



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

of

Scotch Plains – Fanwood



OUR 40th YEAR – ISSUE NO. 43-99

USPS 485300
Periodical – Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, N.J.

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

Fanwood Voters to Choose Next Mayor; Fill Two Council Vacancies on Tuesday

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood voters will decide during the General Election on Tuesday, November 2, which one of two veteran councilmen will lead the borough into the new millennium as Mayor. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Council President William E. Populus, Jr., a Democrat, is vying with Republican Louis C. Jung to succeed Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly as Fanwood's highest elected official come Saturday, January 1. Mayoral terms in Fanwood are for four years each.

Both candidates are in their second terms on the governing body. Mr. Populus, a resident of LaGrande Avenue, was tapped to fill a one-year vacancy in 1993. He was elected to his first full council term the following year and again in 1997. The candidate has lived in the borough for nearly 30 years.

Mr. Jung, who resides on Tillotson Road, was also appointed to fill a vacancy in 1993. He was elected to his inaugural full term that same year, and was re-elected in 1996. The councilman has been a resident of Fanwood for the past 25 years.

This past June, Mr. Jung captured the Republican nomination for Mayor over newcomer Daniel P. Valentino, 3rd, in the borough's first contested primary election in more than 40 years. Fanwood has had three consecutive Democratic mayors since 1983, beginning with the late Patricia MacDonald Kuran. Mrs. Kuran became the first woman and the first Democrat to hold that office in the borough's history.

She was succeeded by Linda d. Stender, now a Union County Free-

holder, and later by Mayor Connelly. Mrs. Connelly, who was elected in 1995, opted not to seek a second term this year as she contemplates another run for Congress in 2000.

Last year, Mayor Connelly challenged Congressman Bob Franks for his Seventh District seat in the House of Representatives. Earlier this year, she said she did not feel it was fair to her constituents to run again for Mayor while considering another elected office.

The last Republican to serve as Mayor in Fanwood was Theodore "Ted" Trumpp, now the Fanwood Republican Municipal Chairman. Mr. Trumpp was Mayor from 1972 to 1983.

In addition to the Mayor's race, the council seats held by Mr. Jung and fellow Republican Stuart S. Kline are also up for grabs. Mr. Kline is seeking a second term, with newcomer Thomas P. Ryan, Jr. rounding out the GOP ticket.

Challenging them are Democrats Patricia Plante, who previously ran for the council in 1997, and first-time candidate Adele Kenny. Ms. Kenny currently serves as Director of the borough's Cultural Arts Committee. Full council terms are for three years each.

At stake is control of Fanwood's governing body, which the Democrats have held since 1989. With three of six council seats plus the Mayor's position, the party maintains a 4-3 edge.

An across-the-boards Republican victory would reverse the current majority. On the other hand, a Democratic sweep next week would leave Councilman Joel Whitaker as the lone Republican on the governing body as of New Year's Day.

If Mr. Populus becomes Mayor, he will select an individual from among his own party to fill his council seat for a year. This person would then have the option to run for a full term in the next General Election. Mr. Jung would serve out the remainder of his present council term, which ends on Friday, December 31.

If Mr. Jung is elected Mayor, Councilman Populus will retain his governing body seat, which becomes available next year.

Fanwood residents will also vote on two public questions during the upcoming election. The first asks whether the borough should establish a Length of Service Awards Program for Fanwood's volunteer fire department and rescue squad. Under the proposal, an annual contribution

of \$500 per eligible volunteer would be channeled into a deferred income account.

The second question is a non-binding referendum that asks whether the borough should seek to acquire the long-vacant Dean Oil property at LaGrande Avenue and Second Street under the Eminent Domain Act of 1971 and the Redevelopment and Housing Law.

Residents may vote at the following locations: District Nos. 1 and 2, Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue; District No. 3, Children's Specialized Hospital on South Avenue; District Nos. 4 and 5, Terrill Road Bible Chapel, 535 Terrill Road, and District Nos. 6 and 7, the Fanwood Memorial Library at North Avenue and Tillotson Road.



