

Schon, Mortimer Face Off Tuesday Against Brociner and Shackelford

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Mountainside's incumbent Republican candidates, Glenn W. Mortimer and Werner C. Schon, are vying for re-election to the Borough Council this Tuesday, November 6, against Democratic candidates Steve Brociner and John Shackelford.

Councilman Mortimer is seeking his second term on the governing body. A lifelong resident of Mountainside, he is a project manager for IBM Software. Councilman Schon, who is seeking his seventh term, served two terms as Council President and is currently Fire Commissioner.

Mr. Schon has been a Mountainside resident for 44 years and is the President of Astramolding Inc. in Sparta. Mr. Brociner has owned his own carpet business for over 20 years. The candidate ran for council in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and has been an active mem-

ber of the Democratic Committee in Mountainside for the past 30 years.

Mr. Shackelford, a management consultant, ran for council in 2000. The candidate is a Red Cross volunteer and tax preparer for the American Association of Retired Persons.

Councilmen Schon's and Mortimer's door-to-door campaign throughout the borough on Sundays included visiting approximately 100 houses October 7, with Republican State Senate candidate Richard H. Bagger and State Assembly candidates Tom Kean, Jr. and Dr. Eric Muñoz.

"We are able to meet residents and give them the opportunity to voice concerns," Councilman Mortimer stated. "We are running on our record."

The incumbents noted that this year, the all-Republican council has helped to expand recreation programs in Mountainside. They noted that projects to light the baseball and soccer fields at Deerfield School, and the

Borough Hall fields, are underway.

Mr. Schon and Mr. Mortimer emphasized that the council has also been moving forward with road repair and construction efforts throughout the borough. They said Mountainside continues to have one of the lowest property tax levels in the area.

"We are making every effort to meet our residents," Councilman Schon said.

The Democratic candidates have also been going door-to-door and making telephone calls to residents. They also planned a borough-wide mailing. The candidates said they see a strong need for bipartisanship on the all-Republican council.

"The Democrats are the watchdog party," Mr. Shackelford said. "We try to keep this government a little more open and a little more responsive."

Mr. Shackelford went on to say, "I'm doing this under civil and moral duty. I feel it is something that needs to be done."

Mr. Brociner said he would like to see more joint ventures being undertaken with surrounding towns, such as Westfield and Summit, with shared ambulance and fire services.

There are 4,642 active and inactive registered voters in the Borough of Mountainside. Of those registered voters; 1,587 are registered Republicans, 809 are registered Democrats, six are declared Independents and 2,240 are unaffiliated with any political party.

In the 2000 election, Democrats received one third of the vote. If a Democrat were to obtain a seat on the council, it would be the first time in the history of Mountainside.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

District nos. 1 and 6, Municipal Building Court Room, 1385 Route 22; District nos. 2, 7, 8 and 9, Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, 300 Central Avenue; District nos. 3, 4 and 5, Community Presbyterian Church Assembly Room, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane.

Two Veterans, Two Newcomers Vie for Fanwood Council Seats

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

FANWOOD — With the only two seats they hold on the Borough Council up for grabs Tuesday, November 6, Fanwood Democrats hope to maintain the status quo, while Republicans are eyeing the prospect of a 7-0 majority just two years after gaining control of the governing body.

The contested seats belong to Councilwomen Karen M. Schurtz and Katherine Mitchell, who were elected to their current terms in a dual Democratic victory in 1998. Full terms on the six-member council are for three years each.

First elected in 1995, Mrs. Schurtz opted not to seek a third term this year, saying she wanted to devote more time to her family. A mother of three, she is also a part-time religion teacher at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains.

During her tenure on the council, Mrs. Schurtz has served as Police Commissioner and has chaired the Public Safety and Land Use and Historic Preservation committees. She also headed Fanwood's Pocket Park Committee and was instrumental in development of the borough's revised zoning ordinance.

Councilwoman Mitchell, a North Avenue resident who has lived in Fanwood since 1954, is running for her second term on the governing body. Joining her on the Democratic ticket this year is first-time candidate Michael Brennan of Midway Avenue, a near lifelong Fanwood resident.

