailed to every residence in Westfield and Mountainside, along with our regional distribution. We thank our subscribers for their support throughout the year.

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Horace R. Corbin
Publisher



A TOUCHING MOMENT...Members of the Westfield Fire Department pay their last respects as the fire engine bearing the coffin of their colleague, John Fiorino, passes by en route to Fairview Cemetery last Friday. Firefighter Fiorino, a lifelong Westfield resident, died suddenly at age 38 on March 30.

Mayor Jardim Announces Bid For Second Term

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim announced this week that he will seek a second term as Mayor of the Town of Westfield.

"I have served Westfield for just over a year now, and I am proud of what we have accomplished with the Town Council's cooperation, but so much remains to be done," said Mayor Jardim. "From today until November, I am going to continue my regular meetings with the people of Westfield and will continue to work toward making this a better place to live, raise a family and do business," he stated.

Mayor Jardim lives on Walnut

Street with his wife, Karen. They are expecting their first child in May. A graduate of the University of Richmond in Virginia, he is an attorney in Newark with the law firm of Sills, Cummis, Zuckerman, Radin, Tischman, Epstein & Gross. He re-



Thomas C. Jardim

ceived his law degree and a Masters in Foreign Affairs from the American University in Washington, D.C.

During the first year of his term, Mayor Jardim said he has focused his energy on commuter issues, bringing businesses to downtown Westfield, and maintaining a stable

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Mr. Greco Seeks Mayor's Office As Independent

Norman N. Greco has announced his intention to run for Mayor of Westfield as an Independent candidate. Mr. Greco, running as a Republican, was narrowly defeated in 1996 by current Mayor Thomas C. Jardim. He has since broken ties with the party.

A lifelong resident of Westfield,



Norman N. Greco

Mr. Greco, a local businessman, noted that he has been "very active" in local organizations. Along with serving on the Westfield Town Council from 1992 through 1997, he is a past President of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Retail Business Division of the United Fund, Charter member of the Downtown Committee and member of the Rotary Club.

When asked why he was running, Mr. Greco stated, "I believe the town needs a leader who is not tied to any party politics. I believe I can bring a totally objective and unbiased view to town issues.

"The town needs a facilitator, someone who knows the system and can get the job done. I have grown up in Westfield and I know the town inside and out. My goal as mayor will be to get Westfield back on track as a premiere residential community that provides first-class services to the town's residents at the most affordable prices possible."

Because of his 38 years in business, he said he believes that a "business-like" approach to town government is what is needed to bring us into the 21st century.

"I have a passionate commitment to the Town of Westfield," Mr. Greco added. "The town needs an independent voice who is not incumbered by any party affiliation, who can make decisions for the best interests of Westfield, not for either political party's gain. I am Westfield's independent voice who will work full-time to preserve its heritage and its legacy for future generations," the candidate stated.

Mr. Greco is accepting comments and calls at (908) 233-7782.

School Tax Levy Goes Before Voters April 21

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Although Westfield residents will not have to decide which Board of Education candidates to vote for on Tuesday, April 21, given that this year's races are uncontested, they will be asked to cast their tallies on the school district's proposed \$45,177,689 tax levy for the 1998-1999 school budget.

Voters have passed school budgets in Westfield the past three years.

If approved, the portion of property tax bills supporting Westfield public schools would rise by 6 cents on \$100 of assessed valuation. On the average assessed home of \$174,000, this would result in an annual increase of \$104. The amount to be raised through taxes represents an increase of 2.43 percent over last year's budget, or \$1,171,751.

The total district spending plan of \$52.2 million was adopted by the

school board at its March 24 meeting. The spending plan represents an increase of 2.33 percent over last year.

In terms of the school board election, incumbents Darielle M. Walsh and Ginger Hardwick, along with former board member Eileen Satkin, are unopposed in their quest for the three seats on the school board that are expiring this year.

Mrs. Walsh was appointed by the board as Vice President last year, replacing John M. Toriello, who did not seek reelection to his seat. The

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Ginger Hardwick



Eileen Satkin



Darielle M. Walsh

Town Seeks Funds to Buy Ex-Diner Site

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Town Council took the first step Tuesday in obtaining the former site of the Excellent Diner on North Avenue and turning it into a park as part of Union County's new "Pocket Park" program.