CANDIDATES' NIGHT...Candidates for Mayor and Borough Council in Fanwood exchange greetings prior to a forum sponsored last Friday by The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood and the Westfield Area League of Women Voters. Pictured, left to right, are: Times Publisher Horace R. Corbin, Councilman Stuart S. Kline, Thomas P. Ryan, Jr., League of Women Voters President Merry C. Wisler, Councilman Louis C. Jung, Adele Kenny, Patricia Plante and Council President William E. Populus, Jr.

Battle for Scotch Plains Township Council Seats Remains Hot Topic During Campaign Season

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

Control of the Scotch Plains Township Council will be up for grabs next Tuesday, November 2, with Democrat Phillip Wiener and Republican Frank Rossi battling for the seat that will decide which party will hold power in the new year.

Democrats, who currently hold a 3-2 majority on the governing body, regained control of the council in January after nearly a quarter century of Republican rule.

The race for the lone council seat was necessitated by the death last May of Democrat Franklin P. Donatelli, who was among the trio of Democrats, along with Mayor Geri M. Samuel and Deputy Mayor Tarquin Jay Bromley, elected a year ago to the five-member council.

Mr. Donatelli's wife, Lorraine McDeDe Donatelli, was appointed in June to fill her late husband's seat until the November election.

The winner of next week's election will take office soon afterward and serve the remaining three years of Mr. Donatelli's term, which ends on December 31, 2002.

If Mr. Wiener succeeds in capturing the seat, Democrats are assured of a council majority for the next three years.

Mr. Wiener told The Times he hopes "what sticks in voters' minds is the list of Democratic accomplishments, including the letter of intent to lease 22 acres at one dollar per year behind Park Place Diner, which, he said, "is equivalent to a \$5 million grant"



LIVELY DISCUSSION...The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood and the Westfield Area League of Women Voters sponsored a Candidate Forum October 18 for Township Council candidates in Scotch Plains. Pictured, left to right, are: League of Women Voters President Merry C. Wisler, candidate Frank Rossi, Fred Rossi of The Times and candidate Phillip Wiener.

of the county.

He also pointed to the \$100,000 pocket park grant, the open space referendum "that the Democratic Party got on the ballot," the referendum for direct election of the mayor, and \$650,000 in grants for downtown revitalization.

He also said fiscal responsibility has been a big issue during the campaign. "We used a reasonable amount of the surplus, unlike the Republi-

cans, who wanted to use \$2.9 million of it and then projected a \$1.8 million surplus for the following year, leaving it \$1.1 million short."

If Mr. Rossi emerges victorious, Republicans will reclaim control less than a year after relinquishing it.

Mr. Rossi told The Times the primary issue has been "that the tax increase passed in 1999 by the new majority was not fiscally responsible and was inconsistent with their cam-

paign promise to hold the line on taxes."

If elected, he said, "I'll make my best effort to have a budget with as low a tax increase – or no tax increase – as possible."

He added that "we lost a little respect this year for the governing process by the times where the microphone was shut down, and I don't believe that was acceptable."

Mr. Rossi said he is eager about "moving forward on downtown development and the open space and new ballfields in town."

One question hinging on the election is which party will control the mayoralty in 2000.

Mayor Samuel has said she would consider serving another one-year term if Mr. Bromley is not interested in the post, but would gladly accede to his wishes if he wanted to serve.

On the Republican side, neither of the two incumbents, William F. McClintock, Jr. nor Martin Marks, have yet to indicate their mayoral aspirations, if the GOP does reclaim the majority.

The major topic of discussion on the council this year, and in the campaign this fall, has been the controversial 5 percent increase in Scotch Plains residents' property taxes for municipal government purposes.

