

SP Council Reintroduces Bond Ordinance — Amidst Sniping

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council on Tuesday reintroduced a \$1.525-million capital bond ordinance, but not before a fresh round of finger-pointing and recriminations stemming from the failure two weeks ago to approve the same ordinance.

At its May 20 meeting, the council voted 3 to 2 to approve the bond ordinance, with everyone seeming to forget at the time that capital bond ordinances require a two-thirds, or 67 percent, supermajority affirmative vote. As a result, the three votes at the meeting two weeks ago represented just 60 percent; a fourth vote

in favor would have put the ordinance over the two-thirds threshold. The three council Republicans, Michael Marcus, William Vastine and Llewellyn Jones, voted in favor of the ordinance while Mayor Kevin Glover and Councilwoman Colleen Gialanella, the two Democrats on the governing body, voted against it.

The public hearing on the reintroduced ordinance will be held on Tuesday, June 17. If passed by the two-thirds majority, the bond will fund a number of purchases including new equipment for the public works and recreation departments and new police vehicles. It also will finance environmental studies and initial remediation at the former Terry-Lou

Zoo property and initial cleanup of the pond at Brookside Park and additionally will pay for a new heating and air conditioning system at the library.

Before unanimously reintroducing the ordinance, council members engaged in a series of, at times, sharp exchanges about the earlier failure to pass the ordinance. Councilman Jones said that during the governing body's discussions of the details of the ordinance over the past few months, he did not recall any concerns being expressed by either the mayor or Mrs. Gialanella. He said the pair "didn't do their job or due diligence" in the months leading up to the ordinance's initial introduction and added that the duo was holding the bond ordinance "hostage to make changes to save face."

Mr. Jones also criticized as "disgusting" the mayor's remarks last week to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* questioning the qualifications of Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Carlos Luaces.

Terming Mr. Jones' remarks "nothing short of outrageous," Mrs. Gialanella complained that she and the mayor have been "completely alienated" from how the township is being governed. She said her perception was that, since the start of the year, only three council members needed "to be treated with dignity and be included in the process" of governing.

She repeated complaints made last week by the mayor of not having her telephone calls and e-mails to Township Manager Jerry Giamis returned in a timely manner, if at all. She also claimed that her requests for additional meetings with Mr. Luaces to discuss the DPW's budget requests were ignored.

Deputy Mayor Michael Marcus said he was "extremely disappointed" by the overall tenor of the council's meetings.

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Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
WOOF WOOF...Participants in the annual Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains' Woof Walk get ready to walk their canine companions on Sunday morning in downtown Scotch Plains.



Photo courtesy of Brian Horton
LADIES NIGHT...Several women check in at the registration table in Fanwood on May 29 during the Fanwood Business and Professional Association's Ladies' Night Out event. More than 250 women registered for the third annual event.

SP-F BOE Gets Presentation on Cyber Science Challenge Projects

By DELL SIMEONE

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education met last Thursday evening and honored PTA presidents of all of the schools in the district and seventh-grade science teachers and students who took part in the 2014 Cyber Challenge, which was funded by a State STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Grant.

The PTA presidents from each of the district schools were thanked by the board for their hard work and devotion to the schools. They were each presented with potted flowers.

An eCybermission Update was given to the board by Mridula Jajaj,

the K-12 science supervisor. The PowerPoint presentation was narrated by two middle-school science teachers, who shared the experience with the students of the science challenge, which asked the students to take a problem, collaborate, come up with an engineering design and draw conclusions to benefit the community. Seventh-grade students from Terrill and Park

Middle Schools took part in the challenge.

Some of the projects involved devising something to use on the sole of shoes in snowy weather to prevent falling, measuring the force of a basketball, studying the impact of heavy backpacks on the spine, and similar health-related projects. The state grant for these projects

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FW Plan. Bd. Hears South Ave. Re-Zoning Proposals

By DELL SIMEONE

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Planning Board heard a detailed presentation by Jessica Giorgianna, of H2M Associates, on re-zoning proposals for the South Avenue commercial zone at its meeting last Wednesday.

Ms. Giorgianna said the commercial corridor along South Avenue is divided into three districts: the western district, the central district and the eastern district. She said she had toured the corridor with Raymond Sullivan, the borough's zoning officer.

The commercial corridor western, she said, serves as the western gateway into Fanwood and should be comprised of a variety of commercial uses, such as office, restaurant, grocery and personal service establishments mixed with artisan and light industrial uses. She said building design and architecture are important and a variety of architectural approaches are appropriate.

Ms. Giorgianna said building setbacks from the street with landscaping would create a sense of openness. The lots are deep and rear property could accommodate parking. She emphasized that the district should accommodate

pedestrians. She said special attention should be given to landscaping, signage, landmarks and streetscaping where South Avenue meets Terrill Road to create a welcoming gateway to Fanwood.

