



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

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# Scotch Plains - Fanwood



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## REPUBLICANS SAY NEW MAP VIOLATES VOTING RIGHTS ACT

### New Legislative Map Could Cost GOP Seats in County

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Times

Republicans are likely to lose one Senate seat and two Assembly seats from Union County if the newly-approved map of legislative districts holds up in court.

Based on the new map, which was approved, 6-1, by the New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission at its meeting April 11, Westfield and Mountainside will move into a new largely Republican 21st District, while Scotch Plains

and Fanwood would now be in a redrawn 22nd District that favors Democrats.

Three GOP members of the commission did not attend the meeting in protest while a fourth member, Senate Majority Leader John Bennett, was the lone dissenting vote. The Republican map was drawn up with consultation from Walter Fields, former Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the NAACP.

Republicans, led by the Washington, D.C.-law firm of Patton Boggs,

say the new map violates the 1965 Voting Rights Act by diluting minorities' voting power by splitting districts that are currently mostly black or Hispanic. The system, referred to as "unpacking," spreads out minority vote throughout the state.

United States District Court Judge Dickinson Debevoise ruled Monday that the new map does not violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by dismantling two primarily black districts in Essex County. Republicans immediately appealed that ruling to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia.

"I don't see this thing (the new map) holding up in court," said Wally K. Shackell, County Liaison to the Republican Committee of Union County, prior to Monday's court decision.

"It's just a mess," added Ronald Frigerio, former Westfield mayor and now-Chairman of the Union County Republican Committee, when reached in Florida last Friday.

The GOP is seeking an injunction to prevent the June 5 Primary from going forward while they make their court challenge of the new legislative district map.

The extended deadline to submit nomination petitions for the State Senate and General Assembly is 4 p.m. today, Thursday, April 19. A drawing to choose ballot positions in Union County is scheduled for Thursday, April 26.

"We are proceeding with the dates we have unless the court directs us otherwise," County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

The new 22nd District will consist of Middlesex County municipalities Dunellen and Middlesex Boro; Somerset County, Green Brook and North Plainfield; Union County, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway and Winfield.

The new 21st District will include: Essex County, Millburn; Morris County, Chatham, Harding, Long Hill and Madison; Somerset County, Warren and Watchung; Union County, Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield.

"It is a very solid Republican district," Mr. Frigerio said of the new 21st District, in which his hometown is situated.

Westfield Town Democratic Committee Chairman Kenneth Rotter commented, "It seems that the district where Westfield sits, the new 21st, is not much different than the old 22nd."

Based on a 9-0 Democratic majority on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Mr. Rotter believes the county should have two primarily Democratic Legislative Districts and one Republican minor-



Thomas C. Jardim



J. Brooke Hern

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim and former Seventh District Congressional candidate J. Brooke Hern of New Providence for the Assembly in the newly redrawn 21st Legislative District.

The Committee also selected current 20th District Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga of Linden for the State Senate, along with 17th District Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield and former Fanwood Mayor and current three-term Union County Freeholder Linda d. Stender.

Candidates for state office must

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Cheri Rogowsky for The Times

POSY PEDDLERS...Mothers of team members on the Scotch Plains Raiders Soccer Team raised funds for the team by selling tulips, hyacinths, Easter lilies, begonias, mums, daffodils, azaleas, hydrangeas and other flowers last weekend in the parking lot of Park Middle School. Pictured, left to right, are: Patrice Simms, Erin Miller, Marilyn Masucci, and Terry Bartolotta.



MEETING THE DEADLINE...The last minute filing of taxes caused a mad rush at the Fanwood Post Office on Monday morning. The lines were long and Post Office employees did their best to accommodate the anxious crowds.

### BOE Budget OK'd; Porter, Nowlin Win Race for Scotch Plains Seats

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Times

It took 37 minutes for the unofficial 2001 election results to be tallied at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education offices on Tuesday night.

Incumbent Lance Porter and Craig Nowlin captured the two open Scotch Plains seats on the school board, while the 2001-2002 budget passed by a vote of 1,614 to 1,402. The tax levy

portion of the \$50,287,302 spending plan amounts to \$44.7 million.

