

Hottest contest of all...

HL aspirants focus on Sandy Beach issue



Incumbent Purcell
GOP

There are two odd things about this year's Harveys Lake Borough Council primary race.

First of all, it's perhaps more a case of Republicans trying to unseat other Republicans than of Democrats trying to turn the trick.

Second, the Democrats, despite being the minority party and holding just one seat on council, have chosen to lie low at this stage of the game and let the Republicans have the

As of the beginning of the week, seven Republicans and four Democrats had been identified as seeking nomination to run for the four borough council seats that will become vacant at the end of the year.

The terms of incumbent Republicans Robert DeRemer (council president), Margaret Purcell, Robert Win-

tersteen, and Guy Giordano all expire this year. Only Giordano has declined to seek renomination.

They've all announced themselves as running, with four more Republicans expressing the desire to replace them. Simultaneously, four Democrats announced by Monday, only two of whom could actually be made to comment on the race.

As expected, opinion ran strongest and was most sharply divided on the question of whether or not council should proceed with its plan of purchasing the Sandy Beach area to turn it into a public recreation site and make use of the building there for municipal purposes.

Council president Robert DeRemer, leader of the movement to make the purchase, said that he

believes the site will ensure all residents access to the lake, ringed now largely by private property, and that commissions from refreshment stands and parking will help fill the borough treasury.

He pledged that he will also work to "straighten out the borough tax structure," which he said finds nearly 1100 property owners paying less than \$100 per year in property taxes.

He pointed to the recreation building, the borough garage, and the imposition of a franchise requirement on Back Mountain Cable TV as accomplishments during his term as president. DeRemer is completing his first term on council. He is the owner of the Dallas One-Hour Cleaners and is married to the former Mary Ellen

Yachew. The couple has two children.

Councilwoman Margaret Purcell, who pronounced herself "not a big money spender," expressed disapproval of the proposed purchase, saying that borough income does not warrant such a purchase and that both a feasibility study of the project and a current appraisal of its value should have been undertaken.

She said that the borough, being fairly new, should carefully avoid "getting in over its head" as regards spending and that council should be sure to exercise fiscal responsibility.

Purcell is also finishing her first term on council. She is married to William Purcell and has four children.

Robert Wintersteen, the

remaining incumbent, could not be reached for comment.

The Republican challengers are an interesting lot, consisting at this time of a "shadow" council member, an attorney who assists at the Sweet Valley cult deprogramming center, and two men who describe themselves as political amateurs determined to get involved.

The best known in Harveys Lake politics is certainly Francis Kopko, narrow loser to Democrat councilman Jack McManus in the last election. Kopko serves on the zoning hearing board and the planning commission and says that he has attended council meetings faithfully for "seven years or so," along with attending sewer authority and taxpayers' association meetings.

Kopko is married to the former Mary Llewellyn. The couple has two

Kopko, a teacher in the Dallas Area School District, has refused to take a stand on the beach purchase issue. He said that he would like to keep his options open and see how planning and financing for the project progress before making a commitment.

He said that Harveys Lake consistently runs into trouble because "Everybody wants things their way and everything flops," urging greater cooperation and less arguing among council members. Kopko cited an instance in which, he maintains, inability to agree led to a failure to purchase a garbage packer that, in his belief, would have been very useful to the community.

Kopko is married to the former Mary Llewellyn. The couple has two

children. A candidate with some national visibility is Atty. Gifford Cappellini, a Wilkes-Barre lawyer who works with "Freedom of Mind, Inc.," a national cult deprogramming operation with its center in Sweet Valley.

Careful levying and use of taxes rank high on Cappellini's priority list. He believes that it is easily possible for government to abuse its taxing power, and he is concerned for the many he believes to have difficulty paying bills for necessities in addition to facing higher than necessary tax rates.

As solicitor for the Harveys Lake Taxpayers' Association (which has publicly opposed the beach purchase) he recently wrote to council reminding it of the many laws that must be complied with in

regard to the proposed purchase.

Additionally, Cappellini says that he sees a chronic pothole problem in the borough, believes that a guardrail system around the lake is needed, and wants to put an end to the litter problem. He would also like to generate greater state interest in regard to grants for the borough.

He is married to the former Deborah Andrews and says "We intend to make Harveys Lake our home, and we'd like to make sure it's a proper place to raise our children."

Bruce Anderson, a Harveys Lake roofing and siding contractor, is a lifetime resident of the borough.