In March, council Democrats proposed, over Republican opposition, a 6 percent tax increase, but after numerous residents spoke out against it in late April, Mr. Donatelli abstained

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SCARY SCENE...The owners of this residence on Farley Avenue in Fanwood got their house decked out for the Halloween season, having erected a spooky ghost with a pumpkin head, a festive scarecrow amid a haystack and corn husks, and a miniature, makeshift graveyard.

Flyer on Open Space Development Labeled As Erroneous By Officials in Scotch Plains

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

A flyer stating that the Scotch Plains Township Council has already made a number of plans for the former

Publisher's Note

This edition of The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood has been mailed to every resident in the Township and in the Borough to inform voters of the issues and of the candidates for the local elections this Tuesday, November 2. Similarly, The Westfield Leader, our sister newspaper has been mailed to everyone in Westfield and Mountainside. We urge all to vote.

Look for the candidates discussing their views on TV 34, 35 and 36. Research their positions and see up-to-date voting results on the Internet at www.goleader.com.

Our towns have good government and great candidates seeking office. Celebrate and thank them all, win or lose.

For Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents, the second annual edition of Our Towns is included within the newspaper. We enjoyed producing it and look forward to the future editions. We hope you like it.

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Scotch Plains Zoo property, as well as other open space areas, was labeled as erroneous this week by local officials.

At its meeting on Tuesday night, the township's governing body cleared up some misconceptions contained in the anonymously-circulated flyer that was distributed several weeks ago to residents on the south side of the township.

In essence, said Mayor Geri M. Samuel, nothing has been set in stone regarding the former zoo site pending the conclusion of litigation sur-

rounding final disposition of the property.

The flyer also indicated the Township Council was planning to develop the 22-acre tract of land behind the Park Place Diner beyond the proposed parkland and ballfields, a claim that Deputy Mayor Tarquin Jay Bromley said was untrue.

At its final meeting before next week's election, the council also paid tribute to Democratic Councilwoman Lorraine Donatelli, who has served on the council since June after being appointed to fill the seat left vacant

by the death in May of her husband, Franklin P. Donatelli.

The winner of next week's election between Republican Frank Rossi and Democrat Phillip Wiener will immediately take Mrs. Donatelli's seat and fill out the remaining three years of the late Mr. Donatelli's four-year term.

"At a very difficult time, she made a decision to step in and fill this seat," Mayor Samuel said of Mrs. Donatelli.

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SP Officials Hopeful Partial Reimbursement Will Arrive Soon for Hurricane Damages

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

With the cost of dealing with Hurricane Floyd last month now totaling about \$216,000 in Scotch Plains, township officials are hopeful that partial reimbursement from the federal government will come sooner rather than later.

After meeting with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) late last week, Scotch Plains Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins told The

Times, "It looks like we'll be seeing reimbursement in the neighborhood of \$150,000 to \$175,000."

Township officials are going to be taking time to gather necessary documentation to be submitted to FEMA in a follow-up meeting, which will likely be held next week.

Mr. Atkins said the hoped-for reimbursement level was acceptable. "It seems to be fair and in complete agreement with FEMA's regulations."

Of the \$216,300 in Floyd-related costs, more than three-quarters, or

\$176,724, was incurred by the Department of Public Works. Of that, \$70,224 went to salaries and overtime pay. Police Department expenses totaled \$11,076; all but \$576 was for overtime that was required to have extra officers working during the day and night on September 16, the day of the hurricane's most damaging winds and rain.

The Fire Department incurred about \$33,000 in expenses, \$30,000 of which was for a damaged rescue vehicle. The remaining \$3,000 was

for damaged equipment. The Department of Parks and Recreation reported damages of less than \$2,000, with some tree work and fence repair needing to be done.

Mr. Atkins informed the Township Council two weeks ago that FEMA appears to want to decentralize the reimbursement process and work more directly with localities, leading to the hope that the compensation of New Jersey towns affected by the storm will be taken care of quickly.

FALL BACK!

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, October 31 at 2:00 a.m.



