

Election

Continued from page 1

Michael Schnack didn't get elected... It's a night of mixed emotions." He struck a positive chord, saying, "The dynamics of the council are going to work."

In fourth place was Michael G. White, a member of the Planning Commission, who retired recently from a post with the U.S. Veterans Administration. White received 865 votes. White said that his initial reaction was being "thrilled." White looked forward to getting underway and said, "The make-up of the new town council will work well together. In the long run, everyone who was elected are folks who care a lot about the island."

The last of the five candidates to gain a council spot was the sole Republican, Barbara A. Szepatowski, who retained her seat with 802 votes.

The political makeup of the council, at four Democrats to one Republican, is unchanged from the previous council. Democratic Town Committee chairwoman Deb Rugeiro said "it was a good showing," for her team, but added that "Barbara Szepatowski works for the underdog...and its great to have a woman on the council."

Donna Perry, chairwoman of the Republican Town Committee said, "I'm glad to see Barbara Szepatowski maintain her seat on the council. She lends an important voice and we need her there. I am disappointed for the other candidates who worked very hard and raised important issues in this campaign."

"The contract with the bridge authority and future direction of the island are important concerns that our candidates contributed to the discussion, and I hope those issues stay in the forefront," Perry said.

The only incumbent not re-elected to a second term was Democrat Michael Schnack, in sixth place, who trailed Szepatowski by 28 votes, with 774. Schnack said

he was "shocked," that he was not re-elected. "I thought I was doing a good job," Schnack said, adding, "I wish the new council good luck."

Independent candidates, Ellen Winsor and Sav Rebecchi, finished in seventh and eighth place with 654 votes going to Winsor and 580 to Rebecchi.

Rebecchi, who has run for council previously, said "I'm disappointed. I thought I'd do a lot better, but the voters made their choices and I was not one of them. I wish the council well and I will continue to help where I can in the best interests of the town that I love."

Winsor, a first-time candidate for office, said, "Of course I'm disappointed, but I wish the town and the new council success for the future."

The two first-time Republican candidates, Frederich Glomb and David DeAngelis, took the nine and ten spots with 510 and 481 votes respectively.

Glomb commented, "This was my first time as a political candidate. Although the outcome was disappointing, I learned a lot. I don't think I did enough to get my name recognized. Next time I'll do better." DeAngelis, who came in last was upset. He said, "My message to the average, working-class families is that it's over — pack your bags, because you have no voice in the government. You will continue to be squeezed out. That was proven in tonight's election."

In the race for School Committee, Democrat Julie Kallfelz held on to her seat with 1,173 votes and popular choral director and former pyrotechnics ace Bruce "B.J." Whitehouse came in second place in his first run for office, with 1,086 votes. Kallfelz escaped reporters when she ran home to tuck her daughters into bed, but Whitehouse was delighted by his win, saying "Yey!" He said about what's to come, "I want to make sure kids in town have access to the resources they need and it can't be all on the backs of Jamestown

taxpayers."

The only other candidate for the two available slots, Republican Melissa Burrows, received 607 votes. Burrows was upbeat despite the loss. She said, "I'm not really disappointed. It was my first time running for office and I got votes."

Town Moderator James A. Donnelly, who ran unopposed, retained his seat for two more years, garnering 1,173 votes. In that race, there were some 36 write-in candidates for the post, including Gov. Bruce Sundlun, former Town Solicitor Bill Harsch and Donald Duck.

In all, nearly 38 percent of eligible voters turned out for the election, despite a cold, miserable day. Of the 4,498 voters on the island, 1,694 went to the polls on Tuesday.

Board of Canvassers chairwoman Alcina Blair read the final tallies near 10 p.m. to a crowd of about 30 at the new Town Hall. The comfortable chairs set in perfect rows and the new-paint smell were a far cry from the last town elections, where only a handful got to take mis-matched seats, or sit on desks and countertops, while those who exceeded the fire marshal's capacity had to stand outside in the dark to listen as the results were read in the close quarters.

With reports from Donna Drago, Sam Bari and Tom Shevlin.

How Jamestown voted

Straight ticket

Republican 49
Democrat 134

Town Moderator

James A. Donnelly-D 1,173

School Committee

Bruce J. Whitehouse-D 1,086
Melissa W. Burrows-R 607
Julie A. Kallfelz-D 1,173

Town Council

Michael G. White-D 865
Frederich W. Glomb-R 510
Julio J. DiGiando-D 1,014
David J. DeAngelis-R 481
William A. Kelly-D 932
Barbara A. Szepatowski-R 802
Robert W. Sutton Jr.-D 1,032
Michael F. Schnack-D 774
Sav Rebecchi-I 580
Ellen Winsor-I 654

Flu shots protect young children

The flu is more serious than a common cold, but flu shots can help keep your family safe. Plain and simple.

In fact, influenza is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths for kids, but despite recommendations from health experts, many parents still don't have their children vaccinated.

A new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows only a small fraction of the children who need to get a flu vaccination actually get one, despite the CDC recommendations that all children 6 months to 5 years old should get vaccinated.

Indeed, a recent survey by the Visiting Nurse Associations of America (VNAA) found almost half of moms of children under 5 do not

get their kids vaccinated every year.

It is estimated that each year in the United States, more than 20,000 children less than 5 years old are hospitalized due to the flu, and children less than 2 years old are even more likely to be hospitalized by the flu.

According to the survey:

* More than 75 percent of moms of children under 5 don't get their whole family vaccinated against the flu. Many moms nix the needle because they don't have time or their children are too afraid.

* The majority of moms say they are not very concerned about their child developing serious flu complications.

* Only 2 percent of moms are concerned about a member of their family catching the flu at home.

* Forty-three percent of moms say their approach to the flu season is to "let nature take its course."

Remember, children can be at high risk for health complications due to the flu. And with just one sick family member at home, more than 60 percent of household surfaces can harbor the flu virus, making it important to disinfect germ hot spots.

So, while vaccination is the first step in flu prevention for most young children, parents should also take these simple steps at home:

* Disinfect Hot Spots: Kids can touch up to 300 surfaces in 30 minutes, so be sure to disinfect the surfaces kids touch most frequently -- like doorknobs, light switches, faucets or plastic toys. Use a disinfectant designed to kill cold and flu viruses.

* Do the Elbow Cough: Teach kids to cough into elbows, not hands where they're more likely to spread bacteria and viruses through touch.

For more flu fighting tips, visit www.familiesfightingflu.org.

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