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Ad Populos, Non Altius, Pervenimus

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FIFTY CENTS

Four GOP Incumbents Seek To Hold Off Dem Challenge

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide races in all four of Westfield's wards. Four Republican incumbents are looking to hold onto their seats, while Democrats are looking, at the very least, to pick up two seats in order to take the majority.

Republicans, which have never been in the minority on the governing body, currently hold a 5-3 edge. Westfield's four wards are each represented by two members on the council. Last year, the GOP recaptured the Mayor's office following four years under the leadership of Democrat Thomas C. Jardim.

In the First Ward, incumbent Peter M. Echausse is being challenged by Reid Edles, the President of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad. Mr. Echausse, who is employed as a credit research analyst with Dominion Securities, lost a close race last year to Democrat incumbent Councilman Carl A. Salisbury. He was appointed to fill the year remaining of Mayor Gregory S. McDermott's council term.

Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano is opposed by Thomas J. Fucillo, an attorney; Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., will face attorney Kevin G. Walsh, and Fourth Ward Councilwoman

Janis F. Weinstein will face a challenge from former Board of Education President and last year's Mayoral candidate, Susan Jacobson, an executive with the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Republicans are not particularly focused on any council seat; they want to hold onto all four incumbent seats that are up this year.

Westfield Republican Party Chairman Jon Bramnick said the qualities he looks for in candidates are experience and integrity.

He described the four GOP incumbents as "really nice people who are trying to do a good job." He also pointed to the town's history under Republican leadership, saying they have always worked for the best interest of the town and not that of the Republican Party.

Democratic Party Chairman Kenneth Rotter said that the Democrats are running on what they see is the major theme in Westfield.

"Democratic candidates are all sort of focused on what they see as the number one problem which is one party dominance which some people feel has led to complicity," Mr. Rotter stated.

He charged that the Republicans, who have always had the majority on the governing body, have raised the municipal portion of taxes \$7.2 million over the past 10 years.

"That's more than double (what is was) and still there is no place to park (in the downtown)," Mr. Rotter noted. He also said the GOP-controlled council doubled parking fees over the past year.

Mr. Bramnick quickly responded by saying, "that (the tax) allegation is inaccurate." He said municipal

taxes have risen from \$9.3 million in 1990 to \$12.6 million in 2000, a difference of \$3.3 million not \$7.2 million. He further noted that four of those annual tax hikes came during the tenure of Mayor Jardim.

Mr. Rotter called the latest parking report, released in September by an advisory panel commissioned by Mayor McDermott "redundant," in that it reached the conclusion the town already has known - that Westfield needs more parking capacity.

Mr. Bramnick said that on the parking issue Republicans have put town residents instead of an outside consultant in charge of finding a location for a parking deck.

"The consultant did not consult with the neighborhood," the Republican Chairman explained.

According to the Union County Clerk's Office, Elections Division, there are 18,967 registered voters in Westfield. Broken down by party, that includes 4,666 Republicans, 3,825 Democrats, 10,438 unaffiliated voters and 38 declared Independents.

Bagger, Kean, Munoz Seek to Hold GOP Seats In Contest Against Steinberg, Jardim, Hern

By PAUL J. PEYTON
and ADAM TURNER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

This year's 21st Legislative District race has a strong Westfield appeal, as three of the candidates are town residents.

After 10 years in the 22nd Legisla-



SCENE FROM GROUND ZERO... Pictured above is a scene from the World Trade Center site, known as "ground zero," as observed by Westfield resident Suzannah Plant and New Jersey Naval Militia Lieutenant Bill W. Sheppard of Fanwood, who have been active in helping the city recover from the September 11 tragedy. The photograph shows the progress made in the cleanup effort so far, although fires continue to burn and much work still needs to be done.

Courtesy of Suzannah Plant

tive District, Westfield is now part of the re-crafted 21st District. The district also includes Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, Springfield, Summit, Roselle Park, in Union County; Millburn in Essex County; Chatham, Harding, Long Hill and Madison in Morris County,

and Warren and Watchung in Somerset County.

Two former Westfield Mayors, Republican Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger, and Democrat Thomas C. Jardim, are seeking State Senate and Assembly seats, respectively.

Mr. Bagger is joined on the GOP

slate by Westfield resident Tom Kean, Jr., the son of former two-term Governor Thomas H. Kean, Sr. Joining the GOP ticket is Dr. Eric Munoz of Summit, a trauma surgeon and GOP Chairman in Summit where he recently served on the Common Council.