He speaks sharply against the present council

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Trucksville resident seeks GOP nod as commissioner candidate

A Trucksville resident, F. Allan Nichols, announced Monday that he would seek the Republican nomination for Luzerne County commissioner.

In press conference at Wilkes-Barre's Holiday

Inn, Nichols said he was running to "give the voters of Luzerne County a better choice than the traditional 'politician' candidate."

"I have been considering this action for the past couple of years, and after

observing the voters growing trend towards a concerned and responsible selection at the polls, I became more confident that this year was the right time to aspire for the office of commissioner," Nichols

said. The 50-year-old Kingston Township native said he believed a commissioner should work full time in managing the affairs of the county. He also said he believed public com-

munications and assistance to municipal governments could be improved. He said he did not believe the incumbent commissioners were satisfactorily performing in the categories he mentioned.

Nichols is presently employed as vice president and credit manager of Fowler, Dick and Walker, The Boston Store, Wilkes-Barre, and has worked for the store for the past 32 years.

Nichols is a graduate of the Kingston Township High School, now a part of the Dallas Area School System, and received a certificate of proficiency from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School for completion of their evening extension course in accounting and business.

He has served a term as an elected auditor for Kingston Township and presently serves in an appointive office on the Police Civil Service Commission of that township. As a member of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Nicholas served on the committee which initiated the discussion and ultimate establishment of the county-wide police communications network, better known now as "Comm Center" located in the Court House.

Nichols is president of the Kingston Township Ambulance Association and past president of the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company, as well as having been an active member of both of these volunteer services for a number of years. He has

served on the credit legislation committee of the Pennsylvania Retailers Association.

Nichols is a member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church and served as a lay representative of the church to the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is a member of the George M.

Dallas Masonic Lodge, Caldwell Consistory and Irem Temple.

He is director and past president of the Crime Clinic of Greater Wyoming Valley, an organization of law enforcement, security, legal and business representatives, established to open a one communication between these groups in crime prevention.

Frantz to oppose Walter in GOP primary

Last week, Tom Frantz announced that he will run for Dallas Twp. supervisor.

He stated his reasons for running are several. "First of all I think I can do a better job on a lot less money. The spending in the township has gotten far out of hand."

"There is talk of millage increases for both the road dept. and school district and I see no reason for it if the money available was spent more wisely. I decided either running for school board or supervisor or stop griping of the millage we pay. I'm sure the road dept. was the best

decision as I've been around construction and heavy equipment all my life."

"If elected, I would like to see matters of Dallas Twp. business published on a regular basis, not just when there is good news to tell around election time.

"I would also like to see brush tree cutting done on all the roads in Pennsylvania. They are as bad as the potholes as far as safety to the motorist."

Frantz has been working hard to get people registered Republican or even change from Democrat to Republican

so they can support his bid in the primaries as he must best the incumbent then.

He stated that voter registration or party change forms can be obtained from any state store or the tax collector. No postage is necessary for mailing the cards.

Frantz said that he would be glad to bring the forms to anyone and assist them if need be.

"I would appreciate deeply all the votes and volunteer help I can get. Make it a point to vote as it is one of your last "free" rights left today," Frantz observed.

Mahmoud Fahmy to seek election as school director

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy announced Thursday that he will seek a seat on the Dallas School Board in the May primary. Dr. Fahmy, who is a Republican, said he will cross-file.

Dr. Fahmy has been a resident of the Back Mountain for 12 years. A

professor at Wilkes College, he received his B.A. degree in Alexandria, Egypt, his masters degree from Columbia University, New York City and his Ph.D., from Syracuse University.

A professor educator for 18 years, Dr. Fahmy

teaches education on both the undergraduate and graduate level at Wilkes College. He is chairman of the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Dallas School District and was instrumental in its inception. He is also a member of the Dallas Curriculum and Inservice Council, and served on the Long Range Planning Committee for three years.

A member of the curriculum council of Intermediate Unit 18, Dr. Fahmy is also a member of the Child Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He is coordinator of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties Social Studies Council and has recently been appointed to a state commission whose purpose it is to review and revise certification for social studies teachers.

Dr. Fahmy is a member of the Dallas Rotary, George M. Dallas Masonic Lodge, Caldwell Consistory, shrine, and is on the board of the Back

Mountain Cultural Center. In 1976, Dr. Fahmy served on both the county and state bi-centennial commissions.