Members of the council passed a resolution authorizing town officials to submit a grant application for the county program.

As part of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders \$1 million program, Westfield will submit an application for the maximum of \$100,000 allowed through the program to acquire the former diner site.

The town will match the county grant with \$100,000 — moneys which have been included as part of the capital portion of the proposed 1998 Westfield municipal budget.

The town is currently having the property appraised with the intent of purchasing the now vacant parcel.

Mary Adams of Grant Avenue supported turning the diner into a park, calling it a "wonderful" idea.

As part of the same program, the council also approved a resolution to

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Gail Vernick Chosen by GOP To Run for Westfield Mayor

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cellular phones for crossing guards, have been welcomed by the community as innovative ideas having a favorable effect on the quality of life in our town."

Councilwoman Vernick also continues to work with Congressman Bob Franks on the "Senior Citizens Property Tax Stabilization Bill," that she first introduced in 1994.

Mrs. Vernick presently serves as Councilwoman for the town's First Ward. In that capacity, she chairs the council's Public Safety Committee, and is also a member of the Public Works Committee and the Building and Town Property Committee and acts as the Liaison to the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Boards of Education and Health.

"My work with the Chamber of Commerce has given me great insight into the process by which our downtown is being revitalized day by day," said Councilwoman Vernick in highlighting the renaissance of our central business district as a top Mayoral priority for Westfield's future economic vitality.

Joining with Republican Chairman Robert W. Cockren, Mrs. Vernick stated that the Republic Party platform for 1998 and beyond will include continued efforts to improve public safety, maintaining Westfield as a premier residential community,

and delivering high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner, with the focus on "customer service."

In addition, Councilwoman Vernick called for the installation of a multi-year fiscal plan designed to be more efficient, and provide financing dedicated to needed infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Cockren added, "with Gail's dedication to the town, combined with her enthusiasm and energy, she can and will lead the charge to make these goals a reality. Gail loves Westfield, has good ideas, and she gets the job done."

Mrs. Vernick is a 24-year resident of Westfield and has raised two children who attended Westfield schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade. She is married to Dr. Harris Vernick. Mrs. Vernick holds a degree in nursing and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Human Resource Management. She was a founder and President of the Indian Forest Residents' Association, and serves as trustee on the board of the Duke University Eye Center, and the Research Review Committee of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

"I look forward to bringing my experience with leadership qualities, coupled with my determination to oversee projects to their conclusion, to the office of Mayor of Westfield," she concluded.

Mayor Jardim Announces Bid for Second Term

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property tax through sound and conservative fiscal management.

One of his first official acts was the formation of the Raritan Valley Line Commuter Commission, which continues to work with New Jersey Transit to improve service on the Raritan Valley Line.

In addition, Mayor Jardim created the Westfield Expenditure Review Commission, which has issued a report containing a number of detailed cost-saving and strategic recommendations aimed at making municipal government more efficient and effective.

The Mayor has implemented several measures designed to make municipal government more responsive and open to the Westfield citizenry.

Mayor Jardim has placed great emphasis on investment in the town's infrastructure. He has worked with the council to implement a multi-year road improvement program to repair many of Westfield's deteriorated roadways.

With the assistance of many local residents, the Mayor has created a "Neighborhood Preservation Zone" for Central Avenue and surrounding streets. The goal of the program, which would be financed with state monies, is to improve the appearance of the Central Avenue business district and renovate homes and streets in the area that have fallen into disrepair.

Mayor Jardim said he has been a strong proponent of the newly-adopted property maintenance and tree preservation ordinances, and has worked with members of the council and a local community organization to make Westfield a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly community.

Mayor Jardim is the first Democrat elected to Westfield's top post in more than 85 years, and is only the second Democratic Mayor in the town's history.



WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

• An Edgar Road resident reported that someone entered his motor vehicle and stole his wallet while the car was parked in his driveway.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

• A three-foot-tall Easter decoration was stolen from the front lawn of a Carol Road residence.