Their GOP challengers in the General Election are Dr. Chester R. Lindsey of Midway Avenue, a former two-term Councilman and

Mayoral contender, and David B. Trumpp of Oakwood Court. Mr. Trumpp, the son of former Fanwood Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp, has run twice previously.

A registered nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey, Ms. Mitchell chairs the Borough Council's Health, Education and Welfare Committee. She is also a member of the Administration and Finance and the Public Safety Committees.

Her running mate, Mr. Brennan, is a computer systems engineer with Avaya Communications in Warren and was formerly employed as a LAN (local area network) computer analyst at Prudential Insurance in Newark.

Dr. Lindsey, who has maintained an optometry practice in Fanwood for 41 years, served on the council from 1989 to 1992 and from 1995 to 1998. The candidate, a United States Navy veteran, ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1995 against then-incumbent Maryanne S. Connelly. He currently serves on the borough's Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Trumpp, a Marketing Coordinator for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, is President of the Fanwood Lions Club and an alternate member of the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission. He is also active with the Fanwood Republican Club.

Following back-to-back sweeps of local races in 1999 and 2000, Republicans currently enjoy a 5-2 advantage on the council seats and the Mayor's position.

A triple GOP win by Mayor Louis C. Jung and Councilmen Stuart S. Kline and Thomas P. Ryan, Jr. in the 1999 General Election gave Republicans control of the governing body for the first time in 12 years, reversing the Democrats' 4-3 edge.

Republicans increased their majority further with last year's double victory by incumbent Council President Joel Whitaker and newcomer Carol Wood.

Theodore Trumpp, Fanwood Republican Municipal Chairman, said that in addition to Dr. Lindsey's past council service, the local GOP candidates have demonstrated their commitment to Fanwood through volunteer service on borough commissions and as members of the Fanwood Lions Club.

Mr. Trumpp said the focus of the

Republican campaign this year has been the future of Fanwood, with particular emphasis on downtown revitalization and improved recreation and senior citizen facilities. He remarked that officials and residents have to ask themselves, "where are we going to be in the next 20 years?"

"I think the current council is very interested in getting something downtown that is beneficial not only to the taxpayers but to the community," he said, referring to revitalization efforts which have gotten underway within the past several years.

Fanwood Democratic Club President Tom Plante likewise emphasized the diverse experience that his own party's ticket brings to the table, in addition to the many years both candidates have lived in the borough.

Besides her service on council committees, he noted Ms. Mitchell has an extensive background in volunteerism, both to the community and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. A founding member of the Fanwood Recycling Association, she has served as its President, Vice President and Secretary.

Mr. Plante stated that Mr. Brennan, a Rutgers University graduate, "brings a lot of private sector experience with him," including his background in business and technology.

Listing downtown redevelopment, improved recreation facilities and property tax concerns as key planks in his party's local platform, Mr. Plante said recent streetscape improvements and other projects were "the fruits of what the former Democratic majority had put into play" through successful acquisition of grant money.

Advocating a two-party government, he maintained that, "it's healthy to have a cross-section of opinion and input from the public."

There are 4,794 registered voters in Fanwood, according to the most recent information available. Polls will be open Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

District Nos. 1 and 2, Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue; District No. 3, Children's Specialized Hospital, South Avenue; District Nos. 4 and 5, Terrill Road Bible Chapel, 535 Terrill Road, and District Nos. 6 and 7, Fanwood Memorial Library at North Avenue and Tillotson Road.

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Pat has served on the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee since 1997.

Currently, Pat is a realtor and sales associate for ERA realty.

Proud Resident, Wife and Parent

Longtime residents of the Township, Pat and her husband, Vincent, a Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief, live on School Place. Their daughter, Giavanna, is 6.

Pat Romano
Democrat for Town Council
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On Tuesday, November 6th, Vote Democrat for Council

Check out Pat's campaign on the web at www.spdems.com

Column A

Paid for by Pat Romano for Council Phillip Wiener, Treasurer 24 Copperfield Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076