



A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

The state of politics in New Jersey has hit a low point but it is improving. The fact that more elected officials are getting caught and held to task for wrong doing is positive. This doesn't mean that more politicians are acting corruptly, it means that, to some extent, they are no longer getting away with it.

The exposure has shown that politics is not a closed society that one must be invited into. By showing the faults of the political machines, the public has had a new appreciation for the individual candidate and is moving away from party line politics. It has also inspired candidates to run independently, and they have been met with a tremendous amount of support.

The key to the change in politics is technology. Information is what makes democracies work. The access to public records has been improved. More than ever, the public can make informed decisions. And though some political holdouts still suppress information, the ability for the press and the public to wrestle information away from them is very good and improving.

Elected officials have access to public records first hand. The real revolution in taking government away from the power brokers will come when regular folks start filling the seats of the chambers of the legislature. There is a new crop of citizens seeking public office who were not born of a political machine and who are not beholden to their party or to special interests.

This new way of getting involved can be found throughout America's more sophisticated voters. The common trend to vote the party of your parents has gone by the wayside. Young

voters are more educated and self reliant. There was a time when voting for a certain person or party meant job security, not only for the individual, but for the entire community.

Both parties have failed their constituents. Traditionally, the public tolerated their elected officials' misgivings as long as they felt they were being given a decent chance at providing for their families. The security in thinking that government is protecting the interest of the people has fluttered away. It is up to the voter to find those individuals within the party structure who are speaking with an independent voice. Voters are crossing party lines and selecting Independent candidates more often than ever.

The call for a constitutional convention in order to fix government is a cop-out by our elected officials in Trenton. Our legislature already has the power to correct things but they don't have the gumption. The public needs to replace those who had their chance but traded the public trust for a fist full of power. 🗳️



(l-r) The best public servants are never those elected to office but are those who volunteer their time to make things better in their communities. UNICO President, Luigi Marcianite, bestowed the honor of "Citizen of the Year" to John Sacco on behalf of his organization. Louis LaBrutto and George Marretta assisted.



(left, l-r) Independent Candidate for Union County Freeholder, Joe Renna, Cranford Township Committee candidate Rita LaBrutto and State Senate Candidate Dan Nozza operate outside the political box and tap the high moral and ethical values they obtained from their roots in Peterstown.

Around About Peterstown is published by Joe Renna. Fifteen thousand newspapers are printed and distributed bi-monthly, free throughout the County of Union and parts unknown and by subscription across the country. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, *Around About Peterstown* assumes no liability for errors or omissions. *Around About Peterstown* welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN
202 Walnut Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 709-0530
Fax: (908) 709-9209
E-mail: joerenna@joerenna.com

JOE RENNA
Publisher / Editor

TINA RENNA
Copy Editor



SONS OF PETERSTOWN SPORTS CLUB
412 South 7th Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

JOHN SACCO
President

JIM PALERMOO
Vice President

LOUIS LaBRUTTO
Secretary

JACK LABRUTTO
Treasurer

SAL PICCARELLA
Sergeant-at-Arms

President's Message



It was such an honor for me to have been chosen "Citizen of the Year" by UNICO. It has been my pleasure to be the president of the Sons of Peterstown and I would like to extend the recognition that was bestowed on me to the members of the club. As president, I am usually front and center of all the good deeds that the club has delivered over the past 15 years. But behind me are a great group of guys who have worked hard in making things happen. I would like to share this honor with them. Community service is a duty that should be shared by the entire community. It has been this way in Peterstown as long as I could remember. We don't consider helping others special, it is the norm. The real value of this award is in the possibility that it may inspire others to get involved in their communities and help others as I have been inspired by my parents, neighbors and friends. I would like to thank UNICO and all those who shared this special night with me. was very touching. Thank you and God bless

John Sacco
John Sacco
President

PRESS RELEASES

Press Releases that benefit the community of Peterstown are offered free of charge. Every effort will be made to accommodate appropriate articles when time and space allows. Send any info in early.

ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA
908-709-0530

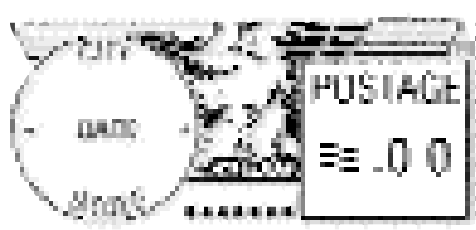
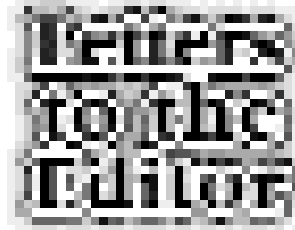
WWW.

Joe Renna
com

Visit our website.
Leave a message
on our Peterstown
Message board.



Printed on
Recycled Paper



LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses. Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed). Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

Joe,

I couldn't figure out what the hell Jimmy Gandolfini was wearing on his tux at the Emmys until I got a closer look at a picture in the LA Times. Then I read the article in the 'Ledger' the next day by my old friend, Bob Misseck.

I've been a "Hollywood Civil Servant" since 1988 and I'm still struggling here in L.A. Meanwhile, you're running around with Emmy Award winners, Ray French is running around with millionaires, and I can't get Daniel Hugh Kelly ("Hardcastle & McCormack") on the phone even though my mother worked with his father over at Singers!

I moved to the West Coast to get into show business and now I find out all the action in back in Elizabeth!

Bill Normyle
LA, California

Hi Joe,

I always look forward to reading "Around About Peterstown". It brings back the happy memories of growing up in the "Burg." The June 03 edition was especially enjoyable for me. My Father, Tony Merlo was pictured with the "Don Bosco Club". Today my dad is 94 years old and is a patient at Cranford Health and Extended Care in Cranford. He still talks about his beloved "Peterstown" and always likes to reminisce about the old-timers. I'm sure if he could see, he would love the paper as much as I do. Keep up the good work, and good luck with the election.

Sincerely,
Josephine (Merlo) DePetrus
Clark, New Jersey

Hello Joe,

This is Tony Guiro from Peterstown now living in Holiday City, Toms River. I've just seen June 03 issue of the Burg and saw so many of my friends pictures in the paper.

It was so nice to see them when they where young as I was then. I have seen pictures of my deceased brother John Guiro in it. I haven't seen hardly any of the boys since going into WWII not knowing how many have come back alive.

I always wonder about Wimpy whether he ever made it in pro baseball knowing he was a good player.

Tony (Michael) Guiro
Holiday City, Toms River, NJ

Dear Tina & Joe,

Enclosed is a check for your campaign. My best wishes to you both for your election.

I am Joe Conforti's Aunt Virginia and a member of St. Joseph's Guild. Thank you for your coverage on the Guild and the Migliore family, of which I'm also a Migliore. It was so nice of you to put it in your paper. Good luck and God bless you both. I will be saying a prayer for you.

Fondly,
Virgina Migliore Navarro
Union, NJ

Dear Sirs,

I would like a year's subscription to the Peterstown News sent to an invalid uncle of mine who is in a VA hospital in California. I come from a large Italian family who all grew up in the Burg. We think your paper is great. I had sent my uncle a copy and it cheered him up immediately.

Peggy Kostas
Union, NJ



Jennie Nocera and grandson, John

On Friday, July 25th my grandmother (Jennie Nocera) passed away peacefully and went to be with the Lord. I flew back to NJ from Puyallup, WA to attend her funeral and to deliver the eulogy as well as having the honor to serve as one of her pallbearers. Grandma lived on Amity Street until 1996 when she was incapacitated by a serious stroke and had to be placed in a nursing home.

My parents and I lived in her two story home from 1961-1973 and I spent a lot of time with her. Almost every Sunday she and I walked to 7:00 AM mass at Saint Anthony Church and then we would stop off at Saraceno's Bakery after mass for those delicious cakes, cookies and Italian pastries. I will never forget those days and I will never forget her. She was in every sense the most provocative person in my life. She inspired me beyond what I believed I could accomplish and she was successful in teaching me not to be a quitter. If you knew me back then you would readily agree that Grandma had her work cut out for her! I owe my success to her and the values she instilled in me.

I am blessed because of Grandma and to that I say ... Thank God she helped me through.

I am a senior pastor and have just celebrated 24 years of ministry, however I must sincerely say that Grandma's funeral touched me like no other. While we were in Saint Anthony's Church I could almost look to the place we sat together for years each Sunday and see us!

Rest in peace Gram and be assured I will never dishonor your name and will always hold high the values you taught me.

John Nocera,
Puyallup, WA

Dear Mr. Renna:

Greetings from another of the many out of town subscribers to Around About Peterstown. I too grew up in Peterstown. Lived on Center Street for 21 years.

I well remember the keen sense of neighborhood we felt back then. Pleased to read that the same feeling of neighborhood is evident today.

Enclosing a picture from the Elizabeth Daily Journal. (See Below) My guess is that the date is December 1942. Christmas caroling at Continental School #3. The students pictured went on to Cleveland Junior High and then of course to Batin, Jefferson or Edison. We graduated in 1949. I hope many people will recognize themselves or loved ones.

So many memories of early days in Peterstown. There was a series written by Rae Jean Turner that captured much of Peterstown's vitality. Another series of articles appeared in the Elizabeth Journal written by Valentine Fallon. Both series are excellent.

Keep up the good work.
Genevieve DeVito Way
Davidsonville, MD



VESTED CHOIR USHERS IN YULETIDE WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Their voices raised in songs of praise for the Christmas season, these members of the vested choir of Continental School, 3, sing in front of the lighted Christmas tree in the main hall of the school First row, from left to right, are Robert Mulligan, Albert Furfaro, Angelo Marconi, Peter Di Spirito, Josephine Flammia, John Delleri, Shirley Conrad, Michelina Manente, Frances Hauck and Jean Di Vito; second row, Vito De Cesare, Rose Amari, Mary Baltimore, Concetta Di Lonardo, Dolores Young, Frances De Pizzo, Mary Oddi and Carmella Milano.

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

Union County Government is dysfunctional and its condition is deteriorating. Last year the county reached rock bottom. It no longer functions rationally but is in the grip of an addiction. Its drugs of choice are power and money.

The enabler is a nine member Freeholder board that is comprised entirely of Democrats. Just as having a glass of wine with dinner is fine, a few democrats are harmless. It becomes a problem when party politics consumes the entire essence of government.

Symptoms of a government in trouble are essential services being neglected. The reason for the existence of Union County Government has been ignored - the jail system, the environment and human services, basically the health and safety concerns of the public. Instead the bulk of county energy and money is spent on getting the sitting Freeholders reelected. For instance, the Juvenile Detention Center has been cited by the state for its neglect and horrible conditions. On Mother's Day, May 11, 2003, the concerns of the state were realized when a 17 year old boy hung himself.

Meanwhile, county administration was spending most of its time planning a jazz festival, the latest in a series of campaign whistle stops for the incumbent candidates paid for by our tax dollars.

