



SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES

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## FALL GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED NEXT TUESDAY

### Incumbent Republicans Face Three Democratic Hopefuls, 2,784 Citizens in the Township Are Registered to Cast Ballots

Consist of 3,386 Republicans, 2,860 Democrats and 6,538 Independents; Democrats Can Take Control Only If They Win All Three Seats Up for Grabs; Polls Will Be Kept Open From 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Times

Three incumbent Republicans will face off against their Democratic challengers in the race for Scotch Plains Township Council as voters head to the polls this Tuesday, November 8. The Republicans currently have a 5-0 majority on the council. A term on the council is four years.

Democrats Miss Theresa D. Ford, Harold M. Burwell and Mrs. Barbara S. Schwartz are running against Re-

publican incumbents, Robert Johnston, Mrs. Joan Papen and Mrs. Irene Schmidt.

Polls throughout the state will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. A complete listing of polling places appears inside in this issue.

According to a spokesman for the Union County Board of Elections, the township has 12,784 registered voters which is broken down to 3,386 Republicans, 2,860 Democrats and 6,538 Independents.

Councilman Johnston is serving as Deputy Mayor this year. A resident for 29 years, he is employed as a Telecommunications Manager with Exxon Corporation. He is a former Regional Account Manager for New Jersey Bell and AT&T.

He currently serves as Council Liaison to the Recreation Commission, the Environmental Commission and the Fire Department and is the Alternate Liaison to the Senior Citizen Housing Corporation. Deputy Mayor Johnston is also the Council Representative for the Sewer Authority.

Mr. Johnston has served on the Scotch Plains Planning Board for 17 years and was Chairman for 12 of those years.

The Councilman is a lifetime member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees and serves as a Lector at All Saints Episcopal Church in the township. He played in the county's senior softball league and is active in the St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church Softball League. He is a former Little League umpire and serves as a Recreation Basketball referee as well as a Junior Achievement Advisor.

Mrs. Schmidt has resided in the township for 26 years. Prior to that, she had lived in Fanwood for nine years.



Robert Johnston\*  
REPUBLICAN  
Township Councilman  
\*Incumbent



Mrs. Joan Papen\*  
REPUBLICAN  
Township Councilwoman



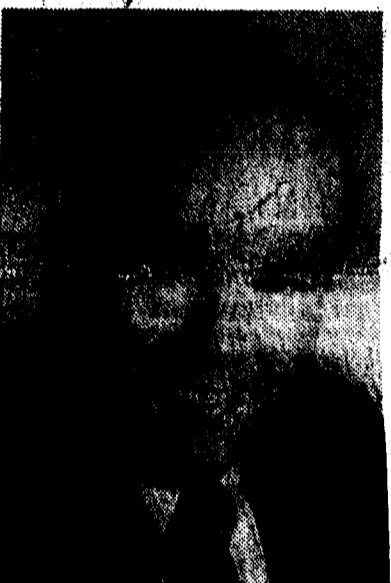
Mrs. Irene Schmidt\*  
REPUBLICAN  
Township Councilwoman



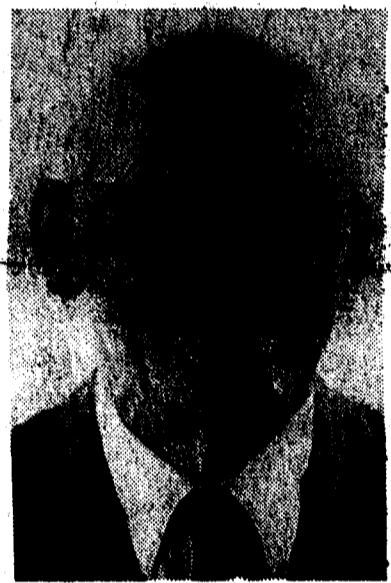
William E. Populus, Jr.  
DEMOCRAT  
Borough Councilman



Mrs. Linda Muller  
DEMOCRAT  
Borough Councilman



Joel Whitaker  
REPUBLICAN  
Borough Councilman



Dr. Chester Lindsey  
REPUBLICAN  
Borough Councilman

### Polling Places, Races For County, State: See Page 44

The Councilwoman, who is employed as a Legislative Aide for State Senate President Donald J. DiFrancesco, also of Scotch Plains, served as mayor in 1984, 1987 and 1992. She is seeking her third term on the council.

