

CAMPAIGNING THE OLD FASHION WAY: WITH A SMILE AND A HAND SHAKE

Pressing the flesh is an essential part of campaigning. Many candidates deem it cumbersome, but for the Republican freeholder candidates it is the basis of their campaign. Joe Renna says “We are engaging the public in our campaign as we would when elected.” He added “Presently, the public is not part of the decision process of county government. Public participation is discouraged and the actions of the freeholders and how our taxes are wasted is invisible.” Renna’s running mate, Patricia Quattrocchi, says it is her favorite part of campaigning. She says “We attend as many events in every one of the county’s 21 municipalities. We don’t have the advantage the incumbents have of using tax dollars to campaign. Every FREE concert and event they sponsor, along with all the press releases that the county’s public information department generates, promotes the party in power.” Frank Arena pointed out that, for the past few years, the Democrat party in power spends \$1 million dollars county-wide on their campaign, “Outspending the Republican party five or six to one.” The fourth Republican candidate was less supple in his criticism of his opponents, suggesting that their campaign tactics are nothing short of “buying an election.”

All four candidates agree that the taxpayer should have more say in how their money is spent, at the very least they should be aware of what is going on in the county. Renna concluded by saying “The public will never know what is going on if only one party is in power. It is up to the voters to restore a balance to the all Democrat freeholder board. We are campaigning for a more open and honest government. Right now, the people have no say. We want to change that.” - *Reprinted from the Westfield Leader*



RUBBING TENNIS ELBOWS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Freeholder candidate Joe Renna got to meet his tennis idol, Martina Navratilova, while campaigning at the Garwood Family Fair on September 12. Renna and his running mates plan to meet thousands of people across the county over the next few weeks leading up to the elections. Renna stated "When meeting so many people, odds are I will run into somebody real cool, like Martina.

MARTINA DEFINITELY DOES NOT ENDORSE JOE RENNA, NO WAY NO HOW.

Martina Navratolova would like everyone to know that because she is in a photograph smiling with Joe Renna it does not mean she endorses his candidacy. She made this clear by calling the local newspaper that ran a photo and caption of the two. They did print a note from the editor in a subsequent issue.

Renna met his tennis idle by chance at a Garwood street fair. An employee for a local weekly took the photo of the two and Renna submitted it to the Cranford Chronicle along with a caption (see photo and caption above). A few days later Renna received a call from the tennis star who was livid that she was in a photo with him. Well actually not Joe Renna in particular but a Republican in general.

Martina made it clear that she was upset that she did not know he was a Republican candidate and would not have taken the picture if she knew he was. She said she definitely would not have been smiling.


The half hour conversation swayed from Martina explaining how she hated George Bush and how Renna should not be running as a Republican. She also accused Renna for using her to garnish the immigrant lesbian vote. Renna denied the accusation and explained it was just cool to meet her at a street fair in Garwood, New Jersey. He also explained his stance on the local issues,

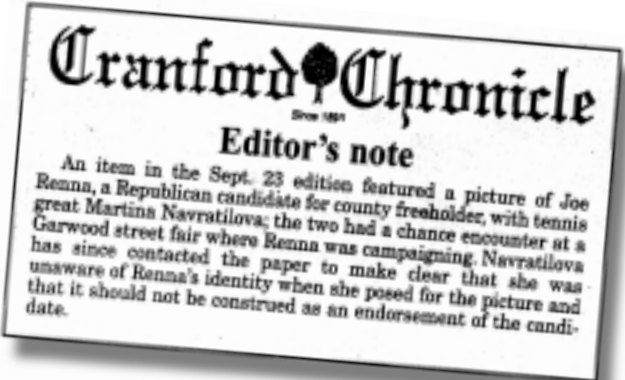
how he believes in a two party system and that it doesn't exist in the county and how the taxes are rising and services to the people are declining because of this.

Martina confessed to agreeing with Renna's stance and said she would read his website, joerenna.com, but continued to criticize his party affiliation, suggesting that he is really an Independent and should run as one as he did last year instead of just riding the coat tails of the president. She also wanted to know why he wasn't running as a Democrat.

Though Renna explained how the Republican party invited him to join their ticket and the Democrats only run candidates that work for the party and not the people, she did not really want to hear any explanation. The fact that Renna was a Republican was repulsive to her. And though she said she believed in the two party system, Renna left to wonder, what other party would she tolerate?

The problem with party affiliation is that people are blindly loyal to their party. In Union County the urban areas overwhelmingly vote Democrat, yet they are the biggest victims of tax and spend corruption.

Renna's opponent was just arrested for domestic violence. It would be interesting to know if Martina would smile in a picture with him because he is a Democrat. 



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Not for Nothing But...

I bet Chris Evert would

smile in a photo with me.

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

(right, l-r) Freeholder candidates Joe Renna and Pat Quattrocchi with President Bush's sister, Dora Bush Koch, Surrogate candidate Mike Ponagas.



(below) Rudy Giuliani at the statue of Liberty.



(right, l-r) Joe Renna with Creslin Club and Elizabeth mayoral candidate Dan Nozza at their Annual Members and Friends Picnic.

(below) Last year James Gandolfini wore Joe Renna's campaign button to the Emmy's.



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AND VOTE.
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