Mr. Jardim is running with State Senate candidate Ellen Steinberg of Chatham, an attorney in Union and campaign worker for former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley's 2000 Presidential Campaign and Assembly candidate J. Brooke Hern of New Providence, an attorney who ran for Congress last year.

The major issue in New Jersey legislative races this year is property taxes. The candidates have said more needs to be done to lessen the burden of property taxes on New Jerseyans while maintaining the high-quality public school systems New Jersey has had.

"People are concerned about the education system. They want schools to continue at the high level they are now. The issue for us is to continue funding the schools without breaking the taxpayers' backs," Mr. Jardim said.

The candidates all have their opinions as to what is "the biggest issue in the State Legislature" at the current time, according to Mr. Jardim. "I want to see a stronger state role

plained Mrs. Maggio.

Through Youth and Family Services, the United Fund has set up counseling support groups for individuals who lost a spouse on September 11.

"These families are trying to cope with a tremendous amount of grief on top of new financial concerns," said Mrs. Maggio. "They need more than just money or phone numbers. They need a hug, which is what we give them."

The United Fund is distributing a book of referral numbers, which also contains valuable advice and information on all aspects of legal and financial concerns confronting the families that have lost a loved one.

Working along with the United

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United Fund, DWC Assisting Local Families Of Sept. 11 Victims Through Human Services

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At the request of Westfield Mayor Gregory S. McDermott, local social service agencies in the Westfield area have formed a comprehensive network of human services to aid those families that have been most affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Under the umbrella of the United Fund of Westfield, which is com-

prised of a network of 21 local social service organizations, a collaborative web of assistance has been created to help families cope with their loss and grief.

Linda Maggio, Executive Director of the United Fund of Westfield, told *The Westfield Leader* that during this time of grieving and re-adjustment, assistance in many areas of daily life is being offered to nine Westfield families and five families

who are affiliated with Westfield through their jobs in town or the local churches where they worship.

The supporting agencies working with the United Fund, which include the Red Cross, the Westfield Y, Youth and Family Services, among others, are providing families with legal, financial and emotional assistance, said Mrs. Maggio.

Each family has been assigned a personal advocate who helps determine the family's particular needs and areas of concern. The family advocates are knowledgeable in many areas of acquiring social services, including obtaining Social Security, probating wills and securing life and health insurance for the families that have been affected financially, ex-



YANKEE DOODLE DANDY... Ryan Esposito, 6, also known as "Uncle Sam," confidently strutted America's stars and stripes during the first-ever Downtown Westfield Corporation Halloween Costume Contest on Quimby Street. Ryan captured the "Most Patriotic" category, which was sponsored by *The Westfield Leader*.

Amy Horowitz for The Westfield Leader

NEW WARD MAP CONTINUES TO CAUSE UPROAR

Victoria's Secret Window Sign Called Explicit by Residents

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A group of Westfield residents have asked the town to take action to remove what they view as a sexually

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This edition of *The Westfield Leader* and of *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* is dedicated to your freedom and to your duty to uphold it; PLEASE VOTE. A review of all candidates for public office is provided within.

To inform as many as possible, the newspapers have been printed and mailed as well as published today to the world on the Internet at www.goleader.com.

Horace R. Corbin
Publisher

explicit sign in a window display at Victoria's Secret on East Broad Street.

The store is located opposite Central Avenue and the Rialto Theatre. The national women's lingerie retailer, two women said, have a sign featuring the image of a woman wearing undergarments that they feel is inappropriate for families and especially children passing the store, given its location in the downtown.

The sign is part of a national advertising campaign that asks women, "What is sexy?"

Libby Reinhardt of Harrison Avenue said parents and community leaders, "work hard to protect our children from what we feel is inappropriate," such as deciding which

movies and TV shows their kids may watch.

Ms. Reinhardt said child development experts have told the parent-teacher organizations in town "the overemphasis on sex in our culture is creating uneasiness and promiscuity in our children."

Given that, she added, "Victoria's Secret has taken away our ability to choose in our own town and we are angry."

Debbie Montick of Scudder Road asked the town to enforce its sign ordinance to require the retailer to remove the sign from its window. She described the woman in the ad as wearing a "black-laced garter and skimpy black panties."