Majority on Town Council Hinges on Tuesday Vote

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

For the second time in three years, control of the Westfield Town Council is at stake on Election Day.

Four incumbent Republican council members seeking re-election all need to be victorious in order for the GOP to continue its majority. Democrats have never had control of the council.

Republicans hold a 5-4 edge on the governing body. Democrats, who have never been in a leadership role on the council, need only pick up one seat to takeover as the majority.

Republicans seeking re-election are First Ward Councilman Gregory S. McDermott of Lawrence Avenue, Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano of Fairacres Avenue, Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. of Sycamore Street, and Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis Fried Weinstein of Knollwood Terrace.

They are being challenged by Marilyn Gulotta of Colonial Avenue, First Ward; Joe Stoner of Winyah Avenue, Second Ward; Claire Lazarowitz of Tice Place, Third Ward, and Schuyler Quackenbush of Tamaques Way, Fourth Ward.

Mr. Stoner ran last year, but lost to veteran Republican Second Ward Councilman James J. Gruba. Mrs. Gulotta served two terms on the Westfield Board of Education a number of years ago. She was the first woman elected as President of the board.

In 1997, the last time Democrats had an opportunity to take command of the council leadership, the GOP not only held onto the three incumbent seats but picked up a Fourth Ward that had been held by the Democrats for 10 years.

Up until 1997, Democrats had never held more than three council seats at one time. In 1996 they not only achieved this result, but picked up the mayor's seat when newcomer Thomas C. Jardim defeated GOP contender Norman Greco. Mr. Jardim, elected to his second term last year, became the first Democrat to serve as Mayor in 85 years upon his election three years ago. Democrats also picked up a seat in the First Ward in 1998.

Among the major issues in this year's campaign are the length of terms served by council members. Democrats support three years, while Republicans want to stay with the current two-year system. The common issues of parking and dealing with both condition of the town's

parcs and recreational facilities and expanding recreational programs to meet the increasing population of young families moving to Westfield are other matters addressed during the campaign.

Currently, the council has numerous issues on its plate, topped by the hiring of a new town administrator and a decision on where to build and how to fund what would be Westfield's first parking deck. A consultant has been retained by the town to provide a detailed report in this regard.

As for the administrator's post, résumés are currently being accepted for the post, which currently pays \$107,381. Current administrator Edward A. Gottko announced his retirement, effective December 31. A member of the town staff for 20 years, he has been administrator since 1993.

Also leaving Town Hall is Town Clerk Joy Vreeland. After a long illness, she officially retires on Monday, November 1. She has held the position since 1963.

Bernard A. Heeney, who has been acting in her place, was given a three-year appointment as clerk Tuesday night. Mr. Heeney joined the town payroll in 1979, just six months prior to Mr. Gottko's arrival. Both had been employed by the City of Bayonne.

While the position of town administrator has a maximum length of term of five years, traditionally the post has been a one-year appointment in Westfield. Mr. Heeney was given a three-year contract Tuesday night.

Polls are open Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Polling places are as follows:

- First Ward, District Nos. 1 and 2, Roosevelt Intermediate School gym; Nos. 3, 5 and 7, Franklin Elementary School auditorium; Nos. 4 and 6, Memorial Library multi-purpose room.
- Second Ward, District No. 1, Union County Clerk's Office on North Avenue; Nos. 2, 3 and 6, Washington Elementary School auditorium, and Nos. 4 and 5, Wilson Elementary School auditorium.
- Third Ward: District No. 1, Westfield Rescue Squad; Nos. 2, 3 and 4, Edison Intermediate School gymnasium, and Nos. 5, 6 and 7, Jefferson Elementary School multi-purpose room.
- Fourth Ward, Districts Nos. 1 and 2, McKinley Elementary School auditorium; Nos. 3 and 4, Westfield High School lobby, and District No. 5, Jefferson Elementary School auditorium.

Battle for Township Council Seats Remains Hot Topic

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during the vote on enacting the measure, leaving the council deadlocked.