"I'm very appreciative," said Board President Theresa Larkin. "It was a hard vote coming on the heels of the bond referendum. We tried to be as conservative as we could be, and I'm very appreciative of everyone who went out to vote and supported the budget."

Mr. Porter carried the field of board candidates, earning 1,495 votes and

the right to serve a second term on the board. He will be joined on the board by Mr. Nowlin, who finished a strong second in the Scotch Plains race, with 1,290 votes. The third candidate, Peter Triplet, received 724 votes.

Running unopposed for the open Fanwood seat on the school board, Pat Hoynes-O'Connor won 590 tallies from borough voters.

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### DiFrancesco Charges McGreevey's Staff With Leaking Private Papers

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

The string of allegations and revelations about Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco's business and financial dealings landed squarely on the doorstep of his hometown this week.

Press reports cited a confidential 1998 report in accusing him of violating legal and ethics rules during his tenure as Scotch Plains Township Attorney. Mr. DiFrancesco had also been threatened with dismissal from that post.

Mr. DiFrancesco, who assumed the role as Acting Governor in early February, served as Township Attorney for 16 years. A 1998 report issued by two special counsels — Republican Douglas W. Hansen, the present Township Attorney, and

Democrat Lewis Markowitz — accused Mr. DiFrancesco of violating ethical rules.

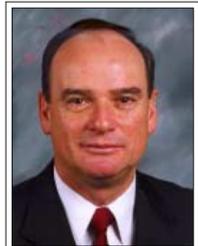
The report indicates that during his tenure as Township Attorney, Mr. DiFrancesco had lobbied local officials to give members of his family a zoning change they were seeking for a parcel of land they owned on Plainfield Avenue. The report further states that Mr. DiFrancesco failed to disclose his own financial stake in the property.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Markowitz' report also indicates that Mr.

DiFrancesco had issued legal opinions and rulings on projects involving K. Hovnanian Companies, the state's largest homebuilder, after the company had given Mr. DiFrancesco \$225,000 to pay off a legal judgment against him.

The report states that Mr. DiFrancesco had lobbied township officials to set aside plans for a soccer field on the piece of family-owned property because his family had hoped to develop the property in a more profitable way.

The Hansen-Markowitz report, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Donald T. DiFrancesco

### Mrs. Schurtz Opts Not to Seek Third Term on Fanwood Council

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Times

Four candidates — including two newcomers — have tossed their hats into the ring for the open seats presently held by the only two Democrats on the Fanwood Borough Council.

The vacancies belong to Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, who has opted not to seek a third term, and Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell, who will seek a second term on the

governing body. The filing deadline for local candidates for the Primary and General Elections was last Thursday at 4 p.m.

Elected in 1995 and again in 1998, Mrs. Schurtz currently serves as borough Police Commissioner. She chairs the council's Public Safety Committee and also serves on the Public Works and the Land Use and Historic Preservation Committees. Councilwoman Schurtz, a married

mother of three who also teaches part-time, said her desire to spend more time with her family was the reason she decided not to run for council again this year.

"When I do anything, I always give it everything I have," she remarked, noting that membership on the governing body involves numerous council and committee meetings throughout the year.

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### COUNCILWOMAN SHARYNN PORTER OPTS NOT TO SEEK RE-ELECTION

### SP Dems Likely to Run Write-In Candidate to Challenge Celentano

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains Democrats were left scrambling in the wake of Councilwoman Sharynn Porter's decision last week not to seek election to fill out the remaining year of the unexpired council seat to which she was appointed last October.

Mrs. Porter, who was named to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Democratic Councilman Tarquin Jay Bromley in late September 2000, called her decision to bow out of the

race, "the hardest decision I have ever had to make."

She told *The Times* that family concerns, specifically regarding her two school-age children, were the main reason for her decision not to serve for another full year.

"I can't do it on the backs of my family," she said, noting that her

council duties, coupled with the responsibilities of her husband, Lance, a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, meant she and her husband were often spending several nights a week away from home.