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Westfield Polling Places:

First Ward:
Districts 1 and 2:
Roosevelt Intermediate School Gym, 302 Clark Street.
Districts 3, 5 and 7:
Franklin Elementary School Auditorium, 700 Prospect Street.
Districts 4 and 6:
Westfield Memorial Library, Program Room, 550 East Broad Street.

Second Ward:
District 1:
Union County Annex, 300 North Avenue.
District 2, 3 and 6:
Washington Elementary School Auditorium, 900 St. Marks Avenue.
District 4 and 5:
Wilson Elementary School Auditorium, 301 Linden Avenue.

Third Ward:
District 1:
Westfield Rescue Squad, Waterson Street.
Districts 2, 3 and 4:
Edison Intermediate School Gym, 800 Rahway Avenue.
Districts 5, 6 and 7:
Jefferson Elementary School Auditorium, 1200 Boulevard.

Fourth Ward:
Districts 1 and 2:
McKinley Elementary School Auditorium, 500 First Avenue.
Districts 3 and 4:
Westfield High School Lobby, 550 Dorian Road.
District 5:
Jefferson Elementary School Auditorium, 1200 Boulevard.

Mountainside Polling Places:

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



Full Campaign coverage starts on Page 6

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6TH

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Westfielder Suzannah Plant Gives Account On Feeding Workers at Ground Zero

By HORACE R. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Suzannah Plant of Westfield chose her way to help with the aftermath of the WTC terrorist attack. Since September, Ms. Plant has joined hundreds of volunteers and private sponsors at Nino's Restaurant in Lower Manhattan in feeding and supplying the workers at "Ground Zero."

A commuter to Manhattan and an employee with Neilsen's marketing research, Ms. Plant saw what was

going on with policemen, firemen and workers of the rescue effort.

She told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, "They're just incredible, 12-14 hours a day, day after day; their spirit is amazing, but they get tired, hungry and dirty; they need cheering up too. I just had to do something," said Suzannah.

"I started off by obtaining donations of food from generous and patriotic businesses in Westfield and Scotch Plains. I pick up the donated

food and drive it into Manhattan in my jeep on Saturdays," she said.

"Some businesses around here are just so good in helping. Panera Bread Company, John's Meat Market, Northside Trattoria, Ferraro's, Hershey's Deli, My Town Bakery, B.G. Field's, Robert Treat and Feast Catering/Lia's are wonderful for pitching in," she said.

Ms. Plant told the *Leader/Times* that she has expanded her efforts to weekday evenings and to national search for logistics and support. These efforts have led to her obtaining 400,000 pairs of foodservice gloves from AmerCare of Charleston, S.C.; 70,000 pounds of chicken from Tyson's Food; coffee and espresso for the duration from Dallas Brothers of Queens; a walk-in freezer and a 700 lb. icemaker from Hoshivaki America and 35 cases of milk from Parmalat.

When asked by the *Leader/Times* what else is needed, Ms. Plant replied that a practical "wish list" is being prepared; but, right now, she said she is frustrated by being unsuccessful in obtaining a TV for the workers while they eat and relax. She also said that comedy entertainment would be good to bolster their spirits. "After all, the work these men do is quite grim," she said.

Nino's Restaurant of the Zendone family has been closed for business as a result of the WTC attack. Since then, "Mamma Nino" has been leading this charity effort at the restaurant to feed the disaster workers at "Ground Zero."



A WALL OF WONDER...Created by a New York City Police artist named Chico, an extensive mural is pictured in the backdrop of the catastrophic ruins near Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan. Pictured, left to right, are: Momma Zendone, proprietor of Nino's Restaurant, and Suzannah Plant of Westfield.

Victoria's Secret Window Sign Called Explicit by Residents

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She said a short time after store executives in Victoria's Secret corporate headquarters in Chicago received a letter from Mayor Gregory S. McDermott advising them of the concern residents have regarding the store's window advertising, Victoria's Secret displayed the "giant sign of a topless woman."

She said the action following the Mayor's letter shows "a complete lack of corporate and community responsibility."

She said based on the town's sign ordinance, the store's window sign appears to be excessive in height, size and ratio and violates the clause on obscene pornographic messages.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren said the town's zoning official is currently investigating the legality of the sign.