In early May, the council, on a 3-2 party line vote, passed a 5 percent tax increase.

Republicans had argued for a zero tax increase, backing the use of what they termed the record \$3.05 million surplus to offset the need for any hike in taxes.

Democrats, though, said using too much of the surplus would have drained it to too low a level and threatened the township's solid bond rating.

Another bone of contention this year was the approval of a referendum that will appear on next week's ballot to provide for the direct election of the Mayor.

Presently, the council chooses the Mayor, who serves a one-year term, from among its five members. During the 1998 campaign, the Democrats had backed the direct election idea, and when Mayor Samuel brought up the ballot referendum for approval in August, Republicans on the council charged that she was overzealously and hastily pushing the matter in an effort to secure continued political power for herself.

If the question is approved next week, the first direct election of a Mayor will be held in November 2000, with the winner serving a four-year term. A Mayor chosen directly by the voters will have no additional power, responsibilities or authority.

A second referendum on the ballot

next Tuesday, to create an open space trust fund in Scotch Plains, enjoyed more unanimous support on the council. If approved, it would create such a fund to be used to acquire, develop and maintain open space in the township and hasten the development of more parks and ballfields.

It's anticipated that the trust fund, which would be funded by a special tax of two cents per \$100 of property value, would generate about \$2 million in a 10-year period. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday in Scotch Plains.

Polling places in the township include:

- District Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the boy's gym in Park Middle School; District Nos. 4 and 5, children's room of the Library Building; District Nos. 6, 7 and 8, the third grade hallway of Evergreen Elementary School; District No. 9, front hall by the auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and District No. 10, front lobby of Brunner Elementary School.

Other polling places include District 11, Fellowship Hall of St. John the Baptist Church; District 12 and 13, Room No. 10 of McGinn Elementary School; District Nos. 14 and 15, the lobby of Union Catholic High School; District Nos. 16 and 21, Basel Hall of the Union County Vocational Technical Schools; District Nos. 17 and 18, auditorium lobby of Terrill Middle School, and District Nos. 19 and 20, lobby of Coles Elementary School.

Flyer on Open Space Labeled as Erroneous

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-1

The three other council members, as well as Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins and Township Attorney Andrew M. Baron, also lauded the five-month tenure of a teary-eyed Mrs. Donatelli.

In other matters, Mr. Atkins said Township Sanitation Inspector Andy Snyder had submitted a report on the mosquito-borne West Nile-like encephalitis virus that has affected the New York metropolitan area since late summer.

Mr. Snyder said 21 tests had so far been taken of human beings in New Jersey, with all tests for the infection coming back negative.

But tests of animals, specifically crows and pigeons, had turned up the virus in 12 New Jersey counties. Although the weather is turning colder,

the Scotch Plains Health Department is advising residents to take appropriate precautions, Mr. Atkins said, including dressing properly and avoiding, if possible, going outside at dusk, when mosquitoes are most prevalent.

In other matters, the council adopted ordinances allocating \$30,000 to make Farley Park accessible to disabled persons by making improvements to the Counselor Shed building, and \$30,000 for renovations and improvements to the Osborn Cannonball House.

Separately, the council congratulated Ed Badran, a former township employee and owner of the "Ed's Dog House" hot dog stand on South Avenue, upon his retirement.

The council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9.

Authorities Investigating Suicide, Attempted Murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-1

from a previous relationship.

The Prosecutor said the relationship between the victim and Mr. Hoffmann included a history of domestic violence. He revealed that Mr. Hoffmann was last employed by Weldon Concrete at the Chimney Rock Quarry on Route 22 in Bridgewater.

Mr. Berman stated that Ms. Klemser was found in her car with a gunshot wound to the head. Discovered at the scene were two, 32-caliber

handgun shell casings.