The county coffers are being raided to feed their habit. \$55,000 of the Open Space Trust Fund was used for a mailing to tell voters how wonderful the incumbent Freeholder candidate was managing the fund, which is administrated by Angie Devanney, the neice of Senator Ray Lesniak. Every October, money from every program is diverted to campaign literature and special political events.

An army of political appointees comprise the network that keeps the juices flowing. Justification for their actions has always come easy. But then again, addicts are the world's best at doing that. Friends and family want to believe that everything is alright and things will get better on their own.

Things never get better and usually escalate rapidly towards the end. For Union County it came when the Board of Freeholders appointed George Devanney County Manager. This was the most egregious example of political patronage. This was when the county hit the wall. Within a month, the side effects of the appointment rippled through the entire system.

There are probably 100 employees that could have filled the role of county manager. Employees with 20 years of experience at the county, advanced degrees and management and financial experience. But the Freeholder's choice of Devanney was made without proper consideration of other candidates. Devanney is

the nephew of State Senator Ray Lesniak and one could smell nepotism on the breath of the Freeholders.

Three years earlier the Freeholders created two positions for Devanney which he held simultaneously, Deputy County Manager and Director of Economic Development. These positions are now filled by two full time appointees each making over \$100,000 per year. Devanney gave himself a raise after six months on the job and is making over \$140,000 per year. Not bad for an entry level job. The Freeholders are ultimately responsible for the managers actions. The Freeholder board must vote on Devanney's decisions. Their approval is the symptom of their addiction.

Senator Lesniak is one of the most powerful Democrats in the state and controls the strings of the party in Union County. If a Freeholder wants to retain his power he or she must be in lock step with the party.

And so, this is the fate of Union County. It has been a vicious debilitating disease. Even the most talented and experienced directors are rendered ineffective because they now must follow the orders of a superior who is inept at best. The morale of county employees has been damaged right down the line, through middle management to the front lines of the rank and file.

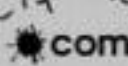
The Freeholders are doing the work of their party and not the people. No bid contracts are being doled out to campaign contributors and no show jobs to political operatives.

The County of Union has hit its rock bottom and my campaign to run for Freeholder has been an intervention. My opinions may seem harsh but they are well intentioned. This is a citizen's version of tough love. I love America and our form of government. Right now a part of it is sick. On November 4, the voters can help get our County Government into rehab. Voting for me is step 1 of the program. 🇺🇸

*Vote for the person
not the party*

As an independent, Joe Renna will do what is best for the people not the party.

The all Democratic Board of Freeholders needs to be balanced. The problems facing Union County stem from having one political party in power for too long. I will fight to stop tax increases and out of control spending and will work towards creating a more open and honest government.

Joe Renna  joerenna.com

Printed for by
Joe Renna
for 11 months
200 Walnut Ave
Greenville, NC

VOTE NOV. 4, 2003

JOE RENNA FOR UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDER

For more information about issues concerning the Union County Freeholder election log onto www.joerenna.com.

REMEMBER TO GET OUT AND VOTE!

Call your family and friends and have them call their family and friends . . . etc . . . etc . . . etc . . .

I'd like to thank all those who showed their support and helped with my campaign.

Special thanks to the love of my life, my wife, Tina. I have gone beyond the threshold of what a husband should expect from his wife, and she has carried me over it.

.....

Not for Nothing But...

politicians must learn

they can't have their

cake and edict too.

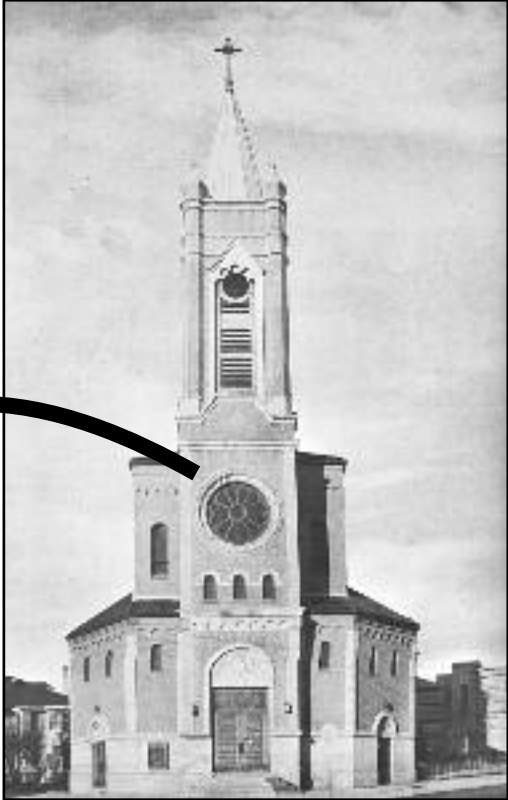
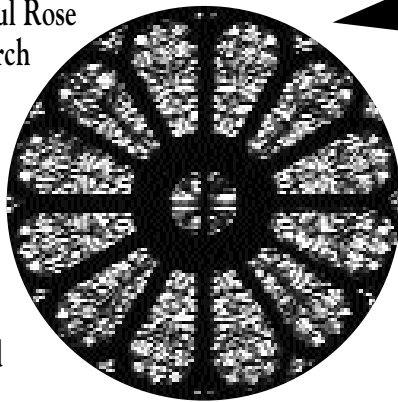
.....

THERE IS ALWAYS OPPORTUNITY AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Russ Harris read an article in the St. Anthony Church bulletin about a stain glass window in need of repair. The window was damaged by an explosion at the Bayway Refinery over 20 years ago. Russ took it upon himself to contact some friends at the refinery and invited a company representative to the next meeting of the St. Anthony's Seniors Club. The refinery donated \$2,500 to the restoration and together with other private donations the broken glass has been carefully replaced and now the job will be completed. 🇺🇸

(right) The beautiful Rose window in our church needed repair.

NOTE: The church welcomes the community to drop in to prey and enjoy the beauty of its grand design and construction.



The Youth Center will open its doors for the '2003-'04 school year on Friday, September 28th at 7pm. Registration is \$5. Friday nights are only for youth from 6 through 8th grade and Saturday nights are for youth from grades 8 through 12.

Youth Choir for anyone with talent for music! Our first meeting will be on Saturday Oct. 4th in the rectory basement at 9:00 am. We sing for the 9 am Sunday mass. If interested, please call Fr. Vince (908)351-3300.

In the coming weeks you will find a container in the rear of the church marked "NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY", a charitable group that accepts old but usable eyeglasses which are given to those who need but can't afford glasses. Search around for those old prescription glasses and let them do some good for others. Just bring them in.

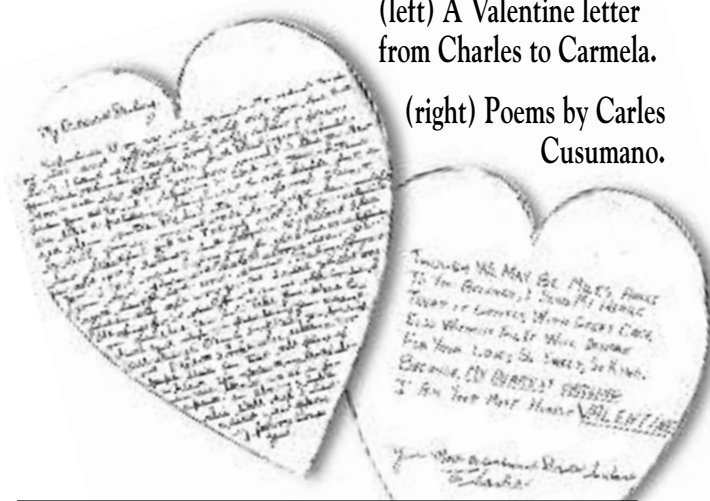
LOVE POEMS FROM THE WAR

Charles Cusumano spent most of 1942 and 43 overseas, in the service of his country during World War II. Back home was his wife, Carmela, his sweet heart, soul mate, his everything.

Charles loved his wife more than anything and did not hesitate to tell her. He wrote almost every day. He sent her poems telling her how he felt along with letters about his experiences. The letters were filed with misery and his poems of loneliness, yet the love that pours through them is so uplifting that one senses Charles spirit rose above the horrible place he was in. His love for Carmela is what carried him through.

Charles reminisced about how many of his buddies lost relationships while they were away. He made sure that Carmela knew how he felt no mater how much time and distance was between them.

Hurricane Agnes wiped out just about all of Cusumano's military memorabilia, including his letters. He was able to save about a dozen or so poems. He agreed to share some in this publication. 📖



(left) A Valentine letter from Charles to Carmela.

(right) Poems by Carles Cusumano.



Charles and Carmela Cusumano.
Celebrated their 62nd anniversary in June of 2003.

DREAMS

I saw you in my dreams last night,
I dreamed I held you tight
and gently kissed and caressed you
My darling so sweet and true.
You seemed so close, so real
That your hands I could actually feel
But when my lips you did kiss
Darling I was in a Heavenly Bliss
From that sleep I could not awaken
For I didn't want to realize I was mistaken
That it wasn't as real as it did seem
But just another repeated dream.
Your face before me, I keep seeing,
From you darling there is no fleeing.
But who wants to flee from that I love
Please send me home,
oh God, in heaven above.

LONELINESS

When evening is nigh,
And breezes no longer sigh;
To my God I turn with ease
And seek his comforting peace
For in my lonely solitude
I find solace in his infinite magnitude.
Although I have cares and sorrows
I look forward to tomorrow
Knowing He will guide and protect me
Not only now, but for all eternity
As evening turns to darkness
My thoughts of home I fondly caress
I see you, my loved one,
And as your day's work is done
You are putting our little ones to dreamland
(It is then you are so sweet and charming
and I feel so unworthy of your hand.)
And now I see you reading
Ah yes; loneliness you too is grieving.
I miss you my darling very much
Your smile, your charms and the touch of your
lips pressed to mine.
Peace, contentment, will I ever find?
Now the dark of night is upon me
And I am really lonely
For I look for rest, comfort and peace of mind
In my heavenly Father, who is so kind.

CRESTLIN BOYS TO HOLD ANNUAL MEMORIAL

Formed in 1936, The Crestlin Boys is Peterstown's oldest social club. It was and has kept solvent through many obstacles including World War II, which called on most of the members to serve. One member Ralph Veltre was killed in action in the Pacific Theatre.

Its been a tradition of the Crestlin Boys to honor the memories of Veltre along with all the other deceased

members. A Communion Breakfast will be held at the Peterstown Community Center following the 9 a.m. mass on Sunday Morning, November 2. The event is open to everyone. Tickets are \$7.00. The club would like interested parties to get tickets in advance, Call the club at 908-355-4652 for more info or stop by one evening at 433 Fourth Avenue, corner of Amity Street. For those interested, the Crestlin Boys are actively recruiting new members. Visit 7pm-11pm with no obligation. 🍷



A mass will be celebrated in memory of members of the Crestlin Club from 1936 to 2003 who passed away. (On plaque above and listed below).

