

McGreevey Launches Gubernatorial Campaign by Attacking 'Insiders'

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

WOODBRIDGE — Charging Republicans in Trenton with having delivered eight years of failed leadership while tripling the state's debt, Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey launched his second campaign for governor in four years on Monday morning. Unlike 1997, Mr. McGreevey is unopposed in his quest for Governor this time around.

Speaking before a standing-room only crowd at John F. Kennedy High School in the Iselin section of Woodbridge, Mr. McGreevey continued his campaign theme of being an outsider running against Trenton insiders, namely Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains and the Republican majority in both houses of the state Legislature.

"Starting here and now, the days of government by the insiders and for the insiders are numbered," he said.

He charged the previous Whitman Administration and the GOP majority in Trenton with driving up the state's debt from \$4 to \$16 billion. "Debt that will suffocate our children in the generation ahead," the candidate charged, saying that, if elected, he would put in place "a reasonable and affordable plan for reducing that debt."

On property taxes, he said Republicans want to delay the delivery of property tax relief checks until just before the November election. Mr. McGreevey said as an elected mayor, he has asked the Legislature to deliver rebate checks to citizens as soon as the state budget is passed on Sunday, July 1.

"I have a simple message for the insiders in Trenton: It's our money. We need it. Send it back," he said.

The gubernatorial hopeful stated that, "the last eight years have been an era of corruption and cover-ups. They (Republicans) eliminated the

public advocate and gutted the State Commission Investigation. They cut down on nursing home and hospital inspectors and they handed out sweetheart deals for E-Z Pass and auto emissions and they denied and covered up racial profiling."

He called the state's transportation system a "disgrace." Mr. McGreevey said as Governor, he would identify the state's 10 worst traffic hot spots in New Jersey and "get to work on each of them." He also promised to bring "accountability" back to Trenton.

Also on his campaign list is a patients' bill of rights and a proposal to allocate a percentage of the increase in state revenue growth for school district property tax relief.

While not promising to solve all the state's ills, Mr. McGreevey said, "When I say I will fix something, I will do it."

Among those in attendance at



A RACE FOR THE KIDS...Members of the Westfield Fire Department, Local No. 30, recently participated in the 14th annual New Jersey Firefighter Ski Race. The event, which benefits the Children's Burn Center at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, was held at Mountain Creek in Vernon. Westfield firefighters competed with 120 teams from across the state. The race consists of five firefighters in fire helmets and coats, holding onto a 50-foot length of hose, racing on a downhill slalom course. To date, this event has raised more than \$125,000 for the Burn Center. Local firefighters, pictured left to right, are: Jim Ryan, Chris Love, Tom Ryan, Robert Buccino, Captain Mike Brennan and Matt Pereira.

Squad Offers Tips to Facilitate Quick Emergency Response

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, which marks its 50th anniversary of service this year, has offered some tips to area residents for helping the squad to provide assistance as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency:

- Be sure that the house address is visible and can easily be seen during day or evening hours.
- Keep a list of current medications and allergies readily available at home, at work and in a wallet or purse.
- Become educated in basic first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich ma-

neuver for choking victims.

- Teach children when and how to dial 911 for emergencies.

The Westfield squad, an all-volunteer organization and one of the few resident squads in New Jersey, depends entirely on donations. It is currently conducting its 2001 Fund Drive. Tax deductible contributions may be made to: The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, 335 Wattersson Street, Westfield, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, 07091.

For further information about joining the squad, please call (908) 233-2500. For all emergencies, please call 911.



Recreation Events

Editor's Note: "Recreation Events" is a weekly column prepared by the Westfield Recreation Commission.

The Westfield Recreation Commission is sponsoring the following events:

- *****
- Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus** — Sunday, March 18, at the Meadowlands.
- The bus will leave from the Municipal Building at 2 p.m. and return at around 6:45 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person.
- Bowling Program for children ages 5-14, Tuesdays, April 3 to May 22.**
- This weekly activity will be held on Tuesday afternoons beginning at 3:45 p.m. at Linden Lanes, 741 North Stiles Street. The weekly cost of \$6 (payable at the lanes) includes: two games, use of rental shoes and lightweight ball, instructional assistance and a trophy awards program.
- Bumper Bowling for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten youngsters and their mothers** — Wednesdays, April 4 through May 23.
- Mothers and their children can sign up for either the 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. programs at the Linden Lanes, 741 Stiles Street. Mothers must register at the Recreation Office, located on the main floor of the Westfield Municipal Building on East Broad Street. Team placement is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Chandlering (candle-making) Program** — Monday April 23, in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.
- The cost for this program, which begins at 7:15 p.m., is \$7 per person. Reservations must be paid by Monday, April 9. A minimum of 10 people are needed for the program to be run.
- Free Yoga Classes, on April 9, Community Room of the Municipal Building.**
- This program will be offered from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
- 11th Annual Road Race, Tamaques Park, Saturday, April 28.**
- Road Race registration has begun. Please come to the Recreation Office to register. Costs for the race are as follows:
- One-Mile Fun Run: \$7 for pre-entry and \$10 for post entry.
 - Five Miler: \$12 for pre-entry and \$15 for post entry.

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