



Photograph Courtesy of David Sanders/Arizona Daily Star  
**HUMAN FLAG...15,000** citizens of Tucson, Ariz., assembled as an American flag to show their support for freedom on September 15 in the wake of the WTC terrorist attack. Within the crowd is former Westfielder, Patt Rudy Hale. Please see Letter to the Editor, page 4.

# Political

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

## Mountainside Borough Council

**Professional Background:** Mr. Schon is President of Astramolding, Inc. in Sparta and a partner in Schon Tool & Machine Co. of Old Bridge and IMPPCO Inc. of Roselle.

**Gov./Pol. Experience:** Mr. Schon has served six terms, a span of 18 years, on the Borough Council, including two years as Council President.



Werner C. Schon

**Family Life:** The candidate and his wife, Carol, have five children and are 44-year residents

of Mountainside.

**Clubs/Organizations:** Mr. Schon has served six years as a member of the local fire commission, nine years as Council Liaison to the Mountainside Board of Health and two years as Liaison to the local Shade Tree Commission.

**Name:** John Shackelford

**Candidate For:** Mountainside Borough Council



John Shackelford

**Party:** Democrat

**Education:** The candidate holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from the American University in Washington, D.C.

**Professional Background:** The candidate is a disabilities claims adjuster for the Social Security Administration. He also has experience as an economics analyst and management consultant. He has owned advertising, promotional and marketing businesses.

## Westfield Town Council

**Gov./Pol. Experience:** The candidate ran for Borough Council in 2000.

**Family Life:** Mr. Shackelford and his wife, June, have three married daughters and three grandchildren.

**Clubs/Organizations:** Mr. Shackelford is a Red Cross volunteer and tax preparer for the American Association of Retired Persons.

**Name:** Thomas H. Stoudt

**Candidate For:** Westfield Town Council, Fourth Ward

**Party:** Independent

**Education:** The candidate holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Albright College, a Master of Science Degree from Rutgers University and a Doctorate Degree in Organic Chemistry from Purdue University. He is an author of a number of patents and scientific publications.

**Professional Background:** Mr. Stoudt is retired from Merck and Company in Rahway, where he was employed for 35 years in the area of pharmaceutical research.

**Gov./Pol. Experience:** Mr. Stoudt previously ran for Town Council twice after entering town politics in the 1960s.

**Family Life:** Mr. Stoudt and his wife, Kathryn, have resided on Village Green since 1955.



Thomas H. Stoudt

Their three adult children, Thomas, Frank, and Carol, all graduated from Westfield High School.

**Clubs/Organizations:** A U.S. Navy veteran in World War II, the candidate was a coach with Little League baseball and the Westfield Girls Softball League. He was also active with the United Fund of Westfield and served nine years on the Union County Advisory Board of Environmental Health.

## Voters Need to Support LOSAP For SP Rescue Squad, Fire Dept.

By FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The spirit of volunteerism has long been an American tradition; one that's been seen quite clearly in the weeks since the terrorist attacks of September 11. This Tuesday, Scotch Plains voters, in addition to choosing a new member of the Township Council, will also have an opportunity to reward those selfless men and women who take time from their own lives to volunteer for the local fire department and rescue squad.

A ballot referendum will ask township voters if they favor the creation of a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for members of these two crews, and it would be to everyone's benefit in Scotch Plains if this referendum were approved.

If it is approved, a LOSAP would be created as part of an effort to ensure the retention of existing members of the fire department and rescue squad and to provide them with incentives for recruiting new volunteers.

Under the program, each volunteer fire department and rescue squad member who performed a minimum amount

of service would have \$1,150 deposited into a tax-deferred income account that would earn interest. The amount earned would be determined by a point system that rewards members for their participation in certain training, fire and emergency calls, meetings, etc.

The program's cost would not be exorbitant: slightly more than \$95,000 annually if every volunteer member received the maximum contribution. More than 160 communities in New Jersey, including Westfield and Fanwood, have already set up their own LOSAPs.

This is a common sense idea that's being put before Scotch Plains voters.

Unlike some other towns, the 80 or so fire and rescue personnel in Scotch Plains serve voluntarily. They are not presently paid for their efforts, which often can call them away from home, regardless of the hour of the day. They respond to emergencies in Scotch Plains — and they also responded to the World Trade Center disaster in September.