Mrs. Porter, the first African-

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## New Legislative Map Could Cost GOP Seats in County

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ity district. "And that is more reflective of how we as a county tend to vote. And I think that is appropriate," Mr. Rotter added.

As a result of the new district makeup, speculation is that the Senate seat long held by current Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco in the 22nd District will be a Democratic seat come 2002.

News accounts and *The Leader-Times* sources have confirmed that current 20th District Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga, a Democrat from Linden, will run for Senator DiFrancesco's Senate seat, with current 17th District Democratic Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield running for reelection in the new 22nd District.

Former Fanwood Mayor and current three-term Union County Freeholder, Linda d. Stender, is set to run for the other Assembly seat in that District.

Five-term old 22nd District Republican Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger of Westfield, who was running for Mr. DiFrancesco's Senate seat, will instead by seeking the seat of retiring veteran legislator, Republican Senator C. Louis Bassano of Union. Union has moved into a solid Democratic District which includes Elizabeth, Kenilworth and Roselle.

Mr. Bassano resigned Monday to take a job with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority where he will handle government relations.

The County GOP Committee was scheduled to meet last night in West Orange to fill Senator Bassano's seat. Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole is expected to gain that seat. Mr. O'Toole, whose town of Verona was redistricted into the 40th District, is expected to run for the Assembly in his

new district. Assemblyman-elect Tom Kean, Jr. will be sworn in on Thursday, May 3, as the new Assemblyman to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains due to a long illness, according to spokeswoman Joanne Ward.

Thus, while a new Assemblyman, he will actually be campaigning for Mr. Bagger's seat in the 21st District. In addition, he may have to face three-term Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, whose town of Millburn is the lone community from Essex County in the new 21st District.

The new 21st District, however, includes Millburn, the hometown of Mr. Weingarten. Mr. Weingarten and Mr. Kean battled for the GOP Seventh District Congressional Primary nomination last year.

"If I were a betting person, I would see it as Weingarten and Kean (as the GOP nominated candidates in the new 21st District)," Senator Bassano told *The Leader* and *The Times*, noting that Mr. Kean's biggest challenge is likely to come from Summit Republican Chairman Eric Munoz. "I think they are two good people."

Republicans only recently endorsed Mr. Munoz as their choice to fill Mr. O'Toole's Assemblyman seat.

Other possible candidates include former Cranford Mayor Tom Denny, Roselle Park Mayor Joseph Delorio and former Springfield Mayor Harry Pappas.

## BOE Budget

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"I'm very pleased with the election results," said Mr. Porter, "and I look forward to working with the Board of Education for the next three years. I'm ecstatic the budget passed. It would have been very difficult if it hadn't."

Having succeeded in his first race for the board, Mr. Nowlin commented, "I'm glad the campaign is all behind me. The most exciting thing is that the budget passed.

"Though its not a wide margin, its a fair margin. It's encouraging that we've seen this budget pass, the bond pass, and last year's budget pass. It's encouraging to see the people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood come out strongly in support of our schools. I'm excited to play a part in it," he stated.

Ms. Hoynes-O'Connor said simply, "I'm glad that the budget passed. It will make our job easier."

It was a tense half-hour for the 40 people who gathered to hear the election results. Faces of the couriers who hand-delivered the unofficial numbers from the district's 15 polling places were a mixture of grim countenances and smiling faces, depending upon the numbers they held in their hands.

Though early returns showed the budget losing by a slight margin, strong support from voters at the polls at Union Catholic, Terrill and Coles Schools, along with Fanwood Borough Hall, allowed watchers to breathe a little easier as the minutes passed.

In reviewing the numbers, board member Linda Nelson noted, "Where it won, it won big. Where it lost, it lost small."

With the passage of the 2001-2002 school budget, Scotch Plains taxpayers will see school taxes rise 8.01 percent, or \$316 per year, on an average assessed home. In Fanwood, school taxes will increase an average of 3.04 percent, or \$108 per year.

