

After Cracking GOP Rule—

Schesky

Horan Plans Crossgates Opposition

By **STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN**
 Gazette Reporter

GUILDERLAND — Virginia Horan, the first Democrat to win a Town Board seat in Guilderland since about 1870, yesterday said her first proposal to the board will be to rezone the Crossgates Mall parcel for residential use.

The Guilderland Democrats' campaign to oppose the \$85 million mall's construction by the Pyramid Crossgates Co. gave the incumbent Republicans the slimmest election pluralities they've had in many elections.

Unofficial results from Tuesday's election put Horan ahead of the other three candidates, but the spread among the four was only 334 votes, with the two Republicans in the middle.

The two candidates with the most votes will take board seats in January. Both sides agree Horan has a seat, but the Democrats also hope official

tallies, expected by Friday from the county Board of Elections, will give them a second seat because of the narrow spread. The Democrats also hope for help from absentee ballots to be counted in the official results.

Horan unofficially received 4,757 votes and John Smircich, a Republican newcomer, received 4,539. Republican Pauline Porter, seeking re-election, received 4,486 votes, and Pearl Kurland, the other Democratic candidate, received 4,423.

The Democrats were gratified and the Republicans were disappointed with election results that gave Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters a plurality of only 607 votes over Don Berger. Walters received 5,013 votes to Berger's 4,406.

The top Republican vote-getter, Town Justice Kevin A. Moss, earned a full four-year term by turning back Arthur Martin's challenge, 5,737 to 3,645.

Republican Town Clerk Jane Springer was re-elected by a margin of 5,273 to 4,004 for Maria Gilberti, a former deputy town clerk in Rotterdam.

Herman VanBuren, town highway superintendent, continues the longest town tenure with 5,205 votes to 4,023 for Democrat Charles Arcolano.

The Democrats gained a Guilderland seat in the County Legislature with Anne Gaffney's defeat of Donald Munn, the incumbent Republican in the 33rd District, where the Crossgates Mall is proposed. Gaffney received 1,938 votes to 1,583 for Munn, according to unofficial Board of Elections tallies.

Democrat Thomas Callaghan, the 31st District incumbent, retained his seat with 1,535 votes from three lines; Alphonse Diana, the Republican candidate, received 1,141.

Anne Rose kept the 32nd Dis-



VIRGINIA HORAN
 Democratic Victor

trict seat Republican with a 1,824 to 1,498 defeat of Jon McCloskey, despite growing Democratic strength in the area's apartments.

Overall, the Republicans gained two seats in the Legislature bringing their total to 13, exactly one-third of the membership. The Legislature must pass financial measures by at least a two-thirds vote.

"I expect opposition, but I'm

giving them a chance to oppose Crossgates," Horan said of her rezoning proposal. "I intend not to give up the fight. I'm a scrapper. I'm dogged and determined, and I care about my town."

She will also propose "a citizens search committee to bring sensible, well-planned development," and she said the town has a number of potential locations for development. "I don't think we can exist as a bedroom community." Residential and commercial property can co-exist, she said, with careful planning.

"It isn't a victory for the Democrats so much as a victory for the people," Donald Lawrence, town Democratic Committee chairman, said of the election results. "For the first time in more than 100 years, we have a two-party system."

"We feel bad we lost a seat," Matthew Mataraso, the town Republican chairman, said. "Maybe our problem was we didn't articulate our position on Crossgates well enough. We were responsible in our position."

"It's irresponsible to change the zoning before they've had a chance to present their plans," he added, asserting costly legal battles could result.

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