

# Candidates set for U.T., Sea Isle and O.C. school board

## Races contested in Sea Isle, U.T.; voters will get to see budgets this month

By **MARY RUDLOFF**  
Ocean City Sentinel

School boards and business offices are hard at work to come up with the costs of educating the students and the impact on taxpayers.

School elections are on Tuesday, April 17. Voters will decide school budgets and their impact on property taxes and who sits at the board table, making the decisions.

In the area of school board representation, Sea Isle City and Upper Township will see a race, each with four candidates for three seats.

Ocean City has four school board seats available - three three-year seats and a one-year term - and each one is uncontested.

Current Ocean City school board members David Winslow and current board President Richard Holahan are not seeking re-election. Brenda Moiso, who is at the end of her first three-year term on the board, is looking to return for another three years.

J. Tiffany Prettyman joined the Ocean City board earlier

this year, filling the vacancy from Scott Halliday's resignation last December. Prettyman is running for a full three-year term this time around.

Retired Ocean City school staffers also are looking to take their place on the other side of the board table. Long time primary school principal Gregory Donahue is running for the one-year vacancy, the remainder of Halliday's term. Retired high school CAD teacher Lloyd Hayes is seeking a three-year seat on the board. Both Donahue and Hayes retired last year.

In Sea Isle City, Terrence Libro, Heather Baldini and Madelyn DiGenni will all see their current terms end in April. Of the three, only Libro is running to return to the school board.

At the polls, Libro will face off with three newcomers to the school board arena for the three available seats. Also running are Brian Emery, Joseph Schmidt and Robert Smith.

Upper Township will also see a race for the school board, as four candidates vie for three seats.

The terms of Sandra O'Brien, current Vice President Charlene Zoerb and current board President Michele Barbieri are ending. Zoerb, a longtime board member, and Barbieri are each running to return to the board, but O'Brien, who has also served as a representative to the Ocean City board, did not file to run again.

Barbieri is at the end of her first three-year term. Zoerb, who left the board in April 2006 after not seeking reelection, returned to the board immediately to fill the vacancy left by a resignation. At that time, Zoerb jokingly said she would serve "one more year, that's it," but appears to have changed her mind, as she seeks her third full term on the board.

Also running for seats on the Upper Township board are James Arsenaault Jr. of Seaville and Michael Lindner of Strathmere.

### School budgets

Each of the three local school boards has scheduled special meetings to introduce and approve their preliminary

budgets. The preliminary budgets need board approval and must be submitted to the county superintendent of schools by Tuesday, March 13.

The special meetings, which will be the first public introduction of the budget and its corresponding tax impact, are scheduled as follows:

-Ocean City, Thursday, March 8, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Ocean City High School;

-Sea Isle City, Monday, March 12, at 6 p.m. in the elementary school library;

-Upper Township, Monday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the library of the Middle School on Perry Road.

Each of those meetings is open to the public. The budgets presented there are preliminary, and may still be revised up through the public hearings that each district must hold during the last week of March. Once the public hearing is held, the district can not change the budget again before it goes to voters April 17.

The public hearings for the respective school budgets will take place at each

board's regular meeting:

-Upper Township, Monday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

-Sea Isle City, Tuesday, March 27, at 6 p.m.

-Ocean City, March 28, at 7 p.m.