New board members will take their seats on Monday, April 30, at the annual reorganization meeting. The final meeting of the current board takes place tonight, Thursday, April 19, at 8 p.m.

## Mrs. Schurtz

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"I've had to make difficult choices between family and council. No matter what choice I made, I felt like I was letting the other one down," revealed Mrs. Schurtz, whose council service over the past six years included chairing the Pocket Park Committee and helping shepherd Fanwood's recently updated zoning ordinance to fruition.

"It's time for me to step away and get back to my family," stated Mrs. Schurtz. "I think its time to pass the baton to someone else."

Elected with Mrs. Schurtz in 1998, Ms. Mitchell currently chairs the council's Education, Health and Welfare Committee and also serves on the Administration and Finance and the Public Safety Committees.

A Fanwood resident since 1954, Ms. Mitchell lives on North Avenue and is employed as a registered nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey.

Sharing this year's Democratic ticket with Ms. Mitchell will be first-time candidate Michael Brennan. Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Brennan has lived in Fanwood since he was 3 years old. He and his wife, Maryann, have resided on Midway Avenue since 1999.

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Rutgers University in New Brunswick, he is employed as a systems engineer with Avaya Communications in Warren. He was formerly a LAN (local area network) computer analyst at Prudential Insurance in Newark.

Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brennan will be challenged in the Tuesday, November 6 General Election by Republicans David B. Trumpp, making his third bid for a seat on the council, and newcomer Ellen Cagnassola.

A lifelong Fanwood resident, Mr. Trumpp lives on Oakwood Court. He previously ran for the council in both 1997 and 1998. The candidate is employed as a marketing/customer services specialist with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Trumpp, a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Alfred University in New York, is President of the Fanwood Lions Club and a member of the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission and the Fanwood Republican Club.

Mrs. Cagnassola grew up in Westfield and has lived in Fanwood for six years. The LaGrande Avenue resident has a home-based business, sweetsop.com, for which she handcrafts all-natural glycerin soap products.

She helped launch the Fanwood Business and Professional Association and chairs the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee. Mrs. Cagnassola is also the Internet representative for the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners.

A 1990 graduate of Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) in Ewing, she additionally holds an associate's degree in paralegal studies from Middlesex County College.

She and her husband, Christopher, who is controller of Christian Healthcare Services in Wyckoff, have two young daughters, ages six and two months old. Her older daughter is a student at McGinn Elementary School in Scotch Plains.

Republicans hold a 5-2 majority on the governing body, including the Mayor's seat, following two consecutive GOP sweeps in the 1999 and 2000 local elections. Terms on the six-member Fanwood council are for three years each.

## SP Dems

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

American to serve on the council, did say, though, that she was keeping her options open for the 2002 council elections, when her present seat, as well as two other council seats, will be up for election for full four-year terms.

"I'll let the household guide my decision," she said.

Meanwhile, township Democrats were "caught by surprise by Sharynn's decision," according to party chairman Stanley Donatelli. He told *The Times* the party "didn't expect" Mrs. Porter's withdrawal from the race and, as a consequence, "didn't have sufficient time" to seek an alternative.

At this point, he said, "we plan on having a write-in campaign." Mr. Donatelli said he expects to meet with party committee members in the next few weeks to decide on a write-in candidate the Democrats could support in the fall campaign against Republican candidate Guy Celentano.

## Scotch Plains Officials Looking Into Reason for Sewer Back-Up

By FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Scotch Plains officials promised a group of homeowners near Route 22 that action was being taken to find the reasons behind last Saturday's sewer back-up that caused varying amounts of damage to a number of homes.

At Tuesday night's Township Council meeting, several residents from Watchung Terrace, Gales Court and Mountain Avenue recounted last weekend's events, when a blockage in a sewage pipeline resulted in raw sewage backing up into their homes.

One homeowner said the raw sewage in his basement was ankle deep while others expressed concerns about lingering threats to the health of their families as well as the potential for a repeat of the problem.

Several of the homeowners asked the council about being compensated for the costs of the private clean-up of their homes and also wondered whether they

could be given assurances that the problem was being identified and rectified.

Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins told the residents that the township's insurance adjuster is currently in the process of inspecting the damage in each of the homes and evaluating potential costs and other related matters.

He said last Saturday's back-up was apparently caused by a serious blockage inside the sewer pipeline, which appeared to have been loosened by Department of Public Works equipment. He added that there was still some blockage inside the pipeline. Local officials are currently inspecting the interior of the pipe to see if there are any structural defects that may require further attention.

At the start of its meeting, the council approved the appointment of Brian J. Levine as Municipal Judge. Mr. Levine, who was formerly Municipal Prosecutor, succeeds Joseph Perfilio, who was recently appointed as a judge in the State Superior Court.

Council members paid tribute to Judge

Perfilio's 16 years on the Scotch Plains bench, calling him fair and evenhanded. The council also approved the awarding of a \$193,600 contract to Midco/Republic of New Brunswick for the residential spring clean-up beginning in early June. An ordinance was also approved permitting the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Scotchwood Glen and Highlander Drive.

Separately, resolutions were passed congratulating three local women — Ellen Rae Ramer, Dr. Ingrid Brown-Manns and Pamela Boright — for receiving achievement awards from the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

The council's next regular meeting, during which they will vote on the 2001 municipal budget, will be held next Tuesday night, April 24.

## Mr. DiFrancesco

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which was provided to council members after what *The Times* of Scotch Plains-Fanwood has been told were nearly two "difficult" years of wrestling with Mr. DiFrancesco's actions, urged the Township Council, then controlled by the Republicans, to remove Mr. DiFrancesco as Township Attorney.

Instead, he met with the council to explain his actions and was in the process of providing further answers to additional questions when the Democrats regained control of the council in the November 1998 elections and installed Democrat Andrew M. Baron as Township Attorney.

A year later, after Republicans regained control of the Township Council, there was apparently some pressure exerted to reinstall Mr. DiFrancesco as Township Attorney. But, similar to other press reports this week, *The Times* had learned earlier this year that Democratic Councilman Tarquin Jay Bromley, who died last September, had learned of the ethics allegations against Mr. DiFrancesco and had threatened to inform the newspapers and federal prosecutors about them if Mr. DiFrancesco was re-appointed to his former post. Instead, the new Republican majority named Mr. Hansen to the position.

This week, the Acting Governor accused Democrats — both local and those associated with the gubernatorial campaign of Democrat and Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey — of leaking the confidential documents to the press.

At a news conference in Hackensack on Tuesday, Mr. DiFrancesco rejected the 1998 report's conclusions, saying he had recused himself from matters involving his family's property.

Rae Hutton, a spokeswoman for Acting Governor DiFrancesco told *The Times* that "allegations are lies meant to detract from the issues during the campaign." She emphasized that Mr. DiFrancesco "has no intention of changing his plans" regarding the campaign.

"It's absolutely a lie," Mr. DiFrancesco said of the allegations, confirming that he plans to stay in the race for governor despite increasing whispers about his political vulnerability, not only against Mr. McGreevey in November but also against Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler in the GOP primary in June.

The latest allegations come on top of several other problems that have surfaced in the 11 weeks since Mr. DiFrancesco succeeded Christine Todd Whitman as Governor. There are questions about his relationship with K. Hovnanian and the circumstances surrounding a \$575,000 loan to Mr. DiFrancesco by four friends to help with a potential bank foreclosure.

Scotch Plains Republican Mayor Martin L. Marks told *The Times* yesterday that he was "very upset that private lawyer-client confidential letters and documents have been leaked to the media," an action he termed potentially illegal. Mr. Marks, who was elected to the Township Council in 1996, recalled that in the summer of 1998, Mr. DiFrancesco, met with the council to explain some of the allegations in the documents.

"We never said he was fired," Mayor Marks said. "We never said he would not be re-appointed. We just wanted answers to a very complicated matter." Mr. DiFrancesco provided answers, Mr. Marks recalled, but there were still some unanswered questions that were in the process of being researched when the 1998 election intervened, put the Democrats in control and essentially rendered the matter moot.

