



Political Election Coverage 2001

Westfield Town Council Janis Weinstein (R)

WESTFIELD — Westfield Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis Weinstein has officially "kicked off" her re-election bid for a third term as Westfield's Fourth Ward representative.

"Serving this town for the past five years has been a richly rewarding experience. I'm committed to serving my constituents and to preserving the quality of life we enjoy in Westfield."

"In deciding to run for re-election, I thought about what my goals were five years ago and what was left to accomplish," she explained. Mrs. Weinstein has been a member and is now Chairwoman of the Council's Public Works Committee and has worked to improve field conditions throughout town.

"This year, we hired additional DPW personnel to better maintain our fields. This is a topic which has yielded much discussion over the past few years," she said. "I've received many positive comments this spring on the overall playing conditions and I will continue to address and monitor future needs and improvements."

Councilwoman Weinstein noted that she has "championed" several public safety initiatives during the past several years including traffic calming measures at Dorian Road and Scotch Plains Avenue. Last year, she recommended hiring a traffic crossing guard at the Westfield High School to better monitor traffic and to aid in the crossing of students safely.

"I felt this was a necessary addition to our overall school safety program and traffic flow problems at this location. Our children are now able to cross Rahway Avenue safely at peak school hours," she explained.

Mrs. Weinstein has also proposed the placement of stop signs for the cross streets of Tice Place. She has requested that signs be placed at the intersections of North Cottage and Cottage Place, Faulkner Drive and Moss Place.

"These intersections have been an area of concern for residents and the site of numerous motor vehicle accidents. With the placement of these signs, we can expect to see improved safety in those neighborhoods for both children and motorists," she added.

Mrs. Weinstein said she is "passionate" about safety at our parks and fields. She proposed and unanimously received approval from the council for the acquisition of lightning detectors for all of Westfield's active parks and fields. "This project made Westfield the first community in New Jersey to acquire this technology for the safety of our residents."

In addition, Mrs. Weinstein has been working for the past several years to have a flashing yellow light installed on West Broad Street in the McKinley Elementary School district to further reduce speeding along this busy roadway. "I am proud to announce that this light will be installed within the next four to six weeks which will alert motorists to drive more cautiously during school hours," Mrs. Weinstein said.

"I have worked hard for Fourth Ward residents but there is still more to accomplish. I promise, if elected, to continue that effort for the next two years. I am dedicated to bringing forth improved parking conditions for our downtown and our commuters," the Councilwoman stated. "This is a priority for the vitality and prosperity that we all enjoy as neighbors in this great community."

Westfield Town Council Tom Fucillo (D)

WESTFIELD — Westfield Democratic candidate for Town Council from the Second Ward Tom Fucillo has called for immediate traffic calming measures in the streets that will be effected by the opening of the ShopRite on North Avenue in Garwood at the Westfield border, which is just weeks away.

"With the start of the new school year upon us, we must be concerned about the welfare of our children as they cross the Chestnuts (Streets) to get to Washington and Wilson Schools," said Mr. Fucillo. "I have two small children, and while they are not in school yet, I can identify with area residents who are concerned about their kids going to and from school with the increased traffic."

The candidate explained that Westfield has studied the situation but has been noncommittal on any permanent means of controlling traffic as the opening of the supermarket approaches. Mr. Fucillo said the short-term fix that has been proposed is to install "rumble strips" on South Chestnut Street.

"Studies have been done by expensive experts dating back several years, and there is still no solution that can be implemented before the store opens. It is not acceptable to sit back and study the situation further," the candidate said. "Our children will be going to school and playing at Gumbert Park, and other area residents will be navigating streets that the experts tell us can anticipate a large increase in traffic from the ShopRite," he added. "The time is now for action."

"The money has been spent on the experts. Unfortunately, the Council has not arrived at a workable solution and has not built a consensus around it," Mr. Fucillo said. "One thing is for sure, rumble strips alone will not affect the flow of minivans to ShopRite."

