

Candidates

(continued from page 1)

better land use planning.

The board lost its first supervisor when Randall Glidden resigned in February, to move to Florida. In March, the township lost long time supervisors Herbert Hill, supervisor of 27 years, and William Tippet, supervisor of 16 years, when they passed away within one day of each other.

John Versari, Neil Allen and Chris Yankovich were appointed by the board to take their place, all are running to keep their positions.

The two members of the board not up for re-election this year are J. Carl Goodwin, elected in 2002 and Paul Sabol, elected in 1994.

One candidate charges that the township's fiscal difficulty is self-inflicted.

"In reviewing their budget information last fall, it was clear to me that a spending spree started mid-last year," said Republican Jeff Box, former Township Manager, who is running with Sean McAndrew and Dave Jenkins as a team.

"It looked like expenditures were not adequately controlled given current economic conditions."

Versari said the current board takes a look at the budget every month and that any areas that are over budget are addressed right away.

"It was in the red from last year. The current 2002 supervisor board inherited it that way," said Versari.

Yankovich said controlling spending is a top concern for the board. "One of the things we are doing is looking how to cut costs."

Box, who was Township Manager for 13 years until October of 2001, said when prepared the budget, he would watch it weekly to make sure the township wasn't spending more than it was taking in.

"I think the issue is that there is no business in the

Fiscal responsibility and how to manage growth in the township are dominating issues in the 2003 election.

country that can operate where expenditures exceed revenues," he said.

Goodwin disputed Box's contention that the board engaged in a spending spree.

"That's just absolutely inaccurate. I would ask him to give specifics on where there was a spending spree. I defy him to point to a spending spree," said Goodwin.

Goodwin said the end of 2002 was not the first time the township budget was in the red.

"We ended the budget year 2001, which was Mr. Box's budget and the board's, with a \$16,000 deficit. Prior to that, there was no deficit."

"In other words, there was a trend with Mr. Box's budgets," said Goodwin.

Several candidates voiced concern over the amount of growth the township is experiencing and how it is affecting natural resources, recreation and traffic.

"They're (the board) letting them build too many buildings up here," said Concert, the lone Democrat. "We need to save our wildlife and environmental surroundings. If we keep letting them build and build, we're going to end up like Kingston and Wilkes-Barre."

Jenkins, McAndrew and Box are seeking a comprehensive overhaul of all land use ordinances. Jenkins said an overhaul by a land planning specialist would allow them to identify changes in how developments fit into the township. He said, for example, issues of aesthetics could be adjusted, like road width, tree lines and easements.

Allen said the board has already planned a comprehensive overhaul of zoning ordinances.

The three running mates and Allen disagree on whether or not to expand the township's recreation facilities.

Box, Jenkins and McAndrew feel the current township park across from the municipal building, built in the 1960s, no longer serves the needs of a population that has doubled since then.

"We need an overall enhancement of our recreation program," said McAndrew. "I am a young father with children we should have places to go."

Jenkins said he advocates the creation of a second recreation center with fields for soccer, baseball, basketball and walk ways for seniors.

Allen disagrees. "It's my understanding that one of the purposes of the Back Mountain recreational facility is to relieve the townships of having to build independent recreational facilities."

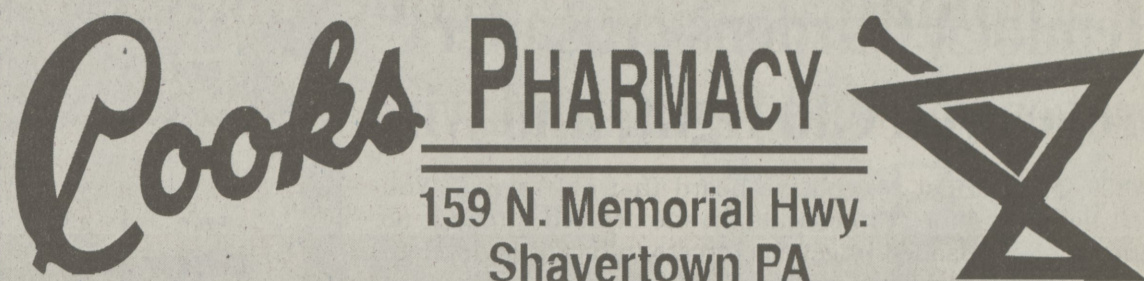
"If the township's going to be doing this (building their own facilities) what's the purpose of the Back Mountain recreational facility?"