Mayor Marks added that the 1999 Democratic-controlled council, by a unanimous vote and on the advice of Mr. Hansen and Mr. Markowitz, voted to allow Mr. DiFrancesco's law firm to continue working on several existing cases still pending from 1998 and earlier, including the condemnation of the former Terry-Lou Zoo property and a few tax appeals.

"If there was something that egregious that had occurred," Mr. Marks said, "then the relationship would not have continued." The mayor also denied that there had been pressure on council Republicans, once they regained the majority, to reappoint Mr. DiFrancesco.

"It's simply not the case," he said. "We knew he'd be running for governor. It would have been foolish to bring him on as Township Attorney" when, in a matter of several months, Mr. DiFrancesco, then the State Senate President, would be getting set to launch his gubernatorial bid.

Union County Republican Chairman Ronald Frigerio told *The Times* that he remains strongly supportive of Mr. DiFrancesco.

He said, "What's happening here is the politics of personal destruction. It's very sad to see this happening to someone with 25 years of stellar achievements in the Legislature."

Mr. Frigerio admitted that "there's concern among the (other county) chairmen, but there's been no groundswell. Everyone wonders when the next shoe drops."

He added that the media has been taking the "same story and overdeveloping it to a higher level."

"It looks like a conspiracy almost," he said.

## Fanwood Budget Rises 2.3 Percent Over '00; Tax Rate Up 6.8 Percent

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ance costs for municipal employees.

In addition, the budget includes a \$15,500 allocation for the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for Fire Department and rescue squad volunteers that was approved by borough voters through a referendum in 1999.

Councilman Kline also observed that the borough saw a \$140,000 drop in revenue from 2000, notably a \$50,000 reduction in capital surplus and an \$18,350 decrease in Municipal Court revenue.

Last year's budget process was also helped by the borough's receipt of Federal Emergency Management Agency funds as compensation from Tropical Storm Floyd in the fall of 1999 — monies which did not come into play this time around.

In hammering out the 2001 spending plan, Mr. Kline stated that the governing body conducted a "department-by-department, category-by-category, line item-by-line item" analysis in an effort to curb spending while maintaining the level of municipal services which Fanwood residents have come to expect.

In addition to unveiling the budget, the council also introduced an ordinance last week authorizing various capital improvements for the borough. It appropriates \$988,749 and authorizes issuance of \$939,149 in bonds or notes to finance a portion of the cost of these projects.

Three ordinances that were introduced by the council March 15 were adopted on second reading by unanimous votes following public hearings last week. The first of these approved fee increases for various inspections performed by the Construction Official's Office.

The second ordinance revises the number of Class C members on the borough's seven-member Historic Preservation Commission from five to four, in compliance with a state statute. Class C members are residents who hold no office, position or employment with the municipality, except for membership on the Planning Board.

It also calls for any local historic district that may be established in Fanwood to be as "least restrictive as possible" in terms of regulating what homeowners may do with their properties, according to Borough Attorney Wilfred P. Coronato.

The third ordinance repealed a chapter of the Borough Code related to the regulation of mobile storage units, the guidelines for which have been revised.

Several appointments, resolutions and proclamations were announced at the outset of the meeting. Steven Richard Moore of Fanwood, a registered architect, has been appointed as a Class A member of the local Historic Preservation Commission, while officials also confirmed the appointment of Joseph Nagy to the borough's Holiday Celebration Committee.

In addition, officials revealed the appointment of 13 volunteers who will serve on a local Sign and Facade Committee. They will be charged with reviewing sign ordinances in other towns, consulting with local merchants and developing sign standards in preparation for a pending new sign ordinance for Fanwood.

The committee, which is expected to complete its work by July, will be comprised of two members each from

among the council; the Planning Board; retail and non-retail merchants; the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee (FDRC) and residents.

Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Coordinator Clayton S. Pierce will also be part of the committee and Mayor Louis C. Jung will serve as an ex-officio member.