• A black wallet belonging to a Westfield woman was found outside an Elm Street restaurant, according to police.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

• William Kley, 32, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated on North Avenue and Crossway Place, according to police. He was released after posting \$625 bail.

• Police filed a report concerning an assault which took place during an altercation between two employees at a North Avenue, West, restaurant. Neither of the people involved in the incident have been charged, authorities confirmed.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

• A cellular telephone and a radar detector were taken from an unlocked 1990 Toyota on Channing Avenue. The missing merchandise is valued at approximately \$300.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

• Tara Nappi, 35, of Sea Girt was arrested at Central Avenue and Harrow Road and charged with driving while intoxicated and with refusal to take a breath test, police said. She posted \$650 bail and was released.

Democrats Put Together Full Ticket for Town Council Seats

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gram for Central Avenue and surrounding streets.

In commenting on the Democratic ticket, Mr. Goldman, Chairman of the Westfield Town Democratic Committee, noted that, "I think it is first time the Democrats in Westfield have had a full slate (of candidates)."

Mr. Goldman said he has sought candidates who would be "assets" to the council. He said both Mr. Salisbury and Mr. Stoner fit the bill, in his regard.

He added that although he is happy to have five candidates this year, he has never been "an advocate of selecting candidates for the sake of serving as candidates."

The Democratic party ran candidates for Mayor as well as council candidates in the First and Third Wards in 1994, for Mayor and Third and Fourth Wards in 1996 and candidates in the First, Third and Fourth Wards last year.

In discussing the candidacies of Mr. Salisbury and Mr. Stoner, Councilman Goldman indicated that "both are quality individuals who I am very happy to have as both candidates and running mates."

"We are running four individual council races," Mr. Goldman emphasized; noting that although the five Democrats may work together on some campaign issues, their views may differ from each other "and that is their prerogative."

Mr. Stoner will be running for the seat currently occupied by Gail S. Vernick, the Republican candidate for Mayor. The Democrats last held a First Ward seat in 1994 when Anthony M. La Porta served on the council.

Mr. Stoner serves on the General Board of the American Baptist Churches and on the Council of the American Chemical Society. He has served as Chairman of the New Jersey Common Cause, as President of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey and as Chairman of the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA and New Jersey Council of Churches.

Mr. Stoner is a chemical engineering graduate of Georgia Tech and is active in the local area alumni association. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a Masters in Business Administration.

The candidate is professionally engaged in sales of analytical instrumentation for Shimadzu Scientific In-

struments of Columbia, Maryland. His professional career has included experience as a sales manager, a quality assurance manager, and a small business owner.

He and his wife, Jane, a teacher in town, have two grown children and are active members of the First Baptist Church in Westfield.

Mr. Salisbury graduated cum laude from the University of New Hampshire and from Wake Forest University Law School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The candidate did his clerkship under Judge Reynaldo G. Ganza, United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, Virginia. At Wake Forest, he was Managing Editor of the *Wake Forest University Law Review*.

Mr. Salisbury, whose practice includes general commercial litigation and insurance law, has published several articles on environmental law.

Councilman Goldman is employed as a corporate and finance lawyer and is a Director with the Newark law firm of Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione.

He currently chairs the Laws and Rules Committee which, during his first year on council, released exterior property maintenance and shade tree ordinances; both of which were approved by the council in December.

This year, the committee has approved a redraft of the ordinance for sidewalk cafés and is about to begin addressing the possible creation of a smoke-free air ordinance, an issue brought forward by Councilman Goldman. Mr. Goldman also serves on the council's Public Safety and Building and Town Property Committees.

Mr. Walsh currently chairs the council's Public Works Committee and serves as council liaison to the Westfield Recreation Commission. The candidate, who was unsuccessful in his first bid for office in 1994, practices maritime personal injury law in New York and New Jersey, representing ship, tug and barge owners mainly in lawsuits by maritime workers.

This past fall, Mr. Walsh introduced an initiative to undertake a major roads' improvement project. For this project, he recommended that the council consider a bond issue to fund the work. This proposed bond issue would be sought when the \$6.5 million Westfield Memorial Library bond is retired next year.

