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# The Westfield Leader

Special Coverage  
Begins on A-5

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FIFTY CENTS

## Challenges To ShopRite Not Expected

By KIM KINTER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The two attorneys representing three local residents opposing the construction of a ShopRite supermarket on North Avenue in Garwood are not challenging any additional borough zoning ordinances, but still have until mid-December to decide whether or not to appeal a recent Superior Court decision saying the grocery store could be built.

William Butler, a Westfield attorney representing Garwood resident John Weidel, said he has written a letter to Superior Court Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr. stating that he would make no further complaints about Garwood's zoning ordinances. He said that the complaints he had made regarding the local zoning ordinances had been addressed by Judge Beglin and that he would seek no further judgments.

Similarly, Brian Fahey, a Westfield attorney who represents Dr. and Mrs. Ulf Dolling of Westfield, is said to be not challenging any other local zoning ordinances.

Both stressed, however, that they had not decided whether or not to

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**FALL BACK!**  
Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Sunday, October 31 at 2:00 a.m.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS...** Publisher of *The Westfield Leader*, Horace R. Corbin, right, asked 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.

## Mayor Seeks Fourth Term in Mountainside; GOP Council Incumbents Face Challenge

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Mountainside Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti has, to date, been unopposed in his bid for reelection to a fourth term. Unofficially, however, it was reported by *The Westfield Leader* 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



Peter W. Billson for The Westfield Leader

**SEEKING ELECTION...** Democratic and Republican candidates for Mountainside Borough Council were given the chance to state their reasons for seeking election and respond to questions compiled by *The Westfield Leader* and the Westfield Area League of Women Voters. Pictured, left to right, are: Republican Councilmen Keith Turner and Paul Mirabelli, David B. Corbin and Kimberly A. Broadwell, both of *The Leader*, and Democrat Steve Brociner, 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 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

## 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 seat 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 parks 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

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

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## Council Introduces Newsrack Ordinance; New Town Clerk Named

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In an effort to try and provide some guidelines for the placement of newsracks in the downtown, the Town Council introduced an ordinance Tuesday night to regulate the machines.

The 14-page ordinance is aimed at public safety concerns over placement of future newsboxes. With many attempts to regulate newspaper vending machines nationwide overturned in the courts due to a violation of the First Amendment rights of the publications, Westfield decided to work hand and hand with attorneys representing local newspapers.

Keeping this point in mind, Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan called the proposed new town code a "model ordinance for the entire state of New Jersey" to follow.

The ordinance sets a permit fee of \$25 for the first newsrack installed and \$10 for each subsequent machine. While not limiting the number of machines at any one location, the ordinance does restrict each newsrack owner to no more than one machine at any one site.

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, calling the ordinance a "first step forward" on regulating newsracks, said he would like to expand the law to focus on the aesthetics of the machines as well.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman, who chairs the Laws and Rules Committee which worked on the ordinance, said the aim was "to address the proliferation" of news boxes in the downtown while respecting the constitutional rights of news organizations to distribute their publications.

A public hearing will precede a vote to adopt the ordinance on Tuesday, November 9.

On another matter, the governing body gave Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko the go-ahead to make an application to NJ Transit for the

agency's Community Shuttle program. The town is seeking a bus to be used to transport senior citizens, commuters and shoppers to the downtown. Through the program, NJ Transit provides vehicles at no cost, although towns must supply the driver.

First Ward Councilman Carl A. Salisbury said the program provides another avenue to get a jitney program up and running in Westfield. The town is also working with Union County officials to develop a commuter shuttle program through its Paratransit program.

In other business, the Town Council appointed Bernard A. Heeney as Town Clerk Tuesday night. He will replace the retiring Joy Vreeland, who has held the position since 1963.

Mr. Heeney joined the town's staff in 1979. Fully certified as a municipal clerk, he was named Acting Town Clerk in June when Mrs. Vreeland left the job due to illness. His contract will expire in 2002.

## Authorities Investigating Suicide, Attempted Murder

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Union County police and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office are investigating a suicide and attempted murder case which began in Piscataway and ended in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside yesterday morning.