When asked why he decided to seek a seat on the school board, Dr. Fahmy pointed out that in chairing the Citizens Advisory Committee, he has been involved with some decision-making concerning the school, and has become acquainted with various issues, problems and potentials of the school district.

Dr. Fahmy stated, "I feel that I am in a position to be in the center of the decision-making process. I can contribute to the school board in the area of professional education, helping the school district to put emphasis on the welfare of the children, quality of the teachers and the excellence of the program. I believe children, and the 'learners', should be the center of education. Everything else sets the stage."

A firm believer in citizen involvement, Dr. Fahmy said he will make it easy for parents to get involved by volunteering, visiting classrooms, or in any capacity they can. He said he is against "wasting money", especially exorbitant spending on facilities. Dr. Fahmy said he feels safe, adequate schools are needed but that extra funds should be channeled towards upgrading the quality of education. He is also an advocate of the neighborhood school.

Dr. Fahmy said he feels a harmonious atmosphere between school board, teachers, parents and students is a "must". A united front of parents, teachers and administration working to solve any problems in the district is a necessity in his opinion. Dr. Fahmy also believes that continuous communication between various levels within the school district is important.

Dr. Fahmy said he recognizes extracurricular activities as an important part of school life but feels as many students as possible should be given an opportunity to participate. He thinks sports are important, too, and those who excel deserve awards. He would like to see children excelling academically recognized and honored with awards as well.

Dr. Fahmy, his wife Iran, and their three children, Roya, Raef and Randa live in Shrine Acres in Dallas. Iran is head teacher of emotionally disturbed classrooms for Intermediate Unit 18 and is liaison between Intermediate Unit 18 and the Childrens Service Center, Wilkes-Barre.

Roya is a graduate of Dallas High School and is attending Wilkes College under the Hahnemann Program. Raef is a junior at Dallas Senior High School. Randa is a freshman at Dallas Junior High School.

Lehman Taxpayers discuss Twp. school

The Lehman Township Taxpayers Association will meet Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. Topic

of discussion will be equalization of taxes and the recent situation at the Lake Elementary School.

PTG sponsors St. Patrick's dance

The PTG of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas, will sponsor a gala St. Patrick's Day dance on Saturday, March 17, in the auditorium from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Music will be provided by the Hi-Tones. A hot and cold buffet will be served.

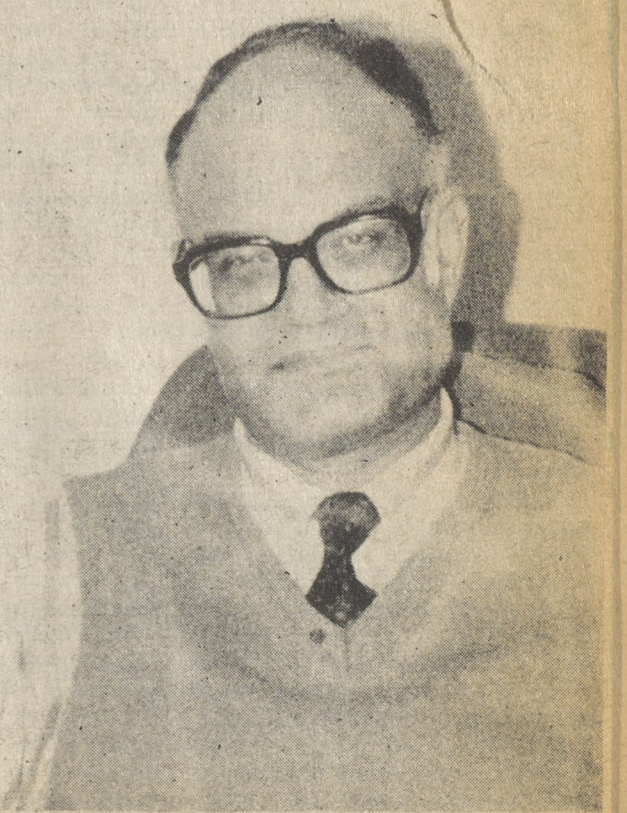
Beer and set-ups will be provided. The cost is \$20 per couple and \$10, single.

Chairmen for the dance are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dowd; Co-Chairmen are

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones; publicity, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bustin; Decorations, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams; Refreshments, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leonard.

For reservations, please call Betty Dowd at 696-3746 or Peg Cartier at 675-1952, or any other member of the PTG.

Father William Cusick is moderator of the PTG and Mrs. Robert Cartier is president.



Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy