

Morris freeholder candidates keep lid on plans to solve trash woes

By RON MARSICO

Just seven weeks before Election Day, the six Morris County Democratic and Republican freeholder candidates are pledging long-term solutions to the county's garbage disposal dilemma, but neither party has offered a comprehensive plan.

In fact, some contend it would not be politically wise to do so before the election, while others feel they need more information.

Although both teams would constitute a minority on the seven-member board after the election, both the Republicans and the Democrats maintain they are best suited to force the issue and solve the problem if elected.

Members of both parties also say, however, that it is premature to offer proposed locations for siting a landfill and incinerator.

The garbage issue became the key element in this fall's race after Republican challengers Michael Dedio, Jack O'Keefe and John Sette defeated three incumbents in the June primary. The trio won after sharply criticizing the freeholders' failure to site a landfill and incinerator, a theme also sounded by Democratic freeholder candidates Elizabeth Baumgartner, Thomas Beirne and Horace Chamberlain.

The Democrats are calling for extensive recycling and a regionalized garbage solution to ensure each of the state's 21 municipalities do not have separate incinerators. The Republicans are also pushing mass recycling and an in-county garbage solution, unless Morris can get together with another county to share a landfill and incinerator.

Both sides criticize the impermanence and the costs incurred by the emergency setup of two county trash transfer stations, which will serve until the county sites a landfill and incinerator.

"We are going to make the decisions," said Sette, a businessman and the civilian chairman of the Morris County Crimestoppers' program. "The procrastination has to end."

But Sette said he would not unveil any specific proposed siting locations until after the election.

"What do you want me to do, commit political suicide?" Sette asked.

Sette said he and his running mates have "done their homework" by visiting disposal facilities, hiring a consultant to help them better understand solid waste issues and by talking with Sussex County officials about the chances for a combined solution between the two counties.

Joan Bramhall, chairman of the county's Republican Committee, agreed with Sette's philosophy about not naming potential sites before the election.

"I don't think it's too politically expedient, do you?" Bramhall said.

Dedio, the mayor of Riverdale, said he believes it is unfair for voters to expect the candidates to name potential sites before they take office.

"It sounds like a copout, but it ain't," maintained Dedio. "There are too many things that have to be taken into consideration."

\$250,944 awarded in vehicular mishap

A Superior Court jury in Newark has awarded \$250,944 to a 39-year-old man injured when his car was struck by a New Jersey Bell repair van in Mountain Lakes more than two years ago.

Attorney John S. Voynick Jr. said his client, Antonio Parisi, suffered injuries to the neck, back and left shoulder and was hospitalized for four days following the May 20, 1986, accident on Route 46.

On Friday, the jury returned its verdict before Judge Leo Yanoff, finding New Jersey Bell and the van driver, Harold Brooks, liable.

Orange police offer civil service training

The Orange Police Department will be conducting training classes to prepare applicants for the November civil service exam, Police Director Charles Cobbert announced.

Interested applicants can sign up Oct. 20, 7 p.m., in Room 125 of Orange High School. Applicants must be a resident of Orange and should have obtained a civil service application before the Aug. 29 deadline.

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Those considerations, Dedio said, include the need to study a site from environmental, geographic and transportation standpoints. He said he awaits data on different site locations from firms vying to build the incinerator, and will make a choice based on review of that information.

"I can't be any more specific than that," he added.

The Democrats contend they cannot propose specific sites for a landfill or incinerator now because they have not been privy to solid waste information available to the freeholder board, which has been all-Republican since the mid-1970s.

"That would be foolish," said Chamberlain, a former Jefferson mayor, arguing he must wait for the "experts" to offer recommendations. "I have no expertise in saying it should go in some spot."

Beirne, the mayor of Wharton, said he "can't make a rational decision" regarding siting until he has access to the information the freeholders have on the trash issue. "Hopefully, we're coming in with a fresh approach," he added.

"I'm not afraid of making a decision," continued Beirne, noting last

year Wharton officials approved construction of a trash-to-energy plant in the township provided the project met certain conditions. The proposal, however, was not accepted by county or state officials, he contended.

"As far as I'm concerned, I've tried to do stuff for the county," Beirne added.

Gordon MacInnes, chairman of the county's Democratic Committee, argues Beirne, Chamberlain and Baumgartner, a former Madison mayor, are "people who believe in reaching out to the public." He chides Dedio, Sette and O'Keefe, a former Denville mayor, as "fellows from the same clubhouse" of the defeated incumbents, whom he argues did not communicate with the public.

"I see no reason to believe it would be done with these three other clubhouse people coming in," MacInnes maintained, referring to the garbage disposal dilemma.

"I think that's totally wrong," countered Sette, contending his trio was at sharp odds with the incumbents during the primary and set the issues for this race. "They (the Democrats) must have seen our TV commercial during the primary."

LABOR SHORTAGE More employers forced to offer day care

By BEV McCARRON

Parents can expect more help from their employers in solving the day-care dilemma, as businesses are being forced by a labor shortage to address their workers' child care concerns, according to speakers at a Somerset County forum.

"The lack of affordable day care is forcing potential good employees to make personal choices: Do we want to work or not work?" said Yasmina Vinci, a member of the state task force on child care.

At a corporate breakfast sponsored by the Somerset County Child Care Alliance and other groups at Thomas and Betts Corp. in Bridgewater on Friday, representatives of about 40 companies learned the costs of inadequate day care and how they can help provide better care.

Statistics from a 1986 survey show 63 percent of mothers work, and mothers of children under 3 make up the fastest-growing segment of the labor force. A Fortune magazine child care survey also found over 20 percent of working parents found it difficult to make childcare arrangements and that parents of preschoolers have the toughest time.

While more companies are offering aid to parents — there are 82 employer-sponsored day-care centers in New Jersey today compared to seven in 1982 — there are also more parents needing care for their children, said Nicholas R. Scalera, a state Division of Youth and Family Services manager and the Governor's liaison on employer-supported child care.

A 1986-87 state survey found that of 300,000 preschoolers in New Jersey who need care, 100,000 are in licensed day-care centers, another 100,000 are receiving care in family homes, while the rest are in unsatisfactory "patchwork" arrangements, Scalera said.

Another survey of a dozen companies in New Jersey showed half of the people had trouble finding day care, said Ellen Galinsky, project director for work and family life studies at Bank Street College in New York.

The price of inadequate day care is high. It includes not only a loss of potential employees, but drop in productivity because of absenteeism, lateness and stress, according to Galinsky. Day-care problems include finding affordable care and a high turnover among caregivers whose wages are the second-lowest in the nation, next to gas station attendants, she said.

The speakers said solutions include corporate day-care centers, flexibility for the working parent and financial aid for employees, who pay an average of \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year for the care of a preschooler.

To the extent that the labor shortage has hit companies that where you will see the greatest change, Galinsky said.

Scalera said the state is reaching out to employers and will send a team to talk to a company about providing day care to employees.

Day care is not a woman's issue; it is a family issue, an employers issue, a community's issue. It's everybody's issue, said Vinci.

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