Peter Abitanto, Anthony Addeso, Rocco Amelio, Ralph Calputo, Peter Campanelli, Frank Candelino, Frank Caprino, Angelo Caruso, Charles Caudle, Peter Chirichillo, Frank Cistrelli, Nick Cistelli Sr, Joe Colletti Sr, Frank Dazzo, Ernie DeFelice, Anthony DiMaggio, Dominick Dercole, Ignazio Dercoli, Fred DiCosmo, Andrew Dobrynski, Charles Domestichas, Louis Esposito, Harry Feminella, Nathan Funt, Joseph Furiero, Carl Gambino, Jack Hyslop, Frank Iazzetta, Salvatore LaRocco, Vincent Lentine, Alfred Malgieri Jr, Alfred Malgieri Sr, John Mancini, Alex Mariano, Victor Martin, Rocco Martucci, Jack Maurigi, Phil Melchione, Rocco Melchione, Michael Menefra, Dr. T.V. Merlo, Nicholas Migliaccio, John Mizak, Charles Montana, Angelo Nardone, Michael Netta, James Noonan, John Parliapiano, Chester Paterek, Rocco Paternoster, Sal Pichirallo, Joseph Pinola, Andy Santa Maria, Dominick Sorrentino, Danny Spino, Louis Tocco, Pete Tripodi, Ralph Veltri.

(left) 1950's Crestlin Club



(above, l-r) Jimmy Sacco, John's father, was honored by UNICO on the same principles of community service that he instilled in his son. Awarding the honors are UNICO president Luigi Marciante and Masters of Ceremonies, Livio Mancino.



(left, l-r) John Sacco and family; Alessandra, Doreen, Carla and John.

(left, l-r) John Sacco with his father, Jimmy and brothers, Joe and Frank.

John's sister Maria could not attend due to illness. He offered his thoughts and prayers for her speedy recovery.

JOHN SACCO - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

John was born, raised, and works in the City of Elizabeth. Peterstown in particular. The son of Rose and Jimmy and the brother of Frank, Maria, and Joe.

He attended St. Anthony's Grammar School. He and his brother, Frank, were two of St. Anthony's first altar boys. He went on to graduate from Thomas A. Edison High School.

John married Doreen Scala, of Elizabeth, daughter of Pat and Jane Scala on September 2nd, 1979. They settled in behind the family business as his father had and are raising three beautiful children, Alessandra, Carla, and John. Living and working in the same environment built the special bond that John has with his wife and children. Their door is always open and their table is always inviting. This lifestyle makes the "Saccos" available to family and friends of Peterstown.

John's participation in the family business was a desire he had since he was 5 years old. For the last 48 years, he has made his mark on Third

Avenue. In business as a butcher, catering to many family and businesses and as a neighbor, by being involved in community service.

John has been a member of UNICO for the last 20 years. He has also served as president of St. Anthony's School Board. John was also on the Board of Trustees for the Italian American Cultural Society that ran the St. Rocco Feast. He was the director of the feast for two years. John was on the Board of Directors for the Elizabeth P.A.L. organization.

As president of the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club for the last 16 years, John has chaired the first float in the Columbus Day Parade, the annual neighborhood picnic, and initiated fund raisers for countless families in the community. He is devoted to helping others.

John holds dear to his heart the childhood friends he has grown up with. Years may come and go between them, but the fond memories last a lifetime. This is one of the treasurers that John admires in life and has made him the man that we admire. 🇺🇸



MESSAGE FROM UNICO'S PRESIDENT

Submitted by Luigi Marciante

During the past forty years, the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO National, provided, in the words of their motto, "Service Above Self" to the people and community which make up Elizabeth, and Union County, New Jersey. How proud we are to have provided financial help to underprivileged children, persons suffering from mental health problems and Cooley's Anemia and to give a boost to deserving students furthering their education at the university level by awarding them with college scholarship assistance and recognizing our outstanding citizens who have contributed to our community. 🇺🇸

UNICO'S CREED

I Believe;

- U** In the common brotherhood and **UNITY** of man created by an all-wise and all-loving God;
- N** That my highest fulfillment and greatest happiness are to be found in unselfish service to my **NEIGHBOR**;
- I** That **INTEGRITY** of character - not wealth, position or power - is the greatest possession I can have;
- C** That true **CHARITY** is not motivated by a selfish purpose but is the expression of genuine love for my neighbor;
- O** In my responsibility to use every **OPPORTUNITY** to increase my usefulness to the needy and underprivileged.



(left) UNICO's Rocco DiPaolo (left) and Anthony Zengaro (right) presented the 2003 Scholarship Awards to Beniamino Farina, Chiara DePaolo and Jon Carlo Cascio.



What Is UNICO?

- U** - UNITY
- N** - NEIGHBORHOOD
- I** - INTEGRITY
- C** - CHARITY
- O** - OPPORTUNITY

(right) Scholarship recipient Ben Farina is a freshman at St. John's University, majoring in International Business. He also works in the offices of St. Anthony's Church.



VALLETESE CLUB CONTINUES THEIR 100 YEAR TRADITION

PRESIDENTS OF THE VALLATESE ASSOCIATION

- Michele Mazza (1894-1907)
- Antonio Crincoli (1907-1965)
- Albino Gallo (1965-1974)
- Michele Nigro (1974-1976)
- Franco Candelino (1976-1978)
- Mario DiDonato (1978-1981)
- Mario Nigro (1981-Present)

(below) This photo, from 50 years ago, shows charter members along side the second generation members.

These are the fathers and grandfathers of current club members.

Vallata is a town in Italy in the Province of Avelena in the region of Capania. The first record of people coming from Vallata and settling in Elizabeth dates back between 1870 and 1875. By 1890 there were a substantial cluster of new arrivals in the Peterstown section of the city. About 50 men formed a society which was formally registered in July of 1907.

The club helped make the transition into a new country easier. Together, the members helped each other through the tough times and celebrated the good things in life together.

The club is as vibrant as ever. Recent renovations to the clubhouse and catering hall were completed in this past year. The architecture of Carmine Chirichiello and craftsmanship by BellArte Woodworking was impressive. Twenty years had past since the last renovation and the face lift was a sign of the clubs commitment to sticking around.

The members today can trace their lineage through the photos on the walls dating back 100 years. The hall which is located at 800 Fourth Ave., on the corner of High Street is available to rent. Call Rocco Chirichiello for bookings at 908-352-8774. 🇮🇹



(above) Members of the Valletese Club wrap around the newly renovated bar that anchors their private card room. The bar is adorned with hand painted murals depicting images of the Italian town of Vallata.



(1st Row) Joe Nigro Sr, Rocky DePaola, Carmine Crincoli, Phil Crincoli, Alfred Netta, Tony Crincoli, Albino Gallo, Benny LoBrace, Felig Collichio, John DiCosmo.
(2nd Row) Angelo Crincoli, Doc D'Antico, Antonia Loffa, unknown, Dr. Muscaritolo, Antonia Gallichio, Tubia Gallo, Jim Tango, Pete Piga, Mario DiDonato, Alphonse Muscaritola, Antonia Melchione, Joe Deadesso, Joe Addressa, Emilo Zamarra, Grazion DiCosmo, Vincenzo DiGeorge, Al Rugani, Rosario Candelino.
(3rd Row) Mike DeCarlo, Diadesso, Dallas Galasso, Frank Nigro, Sr., Frank Nigro, Jr., Dominic LaFace, Mike Bella, Mike Dusak, Rocco DiMaggio, Scanelle, Charles Scanelli (4th Row) Joe Delorenzo, Joe Nigro Jr., Ralph Gersick, Pete Renna (Top Row) Mike Crincoli, Patsy Moscratolo, Rocco Oualia, Gerado Zamarra

THE "V's" OF CRANDFORD

Vallata is a small quaint country town up in the hills in central Italy the closest big city is Naples, 70 miles away. With a population of only 4,000, almost everyone is connected in one way or another. When two people, who have roots in Vallata, meet it is inevitable that they share mutual friends. This is common in Elizabeth because Peterstown has been the landing point for many new arrivals. When encounters occur elsewhere they seem more special.

After moving to Cranford, I found dozens of neighbors with Valletese roots who could reminisce about similar pasts. There is a warmth remembering parents and grand-parents and great-grandparents, and . . .



(right) 1987 photo of the Vallatese Ladies awards ceremony. Members are recognized for reaching milestones for their years of participation.

(right) Cranford residence's attending a memorial mass at St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth got together for this photo. (l-r) Nancy and Antonio DiCosmo, Joe Renna, Marie Luisa Rinaldi (Antonio's sister), Arnoldo and Dora Ricerca, Fernando Rinaldi, Irma Arnone, Antonette Dalbo and Rocco Ciasco.

(left) Members of the Valletese Ladies Society of Edison, NJ were also in attendance. Pictured on the left is their President Rita Savino with Peterstown President Jo Piga.



VALLATESE LADIES IN A CLUB OF THEIR OWN

The Vallatese Ladies Society of Elizabeth was started by a few women who went from house to house throughout the neighborhood of Peterstown asking women who were of Vallatese descent to join the organization. In order to become a member, one of their rules were that they had to have been born in Vallata, Italy, been born of parents from Vallata, or married to someone of the Vallatese background. And so, in November, 1940, the Vallatese Ladies Society of Elizabeth was formed and founded. It was their American dream to form an organization, which would allow them to carry on the traditions of their Italian heritage. Through the years, the Society continues to build its membership with daughters, granddaughters, daughters-in-law, and wives of men whose roots stemmed back to Vallata.

- OFFICERS: Jo Piga - President
Alba Conklin - 1st Vice President
Rosalie Tanga - 2nd Vice President
Lorraine Kelly - Secretary
Bella Piga - Treasurer
Mary Mazza - Assistant Treasurer
Theresa Fuscillo - Sergeant-At-Arms

(right) At 93 years of age, Mary Palma is the oldest of the clan.



ONE VALLETESE FAMILY SPRINGS ETERNAL

When Michael and Anna Marie Nigro Arrived in America and settled in the Petersown section of Elizabeth they had in tow seven children. The family branched out and some 100 years later grew their own forrest. 🇺🇸

(below, l-r) The original seven Nigro offspring are:
Frank, Erminia (Sabia), Angela Rose (Colicchio), Joseph, Filomina (Chirichillo), Maria Francesca (Chirichillo) and Vito.



Photo attempts to capture over three hundred members of the Nigro family that attended their 2003 Family Reunion. (Bottom photo is a continuation of the one on top.)



MEET THE PETERSTOWN CANDIDATES

This year, Union County ballots will have three candidates that hail from Peterstown. Their paths meet at this political crossroads and though they have come from different directions, their trips are similar.

Dan Nozza, Joe Renna and Rita LaBrutto arrive at this destination on foot. They had no gravy train to ride or no machine to power their campaign. All three candidates initiated their own candidacy and transcended the typical party line politics by stressing their independent dispositions.

Joe Renna is running as an Independent, outright. Nozza who once was an Independent candidate has joined the Republican party in order to challenge the demigod democratic incumbent. LaBrutto's run for office is a natural continuation of a dozen years of being a government watchdog and a taxpayer advocate. She took on both of these rolls on her own as a concerned resident with no political aspirations.

