

# THE JEWISH PRESS

America's Largest Independent Jewish Weekly

www.jewishpress.com

Friday, December 8, 2006 • 17 Kislev 5767

Metro N.Y.C. \$1.00

## Wildes Wins Reelection As Mayor Of Englewood

By ANN LIEB

Following his recent reelection victory as mayor of Englewood, NJ, Michael Wildes said he was "invigorated by the resounding support of members of the Englewood community."

Throughout his first term, Englewood residents became familiar with the sight of Wildes, an Orthodox Jew, walking miles – through the streets and alongside the highways – on *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* to attend numerous public events. "During this recent campaign, I wore out many new pairs of shoes. Every *Shabbos* I went door-to-door to get acquainted with residents – both new and long-term – to hear their concerns. I spent more time listening than talking, because the vision of what I was going to do when I 'got the job' was more important than the act of getting the job."

Hundreds of yeshiva students, as well as African American and Latino youth, accompanied Wildes on his treks. "They worked together, played basketball together and ate kosher pizza together in my backyard. Religious leaders and lay leaders would be proud that hundreds of young people from diverse backgrounds joined together," Wildes proudly said.

His vision for Englewood is clear. It is to further improve the school system and to stabilize the tax base so that both young couples – who are trying to plant roots in the community – and seniors can afford to stay in Englewood. He plans to continue his economic growth initiative throughout the city, securing a type of controlled development that will create a larger tax base. This will lessen the burden on individual homeowners.

"The City Council is the budget authority and the governing body of Englewood," Wildes says. "A tax-and-spend attitude won't work. I'm trying to bring greater talent to the governing body of the city, so that others will not just talk but help walk the city in the direction it requires. You need *chutzpah* and *moxie* to do the job of mayor, and you just can't do it alone."