Currently, she serves on the Master Plan and the Downtown Vitalization Committees. She is a member of the League of Municipalities Legislative Committee in which she serves on the Land Use and Environmental Committee.

Mrs. Schmidt is a member of the Union County Alliance, the Union County League of Municipalities, the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood

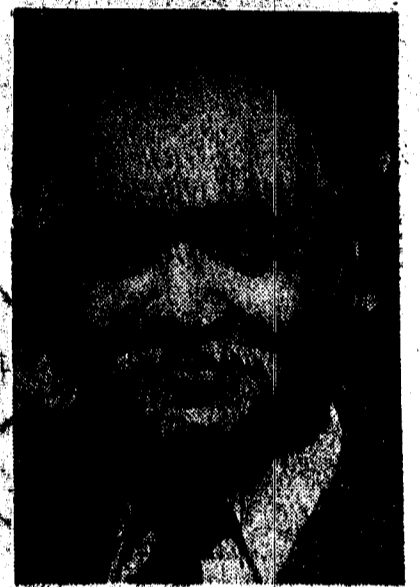
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Miss Theresa D. Ford  
DEMOCRAT  
Township Councilwoman



Mrs. Barbara S. Schwartz  
DEMOCRAT  
Township Councilwoman



Harold M. Burwell  
DEMOCRAT  
Township Councilman

## Township Candidates Air Positions On Taxes, Budget, Downtown Renewal

Three Republicans Say Opponents Lack Experience in Government; Mr. Burwell Accuses Incumbents of 'Dragging Feet' on Taxes and Services

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

In an effort to "promote political responsibility through non-partisan-ship" the Westfield Area Chapter of the League of Women Voters sponsored a debate for six candidates vying for the three Township Council seats in Scotch Plains. Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the league.

Mrs. Margaret Walker of the League of Women Voters from Westfield presided as moderator. The candidates were given three minutes for opening statements followed by questions from the audience and then each was given two minutes for a closing statement.

The Republican incumbents seeking reelection are Deputy Mayor Robert Johnston, Mrs. Joan Papen and Mrs. Irene Schmidt. Their Democratic challengers are Harold M. Burwell, Miss Theresa D. Ford and Mrs. Barbara S. Schwartz.

Miss Ford was unable to attend the program due to illness.

In their opening statements, the Republicans stressed their many years of council and civic government experience and contrasted this with what they charged was their opponents' inexperience in government.

Councilwoman Schmidt, speaking of the Senior Citizens Housing Complex which is targeted for completion next year, explained the project is being done "without extra cost to the taxpayers." Approximately 110 senior citizens will reside in the complex once it is completed.

"I ask you to look at our record. Then examine the rhetoric of our opponents," she urged.

Councilman Johnston in his opening remarks emphasized that "... numerous new businesses have opened in our downtown shopping district. Four new sites have been approved for construction and are currently underway"

Councilwoman Papen said, "During the last four years, we have secured over \$1.2 million in state and federal grants."

"Most of these grants have been

used for our capital improvement projects. Of every dollar you pay in taxes, we keep only 17 cents," she explained.

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## Ridgeview Improvements In Limbo Over High Bids

Negotiations with Three Firms Prove Unfruitful

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY  
Specially Written for The Times

Thomas E. Atkins, Scotch Plains Township Manager, at Tuesday's Township Council Conference meeting revealed that negotiations with two of the three rejected bidders on the Ridgeview Avenue improvement job have not been fruitful. The bids are still \$9,600 to \$11,000 over what Township Engineer C. Stephen Kinsey had projected.

Mr. Atkins was authorized by the council at the last public meeting to enter into negotiations with the rejected bids. Mr. Atkins said the contractors may feel this relatively "small" job at the end of the year is not in their best interests. The project, which has been bid on two occasions, will be re-bid again. It is hoped the work will commence on Ridgeview Avenue in the spring.

The council has declined to sign an easement agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Paul DiFrancesco for the construction of three second-floor apartments over their property on Park Avenue. The apartments were to be constructed over the former Westberg Jewelers, the Raven Optical Shop and Vic's Barber Shop.

Mr. and Mrs. DiFrancesco and their agents, Dominick DiFrancesco and Rachel DiMonte, have previously applied to the Planning Board for the easement. The applicants are seeking the return of approximately 45 per cent of the easement they granted to the township in 1987 in conjunction with the improvements made to Parking Lot No. 2 located behind the property.