Those familiar with people from Peterstown are not surprised by the strength of character that these candidates possess, a combination of no-nonsense straight forward thinking and integrity, of common sense and a code of ethics, which are all qualities that are hard to find in the political arena.

During debates, the incumbents respond to suggestions about doing the right thing with blank stares. The concept of using their power of being an elected official to actually help people is so foreign to the established government officials that it isn't even a

NOZZA HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE

Politicking is nothing new to Dan Nozza. In fact he's been around it his whole life. Nozza's uncle, Michael DeMartino, was an Elizabeth city councilman until 1973. As his godfather, DeMartino christened Dan a catholic but he also vaccinated him with a "D" for Democrat.

Mike's sister Gloria is Dan's mom and she was always involved with her brothers campaigns and was the driving force behind his foundation, The DeMartino Association. The association was one of the most active charitable organizations in the area. Community service was DeMartino's motivation in both his private and public life. The feeling was shared by his sister and passed down to her son Dan.

Dan remembers as a kid the Nozza and DeMartino families would celebrate the day after each holiday. The day of the holiday was always spent at whatever charitable event the Association was holding, from serving dinner on Thanksgiving to handing out gifts from a toy drive on Christmas. Dan enjoyed being involved and he liked seeing how happy it made everyone, especially his mom.

Nozza went on to be a chiropractic doctor with a practice in Elizabeth. The end of his uncle's era as councilman was over and Dan had his own ideas of getting involved in government. His ideas though were

.....

Not for Nothing But...

if being elected means

I need to be in bed

with political power

brokers, then I'm

sleeping on the couch.

.....

consideration anymore.

The thought that all elected officials, even ones with the strongest convictions, must compromise their integrity in order to stay in power is being challenged at the core. One thing to know about these three candidates is that their intentions are pure and they are tough as nails. They will fight for what is right. To them it's nothing special, it's the way they were brought up. 🐾

not in lock step with the Democratic party. It seemed the party was not as interested in community development as he remembered it had been. He became a Independent and made his first run for the office of State Senator in 2001. His father, also named Dan, actually ran for Elizabeth City Council in 1998 as an Independent. The elder Dan Nozza was and is a staunch public advocate arguing for taxpayer rights and accountability. It seems the apple hasn't fallen far from the tree.

That year the Reform party was a new idea taking hold on a national landscape and Dr. Nozza became the co-chair of the New Jersey committee. The idea of Democrats, Republicans and Independents getting together to form a new party for the people was intriguing. The party had some success with Ross Perrot and Jessie Ventura but has waned by not being able to compete financially in the two party system.

Nozza's sponsor for confirmation at St. Anthony's Church was John Amalphi, who was also involved with the DeMartino Association. John's brother, Tony Amalphi, was a distinguished Mayor of Roselle. The people in Nozza's life have been cut from the same cloth of community service. Now he is holding the pinking shears and designing his own pattern. Communities across his entire district are cheering him on. 🐾



(above, l-r) In a typical campaign pose three not so typical candidates share a common bond. Joe Renna, Rita LaBrutto and Dan Nozza are not on the same ticket but are still linked through a shared concern for reforming bad government practices.

Renna is an Independent candidate for Union County Freeholder. Nozza is running on the Republican line for New Jersey State Senator in the 20th District and LaBrutto is also running as a Republican for Cranford Township Committee.

(right) Mike DeMartino with his nephew, godson and kindergarten graduate Dan Nozza. At 21 years of age Mike was the youngest person to be on the Elizabeth City Council.



(below) Dr. Dan Nozza with his mom and dad, Gloria and Dan, at the time he started his practice at the age of 24.



LABRUTTO ON LINE WITH TOM KEAN JR.



NJ State Senator Tom Kean Jr. and Rita LaBrutto

Rita LaBrutto will be on the ballot in Cranford running for Township Council. Cranford is in the 21st Legislative District where State Senator Tom Kean Jr. is on the top of the Republican line in his bid for reelection. LaBrutto and Kean have worked closely on their campaigns and shared viewpoints on many issues. 🐾

FROM THE JOE RENNA FACT FILE

Writing about himself in the third person (Hey, didn't he write this by-line too?)

Joe Renna was born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. He now lives in Cranford. He and his wife of fourteen years, Tina, have two daughters, Angela, age 12 and Mia, age 11.

Mr. Renna is employed by the County of Union as a public relations coordinator for Runnells Specialized Hospital. Prior to joining the county in 2001, Mr. Renna owned and operated a graphic design and printing business for 15 years. He specialized in marketing for government and non-profit agencies. He also publishes the newspaper "Around About Peterstown".

Joe Renna graduated with a BA in commercial art from New Jersey City University in 1982. He is currently enrolled in the masters program in public administration at Kean University. Mr. Renna is a certified public administrator and a member of the American Society of Public Administrators.

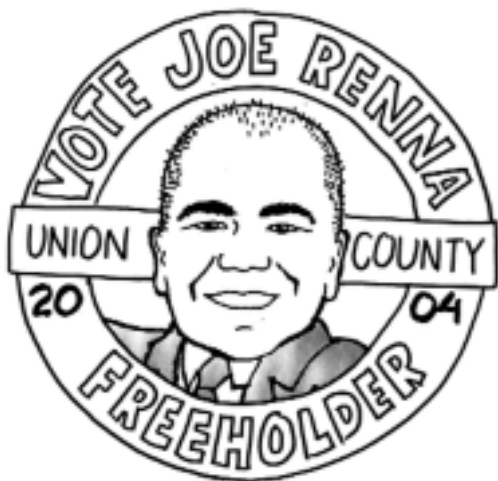
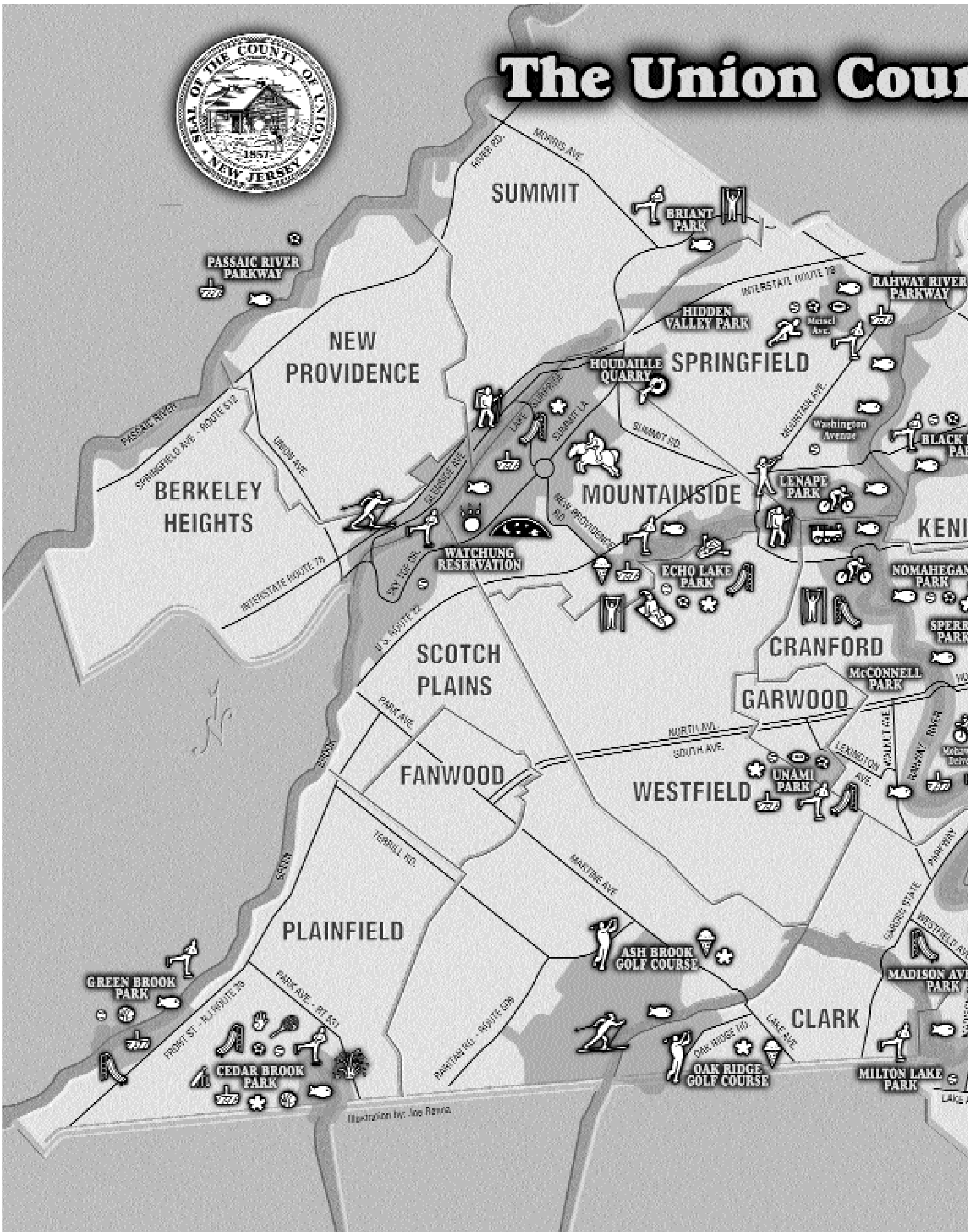
Mr. Renna was active in the Rahway Chamber of Commerce for 8 years, serving as its president for 4 years.

He was also involved with the task force that formed the Rahway Special Improvement District and then served on its board.

His community involvement has been focused on youth as a youth minister at St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth and a mentor on projects at Roselle Catholic H.S.

As a Freeholder of Union County, Joe Renna would bring his vast managerial experience, his expertise in business and his commitment to community development with him in order to help make county government more efficient and more effective.