Town Seeks Funds to Buy Excellent Diner Site

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submit a grant application for an additional \$17,500, which will go towards the purchase of playground equipment to be placed at the former Lincoln School property on Westfield Avenue. The town will match this amount dollar for dollar for the total cost of \$35,000.

"For \$35,000 you are going to get a nice playground," explained Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko, in recommending that the council make total grant requests of \$117,500.

Under the one-year county program, Westfield can receive a maximum of \$125,000-\$100,000 for acquisition of land to create a park and \$25,000 to purchase equipment, upgrade or renovate an existing playground.

The council last week authorized Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt to enter into negotiations with the Westfield Board of Education to lease the playground in effort to upgrade the property.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., questioned why the town did not apply for the full \$25,000 allowed through the program for the purchase of park equipment.

Mr. Gottko explained that although the town could do this, he was concerned that if the total costs were under \$50,000 — including the additional county funds and town match — the leftover county money might not be allocated for another project.

Mr. Gottko recommended instead that the governing body come back with another request for another \$7,500 for a third project. This project, also matched with town funds, must be submitted by the end of June. The Excellent Diner and Lincoln playground grant requests must be received by the end of this month.

As of last week only two of the 21 Union County municipalities had filed grant requests.

Councilman Sullivan said he would like the field area of the Lincoln property included in the grant application as well as the playground area. The school is currently under lease by the Union County Educational Services Commission as a

high school for emotionally disturbed kids.

"This project is far from the shovel going into the ground," explained Mr. Gottko.

Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh, after hearing that the additional money could not be used for another park project, asked for a vote on the resolution.

Interms of including the field area, Mr. Walsh said it is not known at this time how much of the land will actually be leased to the town. He said it was important, though, for the town to apply for the grant since the deadline is quickly approaching.

The council also approved sidewalk café licenses for Vivian's Kitchen, the Towne House, Brick Oven, Robert Treat Deli and Bruegger's Bagels.

Robert Treat's application was approved on the condition that the establishment provide a written statement to request the use of disposable serviceware, and that the deli provides an outside trash receptacle.

Bruegger's application was amended to allow the establishment to use paper wrappings for the bagels at the outside tables. The establishment has provided a receptacle. Vivian's Kitchen's permit was granted solely for tables in front of the business.

Vivian's has indicated it will be coming back for a request to place tables in the rear. The permits cost \$100 each and come up for renewal annually.

The council also passed a resolution in which officials decided it would be "imprudent" at this time for the town to enter into a long-term contract with the Union County Utilities Authority for disposal of the community's solid waste at the county's Resource Recovery Facility, better known as the incinerator, in Rahway.

Based on the county's proposed 25-year contracts to guarantee waste flow to the incinerator, the town would have to contract with haulers for waste disposal. Currently, Westfield has about a half dozen firms which contract privately with residents.

School Tax Levy Goes Before Voters April 21

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candidate, seeking her third term, has served as a member of the Town Relations, Board/Staff, Curriculum and Programs and Policy Committees, and as an alternate member to the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Walsh has chaired the Facilities Committee the past four years, during which time the board approved committee recommendations for a five-year Long Range Facilities Plan, the construction of 12 classrooms divided between Jefferson and Wilson Elementary Schools, the renovation of the field at Roosevelt Intermediate School, and capital improvements to each of the district's nine school buildings.

Mrs. Walsh, who grew up in Forest Hills, New York, is a former elementary school teacher. The candidate and her husband, Michael, have lived in Westfield for 19 years. They have two grown children.

Ms. Hardwick, who was first elected to the board in 1995, has chaired the Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Committee the past two years.

The candidate practiced law with a Newark-based firm from 1985 through 1991, specializing in commercial litigation. She was an adjunct professor at the Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark from 1992 through 1995.

Mr. Bramnick, Mrs. Lund Join '98 GOP Ticket

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candidate, Jon Bramnick; Third Ward candidate, Noreen Lund, and Fourth Ward candidate, Thomas Cusimano.