Chief Mannix said Mr. Hoffmann's body was found by a passerby who then notified a park maintenance worker. The worker in turn contacted police. Mr. Hoffmann was found in his car, which was parked in the balcony lot area of the park, a hilly spot near where the county hosts its summer concert series.

Detective Dan Tate is handling the investigation for the Union County Police Department.

Mayor Vigilanti Seeks Fourth Term in Borough

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Times

Mountainside Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti has, to date, been unopposed in his bid for reelection to a fourth term. Unofficially, however, it was announced to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Time of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that a write-in candidate, Adele Magnolia, will be put on the ballot for the position of Mayor.

In the race for two available Borough Council seats, Republican incumbents Keith C. Turner and Paul Mirabelli are being challenged by Democrat Steve Brociner. Mr. Brociner made a previous bid for a council seat last year.

A lifelong resident of Union County, Mr. Vigilanti has been involved in municipal government in Mountainside for over 20 years. He was elected as Mayor in 1987, 1991 and 1995 and prior to that served as a councilman.

The Mayor stated that he is "very proud of the accomplishments my administration has achieved in the past years. We have totally revamped our town center, renovated our Borough Hall, added a police facility, upgraded our rescue squad building, added a community room, revamped our community pool, upgraded our fire building and library, improved many roads and got the State of New Jersey to modernize the intersection of Route 22 and New Providence Road."

The Mayor stated that all of these improvements have been done while "maintaining the lowest effective tax rate in Union County."

Mr. Vigilanti additionally noted that there are many other projects that are "in progress" for the borough, including a commuter parking lot and a new community bus, paid for by a state grant.

"The community bus will provide needed transportation for seniors who are no longer able to drive and will be used for social functions for all of our residents," he stated.

The Mayor concluded, "Rest assured that I am concentrating on the future of our community and that I recognize the importance of keeping a sensible tax rate. I also realize that low taxes without services and an excellent education system will not serve any community well."

Mr. Turner stated, "As a 41-year resident of the borough, I feel very strongly about this community. I have lived here all my life and served as a councilman for nine years. My parents have been here since the '50s and my brother is in the police department here."

"My wife and I have decided to raise our two sons here. It is important for residents to realize that Mountainside has become the crown jewel of the county because of good consistent government," he added.

According to Councilman Turner, two major issues have dominated his campaign. The first is to make sure that "Mountainside keeps its low tax rate, while maintaining high property resale values."

Mr. Turner stated that keeping the municipal tax rate flat over the past four years did not happen by accident. "It is my goal that Mountainside maintains proper budget planning and sound fiscal management," he said.

The second issue prioritized by Mr. Turner is the cleaning up of the parks within Mountainside's border. He stated that Echo Lake and Surprise Lake have "become very unsightly."

According to Councilman Turner, if reelected, he will "solicit a higher level of cooperation from the Union County Freeholders and will ask them for a commitment to finally clean up and better maintain these properties."

Mr. Mirabelli, who has lived in Mountainside with his wife, Laura, and three children for nine years, was elected as a councilman in 1996.

"At the present time Mountainside residents enjoy one of the highest resale values for its homes," he remarked. "Mountainside has established this high resale value by maintaining low taxes while still being progressive in serving its residents."

He added that one of the ways to achieve this balance is to obtain funds from other sources such as grants.

Councilman Mirabelli stated, "The borough has been very successful in obtaining grants to improve our recreational facilities, to contribute \$25,000 to the Mountainside Board of Education to improve its athletic fields, to expand the library, to install a new commuter parking lot and expand our

police department." Councilman Mirabelli noted that Mountainside was one of the first communities to apply for and receive a grant that provides a police officer for the Deerfield School.

He also noted that "Mountainside is receiving \$80,000 per year in revenue from a communications tower behind Borough Hall."

A second issue which Councilman Mirabelli has focused on during his campaign is continued support of volunteerism in Mountainside. He stated that "Mountainside has a long tradition of volunteering, from the rescue squad to the fire department to the recreational programs. I have worked with both the rescue squad and the fire department to support their efforts and to expand membership."