Mr. Renna is an independent thinker and committed to doing what is best for the people. He has pointed out areas that can be improved and as a publisher, is running on a platform that would get the public more informed and, in turn, more involved. He is committed to cutting the tremendous amount of waste and passing the savings on to the taxpayer in the form of lower taxes and better service. 🐾

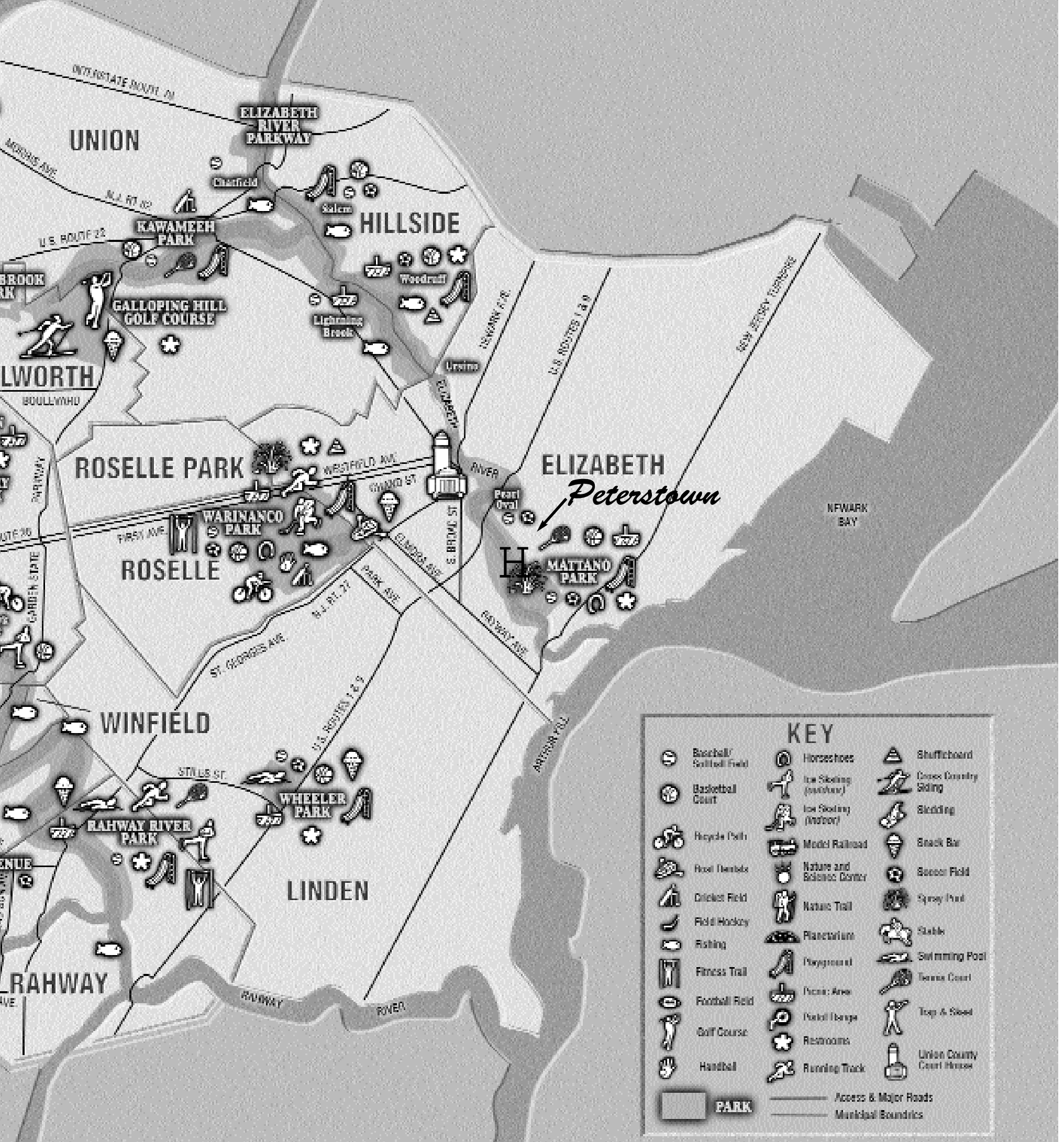


**A Service of
Joe Renna
for Freeholder**

I'm Connected to You

www.
Joe Renna
com

County Park System



YOUR INDEPENDENT CHOICE
VOTE FOR JOE RENNA
UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDER
NOVEMBER 4, 2003

Q & A ON HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

Even though there are instructions for voting printed on the sample ballots mailed to every voter, there is still some confusion in many people. The following are common questions.

(below) Sample ballot from the 21st Legislative district.

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION SAMPLE BALLOT BOLETA DE MUESTRA OFICIAL DE LAS ELECCIONES GENERALES UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY - November 4, 2003 20th Legislative District - 20° Distrito Legislativo					
OFFICE TITLE TITULO OFICIAL	Column A Democratic Democrata	Column B Republican Republicano	Column C Nomination by Petition Nominación por Petición	Column D Nomination by Petition Nominación por Petición	PERSONAL CHOICE SELECCIÓN PERSONAL
State Senator 4 Year Term - Vote for One Senador del Estado Término de 4 años - Vote por Uno	David M. NOZZA (1A)	David M. NOZZA (1B)	(1C)	Sharon F. GIANELLA (1D)	(1)
Members of General Assembly 2 Year Term - Vote for Two Miembros de la Asamblea General Término de 2 años - Vote por Dos	A. Tony MONTEIRO (2A)	A. Tony MONTEIRO (2B)	(2C)	(2D)	(2)
Members of Board of Chosen Freeholders 3 Year Term - Vote for Three Miembros de la Junta Directiva (Freeholders) Término de 3 años - Vote por Tres	Arlene CARRANZA (3A)	Arlene CARRANZA (3B)	(3C)	(3D)	(3)
	Bob REILLY (4A)	Bob REILLY (4B)	(4C)	Joe RENNA (4D)	(4)
	Stuart S. KLINE (5A)	Stuart S. KLINE (5B)	(5C)	(5D)	(5)
	Kenneth R. HAYNES (6A)	Kenneth R. HAYNES (6B)	(6C)	(6D)	(6)

Q: If I am a registered Democrat can I only vote for Democrats?
A: No. You may vote for anyone you wish Republican, Green or Independent.

Q: Can I vote for a Republican for State Senator and an Independent for Freeholder?
A: Yes. You may vote that way if you wish. (see example above)

Q: Can people hanging around or working at the polling booth try to influence my vote?
A: No. It is against the law. No electioneering of any sort is permitted within 100 feet of the outside entrance to the polling place. If the law is being broken you should file a report.

Q: Do I have to vote for 3 Freeholders? What if I just want to vote for one?
A: You may vote for just one Freeholder even though three spots are going to be filled. This is called a "Bullet" vote. Say you would really like the Independent candidate to win. You should only vote for him and not give anyone else your other two votes. This gives your candidate the best chance at winning.

Q: My boss said that they could tell who each person votes for and that if I didn't vote for the incumbents I will be fired. Could someone really find out who I voted for?
A: Absolutely not. When that curtain closes your the only one who knows which button you pressed. If someone asks who you voted for you don't have to answer.

Members of Board of Chosen Freeholders 3 Year Term - Vote for Three	Stuart S. KLINE (5B)	(5B)
	Kenneth R. HAYNES (6B)	(6B)
Member of Township Committee 3 Year Term - Vote for One	Rita LA BRUTTO (7B)	(7B)

Q: Why don't I see Rita LaBrutto on my ballot?
A: You don't see LaBrutto's name on your ballot because you don't live in Cranford, where she is running. Each of the four districts, that Union County is a part of, will have their own ballot as would the towns within them. (see example above)

NOTE: Every ballot in Union County will have the Freeholder candidates on them. So everyone in the County can "Bullet" vote for their favorite Independent Freeholder Candidate.

Q: I won't be around on November 4. Can I still vote?
A: Yes. You can cast what is known as an absentee ballot. And you can do it at any time before the election and hand it in or mail it to the County Clerk or Municipal Clerk. Registered voters who cannot vote in person because they expect to be absent from the state; because of illness or physical disability (including blindness and pregnancy); because of observance of a religious holiday; because of resident attendance at school, college or university; or because of their hours and nature of employment. Applications can be obtained from your County Clerk, Municipal Clerk or the League of Women Voters of New Jersey or your favorite candidate.

Not for Nothing But...

Can someone interpret the Interpretive Statements that are supposed to interpret the Public Questions?

HOW TO BEAT AN INCUMBENT MACHINE THAT SPENDS \$1 MILLION

Joe Renna's campaign strategy had to be unique and straight forward. His message was distinct and he needed people to hear it. All he needed was name recognition so that people would go to his website, joerenna.com, where he could address the issues in dept.

His opponents had nothing new to say. They had enough of a tough time defending their actions of the past three years. They did have a lot of money for television commercials, signs and brochures. Being incumbents they also had an entire team of county employees at their disposal.

Brochures and newsletters produced and mailed by the county with taxpayers dollars added to the million plus dollars the party was spending to keep their absolute power.

Renna tried doing signs. He bought 25 for each of the 21 towns in Union County. The problem with signs is that they are expensive and your opponents rob them as quick as you put them up.

Joe stuck to getting his message out the most inexpensive and effective way he knew. He went out and met the public. He wrote most every night, posted on message boards and on his website. He had something to say and was saying it.

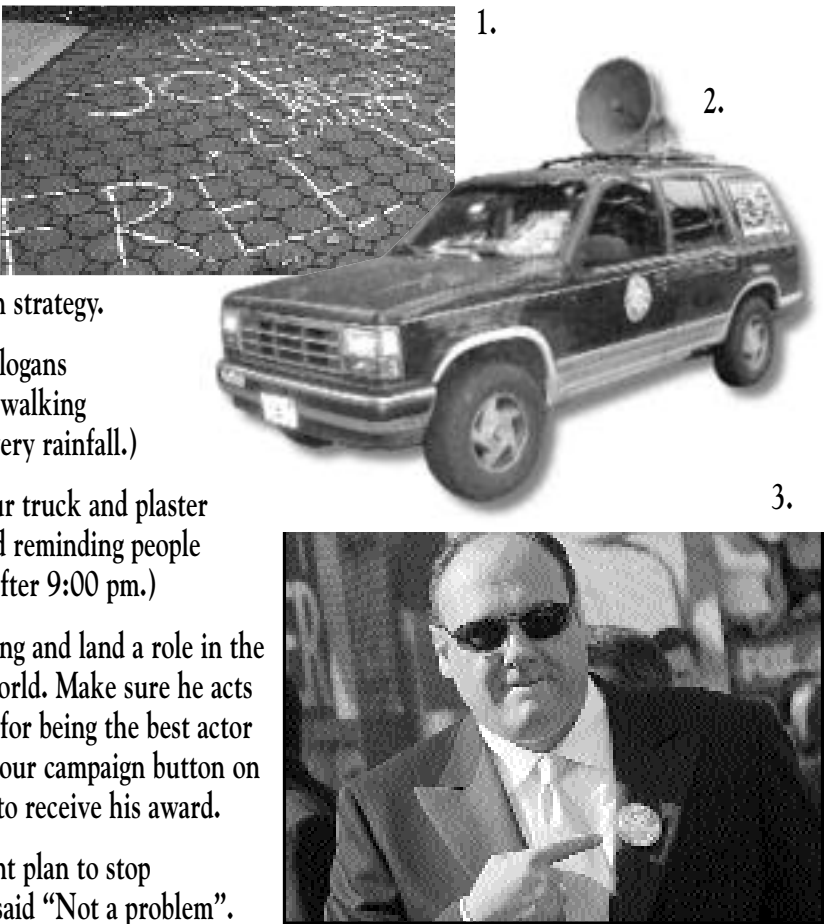
The strategy has paid off. Feedback shows that

Renna's honest approach to running and the fact that he is independent and not beholden to any party powerbrokers or corporate contributors is refreshing to those who meet him.

(right) Joe Renna's three prong campaign strategy.

