## Housefather acclaimed, three races in CSL

The Suburban, Oct. 7, 2009 By Joel Goldenberg

Côte St. Luc Mayor Anthony Housefather has been acclaimed as have five other council members, but there will be three races in the municipality for the Nov. 1 municipal election.

Acclaimed along with Housefather were District 1's Sam Goldbloom, first elected in 2005; District 2's Mike Cohen, also first elected in 2005; District 3's Dida Berku, first elected in 1990; District 7's Mitchell Brownstein, also first elected in 1990; and District 8's Ruth Kovac, also first elected in 1990.

As previously reported, veteran District 5 councillor Allan Levine, first elected in 1986, is facing challenger Leo Sculnik. District 4 councillor Steven Erdelyi, first elected in 2005, is facing Charles Lemieux-Marchand. And for the first time since 1989, Councillor Glenn Nashen, first elected in 1990, is facing a challenge in the form of two competitors — Sonia Cohen-Peillon and Charles Chalom Lugassy.

Housefather was pleased to be acclaimed.

"I'm very happy and I thank the people of Côte St. Luc for having confidence in me," he told The Suburban at Côte St. Luc city hall moments after the deadlines passed for nominations. Other council members were at city hall as well.

Nashen's said his two competitors placed their nominations a day and 15 minutes before the 4:30 p.m. Friday Oct. 2 deadline.

"To be honest, it doesn't change my game plan," he said. "I started going door to door two weeks ago, my posters started going up on the day they were allowed to go up. I've knocked on a few hundred doors already. [I] don't take anyone for granted... I have respect for the residents, and it's an opportunity to go out and meet them and hear from people we don't often hear from. I have full confidence in the three of us, especially Allan [Levine], who has been challenged more times than I've ever been."

Levine said the current council is a "great team. We took back the city and did an incredible amount of work compared to how hard we had worked in previous councils, where we worked hard as well. Steven [Erdelyi] and Glenn do a tremendous amount of work, we all did. We each feel our own niche. Now, I'm out at the street corners every day."

Erdelyi said it has been a pleasure for him to serve as District 4 councillor. "I feel that I've served my citizens very well, I've tried to meet every one of their needs, I respond to any complaint I get and I look forward to serving the residents of District 4."

Cohen-Peillon, also at city hall this past Friday, told The Suburban she feels Nashen has not been visible in the district.

"Since he was elected, I have never seen him. I don't even know what he looks like."

Cohen-Peillon said she has been to some council meetings and keeps abreast of issues on the Internet.

"The first issue I would like to bring up is the councillors putting their names on parks," she said, referring to parks being named after the then-outgoing councillors of 2001 before Côte St. Luc was

merged. "Excuse me, but that did it for me. Two houses from me, there's a park and I bring my grandchildren every day, and it's called Glenn Nashen. I've never seen that — I'm sorry..."

The resident, who has been in her district for 30 years, said there are also public security issues she would like to call attention to, regarding the pool and activity around parks at night, such as cars parked "for no reason."

In Hampstead, the contentious mayoral race between Mayor William Steinberg and veteran councillor David Sternthal is in full swing. For Seat 1, incumbent Abe Gonshor, who is on Sternthal's slate, is being challenged by resident Jennifer Gaudo and council regular Lorne Gold. The vacated Seat 2 is being contested by Jack Edery and Sternthal slate member Philip Gordon. Seat 3's Leon Elfassy and Seat 4's Michael Goldwax have been acclaimed. Seat 5's Bonnie Feigenbaum is being challenged by Sternthal slate member Roz Bakst Gross. The vacated Seat 6 is being contested by Harvey Shaffer and Sternthal slate member Daniel Miller. Sternthal is vacating his seat to run for mayor and councillor Clifford Borden is not running for re-election.