Voters next week should take the opportunity to thank these dedicated, caring and brave men and women by approving the LOSAP referendum.

## More Letters to the Editor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### Travel Industry Segment of State Economy Hit Hard After Sept. 11

According to an article in last week's *Westfield Leader*, our state economy is fine following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, except for the travel industry.

However, the travel industry employs many people. It is the second largest employer in the United States and it does greatly impact our economy.

When an individual goes on a vacation trip, his trip impacts many jobs, from limousine companies, taxi drivers, porters, airline personnel, car rental companies, hotel, cruise companies, tour operators, sightseeing companies and restaurants, to the souvenir vendor to the travel agent who planned the trip.

After the terrorist attack of September 11, about 75 percent of the bookings were cancelled by customers, and no new bookings were being made.

The telephones became silent. It is a strange feeling to go to work and hope the phone will ring and a sale will be made.

The travel industry has survived the recession, the Gulf War, airline strikes and bankruptcies, winter storms that close airports, hurricanes that close resorts, Internet competitors, the terrorist bombing of Pan Am 103 and even commission cuts by the airlines (the most recent cut was on August 20).

However, many in the travel industry will not survive the disaster of September 11, since people are not planning leisure vacation trips. People are afraid to fly, others are fearful of being stranded somewhere and others just want to stay home with their families for now.

While we are making some bookings for next year, it is the next three months

that will be the most difficult.

The current administration did say that New Jersey qualified for economic disaster relief. Our businesses were not harmed by a natural disaster, but rather by terrorists who want to destroy our economy.

The U.S. Small Business Administration will provide loans to businesses unable to pay their ordinary and necessary operating expenses as a result of the September 11 terrorist attack. How long will this slowdown last — another three to six months? I hope not.

Most travel agencies had to reinvent themselves after all the commission cuts. They had to carefully watch their operating expenses and not incur new debt. Now, we will be forced to incur debt just to stay in business.

But how many small businesses want to incur a debt of \$25,000 or even \$50,000 to stay in business, especially when you have no idea when people will feel safe to travel again. Many travel agencies have had to lay off staff because of lack of business.

The terrorists killed many fine people on September 11 who are greatly missed by their families and friends and the entire nation. The terrorists also want to destroy our economy. We cannot live in fear. Travelers need to get back on airplanes, book a hotel, take a cruise, rent a car or go on a tour.

I have been a travel agent for 30 years and never have had to face the hardship I face now. I will always remember September 11, 2001.

Susan Brand  
 Brand Travel Service  
 Westfield

**DONALD D. VANARELLI**  
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 By the National Elder Law Foundation,  
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**GOOD NEWS**

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:31, 37 The Gospel

# Matt ALBANO

## A PROVEN LEADER

Who Gets Results for 2nd Ward Families



"As a father raising my family in Westfield, I know the importance of keeping our streets safe, our taxes low and our parks well maintained. I pledge to continue to be a responsible and responsive leader on Town Council."

- ✓ Keeping Taxes in Check Without Reducing Municipal Services
- ✓ Making Streets Safer for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Children
- ✓ Promoting the Paving of Our Most Deteriorated Streets
- ✓ Supported Saturday Summer Hours for Westfield Memorial Library
- ✓ Advocated the Passage of an Amendment preventing "Shoehorning"
- ✓ Consistent and Proactive Constituent Service

RE-ELECT

**MATT ALBANO**  
 2nd WARD COUNCILMAN

Paid for by Friends of Matt Albano for Council, JoAnn Neelan, Treasurer

## The Team for Fanwood's Future!



**Experience, Leadership and Our Community's Values**



Re-Elect Councilwoman **Kathy Mitchell**

Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell is a Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and a founding member of the Fanwood Recycling Association. She serves on the Council's Administration and Finance Committee. A registered nurse, Kathy lives on North Avenue. She is a former trustee at Fanwood Memorial Library.

Elect **Mike Brennan**



A borough homeowner and businessman, Mike Brennan has extensive experience in communications technology. He is a member of St. Bartholomew Church and lives on Midway Avenue with his wife. He is a lifelong resident and attended Rutgers University after graduating from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

On Tuesday, November 6th, Vote Democrat  
**Mitchell & Brennan**  
 For Fanwood Borough Council

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mitchell & Brennan, Carol Cassidy, Treasurer PO Box 163 Fanwood, NJ 07023