1. Have your kids write your campaign slogans on the side walk in chalk so everyone walking by could see. (Must be redone after every rainfall.)
2. Strap a huge speaker on the top of your truck and plaster the windows with signs. Drive around reminding people to get out and vote. (No announcing after 9:00 pm.)
3. Have one of your buddies take up acting and land a role in the most popular television show in the world. Make sure he acts real good so he wins an Emmy Award for being the best actor in a drama series and have him wear your campaign button on international television when he goes to receive his award.

The rest is easy. All you need is a brilliant plan to stop corruption and reduce taxes. Joe Renna said "Not a problem".



The “Clothes Off Our Back” charity auction showcases today’s hottest television stars and Emmy nominees’ designer award show formal wear. The items were put up for bid to the public – all in the name of charity. The second annual “Clothes Off Our Back” celebrity clothing auction officially came to a close, exceeding last year’s total by raising \$113,000. The charities that benefited from the event were the Cure Autism Now Foundation and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Included in the list of Emmy nominees was Emmy winner James Gandolfini. He donated the tuxedo he wore that night to the cause complete with the Joe Renna campaign button still pinned to the lapel.

The pin has had a life of its own. It recently made an appearance on the stage of Manhattan hot spot CBCG’s. Members of the band Nitro Musk are sporting it around. The pin has also found its way on to Ebay, which prompted an email correspondence from a Chicago Gandolfini fan.

Besides the international notoriety the Emmy event gave the Joe Renna campaign total saturation across the county. Reports were splattered all over the local and metropolitan news media. The New York Post being the first to grab the scoop, calling Renna after spotting the button on the red carpet. Channel 9, the Star Ledger, People Magazine and mentions on TV and Radio shows reinforced the story. The impact on Renna’s campaign has been priceless.

Subject: Wish I could vote for you
Joe,
I was just on EBay and did my occasional search for James Gandolfini to see what's new and saw your campaign button up for auction. I've been wondering what his button said that he wore to the Emmy's and now I know. He seems like such a good guy. You can't help but love him. Not only is he a great actor but he's just a regular down to earth guy and he's so nice. What he did for his cast members - giving them checks for that deal he made with HBO. Who else would do that? Plus he's Italian. Italians can't help but love other Italians. My neighbor and her sister went to high school with him and they say the same thing about him.
Well I just wanted to drop you a note to wish you good luck on the election. You seem like a good guy and I wish I could vote for you. Tell your friend Jim he's got a big fan in Chicago!!
Christine R. (Massaro) Dragon
Chicago. IL

(above) Email sent to Joe Renna from a Gandolfini fan in Chicago.
(below) New York Post Article about the Emmy/pin incident.

Not for Nothing But...

Renna’s publicity
is the sizzle,
but his views on
County government
is the steak.

GANDOLFINI
AND ME

By Joe Renna

In spite of all his fame and fortune, James Gandolfini is as down to earth as one could get. He brings a blue collar work ethic to a job designed for prima donnas. He has been awarded once again with an Emmy for his hard work and great talent. Yet, he does not promote himself on the publicity circuits.

Gandolfini's attitude about going to work is no different than if he was driving a truck. His craft is acting, he loves what he does, the fame is something that happened to him, not something he sought after. Off camera he is far from being the tough guys he plays in the movies and on TV. His family and friends are what he values most.

Gandolfini and I went to different schools together. We met because he was a roommate of my best friend, Vito Bellino, at Rutgers. I spent most of my weekends and summers carousing with Jim, Vito, and their two other roommates, Tom Richardson and Marc Ohlstein. After graduation Gandolfini managed the hottest nightclub in New York called Private Eyes. He asked if I wanted to work and so for two years we worked through the night at the club and by day I was starting a graphic design studio and he was taking acting lessons.

Twenty years later, and through all his unimaginable success, Gandolfini is still grounded by the simple things in life. When Vito asked him to wear my campaign button on one of his episodes of the Sopranos, Jim said "I'll do you one better and wear it to the Emmys." Low and behold he did it.

I am running for Freeholder in Union County, NJ as an Independent. I'm operating on a shoe string budget. My wife, Tina, is making buttons on the dining room table and my daughters are writing campaign slogans in chalk on the side walks. I also post my message on internet forums and on my website, joerenna.com. This is quite the contrast to the million dollars the incumbents are spending. I have friends passing out my card in a grassroots effort to get some recognition but nothing compares to the 20 million people who saw Gandolfini wearing my button. The exposure that is resonating throughout the media is priceless.

The result of all the hype is that my message is now meeting a tremendous amount of people. The message is simple. It calls for a more open and honest government; two things that Union County is struggling with.

Union County Government is controlled by one party and the autocratic system is effecting the quality of people's lives. Instead of complaining I'm doing the only thing that can actually effect a change. Gandolfini's gesture proves he's a regular stand up guy and a truly good friend.



ON THE BUTTON

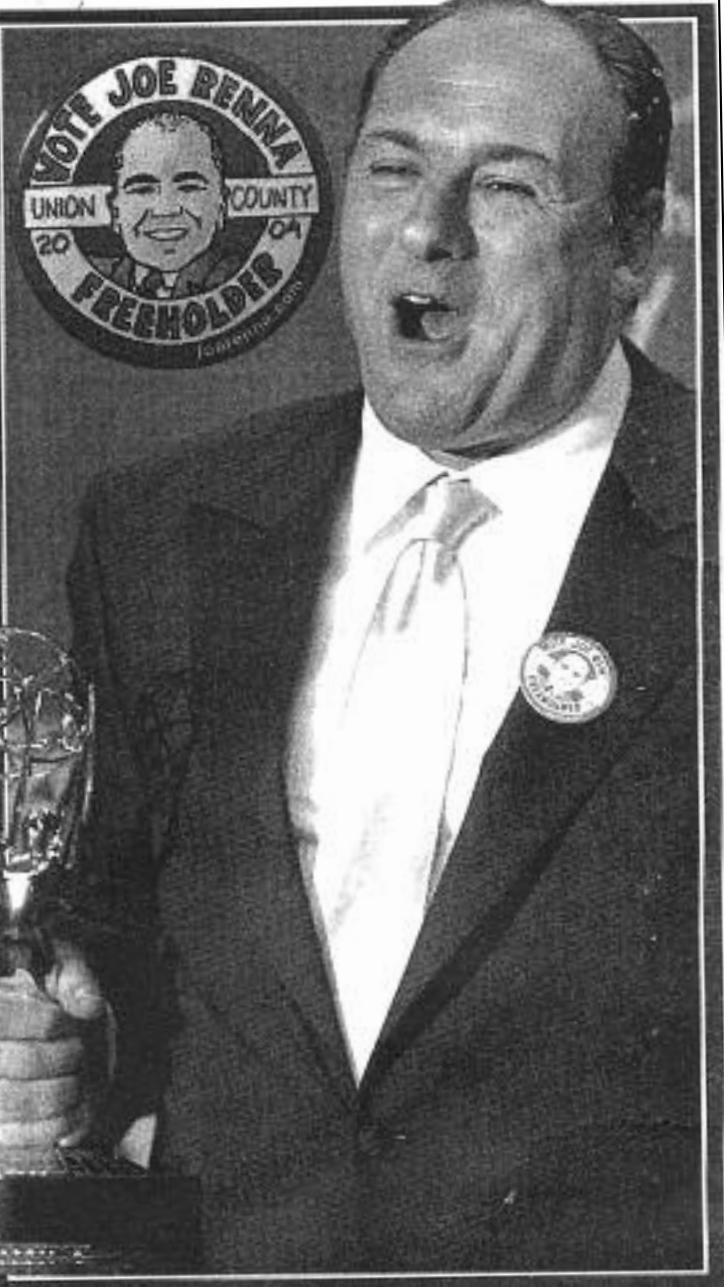


VOTE FOR JOE, OR ELSE: James Gandolfini (right) made Emmy viewers an offer they couldn't refuse when he wore a campaign button for Jersey pal Joe Renna (above).

Gandolfini's N.J. pol pal stunned by Emmy plug

By NEIL GRAVES
When James Gandolfini stepped forward to accept his Best Actor Emmy Sunday night, Joe Renna was one stunned man.
It wasn't a chic Hollywood red ribbon on Gandolfini's lapel or even a yellow one, but Renna's own handmade campaign button: "Vote Joe Renna, Freeholder, Union County."
"That was a shock," said Renna, a first-time candidate from Cranford, N.J., who yesterday was found punching new buttons on a \$75 hand press on his dining room table.
Renna, 42, said he met Gandolfini through Vito Bellino, Renna's childhood buddy from Elizabeth, while they were all students at Rutgers 20 years ago.
When the guys got together early this summer, Renna gave the actor a handful of buttons.
"We gave it to him to wear on one of the 'Sopranos' episodes, but he said, 'I'll go one better — I'll wear it to the Emmys if I can remember to do it,'" Renna noted.
"And boom, it was there as big as life."
The cameras panned to

Gandolfini — and the button — several times.
Wife Tina couldn't help but notice no other campaign buttons were on display in the star-studded California audience.
"No one was even wearing an Arnold button," she marveled, commenting on the state's gubernatorial race.
An independent candidate, Renna called Gandolfini "a regular guy" who roots for the underdog. "He knows I'm up against the machine," said Renna, who is facing off against eight opponents for three slots on Nov. 4.
"The Democrats are spending \$1 million and the Republicans \$85,000. I'm spending \$2,000 so far," Renna said he entered politics because of what he termed excessive waste and rampant political patronage in the county.
So far, the campaign has



primarily meant friends handing out campaign cards or his daughters, Angela, 12, and Mia, 11, chalking the neighborhood sidewalks.
"But every time it rains they have to do it again," joked Renna.

Which is why the plug from a high-profile buddy was so important.
"We'll never raise \$100,000 to do marketing," Tina said.
"This could really make a difference." But don't expect Gan-

dolfini to become a familiar face on the Union County campaign trail.
"I'd never put him on the spot," Renna said.
"He appreciates friends because they never discuss his business."

GOODMAN'S DELI - HERE AND THERE- THEN AND NOW



(left) Hostess Rabija Nikovic and owner George Pahountis up front at Goodman's in Springfield.



(right) As head cook Manny Vergis's hands are always busy.



(above) Laura Bottorff and Vicki Angen service with a smile.

Goodman's is best known for it's home cured pastrami, corned beef and brisket of beef. The menu features four soups daily and according to Irv, originated the triple decker club sandwich, known world round as the Sloppy Joe. So there.



(above, l-r) Julie Goodman and his brother Irv are behind the counter of their familiar digs. (left) The brother's mother, May, pears out the window of the newly opened Goodman's Deli (1959).

Delis are more about people than they are about food; given that the food is top quality of course. There are many places to eat where the food is expertly prepared and the cooks know their craft. So when one place out shines another it can be attributed to the one ingredient that is unique to that kitchen. That being the people.

The personality and atmosphere of a deli is defined not only by the owner but by the cooks and the waitresses as well as the customers. The character of the deli is formed over time. Changes happen at the pace of life itself. Owners, workers and customers become historic figures in a world of their own.