First Ward Councilman Carl A. Salisbury, although supporting the women's efforts, said he wants to be careful that the town does not regulate commercial speech on the basis of content. Mr. Cockren indicated he would like to settle the matter without any court action by the town.

Acting Town Administrator Jim Gildea noted a proposal is before the president of Victoria's Secret to change the window displays in reference to signs and mannequins, to avoid what may be perceived as lewdness.

In other business, the governing body opted to delay action on a bond ordinance for the Westfield Memorial Pool expansion project. The town has been asked by Recreation Department officials to bond an additional \$500,000 following a \$1.6 million bid by Metcon Construction, Inc. of Rockaway.

Recreation Department officials explained that the \$1.1 million the town had budgeted for the project was based on specifications drawn up by the town's consulting firm, Kinsey Associates, 18 months ago.

The council was expected to hold a special meeting prior to the Wednesday, November 7 conference session, at which time they may introduce the ordinance. Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman said he was concerned about the legality of bonding the additional funds for the project, given that only one bidder submitted a proposal.

Officials noted that eight firms picked up bid specifications from the town but only Metcon submitted a proposal. Officials are seeking to have the project, which will add additional pools and a new diving tank and slides, completed by July 15.

Several residents approached the town in opposition to a decision made by the Westfield Ward Commission to approve a map that moves the Cacciola Place neighborhood — currently split between the Second and Third Wards — entirely into the Second Ward.

Mary Withers of Cacciola Place and a resident of the Second Ward, opposed moving the entire neighborhood to the Second Ward.

She said rather than move the current Third Ward section of her neighborhood to the Second Ward, the 200 block should have been moved back to the Third Ward.

"I am very, very upset that my vote doesn't count," Mrs. Withers stated, adding that she feels "disenfranchised."

Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt, noting that he and Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano visited the neighborhood this past Sunday, said he is always available to his constituents and urged them to contact him and Mr. Albano, "and we will help with whatever you need."

Mr. Albano added that he would like to start attending meetings of the Westfield Neighborhood Council, which he has not been invited to attend.

"I would love to attend them to show you that we do care," he added.

Donnell Carr of Hort Street said, "the politicians should reconsider what they have done," adding that "they have allowed the carving off and placing of a vital neighborhood in an indifferent place, where its citizens' voices will have little significance."

Kennis Fairfax of Livingston Street said the Ward Commission has effectively "split up a stronghold" for the Democratic Party by putting a Democratic neighborhood in the traditionally Republican Second Ward.

21st District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in helping communities by merging with the counties to solve problems," said Mr. Jardim, a former President of the Union County League of Municipalities.

Mr. Bagger said he and his fellow Republicans want "to build on what we have been doing the past couple of years." He cited the GOP's efforts of offering rebate checks to homeowners to help offset the school portion of property taxes. He also noted that Republicans, who have controlled both houses of state government since 1992 and the Governor's Mansion since 1994, increased the NJ Tax Saver rebate to \$500 and the Homestead Rebate for seniors to \$750.

The five-term Assemblyman also explained that the Republican majority in Trenton has also frozen property taxes at 1997 levels for medium to low income seniors with the state making up the difference to municipalities. Mr. Bagger said the eligibility levels for seniors, was expanded this year for that program.

He also noted that GOP gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler has proposed having the state pick-up half of the education portion of property tax bills for all senior citizens who are on fixed incomes.

On the issue of property taxes, Mr. Jardim, a former two-term mayor of Westfield, said, "There must be a solution to the property tax crisis. Sooner or later people can't pay anymore; we're not at that point yet. A big part is how we use it to pay for schools and this problem must be solved."

"It's our job as citizens to find out who the best candidate for any position is, and we usually base this on their experience and what the person is going to do for you," Mr. Jardim explained.

When asked the difference between the Democrat and Republican slates, Mr. Jardim noted, "I believe the chief difference is they (Mr. Kean and Dr. Munoz) were appointed to their positions. I have held the highest office among any of the candidates, so I know of problems municipalities face on a first-hand basis. It is important to have people in State Legislature with this experience," Mr. Jardim said.

Mr. Bagger said he also believes experience is a big factor in the 21st District race. He noted his experience as a Congressional and Legislative District office aid, his eight years of experience at the municipal level in Westfield and his past 10 years in the State Legislature.

Mr. Bagger said he is known for his "proven ability to get things done" in Trenton. He also cited the experience his runningmates, Mr. Kean, a former Congressional aide and candidate for Congress, and Dr. Munoz, and former member of the Summit Common Council.