Councilman Mirabelli added, "The Mountainside Council has supported a per call stipend to rescue squad members and an increase in the clothing allowance to members of the First Department, as well as a per drill stipend. Also, the recent expansion of the Recreation Department and its programs has also encouraged volunteers from all ages."

Mr. Brociner and his wife have lived in Mountainside for 17 years, and their two sons grew up in the borough.

"As a long-time resident of the Borough of Mountainside, I have been consistently confronted not only with one-party rule, but almost exclusively one-man rule," he said. "When I attend Borough Council meetings, I hear one voice until it is time to say 'yea.'"

"I honestly believe each of the council members' involvement is sincere, but a long time ago went down a path that completely blocks out any independent point of view," Mr. Brociner continued. "Your vote for me will bring a voice for your interests into Mountainside Borough Hall."

The candidate contended that it is important to "get some fresh air for the borough." He stated that, to date, the Mountainside Council has yet to have a Democrat among its ranks.

Mr. Brociner said that he is running for Borough Council to "establish a fair method of reimbursing elected officials for legitimate business." He stated that he would insist on monthly reports from each council member on their assigned areas of municipal responsibility.

He mentioned that an ordinance passed last winter changing the unvouchered system of reimbursement to a salary, with a \$300 increase for councilmen, was "self-serving."

Mr. Brociner noted that the decree was rescinded after a petition signed by more than 400 registered voters was presented to the governing body opposing the salary ordinance.

The candidate stated that he would like to split the borough into six wards, a platform he also included in his campaign last year. The candidate said he feels that splitting the borough into "six specific geographical sections would be beneficial to residents because it would provide clean and direct access to their own particular elected official."

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations in Mountainside: District Nos. 1 and 6, Municipal Building, Court Room, 1385 Route 22; District Nos. 2, 7, 8 and 9, Deerfield School Multi-Purpose Room, Central Avenue, and District Nos. 3, 4 and 5, Presbyterian Church Assembly Room, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane.

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Publisher's Note

We also use this edition to present ourselves to those of you who are not subscribers. I believe good newspapers help communities, and that's what we're trying to do. Please join us and subscribe.

I wish to thank the following volunteers from The Westfield Area League of Women Voters and local TV for assisting in producing the 1999 Candidates Forums.

The League; Merry Wisler, Margaret Walker and Bonnie Ruggerio.

TV-34, Bob Merkle and Don Truedson; TV-35 (Mountainside), Anne Marie Kovaks; TV-35 (Fanwood), George Weiss and Charles Cooper; TV-36, Tim Flannery and Wei Cheung from Westfield High School.

Horace R. Corbin
Publisher



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

STATING THEIR PLATFORMS...Republican and Democratic candidates for Westfield Town Council were given the opportunity to state their platforms and answer questions during a forum sponsored by *The Westfield Leader* and the Westfield Area League of Women Voters in the Council Chambers. Pictured, left to right, are: Publisher of *The Leader*, Horace R. Corbin, and Democratic candidates Marilyn Gulotta, First Ward; Joseph Stoner, Second Ward; Claire Lazarowitz, Third Ward and Schuyler Quackenbush, Fourth Ward.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS...Publisher of *The Westfield Leader*, Horace R. Corbin, right, asks Democratic and Republican Town Council candidates, including Republican First Ward Councilman Gregory S. McDermott, left, questions compiled by the public, press and political parties during a forum sponsored by *The Leader* and the Westfield Area League of Women Voters last Wednesday evening.



STUDENTS BECOME THE TEACHERS...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students inform Seena Allen, a member of the Fanwood Communications Committee, center, about an upcoming series of free classes in the basic use of computers starting Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school. Members of DECA, pictured, left to right, are: Jim McClintock, Rob Bugg, Andrew Elko and Dave Bell. DECA is an association of marketing students. Please call the DECA office at (908) 889-8600 for complete details.

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