Goodman's Deli has been a landmark on Elmora Avenue since it opened in 1950 by May and Isadole Goodman. Their sons Irv and Julie took charge of the deli and innovated a style of cooking and service that was unique and pleasant. The deli was open from 7am to 9pm and the family was there all day. Goodman's was priced right and the portions were hefty. It was affordable to eat there and so it became a regular place for many people who lived and worked in the area. Regulars who moved away found themselves driving back to Elizabeth for a taste of their favorite lunch special.

George Pahountis, who immigrated from Greece in 1962, worked for Goodman's and developed a knack for preparing the Jewish cuisine featured on the menu. In 1982, George and his cousin Manny Vergis, bought the business from the Goodman's and continued to deliver



(above) Owner of Goodman's in Elizabeth Manny Magriplis and cook, George.

the same service and quality food that people were accustomed to.

Through the years George was used to seeing three and four generations of one family coming through his doors. With the urging from some long time regulars who moved out to Berkeley Heights, George opened a Deli, also named Goodman's, in that town on Springfield Avenue in 1999. At the same time he sold the Elizabeth deli to Manny Magriplis, also from Greece. The transition was seamless and the both delis deliver the same fare with the same flare as the original Goodman family. The special ingredient is still a family of customers and staff. 🍷

CONGRATULATIONS AMATOS

Joe Amato and Alice Palermo were married on October 5, 1953 in Ribera, Sicily. They moved to Peterstown the following year where they raised two children.

The Amato's are now celebrating 50 years of marriage. They are a model for living life to the fullest. Their seven grandchildren are their inspiration. Their life in Elizabeth features their involvement in the community and their caring for family and friends.

There is no magic or secret to a long marriage and young couples looking forward could learn from Joe and Alice that love and respect is the main ingredient to happiness. 🍷



(above) Alice and Joe Amato in 2003.



(above) Alice and Joe Amato in 1953.

THESE GUYS ARE SMOKIN’

Marie Pinkiewicz and Elizabeth Detective Dennis Cabarle throw a block party every year for residents as part of a Peterstown Block Watch Program that they coordinate. This summer’s shindig featured local world class smoker cooks Phil Costanza and Bruce Kain. For those who don't know, smoking is a type of cooking that uses smoke not a flame to cook food. To say that Phil and Bruce are passionate about their craft is an understatement. For these guys, smoking is a lifestyle.

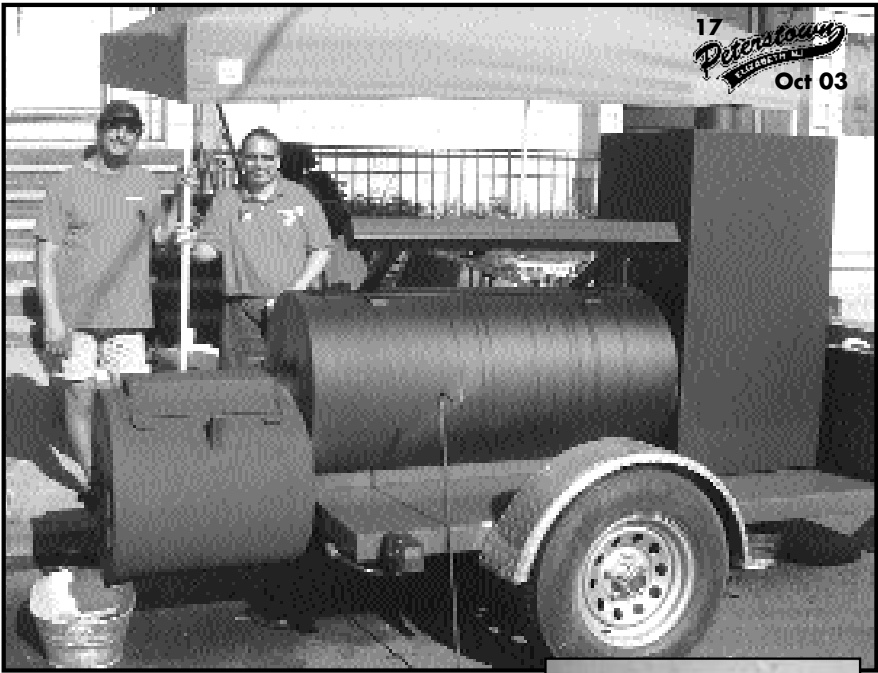
Like other smoker enthusiasts, Phil and Bruce take their “Smoke not Flame” mantra very seriously. So seriously that they travel the country competing. They had a special smoker built to their specifications and are making a go of catering picnics and get togethers. They generously donated their services to the Block Watch effort and parked their choo-choo train looking contraption at the foot of Costanza's home at 6:00 am. Phil explained that it takes about six hours for the heat to build and by 12 noon they would be ready to feed the masses.

There are so many variables to preparing such a wide variety of meat and fish that the different taste possibilities

are endless. When they went to the Grand National in Memphis, Tennessee their variation placed 4th. This is no mean task when your competition arrives in a tracker trailer with a convoy of cooking specialists. Evidently this is a big deal down south. They also won a “Memphis in May” award for their original recipe bar-b-que sauce.

They use the smoker to cook different meats, sausage and fish. This particular day they cooked 18 lbs of pork butts and shoulder injected with a mixture of their own dry rubs and Saki. Ribs were cooked for 5 to 6 hours at 210°. Meat can be kept moist a number of ways like using apple juice in a spray bottle to baste.

The guys and their smoker are available to hire for your next event. You can reach them at 908-587-1277. 🍖



(above) Phil Costanza and Bruce Kain cooking engineers, so to speak.
(right) Label for the guys 1996 World Grand Champion Bar-B-Que Sauce - A Sweet and Tangy Delight.



Smoke flows from the front chamber through the horizontal one in the center, then into the vertical chamber and out the top.

Temperature is controlled by the size of the fire and the amount of smoke allowed through a series of dampers.

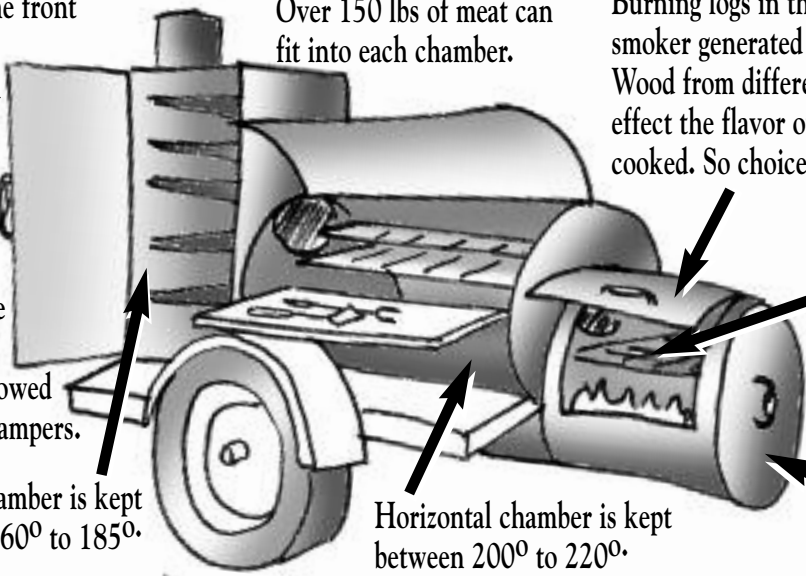
Vertical chamber is kept between 160° to 185°.

Over 150 lbs of meat can fit into each chamber.

Burning logs in this portion of the smoker generated the heat for cooking. Wood from different types of trees will effect the flavor of what is being cooked. So choice is important.

This section is also used as a flame grill for cooking burgers and hot dogs etc.

This door opens to feed wood and clean out ash.



Recipes

Matza Balls

Manny Vergis - Goodman's Deli

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Cup Matza Meal
- 3 Eggs
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1-2 Cups of Seltzer water
- (Chicken Broth - Prep Separately)

PREPARATION:

- Mix Matza Meal, Eggs, Salt and Pepper together.
- Add Seltzer Water and mix again.
- Refrigerate for 1 Hour.
- Roll up into 1 " balls.
- Throw in Boiling Water.
- Cook for 20 minutes.
- Serve in Chicken Broth.

Rice Pudding

Manny Vergis - Goodman's Deli

INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ lbs of Rice
- 8 Qts of Milk
- 1 lb of Sugar
- 8 Eggs
- 1 cup of Milk

PREPARATION:

- Mix all ingredients in a pot.
- Bring to boil for approximately 1 hour until rice is soft.
- While pot is still boiling, add 8 Eggs and another cup of Milk.
- Boil for another 5 minutes.
- Pour into pan or put into cups and refrigerate.
- (makes 50 servings)



(above) James Stewart established himself as a leading actor with the 1939 film “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”. His co-star Jean Arthur plays the role of a cynical secretary. Stewart's character represents the powerful forces of American freedom, democracy and morality over oppression and evil in his emotional portrait of a naive, idealist, patriotic young politician.



(above) Joe Renna will star in the remake of the 1939 classic. He will be running for Union County Freeholder in order to do research for the movie. Renna is a method actor and this campaign season will live the life of a naive, idealist, patriotic politician. Like Stewart, Renna plans to guard American values as a moral hero.

Besides Renna stepping in for Jimmy Stewart, find nine other changes to the scene and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern in the Park. (See form below for details.)

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT?

It was Mia Renna’s first wake and she sat quietly in the room of a Manhattan funeral home where her Great-aunt, Pat Grosso, laid in state. When the power suddenly went out in the room it was quite a shock for Mia and the other visitors as well.

It was first thought that the power outage was one last joke Pat was playing on her family and friends. After finding their way out to the street the mourners learned that the blackout was a region wide glitch that shut down chunks of the power grid stretching as far as Canada.

What ever the cause, the experience caused one to pause and put life in perspective. We take electric for granted and sometimes we forget the value of life. Wakes remind us that our lives are fleeting. Mia Renna will certainly remember her beloved Aunt Pat.

(below and left) Local Little Italy newspaper, The Villager, gathered stories the night of the blackout.

PRAYING FOR LIGHT
In Little Italy, outside Guidetti funeral home, relatives of Pat Grosso, a lifelong Mott St. resident, were sitting on folding chairs on the darkening sidewalk. Tina Renna, Grosso's niece, said six family members had shone flashlights onto the ceiling to illuminate the parlor while the priest worked the blackout into his sermon. "He said, 'She's in the light — and we're waiting to get into the light.' "



(left) Pat Grosso with Nieces, Mia (11) and Angela (12).

Re-Visions
Answer Form

- 1) Joe Renna goes to Washington
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Write down as many changes as you can find. One winner will be drawn from the submissions with the most right answers and awarded a dinner for two from our Ala-Carte Menu. Mail or drop your answers off at the address below. Deadline is December 15, 2003. Cannot be combined with any other offer. One entry per person.

