



# THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD TIMES

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## Wheeler Leads D'Antuono By 7; GOP Seeks Recount

By MEGHAN GILL  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Republicans in the borough will appeal for a recount of Tuesday's council election results due to the closeness of the votes counted in the tight race for a borough council seat between Republican Michael D'Antuono and Democrat Joan Wheeler.

The contested tally for the three-year term was 1,374 votes for Mr. D'Antuono, and 1,381 tallies for Ms. Wheeler, confirmed Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi's office.

This number includes all provisional ballots submitted, and reflects

a seven-vote lead for Ms. Wheeler. Mr. D'Antuono referred *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* to borough Republican Committee Chairman Ted Trumpp, who confirmed that they are planning to order a recount.

"The election was relatively close, and we want to make sure that the original results are accurate," he said. "Accuracy is important; we need to make sure that it is right."

Republicans have until November 23, to order a recount with the Union County Clerk's Office.

Linda Stender, chairwoman of the Fanwood Democratic Committee and assemblywoman representing District 22, said, "I am confident that the

results will be upheld; the voters of Fanwood have elected the Democratic candidates as a reflection of the progress made in downtown Fanwood."

"I expect Joan Wheeler and Bruce Walsh will be sworn in January," she said.

Ms. Wheeler was not available for comment.

Mr. Walsh, a former borough councilman, was the top vote-getter with 1,417 votes. Republican Maureen Mawby received 1,337 tallies.

If the Democrats win the recount, they will hold a 6-0 majority over the council, in addition to Democrat Mayor Colleen Mahr.

## RDDP Amended; Dean Oil Site Contamination Called Speculative

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The borough council voted to adopt an ordinance amending the Fanwood's Revised Downtown Redevelopment Plan (RDDP) at their monthly meeting last Wednesday.

Several residents expressed their concerns to the council and to the planning board at previous meetings that changes were being made to the plan without adequate community input. After these objections were raised, the borough council tabled the ordinance at their October meeting in order to meet with the residents to discuss these changes. Community residents and members of the Redevelopment Committee met in October and both parties were satisfied that the revisions were in agreement with what they desired for their neighborhood.

The changes to the RDDP, adopted in the ordinance, include a building height maximum of 35 feet; excluding multi-family and two-family

apartment buildings from consideration in favor of townhouses only at the former Dean Oil site and set-back changes required for townhouse development at that site. The exclusion of street parking in favor of common-shared parking in order for developers to meet parking requirements was also amended to the plan.

Mayor Colleen Mahr explained that these revisions were necessary in order to clarify previously ambiguous terms in the plan, which plan may be amended from time to time to further clarify ambiguous language as needed.

The council also passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign the redevelopment agreement with Michael Marcovecchio, the downtown's first developer to submit a redevelopment plan under the RDDP. The governing body's action will allow the Marcovecchio LLC to begin construction on the proposed mixed-use, retail and residential development to be located at 222 South

Avenue. Mr. Marcovecchio told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* he will now begin the process of finalizing the financing for the project and hopes to begin demolition by late fall. He said the coming of winter was a limiting factor, which would determine how much work could be accomplished this year. He hopes to be able to resume construction in the spring, weather permitting.

Concerned by the proliferation of news-racks in the downtown area, the borough council passed, on first reading, an ordinance that would limit their placements.

Other resolutions passed by the council included a Veterans' Day recognition publicly thanking veterans for their sacrifices and contributions; a proclamation recognizing November 14 to 18 as American Education Week in the borough, honoring all school employees and volunteers and, finally, an ordinance regulating the outside employment of borough police officers. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 13 prior to the council voting on this ordinance.

The council also unanimously passed a resolution awarding \$425,000 for a new fire truck for the fire department. Mayor Mahr explained the importance of the new truck, which she described as necessary in order to reach the new, three-story buildings, which are under construction or soon to be constructed in the borough.

Councilman Jack Molenaar announced that he and the council wished to dispel any rumors that the third story offices of the new Dunkin Donuts building were going to be apartments. He said the third story would contain offices only.

Mayor Mahr invited the public to attend a special event, which will feature fourth and fifth grade cubscouts assisting the council in running the regular, monthly council meeting in December.

Borough council member Kathleen Mitchell announced that the next issue of the *Fanwoodian* was published and will be mailed out prior to Thanksgiving.

A number of projects will be going out to bid in the spring including



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY...Mr. Joe McCourt, Veterans' Day coordinator, member of VFW Post 10122 and American Legion Post 209, addresses veterans and citizens at the War Memorial monument.

## Heather Glen Tax Plan Called 'Win-Win' For SP Residents

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains council members defended the township's agreement with the developers of the Heather Glen age-restricted housing development, which will result in slightly lower property taxes for those owning property in the development.

Belvedere Drive resident Sheldon Roskin questioned township officials about the details of the so-called PI-LOT, or Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes, agreement with Heather Glen at Scotch Plains Urban Renewal LLC, the developers of the 55-unit housing development being built off Jerusalem Road. Deed restrictions for the properties will include a provision that no children reside in any of the homes currently being constructed. Under the agreement, property tax monies from those properties will be earmarked mostly for the municipal government, with some directed to-

ward the county government and a smaller portion than normal dedicated for the local board of education.