Westfield, Mountaintop and a number of other towns have been represented for the past decade by Senate President and Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains, Mr. Bagger and the late Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains. Mr. Kean replaced Mr. Augustine in the Assembly in May.

The GOP has a 25-15 majority in the State Senate and a 45-15 edge in the Assembly.

United Fund, DWC Assisting Local Families Of Sept. 11 Victims Through Human Services

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Fund, the Downtown Westfield Corporation has organized an assistance program for the families called "Westfield Cares," which provides free or at cost services and goods to the families from local merchants. The concept for "Westfield Cares" was conceived by Sal Caruana, a member of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) Board of Directors.

The DWC is endorsing the program and affords participating merchants their 501(C)3 non-profit status as a deduction for their donations to the program. More than 23 local merchants have agreed to donate goods or services to the nine Westfield families for varying lengths of time and in various amounts.

Mr. Caruana, who is also on the United Fund September 11 Committee, said that he expects that the number of merchants will grow. Each participating merchant will receive a plaque to honor their contribution.

Other examples of the community's generosity, according to Mrs. Maggio, have been the two young boys who came into the United Fund's office and emptied out their piggy banks on her desk; eight families on Tamaques Way who donated the proceeds of their garage sales to the relief fund and the Boosters, who donated the proceeds from their ribbon sale to the relief fund.

"The wonderful outpouring of love from this community to the September 11 families makes Westfield a very special community," Ms. Maggio said.

Matt Forstenhausler, Vice President of the United Fund and the Chairman of the September 11 Committee, said that the United Fund "symbolizes the caring of the Westfield community."

Each year, Westfielders contribute more than \$600,000 to assist needy families. That is 10 times the typical amount collected by most other United Way organizations in other towns, Mr. Forstenhausler remarked. He also stated that any of the funds donated for the September 11 relief fund are earmarked specifically for those families and are not used for any other purpose, including administrative costs.

The collaborative efforts that have been organized in Westfield have become a modicum of success for other communities as well. Several other towns have been consulting with Mrs. Maggio in order to copy the structure of coordination and

cooperation that Westfield's United Fund has implemented.

Mrs. Maggio, who has been with the United Fund for over 27 years, also wished to emphasize that this assistance will be here for these families for years to come. In looking for a model of long-term success, she said that she thought of the committee that continues to assist families affected by the Oklahoma City bombing five years after the incident.

"We'll be here for these families now and tomorrow," Mrs. Maggio

promised. The United Fund is also always looking for more volunteers. They can be reached at (908) 233-2113 for volunteering information.

The United Fund of Westfield is the local branch of the United Way of Union County. The United Way also coordinates services to assist families in need, explained the United Way's Chief Executive Officer, Elise Glennan. One of their main functions has been to provide funding to local social service organizations that provide direct assistance.

They have also been a part of coordinating meetings with many social service agencies in the network of relief providers, since September 11. They have a referral service by phone to assist families in finding financial, legal or counseling services.

Ms. Glennan said that she would like all of the families affected by the September 11 tragedy to contact the United Way at (908) 353-7171, to determine what types of assistance they can provide.

22nd District One of Campaigns Being Watched by Both Parties

By PAUL J. PEYTON and FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS -- New Jersey Democrats hoping to take control of the State Legislature in this month's election view the new 22nd Legislative District as one of the focal points of their efforts.

Created as a result of the 2000 census, the new 22nd District — which includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Rahway, Dunellen, Middlesex, Clark, Linden and Green Brook — is made up of parts of the existing 17th, 20th and 22nd Districts.

While the immediate area has been a Republican stronghold for much of the past decade, the composition of the new district has given Democrats reason for optimism since heavily-Democratic Linden, Rahway and Plainfield are now part of it and since registered Democratic voters outnumber Republicans by a more than 2-to-1 margin. Just under half of the district's voters are independent.

State Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga of Linden, a Democrat currently representing the 20th District, will be seeking election to the State Senate in the new 22nd District against political newcomer Milt Campbell, a lifelong Democrat turned Republican from Plainfield.

Mr. Suliga has served in the Assembly since 1994 and is a member of that body's Appropriations Committee. Mr. Campbell, who is making his first run for elective office, was a silver medalist in the Olympic decathlon in 1952 and a gold medalist in the 1956 games.