Tavern in the Pa
147 W. Westfield Ave. • Roselle Park, NJ • 07204
908-241-7400 or 908-245-SANGRIA
For menu and banquet prices log onto:



A BUYER'S MARKET

Pictured to the left is a 1938 promotion for the "Own Your Home Show" held in the Elizabeth Armory in which two homes were given away together with many other gifts. The cost of the tickets were 35¢ each. One could only wonder what the equivalent offer would be worth today.

The fancy patch on the bottom photo, showing the inside of the card, holds a set of sewing needles. Realtors today may even think that is a bit exorbitant as far as promotions go.

The promotion must work because the invite mentioned it was the fourteenth annual event. It would be interesting to see if a show of this magnitude can fly today. Ever since Gordon Haas, the present Director of the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, saw the card he has been hiding under his desk.

(left) This card was donated to the collection of Elizabeth memorabilia that has been accumulating at this publication's office, by Dovetails Antiques in Cranford. It was much appreciated.

RE/MAX IN WESTFIELD MOVES TO 200 NORTH AVE

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield has moved its office, and is now located at 200 North Avenue East in Westfield. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

"Our office is expanding, and we needed a larger space to accommodate our staff," said the Broker Manager. "We want to let our clients know about the move, and we will continue to provide them with top notch service."


RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield is comprised of 14 full time Sales Associates, specializing in all areas of real estate. Many of these Associates also contribute to the Children's Miracle Network, RE/MAX International's official charity. One Broker Salesperson in particular, Emerson Amador, participates in the Miracle Home Program, where he has pledged to donate a specified amount of money to Children's Miracle Network per sales transaction.

"The Miracle Home Program is a great opportunity to give back to the community," said Emerson. "It's a wonderful feeling knowing that with every house I sell, I'm making a difference in a child's life."

To contact Emerson Amador, at RE/MAX Properties

Unlimited in Westfield, call 908-233-9292 ext 5496.

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited is a 23-office company. It is the largest RE/MAX franchise organization in the state, and the largest in the country by number of offices. Some of the unique services RE/MAX Properties Unlimited has to offer are an in house advertising agency, an in house marketing department, a Company Corporate Attorney, Cornerstone Mortgage Company, and a referral company, Nassau Referral Group.

With these benefits, Associates are able to provide their clients with a quality of service that is unsurpassed. With 163 franchise offices and over 2,400 real estate professionals, RE/MAX of New Jersey continues to be one of the leading real estate organizations in the state. Since its inception in 1985, RE/MAX of New Jersey has experienced record-breaking growth in both franchise sales and sales associates and has surpassed all previous sales records. This remarkable success can be attributed to the quality agents and service consistently found in all RE/MAX organizations. RE/MAX of New Jersey, based in Moorestown, NJ, is a privately owned and operated division of RE/MAX International. 

ELIZABETH AUTO GLASS MOVES UP THE ROAD A PIECE



(above) Dawn Donahue takes daughters, Mackenzie and Aidan to visit their dad at work and play with his collection of very fragile model cars.

In 1929 William Donahue opened an auto body shop named 'Donahue & Sons'. Today, it would have seemed peculiar that a carpenter would open a body shop but in 1929 car details were made of wood and so Donahue's craft was in big demand.

Almost 75 years later, "Donahue & Sons" is still in business, and still owned and operated by a Donahue. Until August of this year it was still in its original location at 611 Grove Street. The business was forced to move to make way for the new Routes 1 & 9 viaduct. Its new location, 450 Route 1, is a half mile south on the highway and is still in Elizabeth.

Tom Donahue, William's grandson, is at the helm of the business which changed its name to Elizabeth Auto Glass years ago when the industry grew to include such things like glass and metal. Plastic and fiberglass wasn't even a concept

in 1922. The old location even had a substantial junk yard to house Donahue's wrecking company.

The Donahue family were very active in Elizabeth, socially and as a business. Tom's father, also named Thomas, took the shop over in the 1950's. Most people knew him as "Doc". In fact, the local restaurant, Doc Donahue's, was named after him. It was owned by Donahue's good fiend Donny Gray who named it after his good buddy. Doc worked in the shop up until the time he passed away in 1999 at the age of 86.

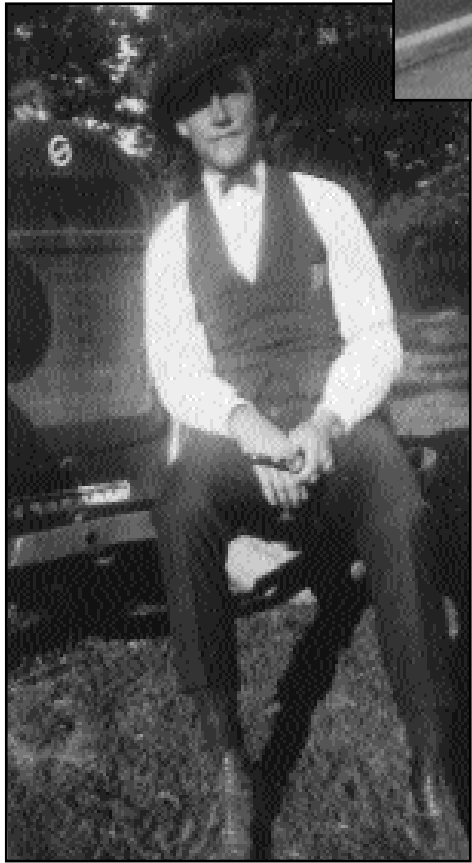
Like his father and grandfather, Tom loves the business. He gets to meet so many people and he now is part of the Elizabeth landscape. Tom has a degree in Political Science and a Masters in Liberal Science. He lives in Cranford with his wife, Dawn and daughters Mackenzie, 2, and Aidan, 3. 🇺🇸

(right)North view from the corner of Routes 1&9

Old location of Elizabeth Auto Glass

Routes 1&9 Viaduct

New location of Elizabeth Auto Glass



(above) 1922 photo of William Donahue



.....

Not for Nothing But...

I don't mind the rust
on my car as much as I
did the termites.

.....

Memorabilia on the walls of Elizabeth Auto Glass include the old sign from Doc Donahue's Restaurant (top). Photos of Tom's father, Doc (above), and his grandfather, William (far left). To the right is a plaque presented by Mayor Tom Dunn to Doc Donahue for "Just being a good guy".

THE MAYOR
AND
THE CITY OF ELIZABETH
SALUTES
THOMAS "DOC" DONAHUE
FOR
"JUST BEING A NICE GUY"
"GOD BLESS"
MAYOR TOM DUNN
7-25-85

Text engraved on plaque

FROM THE 6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION FILE

YOU FROM THE BURG? EH

Encountering other people who have ties to Peterstown is a common phenomenon. The claim that everyone in the county is within six degrees of separation from the Burg has merit. The following story is typical of the many sent to the paper where, in the most unlikely of places and in the most unlikely circumstances, two strangers meet only to find they are not so strange.

This story happened in Montreal, Canada. Nancy (Nigro) Gersick, along with her niece and nephew, Lorraine and Tom Kelly, attended the wedding of Rocco and Annie Pagliarulo. The Pagliarulo's were friends of the Nigro family who moved to Montreal from Vallada, Italy by way of Elizabeth, NJ.

After the wedding, the concierge called for a taxi to take the three visitors back to their hotel. Initiating some small talk, the driver asked his passengers where they were from. Lorraine responded "New Jersey, from Elizabeth, near Newark, Airport" (the closest international landmark). The driver then asked "Do you know Peterstown?" Nancy, Lorraine and Tom busted out laughing. The coincidence was as amazing as it was expected.

The driver's name was Paul Mirabile. He explained how he has relatives in Peterstown. His said that his uncle, also named Paul Mirabile, lives on John Street. And worked out of the Laborers Union #394. Even though it was after midnight he called his wife to get the exact address. Nancy was familiar with the house number and knew the house was right behind Barone's Deli.

They chatted until the end of the ride where the

three tourists had to insist on being charged. They snapped a photo of Paul before departing.

Back in Elizabeth Lorraine and her Aunt Nancy payed a visit to Paul Mirabile and his wife on John Street. They shared some stories about their trip to Canada and passed along photos of their nephew. They also shot a few photos during the visit to send back to Montreal with copies of this paper so Paul could share his celebrity in the Great White North, Eh. 🇨🇦



(above) Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mirabile, their Canadian-American nephew is the son of Paul's brother Joe.



(above) Paul Mirabile sends a greeting from Canada with love.

Not for Nothing But...

I met a Tibetan monk on a trip to the Himalayas who grew up on Spencer Street.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

It's hard to believe each year at this time that the summer is over. Halloween, Thanksgiving and shortly thereafter Christmas and New Years will be here. Our country has been on a roller coaster ride with the war in Iraq. Simultaneously the holiday season and shopping for gifts again is at our doorsteps. I hope that all of our readers keep in mind during this hectic time our armed forces and our men and women who served us so courageously in Iraq. A small prayer goes a long way for their support. Lets hope that many of these individuals will be home for the holidays.

It is an exciting time for the City of Elizabeth on 10/9/03 at the board of adjustments meeting the board gave approval for a new condo unit that will change midtown forever. This project will be located between Cherry St. and W. Jersey St. a site that was previously used as a linen and uniform service. This property was purchased by an LLC to construct an approximate 20-story high rise condo project. The developer proposed to the board of adjustment a mix use building to comply with the zoning for that area which consists of an R-4 and C-3 zone. This project incorporated aspects of both zones, which is the ideal situation. The developer proposed storefronts along W. Jersey St. and above the storefronts professional offices to be in character to what was proposed for the midtown redevelopment.

Although this property and project is not directly located in the midtown redevelopment area, it is approximately 10 feet away. The Elizabeth River separates the midtown redevelopment area from this site. This condo project will be located within walking distance to the downtown area and train station. It will bring

life and activity back into our downtown. I envision we will see many other proposals come forth. Downtown Elizabeth could easily become the new Hoboken, but better.

The developer is proposing to construct in addition to the retail and offices 365 condo units of 1-3 bedrooms with balconies. There will also be a parking garage 4-5 stories high to accommodate 463 parking spaces approximately. On the top of the parking deck there will be a recreational deck with a pool, landscaping, walkways, and a health club. The lobby will be secured with a reception area for the safety of the residents. All the apartments will have balconies, many with NY views. The developer also took into consideration areas for computer rooms and lounges for the residents. The top 3 floors will be the penthouses with glass atriums, which gives the building a real NY feeling. The owner at the present time is considering pricing the units starting at \$150,000, which is the going prices for the condos in Elizabeth.

This building may be the tallest building in Union County. The developer plans to spend approximately 40-50 million to construct this building. He should be commended for his great efforts in revitalizing the City of Elizabeth.

The City of Elizabeth looks better and better everyday. All of us have seen the dramatic changes that have taken place. New homes in every part of the city. The many vacant lots that existed in Elizabeth ten years ago are all gone. Homes that were in dire need of repairs have either been renovated or torn down to make way for new ones. Our residents should thank the city officials, our construction department, our elected officers, our zoning board, the planning board and the board of adjustments for this fantastic work in bringing back our city.

Submitted by Justino Rosa