A sidewalk was constructed as a result

of the easement. Robert LaCosta, Township Building Inspector, will inspect the property and try to come up with a possible compromise.

The council acknowledged the receipt of a petition signed by 20 downtown business establishments and dated October 20. The signers have required that a two-hour limit be placed on parking in

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### DEADLINES HELP PAPERS SERVE YOU

Those preparing press releases for submission to The Westfield Leader or The Times are reminded all copy should be in the hands of the Editor at 50 Elm Street, Westfield, by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the Thursday on which they wish it to appear.

Leader releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 250, Westfield, 07091, and Times releases to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076, to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the week-end prior to publication, press releases should reach the Editor by Monday of the week of publication at 10 a.m. Obituaries will be taken until Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For events which are planned weeks or months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

The above deadlines are meant to enable us to prepare your copy carefully.

## Control of Borough Council Hangs In Balance in Tuesday's Election

Of the 4,434 Registered Voters, 2,457 Are Independents, 1,092, Republicans, and 885, Democrats; Polls Will Open at 7 a.m.

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood voters will decide this Tuesday, November 8, whether the Democrats will maintain their 4-3 majority on the Borough Council. Two Democrats and two Republicans are bidding for the seats on the Borough Council currently held by Councilman Kevin McGonigle, a Democrat, and Republican Councilman Donald S. Kolterjahn. Both are not seeking reelection.

The Republicans must win both races to gain control of the council. Democrats, William B. Populus, Jr. and Mrs. Linda Muller, are running against Republican Joel Whitaker and Dr. Chester Lindsey.

Election polls throughout the state will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. A listing of polling places can be found in this issue.

According to a spokesman for the Union County Board of Elections, there are 4,434 registered voters in the borough which includes 1,092 Republicans, 885 Democrats and 2,457 Independents.

A Fanwood resident for 36 years, Mr. Johnston served on the Borough Council from 1989 to 1992. He has had an optometrist practice since 1958.

A United States Navy veteran, Mr. Lindsey has served three terms as President of the Fanwood Lions Club. He has served as former Chairman of the Heart Fund and on the Fanwood Rescue Squad from 1962 through 1965.

He is a graduate of Pennsylvania College with a degree in optometry. Mr. Whitaker is the Editor and Publisher of Whitaker Newsletters, a company he founded in 1980. He is Chairman of the county's Local Advisory Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

He served on the borough's Planning Board from 1981 through 1985 and was Chairman of the board from 1983 to 1985. Mr. Whitaker was a member of the Downtown Development Commission from 1984 to 1986.

He has a master's degree in Journalism from Indiana University and a Juris Doctorate from the Temple University Law School.

A resident of Fanwood for 15 years, Mr. Whitaker was a Dean's List graduate of the United States Army Command and the Army Intelligence School. He retired from the United States Army Reserves in 1985.

Mrs. Muller has lived in the borough for 16 years. A former teacher in four different states, she is employed as a Sales Representative for Dow Jones.

The candidate is a graduate of the State University of New York and has two grown children.

Mrs. Muller has served six years on the borough's Environmental Commission and supported obtaining environmental grants to update

Fanwood's natural resource inventory and improve the educational opportunities in the community's Nature Center.

She served eight years on the county's Democratic Committee and is the Past President of the Fanwood Democratic Club.

Mr. Populus, a former Fanwood Council member, is the President of Populus & Associates, Inc., a residential real estate appraisal firm founded in 1973. He is also the President of Populus Real Estate, Inc., a firm specializing in the sale, financing and rehabilitation of residential and commercial real estate which was founded in 1968. Both companies are based in Plainfield.

He is a licensed Real Estate Appraiser in the state and a certified Real Estate Appraiser with the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers. Mr. Populus is also a Licensed Real Estate Broker in the state.

The candidate is a certified appraiser with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and is a Designated Fee Appraiser for the United States Veterans Association.

Mr. Populus is Past President and Governor of the Plainfield-Area Board of Realtors, Past President and a member of the New Jersey Realtors, a member of the National Association of Real Estate Appraisers, and

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**Students Conduct Drive to Create Adrian Andrews Fund**

Adrian Andrews, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was killed in a car accident on August 20. In his memory, the students of the high school will conduct a drive to create the Adrian Andrews Fund. The fund-raiser will be held Sunday, November 6.

Cansisters will be in local stores and at the high school throughout this time. The donations will be used to support the development of a street hockey rink for the youth of the community.

**CAST YOUR BALLOT**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

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