Besides the Mayor and Mr. Pierce, the committee will include Council President Joel Whitaker and Councilman Thomas P. Ryan, Jr.; Planning Board members Gregory Cummings and Eric Hess; former Councilman William E. Populus, Jr. and Sophie Kauchak for the FDRC; Tom Baber and Steve Chung for retail merchants; Peter Chemidlin and Joan Biedell for non-retail merchants, and Donna Dolce and Ted Frankenbach for residents.

Later in the meeting, resolutions were presented honoring Councilwoman Carol Wood as the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club's Volunteer of the Year and former Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine upon his March 31 retirement from the State Legislature due to illness.

An additional resolution recognized Father John S. Nelligan Council No. 5730 of the Knights of Columbus on its 26th anniversary fund drive to benefit retarded citizens. The drive will take place tomorrow through Sunday, April 20 to 22.

Finally, proclamations were issued designating April as Autism Awareness Month in Fanwood; April 1 through 7 as having been National Library Week in Fanwood and Thursday, May 3, as National Day of Prayer.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium will hold its annual observance of National Day of Prayer that day at 7:30 p.m. on the Village Green in Scotch Plains.

## Jardim, Hern

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file by 4 p.m. today, Thursday, April 19, for the Primary and General Elections. That deadline might be changed, as Republicans are challenging the new legislative map approved last week by the state's reapportionment committee.

The new redrawn 21st District includes Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield in Union County; Millburn in Essex County; Chatham, Harding, Long Hill and Madison in Morris County, and Warren and Watchung in Somerset County.

The new 22nd District includes Clark, Fanwood, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains and Winfield in Union County; Dunellen and Middlesex Boro in Middlesex County, and Green Brook and North Plainfield in Somerset County.

Mr. Jardim, who served two terms as Westfield Mayor, became the first Democrat to serve as the town's Mayor since 1912 when he was elected in 1996. He captured all of the town's 25 voting districts when he was reelected in 1998. He is an attorney in Newark.

"I think it is great for Westfield to have another terrific Westfield candidate to run to represent Westfield in the Legislature," said Kenneth Rotter, Chairman of the Westfield Town Democratic Committee. "From experience we know how hard he works."

Mr. Hern, an attorney in Roseland, previously served as Director of Public Affairs for the New Jersey Department of Commerce and Economic Development from 1991 to 1994 and was Chief of Staff for former 15th District Assemblyman Joseph F. Yuhas from 1994 to 1995.

Mr. Hern listed property tax relief, along with state funding for municipalities and school districts, as the issues on which he will base his campaign.

"This is going to be a very good year for us," said Mr. Hern.

Looking at campaign issues, he said the state needs to do more to reduce the tax burden on families and senior citizens. He proposed town meetings to gather information on how the state can change the system currently used for property taxes, municipal services and school funding.

Mr. Hern said these forums could be used by elected officials to gather information in order to place a referendum before voters to dramatically change this system.

Redistricting	
OLD 21ST DISTRICT	NEW 21ST DISTRICT
<b>Union County:</b> Kenilworth Roselle Park Springfield Summit Union  <b>Essex County:</b> Caldwell Cedar Grove Essex Fells Livingston Millburn North Caldwell Roseland Verona	<b>Union County:</b> Berkeley Heights Cranford Garwood Mountainside New Providence Roselle Park Springfield Summit Westfield  <b>Essex County:</b> Millburn  <b>Morris County:</b> Chatham Harding Long Hill Madison
	<b>Somerset County:</b> Warren Watchung
OLD 22ND DISTRICT	NEW 22ND DISTRICT
<b>Union County:</b> Berkeley Heights Clark Cranford Fanwood Garwood Mountainside New Providence Scotch Plains Westfield Winfield  <b>Middlesex County:</b> Dunellen  <b>Morris County:</b> Chatham Long Hill  <b>Somerset County:</b> Green Brook North Plainfield	<b>Union County:</b> Clark Fanwood Linden Plainfield Rahway Scotch Plains Winfield  <b>Middlesex County:</b> Dunellen Middlesex  <b>Somerset County:</b> Green Brook North Plainfield

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