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Former planner to run for Forks supervisor

James Wideman, a Democrat, eyes one of two 6-year seats.

By Madeleine Mathias Of The Morning Call

A former planning commissioner will be a candidate for a Forks Township supervisor post in the May primary.

James Wideman, 52, of Richmond Road, has announced he will seek the nomination for one of the two six-year seats up for election this year.

A Democrat, Wideman said one of his major goals will be to promote and protect the township infrastructure "so we can be assured of the best level of services possible."

He said he also will focus on the promotion of "sensible and sustainable commercial development which will increase our tax revenues without placing further burden on our school system."

His third concern will be to enhance the township's parks and recreation facilities to meet today's and future needs. "Recreation for families and seniors is a very important aspect of life in Forks," he said.

He favors the township's plan to allow a Weis supermarket in the employment center zoning district at Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road on almost 9 acres, rather than several smaller stores on the same site.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. "By putting in one market instead of six stores, we will get traffic improvements we would never have if we have the six stores.

"In addition," he said, "the market plan will generate tax revenues and we need competition in the grocery market."

Wideman believes "anticipated residential growth will place substantial burdens on local government's ability to serve Forks residents and to maintain our quality of life."

Wideman, his wife, Sandra, and daughter, Julia, moved to the township in 2001 after living for more than 20 years in Easton.

In May 2005, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Brent Alinger on the township Planning Commission but was not reappointed this year.

After graduation from Council Rock High School in Newtown, Bucks County, he studied forestry at Penn State University. While in college, he formed a partnership and started his first woodworking company, which evolved into the company David Warren Associates, which he has owned for the past 20 years.

Others seeking the nomination to date are Republicans Erik Chuss, 45, of Cornwallis Drive and David Billings, 48, of Falwood Drive and Democrat Robert H. Egolf, 67, of Willow Drive.

Last month, Supervisor Chairman David Hoff, a Republican, said he was not going to seek re-election.

The only other incumbent on the supervisor board up for re-election, John Ackerman, has indicated he plans to run but has not made a formal announcement.

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