

Public Safety, Better Roads Continue to Be Top Concerns Of Councilwoman Weinstein

WESTFIELD — During her three years as the Fourth Ward's voice in town affairs, Westfield Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis Fried Weinstein said she has tried to build a reputation as an elected official who is responsive to her constituency and effective in bringing about improvement in the areas of public safety, better roads and a greener Westfield.

"I have always believed that part of being a good leader and a good public servant is being a good listener. An open line of communication between my constituents and I is critical in making the kind of improvements that residents need and want," said Councilwoman Weinstein.

Mrs. Weinstein said she was recently asked by concerned parents to address the traffic situation at Westfield High School. Working with the Westfield Police Department, she was able to secure a new crossing guard to help students cross the busy intersection of Dorian Road and Rahway Avenue.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Weinstein worked to have traffic calming strips installed at Dorian Road and Scotch Plains Avenue to reduce this intersection's high accident rate. Neighbors, she said, have reported that this measure has proven to be effective in reducing speed and alerting drivers of the approaching intersection.

"We have not had any accidents since the traffic calming strips were installed," said Councilwoman Weinstein, who has worked on traffic calming as a member of both the council's Public Safety Committee and the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee.

"We must expand our efforts throughout the Fourth Ward and the entire community to make our roads and sidewalks safer. I will continue to work to make walking and biking safer for everyone in Westfield — especially for our children," she said. "With the tragic deaths of several pedestrians in town over the past year, public safety is clearly a top issue for Westfield residents."

Councilwoman Weinstein, who has also served on the Recreation Commission for three years, said she has "ensured that our parks are better maintained and are safer."

Last year, she had public telephones installed at several of the town's municipal parks and fields. In case of an injury or other emergency, sports team coaches or children will save crucial minutes in summoning help.

Councilwoman Weinstein also worked to have a lightning detector installed at the Memorial Park Complex, making Westfield the first municipality in the state to install such a device.

She said she plans to expand coverage to every park and field in town to provide the best possible protection for residents.

"Lightning kills more people every year than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. Other communities in New Jersey have experienced the tragedy of people killed or seriously injured because lightning has struck without warning," said Councilwoman Weinstein.

"Just as Westfield was first in the state with a bicycle helmet law, we lead again in protecting our children. This is new technology that I believe you will see more towns take advantage of to best serve and protect the public," the councilwoman explained.

Mrs. Weinstein said she has worked with both the Recreation Department and the parents of youth league participants to improve the conditions, and in some cases, renovate Westfield's playing fields.

"As our youth population grows larger, we must ensure we devote the resources necessary to keep the fields safe and playable," Mrs. Weinstein concluded in her weekly campaign release.

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REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN VETERANS...Peter Hogaboom, ex-commander of the Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 of the American Legion, and Claire Lazarowitz, Democratic candidate for the Third Ward Town Council seat, are working together to recognize local fallen veterans through a street signage program.

Claire Lazarowitz Backs Naming Streets After Vets

WESTFIELD — Claire Lazarowitz, the Democratic candidate running for Westfield's Third Ward Town Council seat, announced she will advocate recognizing Westfield's fallen veterans of all wars through naming local streets in their memory.

"Westfield with its strong sense of caring and community is a perfect town to launch a street naming program as a tribute to our fallen veterans and as a source of pride for their families and friends," Ms. Lazarowitz said.

"We presently honor all local World War I veterans on selected street signs, which feature gold stars on them. We can expand this program by adding a 'street name rider sign' above or below an existing sign in the neighborhood where each fallen veteran lived," the candidate said.

Having recently met Peter Hogaboom, ex-commander of the Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 of the American Legion and Chaplain of Vietnam Veterans of America,

Chapter No. 688, Ms. Lazarowitz said she became aware of his interest in the street-naming program.

She learned about one fallen Vietnam War veteran, First Lieutenant Arthur Clifton Retzlaff, whose father still lives at 141 Clover Street, the only house on the block. Ms. Lazarowitz suggests that this be the first Westfield street to receive a street-rider sign. It would carry the lieutenant's name.

If elected, Ms. Lazarowitz said she would work to have this recommendation approved by the Town Council. She would also encourage residents to provide information regarding local fallen veterans from all wars who would be honored. Fundraising efforts for the project would be handled by Mr. Hogaboom once the proposal is approved.

Ms. Lazarowitz will face incumbent Republican Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan in the general election on Tuesday, November 2.

Frank Rossi Says Township Successfully Weathered Storm

SCOTCH PLAINS — Frank Rossi, the Republican candidate for Scotch Plains Township Council offered remarks on his perception of how Scotch Plains dealt with the effects of Hurricane Floyd.

"First of all, I think we can all be very thankful that no Scotch Plains resident was seriously injured as a result of this storm," said Mr. Rossi.

"Considering what happened in some other New Jersey communities, we were fortunate. Your heart has to go out to those of our residents that were displaced from their homes and suffered property damage as a result of flooding though," the candidate continued.

Mr. Rossi also commented on the efforts of Scotch Plains emergency personnel during this very stressful period.

"Once again, I believe we are fortunate to have the highly qualified and committed emergency response team that we enjoy in Scotch Plains. My hat goes off to Police Chief Tom O'Brien, Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis, President of the Rescue Squad Bob Gurske, Public Works Director Walt DiNizo and all their staff, both paid and volunteer, for their efforts to keep our residents out of harm's way and to restore the town to a safe and manageable condition.

"Many of our volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty by assisting in neighboring communities when the call for help came. I know that Scotch Plains Emergency Management Coordinator Don Wormley held meetings with township officials well in advance of the storm and it is evident that they were all ready," commented Mr. Rossi.

The candidate added, "It is also my understanding that Councilman Bill

McClintock was our representative in a major conference call with Congressman Bob Franks, officials from FEMA, and representatives from more than 30 other communities in the aftermath of the storm."

"Mr. McClintock was able to obtain information on how the township and its residents would be able to take advantage of federal disaster relief funds in the coming weeks," Mr. Rossi continued.

The candidate went on to say that there are other factors that prevented the flooding from causing additional damage.

"I was a teenager in the early 70s when the area suffered significant flooding. I remember that Scotch Plains suffered far more damage than this time around, and lives were lost in neighboring communities," Mr. Rossi revealed.

"We can be thankful that since that time, our elected officials initiated several corrective actions in the local flood plain that have diminished the effects of subsequent major storms. In that regard, I think it is incumbent upon our elected officials of today to make further strides in the Green Brook Flood Plan," he said.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have made several recommendations on how to diminish flooding in the area," the candidate said, noting that if elected he would "push to re-open the flood control dialogue with our neighbors up in Berkeley Heights."

"This is where much of the storm water originates, and if serious efforts are made there, communities from Scotch Plains to Bound Brook would benefit in a big way," Mr. Rossi concluded.

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