

Quattrocchi Calls Ward Naïve About Pay to Play in County

By Pat Quattrocchi
 Union County Freeholder Candidate

The *Star Ledger* recently ran an article about the upcoming election for Union County Freeholder. The chairpersons of both county political committees were quoted, as well as us six freeholder candidates, three from each side of the aisle. The article contained the usual stuff: age, occupation, town of residence and a couple of words about the backgrounds of each candidate, as well as a quote or two attributed to each of us.

Thrown in was also a tidbit or two about the board and their recent history and the fact that this board has approved roughly 1,000 resolutions in succession this year, and all but three passed unanimously.

All three Democratic candidates are incumbents running for reelection and include Freeholder Nancy Ward, who was appointed just one year ago to fill the slot vacated when a sitting freeholder was accused of domestic assault. Her comments were telling when she said state Democrats were leading pay-to-play reform, and that our board awards contracts on merit alone. Who is she kidding?

State Democrats have done everything in their power, every step of the way, to derail any meaningful legislation to squash pay-to-play at the county level of government. It certainly seems obvious that she is unaware of the amount of cash coming into her county committee's coffers and just who is financing her campaign.

A quick look at some of the past years' contracts awarded by the Union County Freeholders without the benefit of competitive bidding says it all: PMK Group, Cranford, contributed \$185,000 to campaigns throughout New Jersey since 2001, awarded over \$1 million in contracts in 2004 and 2005 in Union County alone. Harbor Consultants, Cranford, contributed \$52,900 to the Union County Democratic Committee from March 2001 through January 2005 and has been awarded no-bid contracts well in excess of \$387,000 from 2001 through early 2005, with the latest in August 2005 for \$48,900.

Now, we are all grownups here. Many of us are college-educated, as

well as educated to the ways of the world (be it through business or life experiences). We know that no one gets something for nothing and it certainly is apparent what has been going on here in our county. The list is endless of campaign contributions followed by no-bid contracts and not only to construction-related companies, but attorneys as well, who represent the county in countless legal battles, with several this year culminating in settlements in favor of the plaintiff and not the county, but that is a list for another day.

The Republican team of Pat Quattrocchi, Stuart Kline and Al Dill plan to put an end to the practice of awarding contracts without competitive bidding, which is obviously costing the hard working taxpayers of our county millions of dollars every year. The residents deserve, and should expect, that their elected officials look out for their hard-earned money and see to it that they get a good return on their investment, rather than seeing to it that the contributors get a return on theirs. As for Freeholder Ward, I would like to believe that she is merely naïve. To learn more about us, visit our website at www.unioncountygop.org or call to volunteer at (908) 789-0200.



PROTECT AND PRESERVE...County Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor, left, Freeholders Bette Jane Kowalski, second from left, and Nancy Ward, second from right, and County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, center, present Christine Glazer, right, president of the Cranford Historical Society, with a resolution in honor of the reopening of the Crane-Phillips House Museum in Cranford after interior restorations. The freeholders provided the group with \$78,000 over the last three years in merit-based, matching grants through "Preserve Union County," a part of the county's open space fund. The Crane-Phillips House was reopened during the county's "Four Centuries in a Weekend" celebration of Union County history.

Sample Ballots Offered For Visually Impaired

COUNTY — Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi is offering sample election ballots on audiotape for visually impaired voters in time for the

Tuesday, November 8 General Election in a continuing initiative developed by her office. In addition, a sample absentee ballot and important election guidelines are available online.

"Since the spring of 2004, visually impaired and legally blind Union County voters have had equal access to sample ballots and can be fully informed of their choices of candidates," Ms. Rajoppi said.

Many voters may be unfamiliar with the absentee ballots in use, which were offered for the first time in 2003. Examples of the absentee ballot and other information can be found online at ucnj.org/ctyclerk/absent04.html.

In addition, a new "No Excuses" absentee ballot application is available to voters for the first time this year. To obtain an application, voters may download the form at the clerk's website or call the Clerk's office at (908) 527-4996.

