

Lavallette

Ardito accepts Democratic nomination Will vie with LaCicero in November for mayor's seat

By Brian McGinn

For the first time in what is believed to be over 20 years, the Democratic party in Lavallette will have a full slate of candidates in a general election after Councilman Joe Ardito — who earned a spot on November's ballot by garnering enough write-in votes in this month's primary to qualify — said on Monday he would accept his party's nomination to run for the mayor's post.

In a written statement given to *The Ocean Star*, Councilman Ardito said, "With great appreciation to all of my supporters who considered me worthy of their nomination as the Democratic mayoral candidate in the Borough of Lavallette, I thank you. "On behalf of myself and the Democratic party, I accept the nomination," the statement concluded.

Councilman Ardito declined to elaborate on his candidacy following Monday night's meeting of the mayor and council.

Councilman Ardito will now face off against Republican mayoral candidate Councilman Walter LaCicero, in November's general election.

Councilman LaCicero defeated former councilman Brick Wenzel in the Republican primary earlier this month.

Councilman Ardito, who did not appear on the ballot during the Democratic primary, secured enough write-in votes to qualify for placement on Nov. 7 general election ballot.



JOSEPH ARDITO

Christopher

Parlow, Councilman Ardito needed to be the top write-in vote-getter and receive at least four votes to win his party's nomination to seek the four-year mayoral term.

He accomplished both, earning 17 write-in votes during the Democratic primary.

With the ballot for November now set, both councilmen will be vying for the seat currently occupied by Mayor Thomas Walls, a Republican, who decided not to seek re-election this year.

November's race for council in Lavallette will also be contested with each party party running two

candidates for the pair of three-year terms up for grabs this year.

Joining Councilman Ardito on the Democratic ticket in November will be former councilman Benjamin Brockwell and incumbent Councilwoman Britta Wenzel

Running alongside Councilman LaCicero on the GOP ticket will be Joanne Filippone and Patricia Hoffman.

Republican Incumbent Councilwoman Barbara Brown has decided to not seek re-election in November.



WALTER LACICERO

as the Democratic mayoral candidate in the Borough of Lavallette, I thank you.

"On behalf of myself and the Democratic party, I



Democratic candidates Britta Wenzel [left] and Joseph Ardito, will run for council and mayor, respectively, in November's general election. Councilman Ardito earned a spot on November's ballot by receiving several write-in votes during the Democratic primary earlier this month.

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OceanFirst named primary sponsor of Save Barnegat Bay 8K Fund-raising race slated for Saturday

The organizers of the Save Barnegat Bay [SBB] 8K have announced that the OceanFirst Bank has been named the primary sponsor for this year's inaugural Save Barnegat Bay 8K Race and Fitness Walk. The event will kick off the official start of summer, Saturday, June 24 in Lavallette.

"The support we have received from OceanFirst Bank to assist in the SBB 8K has been tremendous," said race director Jamie Watson. "Their support has allowed us to create a first class event that will leave participants wanting to come back year after year."

"When I approached John Garbarino, president of OceanFirst Financial Corp., about sponsoring the race for Save Barnegat Bay he immediately jumped at the opportunity because of his belief in the organization," said Joe Yewaisis, founder of the SBB 8K. "OceanFirst is the premier bank of Ocean County so it is a natural fit for them to be the primary sponsor for the premier environmental foundation of Ocean County, Save Barnegat Bay."

The race and fitness walk are being held to raise money and awareness primarily for Save Barnegat Bay. A portion of the proceeds will also go to the Lavallette PBA, fire department and first aid squad, as well as the United Methodist Disease Foundation.

The eight-kilometer race meanders through Lavallette and along the shores of picturesque Barnegat Bay, allowing runners to enjoy the beautiful natural resources of the area.

The 3.3-mile fitness walk encompasses the most scenic parts of the race course, along the longest stretch of undeveloped bay shoreline on Barnegat Bay Island.

"Pre-registration numbers for the event are far higher than projected for our first year out," said Associate Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay, Jennifer O'Reilly. "We are absolutely thrilled by the level of enthusiasm and participation for our

race by registrants as well as Lavallette officials and business owners. As far as I am concerned, this event is already a success."

Each participant will receive a SBB 8K T-shirt, commemorative pint glass, a race goodie bag filled and an entry pass into the Crab's Claw Inn post-race party.

The cost to take part in the 8K [5 miles] is \$25, while the fitness walk [3.3 miles] is \$18. Participants can download a registration form and learn more about the day's events by visiting the races's official web site, www.sbb8k.com.

Registration can also be done

by simply showing up on race day.

Save Barnegat Bay is a not-for-profit environmental group working to conserve undeveloped natural land and clean water throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed.

The organization was founded in 1971 as a local chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, a leading national environmental organization. To learn more about Save Barnegat Bay, visit its web site at www.save-barnegatbay.org or call, 732-830-3600.



ADAM HUTCHENS, The Ocean Star
John Hall [left] and Conrad Hall flew a kite on the beach in Lavallette last week. The two have plenty of time to practice before the Lavallette Kite Decorating and Flying Contest on July 6.