

MEET THE CANDIDATES
Mark Ciarrocca for Reelection,
Westfield Town Council, Ward 3

Few would argue that one of Westfield's top concerns is vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety. A vibrant business district, higher student enrollment and busy county roads contribute to more traffic and speeding through neighborhood streets. Over the past four years, I have worked with my colleagues on the town council, residents and our police department to address this important issue with a multi-faceted approach. The results have been extremely encouraging.

Four years ago, I proposed that we establish the Citizens Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to bring a concentrated effort to particular neighborhoods with specific traffic concerns. This process ensured that this issue was not addressed in a vacuum.

Residents who live near traffic hot spots were sought for ideas on how best to deal with particular traffic issues affecting their neighborhood. In the end, we arrived at consensus solutions that were effective, inexpensive and consistent with the character of the given neighborhood.

Another suggestion that I proposed four years ago was to increase safety awareness by obtaining speed-detecting radar boxes. Three years ago, the town purchased two of the boxes. We now have four and just received a state grant to obtain eight more. Our traffic safety professionals have found these radar boxes to be extremely effective in reducing vehicle speeds throughout town.

Police presence has also been stepped up along with more efficient enforcement

measures to counter those who disregard the speed limit. Our municipal court has gone from four to six sessions per month largely due to the increase in the number of moving violations issued.

For two years, I have chaired the town council's public safety committee and managed an agenda, which routinely has 10 to 15 items to address. Our committee has addressed traffic issues in many of our neighborhoods, from Doris Parkway to Jefferson School to Summit Avenue, to name a few.

There is no panacea to solve traffic problems, but the multi-pronged approach that we have taken is showing positive results. What is particularly encouraging is that motor vehicle accidents with injuries are down over 40 percent compared to last year.

That said, we have more work to do. I look forward to moving forth with traffic safety improvements on Central Avenue, working with volunteer groups and the board of education to implement a walking school bus program, designing safe bike routes throughout town and continuing our multi-faceted approach to make Westfield a safer and more pedestrian-friendly place to live and visit.

As councilman representing Westfield's third ward, traffic and pedestrian safety remain an important priority. I will work to ensure this positive trend continues and welcome your comments or suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at (908) 233-1611 or visit me online at mark2007.com.



Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SECRETS UNVEILED...United States Secret Service agents (active and retired) met last Friday in Annapolis, Md. to review private photographs contributed by agents from around the country to be used for a book, with proceeds to go to charity. Several hundred photographs were collected that illustrate moments with Presidents from Eisenhower to Clinton, along with world leaders, being guarded in public and private circumstances. Pictured, left to right, are consultant Louis Geiger, agent Tom Sloan of Westfield (ret.), agent Kimberly Bruce and agent Gerald Cavis (ret.). Others present declined to be photographed. Horace Corbin, Publisher of The Westfield Leader, served as an advisor.

MEET THE CANDIDATES
Matt Sontz, Candidate for
Westfield Town Council, Ward 3

Our Westfield town council exists to provide, among other things, basic services to our residents. The town council should be continually communicating with our residents to discover those services that the town should be providing, should be providing better or should discontinue.

It is only through regular, personal communication with our residents that the town council can truly understand and appreciate the issues facing our residents.

As I have visited my neighbors throughout the third ward of Westfield over the better part of this year, I have discovered many of those issues that our residents do not feel are being addressed.

As I previously wrote, speeders throughout our residential neighborhoods are dangerous to us, our families and our guests. Increased policing of our streets throughout the third ward is necessary to alleviate this problem.

As elections occur in the fall and campaign season is the few months before, many issues that face our residents during the winter are forgotten during campaign season.

As I have been discussing issues with my neighbors throughout the third ward since March, many residents expressed issues to me regarding last winter that will surely be issues again.

Chief among those issues is the lack of quality road plowing that occurs on the smaller streets in the third ward. Many residents have raised their concerns that the main roads through town are plowed all the way to the road surface while their

roads remain covered in compressed snow that very quickly turns to ice.

Simply put, we should have our roads properly plowed regardless of where we live in the third ward.

Our residents expect our town council to maintain our roads. That means not only maintaining the main roads through town, but also the many smaller roads throughout our neighborhoods in which we live.

Many of our streets have not been paved for as long as we have lived in our homes, which is troubling, as some residents have lived in their homes for over 40 years.

Our residents are tired of the simple road patches that are done only after many months (perhaps even years) of complaining to the public works department. Our town needs to work a plan to alleviate this concern.

This is just a small sampling of the many issues that go unaddressed for various reasons. If elected, I will address those issues and the many other issues that my neighbors in the third ward have raised with me.

I will also continue to communicate with my neighbors each and every year of my council term so that I do not begin to lose the appreciation and sense of urgency regarding those issues that a council person needs to effectively work to solve them.

My name is Matt Sontz, and I am a candidate for town council in the third ward. Please consider me when you vote on November 6.

MEET THE CANDIDATES
Colleen Mahr, for Reelection as
Mayor of Fanwood

This November 6, 2007 is a very important election for the Borough of Fanwood. There are three seats that the voters will be asked to decide upon—the mayor and two council positions.