Mr. Fucillo lives on Hillcrest Avenue with his wife and two young sons. He said he is running for the council because he cares about making life better in Westfield.

Westfield Third Ward Kevin Walsh (D)

WESTFIELD — Kevin Walsh, the Democratic candidate for the Third Ward seat on the Westfield Town Council, has announced his intent to knock on every door in the Third Ward before Election Day and to personally meet every resident.

"Westfielders deserve a councilman who works as hard as they do," Mr. Walsh noted. "As a member of Town Council, I plan to reach out to constituents on a regular basis in order to serve the community better. My door-to-door campaign is one example of the type of energy and commitment I will bring to the job."

Since beginning his campaign this summer, Mr. Walsh has heard from residents about numerous issues that have not received much attention from the Town Council. For example, streets like Park Place, Shackamaxon Drive and others are in need of improvements.

"Many of our south side streets are in serious disrepair, and residents want to know when their tax dollars will finally yield improved streets and sidewalks," stated Mr. Walsh.

According to Mr. Walsh, residents

of Cacciola Place have expressed frustration with the town's failure to replace a one-way sign that was recently removed, creating additional risks to pedestrians and children in the vicinity of the Westfield Neighborhood Council building.

"Problems like this deserve immediate attention," he stated.

"People in Westfield have a simple approach to government," Mr. Walsh stated. "They pay their taxes and expect great services in return. In my opinion, Westfielders deserve a better return on their investment. That is why I am running for Town Council."

Although Mr. Walsh believes the town's budget must be re-examined to reduce wasteful spending, he expressed his support for continued operation of the south side fire station.

"As a council member, I will fight tooth and nail to prevent closure of this vital safety resource for those of us here on the south side," he stated. Mr. Walsh is an attorney at the Newark law firm of Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione. He serves as a volunteer attorney for the Lawyers for Justice program, which provides free legal assistance to disadvantaged families.

Mr. Walsh and his wife live on Rahway Avenue, and they are members of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Westfield First Ward Peter M. Echausse (R)

After filling Mayor Gregory S. McDermott's remaining term as Westfield's First Ward Councilman this past year, Peter M. Echausse kicked off his campaign for a full term this past weekend.

He has already tapped Mike Cash of East Dudley Avenue as his Campaign Treasurer and Betsy Ferguson of Lincoln Road and Mary Stewart of Woods End Road to coordinate the door-to-door campaign.

Mr. Echausse said he plans to focus his campaign on the issues his constituents deem the most important to Westfield.

"Within the First Ward, I have worked hard to ensure that all of my constituents are kept informed via my newsletter 'First Ward News,'" said Councilman Echausse. "Our

passive parks — the treasure of our ward — are undergoing beautification projects while preserving their open space status. Sections of Lawrence Avenue and all of East Dudley Avenue will be repaved in the upcoming weeks, and I am currently working with the Police and Public Works Departments on plans to reduce accidents along the Dudley Avenue corridor."

Councilman Echausse also reiterated his opposition to the proposed parking structure at Prospect and Elm Streets.

"Although developing a long-range parking solution will remain a top priority of the mayor and council, I have not wavered in my position that the proposed deck at Prospect and Elm is the wrong location and will negatively affect hundreds of property owners and citizens," he said. Mr. Echausse favors a location closer to the train station.

A credit analyst his entire career, Mr. Echausse has 10 years experience working in public finance for Standard & Poors and Merrill Lynch,

where he analyzed municipal bonds backed by property taxes. As First Ward Councilman, he serves as chairman of the Public Safety Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee and Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee. He also serves as Council liaison to the Westfield Recreation Commission.

"There is so much more work that needs to be done this year and next. The First Ward has numerous roads, sidewalks and drainage problems that need to be addressed, a long-range plan for our parks and fields needs to move forward and a comprehensive parking plan is needed," said Mr. Echausse. "I'm excited to take on these challenges by working together with my constituents and with my Town Council colleagues to develop the best solutions for Westfield."