Usually, property taxes in Scotch Plains are split three ways, with about two-thirds of the levy directed to education purposes and the remaining one-third split between the municipal and county governments.

Mr. Roskin questioned the fairness of the arrangement, calling it "inherently discriminatory" against longtime township residents who continue to pay property taxes to the Board of Education even though they no longer have school-age children living at home. He said it was "an offensive gesture towards a great many people" that "doesn't quite balance with what everyone else is doing in town."

Beginning a 50-minute discussion of the matter, Mayor Martin Marks explained the background of the project, calling the formerly-named Broadway property "a blighted prop-

erty" that, for years, was used as a dumping ground for trash and other items.

In 1997, the township council declared the 12-acre tract an area in need of development under a state law that deals with land, such as the Broadway property, that is difficult to develop. Such a declaration, the mayor said, allows the municipal government to have greater control over how such a property might be developed.

"We can pick and choose developers and also how we want to develop it," Mr. Marks told Mr. Roskin.

Before settling on the age-restricted housing development, township officials were presented with a variety of development plans, the mayor said, including a senior citizen assisted-living facility and a townhome development of more than 300 units. Local officials rejected these ideas, the mayor said, noting, in particular, that a large townhome development would

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CELEBRATING VICTORY...Assemblywoman Linda Stender, Fanwood Councilman-elect Bruce Walsh and Fanwood Councilwoman-elect Joan Wheeler celebrate their Election night victories at the Southside Café with Mayor Colleen Mahr.

Publisher's Note: The November 24 Thanksgiving Day edition of *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood* will be published a day earlier on November 23.

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## Scotch Plains Voting Results

November 8, 2005

District	Total Registered	Total Voted	Freeholders				Question 1		Question 2		Governor					General Assembly					County Clerk							
			GOP	GOP	DEM	DEM	Yes	No	Yes	No	Forrester	Corzine	Forchion	Bell	Castillo	Pawlowski	Thieke	Latigona	Rozzo	Larishy	Malool	Bochi-Med	Green	Stender	Spector	Rajoppi		
1	625	399	45	46	40	312	313	319	104	69	102	60	54	333	1	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	46	36	319	329	38	324
2	620	308	66	63	63	202	209	207	105	54	79	74	72	216	2	1	4	4	4	0	0	1	73	61	198	214	63	216
3	654	310	134	129	128	136	135	134	97	67	93	65	146	140	1	2	9	6	2	0	0	0	145	119	127	149	120	151
4	609	300	155	146	142	98	103	99	82	71	72	69	170	112	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	158	134	96	119	132	130
5	687	382	186	185	177	155	155	158	142	95	125	103	181	182	2	0	8	2	3	2	0	0	194	160	152	182	165	176
6	467	243	129	126	121	86	93	98	84	68	61	80	129	105	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	136	109	89	109	110	115
7	560	297	160	155	148	113	112	121	109	64	104	64	159	119	1	0	6	3	3	1	0	0	163	137	108	136	137	133
8	876	462	207	206	210	205	213	211	134	149	144	127	218	227	1	2	3	3	3	0	0	3	214	183	198	237	181	242
9	597	309	130	135	134	142	139	137	97	77	83	82	138	151	2	0	10	2	1	0	0	0	141	115	137	166	111	163
10	563	320	143	146	140	145	144	147	88	76	78	82	145	163	1	0	4	3	1	2	0	0	151	130	148	165	125	165
11	569	321	155	144	145	142	147	149	101	77	98	84	152	155	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	154	138	142	159	134	160
12	621	348	165	169	160	137	131	145	124	84	108	86	173	160	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	172	148	138	166	137	176
13	610	342	147	146	148	162	164	169	123	92	127	80	142	180	0	1	6	1	3	0	0	0	150	129	162	185	130	186
14	553	303	157	162	151	110	116	119	106	93	106	86	156	137	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	174	129	112	144	139	134
15	665	391	213	206	201	141	143	147	109	131	114	114	211	159	4	4	5	1	1	0	0	0	202	177	154	183	181	178
16	1225	612	297	290	281	271	282	283	256	148	225	160	272	308	1	1	7	6	4	0	0	0	284	254	282	318	252	324
17	1206	612	318	318	310	224	223	230	204	143	173	160	331	265	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	0	310	282	237	263	288	261
18	595	323	172	171	168	119	128	127	143	73	126	83	169	146	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	171	147	121	150	149	150
19	746	389	197	194	189	151	155	157	176	82	144	97	197	181	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	211	171	144	184	183	168
20	931	523	299	296	294	184	186	186	193	126	174	129	300	206	3	1	5	4	2	0	0	0	298	266	191	215	274	209
21	636	246	76	74	76	141	141	141	70	51	74	45	88	142	3	0	2	1	3	2	0	0	77	66	138	153	72	151
Total	14615	7740	3551	3507	3426	3376	3432	3484	2687	1868	2427	1930	3603	3787	32	17	95	55	36	11	0	4	3624	3091	3393	3926	3121	3912

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