The commercial corridor central is similar to the Block 64 Redevelopment District. It is the heart of downtown Fanwood and the purpose is to create a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented and mixed-use downtown style of a Transit Village, she said. Within the ground-floor spaces will be convenience and specialty retail shops, personal services, indoor and outdoor dining establishments, with the goal of creating an uninterrupted retail frontage to stimulate pedestrian movement, Ms. Giorgianna said. Residential, office and other appropriate uses should occupy the upper stories. Uses which create automobile-oriented activity or have low customer turnover on the first floor or create gaps in frontage would not be permitted. The district would accommodate a wide range of visitors who come to dine or shop, she said.

The commercial corridor eastern forms the easterly gateway to down-

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Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
PROJECTS NIGHT...A family looks over tricky tray items at the Union County 4H Projects Night held Friday evening at Forest Road Park in Fanwood.

Watson Coleman Wins Dem Primary for Dist. 12 Congress

By LISA HAGEN and SONIA OWCHARIV

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

REGION — In the race to replace U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th), state Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-15th, Mercer) clinched a victory in the 12th Congressional District's Democratic Primary.

Presumed to be a tight race, Asw. Watson Coleman pulled ahead of state Senator Linda Greenstein (D-14th, Middlesex) with 15,413 to 10,031 votes. She also defeated state Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula (D-17th, Somerset), who received 7,824 votes, and Andrew Zwicker, a Princeton University physicist, with 2,648 votes.

Asw. Watson Coleman will go on to face Republican candidate and medical doctor, Alieta Eck, who ran unopposed in the GOP Primary, in the November General Election. If elected, Asw. Watson Coleman would be the first African-American woman from New Jersey to serve in Congress.

"I am proud and grateful," said Asw. Watson Coleman, who addressed more than 100 supporters at the Lafayette Yard Hotel and Conference Center in Trenton. "We had incredible strategists and volunteers. The laborers were there from the beginning. I was everywhere I needed to be."

The 12th District includes Fanwood, Plainfield, and most of Scotch Plains in Union County, as well as Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset counties. Asw. Watson Coleman won with big leads against Sen. Greenstein in her home county of Mercer, by a margin of 10,864 to 2,824, and Union County, 2,995 to 343 votes.

"We are going to work on immigration, getting guns out of the wrong hands, create jobs here, provide chil-

dren with a good globally public education and accessibility to higher education," said Asw. Watson Coleman, who has served in the state Assembly since 1998.

Rep. Holt visited Asw. Watson Coleman's headquarters after her victory to congratulate her and give his support in the months leading up to the General Election. After serving in Congress since 1999, he announced in February that he would not seek re-election.

"We've been fortunate in this election to have a field of thoughtful Democratic candidates who have run really good campaigns," Rep. Holt said in a statement. "I look forward to talking with voters about Bonnie Watson Coleman, who I'm confident will be a fierce advocate for progressive issues in Washington as she has been in the Legislature."

Many of Asw. Watson Coleman's supporters sported dark blue T-shirts with her name in white letters and celebrated the announcement with loud cheers.

"Being Latino, I am very proud to have her win the nomination," Miamir Martinez of Trenton said. "Bonnie worked very hard and earned every bit of credit."

"Bonnie is passionate, and she is consistent and not a talker," said Perry Shaw III of Trenton. "She is a hand-up person and not a hand-down person."

Sen. Greenstein conceded at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 456 in North Brunswick to a group of supporters. She said that the biggest difference between the Congressional district and her state Senate district is that it does not include Hamilton, which she considers to be

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Garwood GOP Elects Piarulli In Mayoral Primary

By BRIAN TRUDELLE

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

GARWOOD — Sal Piarulli beat incumbent Pat Quattrocchi for the Republican nomination for Garwood mayor in Tuesday's Primary Election, topping a sweep for Councilman Jim Mathieu's conservative faction which also took control of the borough's GOP committee by winning six of eight seats.

Mr. Piarulli won 113 to 99, earning the right to face Democrat and former councilman Charles Lombardo, who ran unopposed in his party's Primary, in November.

"I'm ecstatic," said Mr. Piarulli, who waited at Borough Hall to get the results with his wife and two of his children. "I was cautiously optimistic. For three months, walking the

streets, talking to people, telling them my plan, I really feel help put me over the top."

Mrs. Quattrocchi was seeking a second term as mayor, having run and been elected with Mr. Mathieu four years ago.

"I don't know what to say. I just don't have anything to say," Mrs. Quattrocchi said. "I don't want to say anything I may regret later."

Mr. Piarulli won in three of the borough's four districts.

Mr. Mathieu, who won re-election to his council seat in November, moved to take control of the Garwood GOP by running six candidates, including himself and his wife, Liz, in three of the borough's four districts.

Mr. Mathieu defeated Glenn A.

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Photo courtesy of Lou Cerchio
TO THE RESCUE...On May 31, firefighters battled a three-alarm blaze on Cooper Road in Scotch Plains that started at approximately 5 a.m. in a detached garage, then spread to the house. Firefighters were able to get the fire under control quickly. The Westfield Fire Department provided mutual aid.

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