Scotch Plains Council Pat Romano (D)

SCOTCH PLAINS — Democratic candidate for Scotch Plains Township Council Pat Romano believes that her experience working in municipal government and her long-time residency in Scotch Plains will prove that she is the best choice in the November Township Council election.

Mrs. Romano worked for 14 years for the City of Rahway, in the Clerk's Office, the Building Department, and the Tax Assessor's office, completing all tax assessors courses.

"Someone elected to serve the people should bring the depth of experience and inside knowledge necessary to handle a variety of issues," Mrs. Romano stated.

She recently left her employment with the City of Rahway to pursue a career in real estate, having completed the appropriate courses and obtaining her real estate license.

"My new career in real estate will bring me closer to our community, a community my husband and I have long-ago chosen to make our home," she stated.

Mrs. Romano has lived in Scotch Plains for 12 years and is married to Vincent Romano, himself a 21-year resident of the township. Her husband, Vincent Romano, is Director of Logistics for Rolox. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Giavanna.

"Our devotion to Scotch Plains is shown not only in the length of time that we have lived here, but in our dedication to serving this community," Mrs. Romano said. The candidate has served on the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee since 1997.

Mr. Romano has been a volunteer fireman with the Scotch Plains Fire Department since 1988, and was elected to the position of Battalion Chief by his fellow firemen.

Mrs. Romano said she looks forward to using her "real government experience, knowledge of the community derived" from her long-time residency, "and the Romano Family tradition of community service," to benefit Scotch Plains as a member of the Township Council.



ANNUAL DINNER...Members of the Mountainside Republican Club Dinner-Dance Committee discuss plans for their upcoming dinner-dance. Pictured, left to right, are: Elsa Jackson, Dona Osiega, and Marilyn Hart.

Mountainside Republican Club To Hold Annual Dinner-Dance

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Dinner-Dance Committee of the Mountainside Republican Club recently met to formulate plans for their annual Dinner-Dance, scheduled for Friday, October 26 at L'Affaire on Route 22, East in Mountainside.

Members of the Committee include Bill Sanders, Rosemarie Graziano, Florence Steigman, Doreen Lane, Nancy Schmidt, Shirley Horner, and Yvonne Hobbib. Anyone interested in attending should call Mrs. Osiega at (908) 232-4904.

Mtsd. Democrats to Host State, Sheriff Candidates

MOUNTAINSIDE — Steve Brociner and John Shackelford, Democratic Party candidates for seats on the Mountainside Borough Council, have invited all Mountainside residents to get to know candidates for the New Jersey State Legislature and Union County Sheriff at a meeting on Thursday, September 20.

The gathering will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Millennium Room of Mountainside Manor Care, 1180 Route 22, West. The event is being sponsored by the Mountainside Democratic Club. Refreshments will be served.

This will be a unique opportunity to meet and chat with the following six Democratic candidates:

In Legislative District 21, Ellen Steinberg, who is running for the State Senate, and her Assembly running mates, J. Brooke Hern of New Providence and Thomas C. Jardim of Westfield.

Also attending will be Sheriff Ralph G. Froehlich, who is seeking re-election.

The candidates will explain their views and invite questions on Dis-

trict 21 and local conditions and campaign issues.

District 21 includes Mountainside and Westfield and seven other Union County towns as well as communities in three other counties.

Those interested in more information may access the Club's Internet site, www.mountainsidenj.org. Questions or comments may be e-mailed to the club.

Service Set for Tonight To Help People Cope With Week's Tragedies

FANWOOD — In response to the tragic events that occurred Tuesday at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and elsewhere, the Fanwood Presbyterian Church will hold a service of worship and prayer at 8 p.m. tonight, Thursday, September 13.

All are invited to join members of the congregation in this time of sorrow and anxiety. The church is located at Martine and LaGrande Avenues in Fanwood.

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