Union County Police Chief Richard Mannix said police found the body of Mark Hoffmann, 32, of Union slumped in the front seat of his car, with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. A .32 caliber handgun was discovered in his car, authorities said.

Piscataway police reported that Mr. Hoffmann was a suspect in the shoot-

ing of Kimberly Klemser, 30, early yesterday morning in Piscataway, where she worked at a bagel shop. The two had had a social relationship, authorities said.

As of press time, Ms. Klemser was in surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. Her condition was reported as critical.

A witness observed Ms. Klemser speaking with Mr. Hoffmann just before 8 a.m., according to Middlesex Prosecutor Glenn Berman. Fifteen minutes later, the same witness saw the woman again in her car after she had been shot.

Mr. Berman indicated that Ms.

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

## First Night Westfield Co-Chairwomen Discuss Plans, Special Activities for New Years Event

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

With a countdown of less than three months away, First Night Westfield officials have been finalizing plans for their fourth annual family-oriented, alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration of the arts in

Westfield. Included in the millennium celebration are performances of music, dance, theater, storytelling, magic, puppets and arts and crafts as well as a special surprise finale.

According to Julia Black, First Night Steering Committee Chair-

woman and a 16-year employee of the Westfield Y, First Night Westfield originated in 1996 under her direction and the direction of Westfield residents, Barbara Karp and Arlene Bertrand.

"After seeing what a great job Summit had done in all of their First

Night festivals, and reading a letter to the editor from a Westfield resident stating that Westfield should also have a First Night, we decided to try and make it a great event for the Westfield community," stated Mrs. Black.

"From the beginning we have always had an open invitation for volunteers to become a part of the Steer-

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### Publisher's Note

This edition of *The Westfield Leader* has been mailed to every resident in Westfield and Mountainside to inform voters of the issues and of the candidates for the local elections this Tuesday, November 2. Similarly, *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, our sister newspaper has been mailed to everyone there too. 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](http://www.goleader.com).

Our towns have good government and great candidates seeking office. Celebrate and thank them

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**WE LOVE FIRST NIGHT WESTFIELD!**...These youngsters who attended First Night Westfield last year enjoyed delicious beverages, activities, and colorful balloon sculptures. The free, alcohol-free festival is a celebration of arts in Westfield. This year's celebration will feature performances in dance, theater, music, storytelling, magic, puppets and arts and crafts. A special millennium finale will wrap up the evening.

## Majority on Town Council Hinges on Tuesday Vote

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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, District 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 SP Council Seats Still Hot Topic in Campaign

By FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Control of the Scotch Plains Township Council will be up for grabs next Tuesday, 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, following her husband's death, 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 holding the seat, Democrats are assured of a Council majority for the next three years.

Democrat Wiener told *The Times* he hopes "what sticks in voters' minds is the list of Democratic accomplishments, including the dollar 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" from 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 Republicans, 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.

Republican Rossi told *The Times* the primary issue has been "that the tax increase passed in 1999 be the new majority was not fiscally responsible and was inconsistent with their campaign 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 looks forward "to 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 J. 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 six percent tax increase, but after numerous residents spoke out against it in late April, the late Mr. Donatelli abstained 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 five 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 \$10 million bond rating.

Another bone of contention this year 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.

## Mayor Vigilanti Seeks Fourth Term in Borough

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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 their 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 municipalities 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 Fire

## Police Continue Investigations Into Shootings

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Klemser and Mr. Hoffmann lived together at one point before Ms. Klemser moved out to live with her mother and her nine-year-old son 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.

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.'"

"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.

## Challenges To ShopRite Not Expected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-1

appeal Judge Beglin's October 14 ruling stating that the Garwood Planning Board had been right in granting approval in 1995 to Village Supermarkets of Springfield to construct a grocery store on North Avenue.

Mr. Butler has requested a written transcript of the judge's decision and said that he wants to review it before making a decision on an appeal.