I am very proud to be running for reelection as mayor, along with council president Kathy Mitchell and councilman Bill Populus. We are all seeking to return to our positions to continue the good hard work we are doing on behalf of the residents of Fanwood.

The local Republican Party was unable to field a candidate for mayor, so I am now running unopposed. This is the first time in recent memory that this has happened. I have worked very hard for all of Fanwood and having no opposition speaks volumes to the many successes this Democratic mayor and council have had.

In just four years, this administration has brought in over \$3-million dollars in outside grant money to Fanwood. Rest assured that any park improvement, road and sidewalk construction project you see are tied to grants to offset the cost of keeping Fanwood moving in the right direction.

During my time as mayor, we have seen historic movement with the redevelopment of our downtown. We take great pride in being able to accomplish what has eluded so many previous administrations. Many said it could not be done

with eminent domain; we have proved them wrong. However, we are not finished with the community-backed vision for our lovely town and are committed to seeing the project through.

We have worked very hard to bring in close to \$1,000,000 in direct property tax relief through the NJ State Extraordinary Aide program, and if reelected, Kathy, Bill and myself will continue to fight to bring home every penny that is available.

I am also proud of the many successes our recreation programs are now experiencing—from the extremely popular and newly revamped summer camp program to being able, for the first time, to offer our seniors affordable fitness classes. We take protecting the quality of life within our neighborhoods seriously and this past year, we passed into law a "McMansion" ordinance so that new homes will be within proper scale of their neighbors. Kathy, Bill and myself love Fanwood, and making it a place we are all proud of is our chief priority. We have worked hard for you over the years and will continue to do so.

As mayor, I am only as good as the men and women who join me on council. So, please vote to return Kathy and Bill to council. I need them. Fanwood needs them.

Colleen Mahr
 Mayor of Fanwood

MEET THE CANDIDATES
John Russitano, Candidate
For Union County Freeholder

John Russitano of Westfield has joined the Republican ticket as a candidate for Union County Freeholder in the upcoming general election in November. An employee of the Town of Westfield's Department of Public Works, Mr. Russitano is also the owner of a small entertainment company, married and the father of three.

He said, "Union County residents are economically handcuffed due to outrageously high property taxes. Many are working two and, in some cases, three jobs to survive, leaving them nothing to enjoy with the families or save for a rainy day. I believe that there is another way, a better way to live, and I want to contribute my ideas to help find that way."

"We are confident that we have a strong and diverse slate this year. Each one of our candidates brings their unique and individual strengths, with very varied backgrounds and life experiences to the table," Mr. Morin said. "They will be taking their message of good county government directly to the voters by personally knocking on as many doors as possible in the coming month."

Mr. Russitano replaces Wally Shackel of Cranford, who dropped out of the race citing personal reasons. He joins the Republican ticket with former Garwood Councilwoman Patricia Quattrocchi and former Mayor Robert Reilly of Winfield Park.

GOP Candidates Take to TV

Union County Republican Freeholder Candidates Patricia Quattrocchi and John Russitano recently taped a half-hour informational program to be aired on local-access cable television. The candidates discuss the ever-increasing tax burden facing county residents due to uncontrolled spending, security risks facing Union County and many other issues facing the residents of the county on a day-to-day basis. All towns with local-access cable channels can watch: "Pat Quattrocchi and John Russitano for Union County Freeholder," which begins airing October 1 and plays everyday through November 6 (Election Day). The show schedule is: Monday at 9 p.m., Tuesday at

10 p.m., Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Thursday at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 11 p.m., Saturday at 11:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 p.m.

Bramnick and Kean Receive Awards

AREA — Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Senate President Richard Codey, Speaker Joseph Roberts and Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance addressed the New Jersey Food Council during their 34th Annual Good Government breakfast last Friday on a variety of business issues being discussed in the legislature.

Senator Tom Kean, Jr. (LD-21), Senate Minority Whip, was honored with the 2007 Distinguished Legislator Award by the organization. This award is presented annually to a member of the legislature who strives to improve New Jersey's business climate and further the goals of the food industry.

Later that day, Mr. Bramnick, a resident of Westfield, received the "Professional Attorney of the Year Award" at the Commission on Professionalism in the Law Annual Awards Luncheon at the Law Center in New Brunswick. The Union County Bar Association chose to honor Mr. Bramnick.

The criteria for the award are, "the lawyer should be someone who is well recognized in the legal community for character and competence, someone who is respected by all and looked upon as a model of professional behavior."


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ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq., chair of its Family Law Department, Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq. and Lisa Stein-Browning, Esq. will present to the public a free seminar entitled "Everything You Need to Know about Divorce" at The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clark on Thursday, October 18, 2007 and Saturday, October 20, 2007. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over 35 years, Mr. Outhwaite for over 17 years and Lisa Stein-Browning for over 2 years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, division of assets, domestic violence and post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support as well as the law governing civil unions.

Information will also be provided on divorce mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post divorce rights and obligations of former spouses. **Free Personal Consultation to All Attendees.**

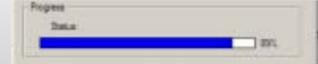
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732-574-0100

WHEN:
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Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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