

Westfield DEM Campaign Release

No Need for Divisive Rhetoric At Local Government Level

by Audrey Fisch
Candidate for Council, Ward 1

The heat in national politics is probably at an all-time high. Divisive rhetoric has been a characteristic of local politics lately as well. Is this an unfortunate trickle-down from the national scene? Certainly, our community has faced big change in recent years, yet the changes we've encountered hardly involve ideological division or merit the level of vitriole that we've witnessed.

After all, we all want the same things from Westfield: safe, well-maintained streets, excellent and efficient public education, vibrant neighborhoods without excessive and disruptive development that changes the character of our community, property taxes that reflect a reasonable value for services and the ability to enjoy our downtown and make use of our train station.

None of these are partisan or ideological. So why the bitter conflict?

Certainly, local government needs to make decisions that not everyone will immediately applaud. But the foremost goal of local government should be to communicate openly, to inform the community, to provide extensive forums for public debate and to create a climate of respect for dissent.

To be frank, we haven't always made this communication easy. Few Westfielders have the time and inclination to attend town-council meetings on Tuesday nights, but that doesn't mean we aren't interested in what's happening. The council has

the obligation to reach out to the community, and it could do a lot more to meet that obligation.

The Westfield Leader graciously provides free space for political leaders, not just during election times. We should avail ourselves on a regular basis of this easy opportunity to inform and this generous space for conversation.

The public schools communicate weekly with parents through the vehicle of an Internet newsletter. Busy parents can catch up on news and events at their child's school at their convenience. Surely local government can and should provide something similar to those interested, and it can do so at little or no cost.

No good idea can't be improved by thoughtful conversation. And no matter how good an idea is, Westfield won't benefit if the implementation isn't built on an informed consensus that is achieved through genuine collaboration with the community and reasonable compromise.

We are an intelligent, educated and involved community. If our local government leads in creating a climate of regular, civil debate, we will achieve consensus and be able to implement changes with success. After all, it's not important that we win the argument; it's important that we solve the problems that our community faces and that we do so in a way that allows us to remain a true community.

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WHERE'S THE MONEY?...Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr., Assemblymen Jon Bramnick and Eric Munoz spoke along with other local officials about the state's allocation of \$5 million to Roselle for the West Brook project while no monies were given for the Cranford flood-control project in the adjoining District 21. The Republican legislators say that none of the Democratic towns are being passed over with monies needed for the same situation.

Fanwood GOP Campaign Release

Mawby and D'Antuono Seek Voter Support for Council in Fanwood

FANWOOD — Michael D'Antuono and Maureen Mawby were nominated by their fellow Republicans in June to run for the Fanwood Borough Council in the November election.

Both Fanwood residents for more than 30 years, each started their community involvement in youth activities while their children were in the school system. Mr. D'Antuono coached baseball and basketball teams, while Ms. Mawby served on the Parent-Teacher Association Council (PTA) for both the Brunner Elementary School and Park Middle School.

Mr. D'Antuono is a U.S. Army veteran and a graduate of Seton Hall University. In Fanwood, he served on the Ethics Committee, which was abolished under a Democratic administration. He also was on the original Downtown Redevelopment Committee but had to resign due to an employment conflict of interest.

He recently retired as a senior vice president with The Trust Company of New Jersey with more than 40 years of banking industry experience. He has expertise in commercial lending and has been attending the borough-council and planning-board meetings over the past few months to assess progress

Fanwood Set for \$100K State Safety Grant

FANWOOD — The Borough of Fanwood will receive a \$100,000 grant from the state to improve road safety for children walking to school.

Sen. Nicholas Scutari, Asw. Linda Stender and Asm. Jerry Green of LD-22 issued the notice this week.

Westfield DEM Campaign Release

It's Time for Comprehensive Action On Town Field-Maintenance Plan

by Tom Jardim
Candidate for Mayor

The discussion of athletic field maintenance and conditions is on the minds of all athletes, parents, coaches and students involved in sports in Westfield. It is an important issue because it involves the health and well being of all people wishing to participate in organized athletics, enjoy a pick-up game in the park or toss a ball with their child or grandchild.

Some progress has been made in improving Westfield's fields. The addition of artificial turf at Sid Fay/Houlihan fields and Kehler Stadium is commendable and will go a long way to offering first-class facilities. The recreation commission and the board of education deserve to be applauded for their hard work and dedication in making these new fields a reality. However, I cannot help but note that so much more work needs to be done.

Simply put, the condition of many town athletic fields is unacceptable. Demand for their use continues to grow as the number of children increases, more adults seek recreational outlets and sports such as rugby, field hockey and lacrosse grow in popularity. Couple this with the lack of available open space that is appropriate for developing new fields and what are we left with? Fields which cannot "rest," rejuvenate or receive appropriate periods of grooming, renovation and, in some cases, total redevelopment.

Field maintenance needs a fresh look. It is my belief that in order to implement a coordinated, comprehensive, systematic approach to this issue, new ideas are needed in order to speed up the pace of progress.

The addition several years ago of four more Department of Public Works employees to maintain the fields has resulted in some progress, but it is nowhere near what is needed or was intended when those positions were created. First, these employees must report directly to the director of recreation in order to be totally devoted to the goal of properly maintaining our fields and, more generally, our parks.

Additionally, the recreation commission, working in its advisory role to the town and serving as the conduit for user groups to express their concerns and advice, should be charged with developing a plan for field maintenance. These two steps alone will push a field-maintenance program to the position of importance it needs and deserves.

Simultaneously, I recommend the appointment of an ad hoc committee, made up of board of education representatives, recreation commission representatives, coaches and league parents to determine how best to coordinate renovation and rehabilitation of our school and town fields. To provide the best athletic fields possible and to achieve financial economies of scale, the town and the school board must use a coordinated approach and adopt one strategy for making all our fields safe for users.

Athletic fields are an important community resource. If elected mayor, I promise field maintenance will be a top priority of my administration. The health and safety of our children and all of our residents cannot be a time-consuming, elongated process. More concrete action is needed now, and I will dedicate myself to that end.

Poll Shows No Clear Leader To Replace Senator Corzine

AREA — According to a recent Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll, the background competition for being named replacement United States Senator should Jon Corzine become governor of New Jersey has no clear leader among state Democrats.

The poll results indicated that 44 percent of likely voters have no definite opinion of whom among New Jersey's Congressional Democrats they'd want to take Jon Corzine's U.S. Senate seat — 29 percent confess they just "don't know" who should replace him while another 15 percent say "any of them" or "none of them" or "it doesn't matter."

Among Democratic voters, the poll winner with 37 percent is "no preference." Only Rep. Bob Menendez of Hudson County gathered more than a third in statewide name recognition.

Acting Governor Dick Codey was not included in the poll. The Democratic governor's name recognition is better than 80 percent and he has a 3 to 1 favorable to unfavorable ratio.

Close to half polled (46 percent) say they've heard of State Senator Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield, making him better known than any New Jersey Democrat in the House of Representatives.

The statewide poll of 635 registered, likely-voters was conducted by telephone from September 21 through September 26.

For more information, please see <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>.

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SANTA ISABEL TORRONTES \$7.99
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Wine Of The Week

Takler Proprietor's Reserve Cabernet Franc \$95.00

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Your Favorite Wines			Your Favorite Whiskey		
Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml	Jack Daniels	\$35.99	1.75L
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml	Jim Beam	\$23.99	1.75L
Simi Chardonnay	\$12.99	750ml	Seagrams 7	\$14.99	1.75L
BV Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay/Pinot Noir	\$7.99	750ml			
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$8.99	750ml			
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml			
Your Favorite Vodka			Your Favorite Rum		
Absolut 80	\$31.99	1.75L	Captain Morgan	\$23.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$33.99	1.75L	Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$25.99	750ml	Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Pravda	\$26.99	750ml	Malibu	\$23.99	1.75L
Smirnoff	\$18.99	1.75L			
Stolichnaya	\$30.99	1.75L			
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Your Favorite Gin			Your Favorite Value Wines		
Bombay Sapphire	\$34.99	1.75L	Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Tanqueray	\$30.99	1.75L	Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Hendricks	\$27.99	750ml	Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
Beefeater	\$28.99	1.75L	Vendange Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$6.99	1.5L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L	Fetzer Cabernet/Chardonnay	\$13.99	1.5L
Seagrams	\$15.99	1.75L	Cavit Pinot Grigio	\$11.99	1.5L
			Walnut Crest Cabernet	\$8.99	1.5L
			Cesar Pinot Grigio	\$10.99	1.5L
			Bolla Soave	\$10.99	1.5L
			Beringer White Zinfandel	\$8.99	1.5L
			Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$10.99	5L
			Carlos Rossi Burgundy/Chablis/Paisano/Sangria	\$8.99	4L
			Opici Homemade Barbarone	\$11.99	4L
Your Favorite Scotch			Your Favorite Cordials		
Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L	Baileys	\$17.99	750ml
Chivas Regal	\$51.99	1.75L	Romana Sambuca	\$17.99	750ml
Johnnie Walker Black	\$55.99	1.75L	Kahlua	\$15.99	750ml
Johnnie Walker Red	\$30.99	1.75L	Southern Comfort	\$13.99	750ml
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L	Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml

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