In concluding his decision last week, Judge Beglin gave the two attorneys a week to decide whether to further challenge specific aspects of the borough's zoning ordinance that he had not considered when he handed down his ruling.

Garwood and ShopRite officials will now await word on whether the two attorneys will appeal. If they do not appeal the judge's decision, ShopRite could set in motion the construction of the store.

The case has lasted eight years, beginning with the store's first application to build a supermarket in Westfield and Garwood. That was turned down and the grocery store chain then turned to Garwood officials seeking approval to construct a store which would only be in the borough.

Those opposed filed lawsuits attempting to stop Garwood's approval of the plan, tying the case up for the last four years.

## Publisher's Note

all, win or lose. 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

## Fanwood Voters to Choose Mayor; Fill Council Seats

By SUZETTE F. STALKER

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

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 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 A. Stender, now a Union County Freeholder, 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 pursuing 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.

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

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 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 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 Deak Oil property at LaGrande Avenue and Second Street under the Eminent Domain Act of 1971 and the Redevelopment and Housing Law.

## First Night Chairwomen Discuss Plans, Activities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-1

ing Committee, giving people a chance to become apart of the town and community that we love," she continued.

"I approached Arlene and Barbara after a fitness class at the YMCA, to ask if they would be interested in putting together a First Night for Westfield and the rest is history. Since the first day, they have been the Co-Chairwomen for the Arts & Entertainment Committee and they have always done an incredible job, screening and booking talent for the evening," added Mrs. Black.

The types and number of events have remained the same over the four years. However, the number of people attending has increased, according to Mrs. Black. She said that there will be approximately 40 events, which includes a circus that was first introduced at last year's New Year's celebration.

This year, Mrs. Black noted that the circus will be held in the Westfield National Guard Armory building on Rahway Avenue.

She noted that the second year that Westfield hosted First Night, in 1997, the committee tried to expand the event to have more entertainers, but that it "gave people too many choices and became too confusing."

Mrs. Black noted that since then they have "kept it a bit more scaled down to serve the community's needs." She also noted that the trolleys taking participants to and from events throughout the downtown area would be back, "making it easier for people to attend all events."

Mrs. Karp stated: "Four years ago, putting together First Night was a monumental task, but as we gain more experience each year and become more well known, it gets much easier."

She further explained that many well known entertainers, such as The Hudson River Rats, who regularly play in New York City, and Silk City, who tour inter-

nationally and live locally, enjoy playing at First Night Westfield because it gives them the opportunity of sharing New Year's Eve with their family and friends.

"These performers, as well as many others, like to be involved with our celebration because they live locally and can stay with their family for New Year's," stated Mrs. Karp.

Mrs. Betrand added that each year the committee tries to find new ways for community members to be a part of the town-wide celebration.

"Our yearly goal is to add something to help benefit the celebration," she said. "Last year we added the trolleys and this year we are hoping to involve more businesses in the downtown area."

The Co-Chairwomen also discussed a special art project scheduled for First Night Westfield 1999, which involves making a community scrapbook.

Mrs. Karp and Mrs. Betrand explained that each family involved in First Night will bring some family photos and make a half of a scrapbook page. These pages will be compiled to create a town-wide creative memory scrapbook, which will be stored at either the library or the municipal building.

"The pages from our senior citizens will be done in advance so that their pages can be included in the scrapbook," added the Co-Chairwomen.

All three First Night Officials added that there were many town volunteers working on the fourth annual First Night, including representatives from community-based organizations, schools, businesses, municipal employees and residents.

According to information obtained from Mrs. Black, there are currently 19 First Night festivals held in the state including Summit, Union City and Montclair.

Summit started their First Night approximately three years ago and Montclair was the first to start First Night in New Jersey, beginning a decade ago.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

SPOOKTACULAR!...This Dudley Avenue residence in Westfield keeps spectators intrigued and frightened with its spirited and spooky Halloween decorations. Spider webs, twinkling lights, a giant skull with flashing orange eyes, and ghosts galore make this residence a work of Halloween art.

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