Assemblyman Suliga said the election boils down to "leadership and experience versus lack of leadership and experience, and character."

He cited sponsorship of legislation dealing with everything from prescription drugs for senior citizens to mammograms. He also supported legis-

lation concerning the state's cable TV industry as well as co-sponsoring the bill to increase the amount of Homestead Rebate checks.

Mr. Campbell has issued a number of proposals, among them a ban on racial profiling and a legislation to prohibit legislators from holding civil service or appointed position with financial duties in a school district, municipality, special services district or county.

He said the Democratic ticket has pulled ahead in polls in recent weeks following "positive" literature his campaign has sent out.

Charges have flown back and forth from both campaigns. Mr. Suliga sent out literature, which charged that Mr. Campbell had not paid some \$14,000 in federal taxes on his home in Plainfield following articles published in area newspapers. Mr. Campbell called the issue a private dispute between himself and the Internal Revenue Service, explaining that he paid the back taxes in order to take the issue away from his opponent.

The Campbell campaign has also charged Mr. Suliga with not supporting anti-racial profiling legislation and with having a poor attendance record in Trenton.

Mr. Suliga has charged his opponent with a poor record on voting in elections.

To a charge by the Campbell campaign that he holds four "taxpayer supported jobs," Mr. Suliga said he holds the position of Chief Financial Officer for the City of Linden in addition to his Assembly seat. He said that in this capacity, he is the chief custodian of school funds for Linden, a position, which is required by state statute.

The Assembly races in the 22nd District pit Republicans Patricia Walsh and Gabe Spera against Democrats Linda d. Stender and Jerry Green.

Ms. Walsh is currently the Mayor of Green Brook, while Mr. Spera is a former Mayor and Councilman in Scotch Plains. Mrs. Stender, a former Mayor and Councilwoman in Fanwood, is currently in her third term on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders while Assemblyman Green, a former county freeholder, has represented the current 17th District since 1992 and is a member of

the Assembly's Housing Committee.

Chris Santora, a spokesman for Ms. Walsh and Mr. Spera, said he believes the race will come down only a few hundred votes difference on either side. He called the 22nd District contest "the sleeper" race in the state.

"I think they (the Democrats) thought this was going to be a safe race for them. But now they know it's not because we have such strong candidates."

He cited Mayor Walsh's efforts to rebuild her hometown's municipal building, after the previous facility was destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Mr. Santora noted Ms. Walsh emphasis in health and education issues and Mr. Spera's efforts, during his years as a Scotch Plains Councilman and Mayor, in revitalizing the township.

The controversial marine trash transfer station on the Linden waterfront was also raised by Mr. Santora. He said the Democrats believe the issue boils down either 1,200 trucks on Union County highways versus one train a day. Ms. Walsh and Mr. Spera support New York sending its garbage by ship down to states in the south already set to receive the waste.

Scotch Plains and Fanwood have for the past 10 years been part of the 22nd District, which is currently represented by State Senator and Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco and Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger and Tom Kean, Jr.

Mr. DiFrancesco is leaving office. Mr. Bagger, who is seeking a State Senate seat, and Mr. Kean, are running for election in the new 21st District that includes their Westfield home base.

In addition to some new representation in Trenton, the new 22nd District will likely have some new issues to consider come January. While the old district was made up of towns that were, by definition, suburban communities, the new 22nd District, with the addition of Linden, Rahway and Plainfield, will have more of an urban-industrial feel to it.

These three towns' populations make up about half the total population of the 11 communities in the 22nd District.

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Artists Gallery of Gifts

- Fall Collection -

Friday, November 2nd • 12-4pm & 7-10 pm
Saturday, November 3rd • 10am - 5pm • Sunday, Nov. 4th • 11am - 3pm
603 Clark St. Westfield, NJ

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Fleece & Tapestry Wearables and Holiday Accessories.

Lovely Gifts and Teachers Thank You's

Dan Newell, Hostess - 908-654-3614

Kevin Johnson Named Chancellor's Scholar

WESTFIELD — Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. has revealed that Westfield resident Kevin Johnson has been named a Chancellor's Scholar.

Enrolled in Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Kevin maintained strong academic credentials in high school, was active in extracurricular and community activities, and demonstrated good character and citizenship.

Awards are as high as \$6,000 per year and are renewable.