Six of the eight cite traffic as one of the biggest challenges facing the township, including Allen, Box, Concert, Jerry Fritzes, Jenkins, and Versari.

"I would like to see the median barriers put in. I know they're ugly but if they're going to save lives, any life saved is worth the ugliness and the cost of barriers," said Fritzes.

Concert and Allen agree with putting a barrier between the north and southbound lanes of Route 309, the site of many serious collisions.

"I'm not opposed to a barrier, if it's a recommendation from PennDOT that may be a better solution," said Allen.



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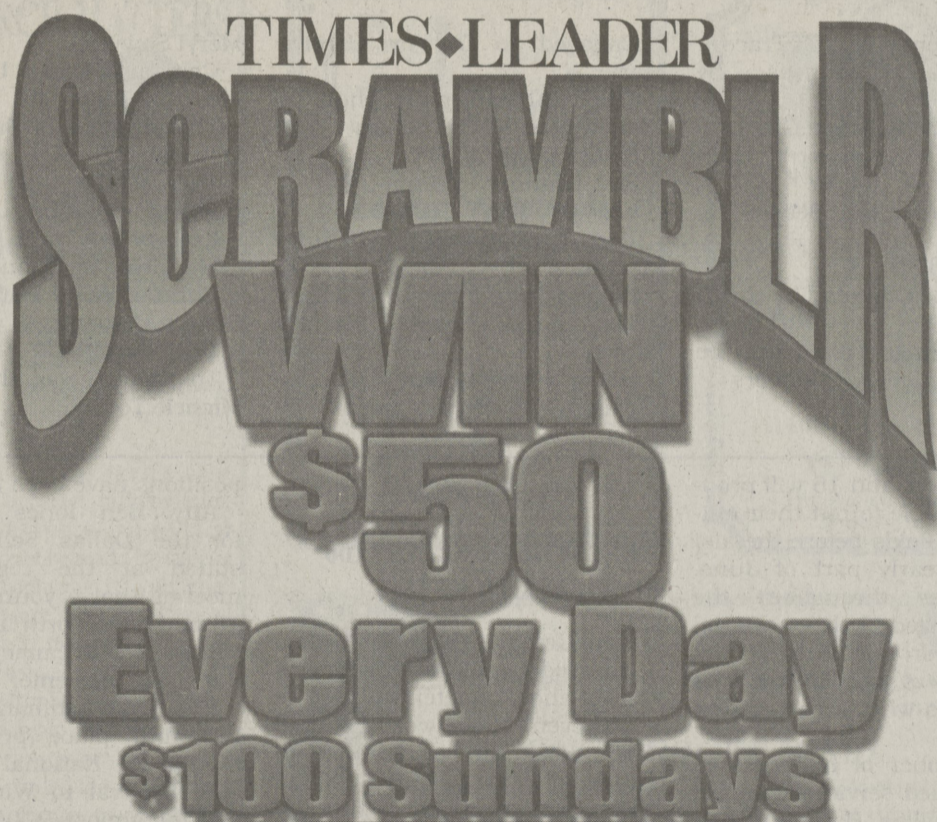
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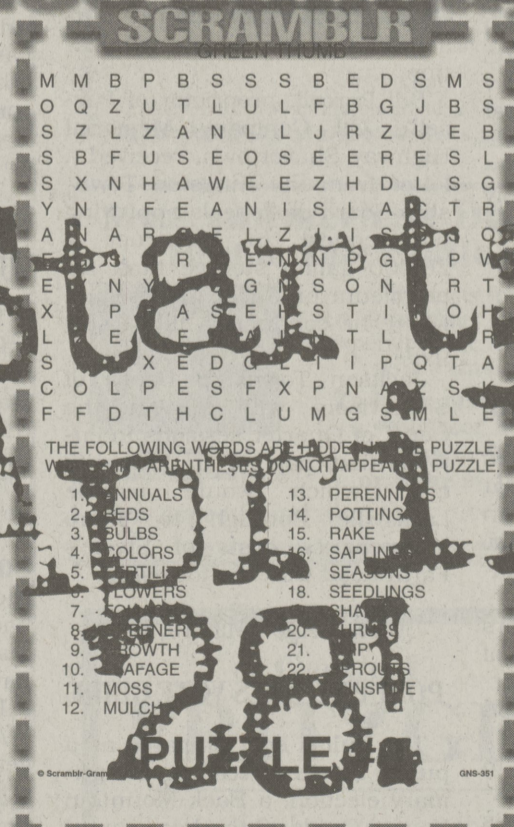
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