Detailed information on election dates, election machines and other election services can be found on the County Clerk's website at ucnj.org/ctyclerk/election.html. Among the newly posted information are instructions for declaring a political party affiliation and on obtaining an election law compliance manual. The last day to apply by mail for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 1, and the last day to apply for one in person is Monday, November 7, before 3 p.m. To request audiotape absentee ballots and other information by calling (908) 527-4996.



STRATEGY MEETING...Fanwood Democrats show their support for Fanwood Borough Council candidates Bruce Walsh and Joan Wheeler at a fund-raising breakfast on October 16. Pictured, left to right, are: Standing, Mr. Walsh, Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella, and seated, Councilman Joe Higgins, Liam Mahr and his mother, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, Ms. Wheeler, Patricia Plante and Steve Falco. For more information about the candidates, please call Bill Populus at (908) 789-7577 or visit FanwoodDems.com.

Rotarians Select Betty List To Receive Bailey Award

WESTFIELD — The Rotary Club of Westfield has selected Elizabeth H. "Betty" List to receive its 19th annual Charles P. Bailey Humanitarian Award, according to a joint announcement made earlier this week by Rotary President Nancy Jackson and Vice President/Humanitarian Award Committee Chairman Dr. Edred Shen.

The award, which honors the memory of the late Charles Bailey, a Westfield Mayor and Rotary Club president, is presented each year to a citizen of Westfield who exemplifies outstanding dedication and service to the community. The 2005 presentation will be made during the Rotary Club's annual reception and dinner on Wednesday, November 16, at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Proceeds from the event go to the Westfield Rotary Foundation for community support and education.

In the announcement, Mrs. Jackson explained, "Betty List is an obvious recipient of the Humanitarian Award. Consistent with the ideals of Rotary, through her willingness to place service above self, she has had a positive impact on the quality of life that has been extremely relevant and wide reaching."

Mrs. List and her husband, the late Robert E. List, moved to Westfield 51 years ago. Almost immediately, she became involved in local affairs to the extent that, in 1978, she won the distinction of being the first woman ever elected to the Westfield Town Council and served as its safety committee chairwoman for four years. Mrs. List currently is Town Historian and President of the Westfield Historic Preservation Committee.

She was a member of the Westfield Planning Board from 1984 through 1996, and served as its chairwoman from 1986 through 1990. Mrs. List is a 45-year member of the Westfield Service League and is a former board member. She was campaign chairwoman for the United Fund of Westfield in 1975 and a trustee from 1975 through 1993.

Mrs. List has been a member of the Westfield College Women's Club

since 1957, has served as a member of its board, and received its Pride Award in 1987. In 1980, the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce presented Mrs. List with its Community Service Award.

She is a former president of the Washington School, Wilson School and Westfield High School PTAs. She also was President of the Westfield Parent-Teacher Council. She is a long-time member of the board of PANDA, the community initiative to discourage teen drug and alcohol abuse. Her advocacy for children also included membership on the Juvenile Conference Committee identifying prison alternatives for less serious juvenile offenders.

Mrs. List has been a member of the Garden Club since 1998 and currently serves on its board. She is next June's chairwoman for the biannual Garden Tour. She has been actively involved as a member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield since 1957.

An active sportswoman, Mrs. List is a member of Echo Lake Country Club, the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association and the New Jersey Women's Platform Tennis Association.

According to Dr. Shen, Mrs. List's daughter, Karen, and son, Robert E. 2nd, will be featured speakers at the dinner on November 16. The Reverend Victoria Ney, Associate Pastor of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, will deliver the invocation.

In addition to acting as Toastmistress for the evening, Linda Maggio, Executive Director of the United Way, who is herself a recipient of the Humanitarian Award, will be one of the speakers. Mrs. Jackson will present Mrs. List with the club's Humanitarian Award. On behalf of Rotary International, Dr. Kenneth Ciarrocca, President of the Westfield Rotary Foundation, will present Mrs. List with Paul Harris Fellow recognition, the organization's highest honor.

Persons wishing to make reservations for the reception and dinner, the cost of which is \$100, may call Dr. Shen at (908) 654-1500.



Elizabeth "Betty" List

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Sunday, November 6, 2005
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All proceeds will support the College Woman's Club Of Westfield.

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