"I am proud to be associated with a group of talented individuals — each with unique and special abilities and all of whom are dedicated to serving the town to bring new and innovative ideas and leadership to lead Westfield into the next century," Mr. Cockren stated.

"The Republican Party is committed to a vigorous debate on the issues and the future direction of the town," he stated.

He further indicated "that the Republican ticket combines the experience of Gail Vernick and Jim Gruba, who are veteran members of the Town Council, with newcomers to town government with diverse backgrounds and experience including a former Plainfield City Council representative and practicing attorney, Jon Bramnick; a registered nurse and working mother, Noreen Lund, and a business executive and Army reserve officer in Tom Cusimano."

Mr. Bramnick, of the First Ward, is a 1975 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the Maxwell School of Political Science at Syracuse University, New York State, and received his law degree from Hofstra University School of Law on Long Island in 1978. The candidate served as a member of the Plainfield City Council from 1984 to 1991 before moving to Westfield.

He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Plainfield Jaycees. Mr. Bramnick's children attend Westfield High School and Roosevelt Intermediate School. The candidate's wife, Patricia Brentano, is an artist.

Councilman Gruba has a long history of serving the town and community in a variety of ways, Mr. Cockren explained. He is a former President of the United Fund of Westfield and the Westfield Jaycees and Westfield Men's College Club. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Westfield "Y" and the Holy Trinity Pastoral Council.

He currently serves as a member of the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and is an alternate member of the Union County Utilities Authority. Councilman Gruba was employed as a Wall Street executive for many years and is now the President of a leasing company. He has lived in Westfield for over 30 years, where he and his wife, Maryanne, raised their children.

Mrs. Lund is a life-long southside resident of Westfield. She grew up familiar with business issues in town as her father owned a business in the central district. She is a graduate of the former Holy Trinity High School and a 1975 graduate of Middlesex County College with an Associate Applied Science Degree in Nursing with a Registered Nurse's License in New Jersey.

The candidate had worked for six years at Fair Oaks Psychiatric Hospital in Sum-

mit, leaving to raise her family. She currently is a substitute school nurse in the Westfield and Mountaintop school districts. She has been active in the St. Helen's Parish, the Parent-Teacher Organization of Jefferson Elementary School, Edison Intermediate School and Westfield High School.

She served on the Executive Board of the McKinley School Parent-Teacher Organization for two years. Mrs. Lund was a Cub Scout Den Leader and was appointed to the Westfield Board of Education Strategic Planning Committee for the State of the Schools.

Her husband owns a consulting business and their children attend Westfield High School, Edison and Jefferson Schools.

Mr. Cusimano is a sales engineer, currently the Senior Business Development Specialist with Handex Environmental. A 1973 graduate of United States Military Academy at West Point, Mr. Cusimano received his Masters in Business Administration from the University of Texas in San Antonio.

He has served as Recreation Officer for 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, participated in the 1980 Olympic Trials, organized the Roman Catholic Church of St. Helen's Christian Youth Organization Basketball Program where he has served as League Director since 1987.

Also, he was the Westfield Soccer Association League Director, from 1988 to 1995, and has coached youth baseball, softball, soccer, and basketball since 1987. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, attending college, Westfield High School, and Edison Intermediate School.

Councilwoman Vernick, currently serving as Councilwoman representing the First Ward, is the first woman Republican candidate to run for the office of Mayor. Public safety has been one of her top priorities.

Mr. Cockren noted the Mayoral contender has spearheaded the effort to bring pedestrian crossing signs to the downtown business district. She initiated the Farmer's Market and the cellular phones for crossing guards program.

She continues to work with Congressman Bob Franks on the "Senior Citizens Property Tax Stabilization Bill" which she first introduced in 1994. Mrs. Vernick holds a degree in nursing and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resource Management. She was a founder and President of the Indian Forest Residents' Association.

Councilwoman Vernick serves as Trustee on the Board of the Duke University Eye Center and the Research Review Committee of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

She is a 24-year resident of Westfield. The candidate, and her husband, Harris, a physician, have two grown children who attended Westfield public schools, Kindergarten through grade 12.



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