



SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

The only people getting rich from books on how to get rich are the authors. There are no secrets to success. There are plenty of models out there to follow. The key to success is one's own integrity. No matter how much material wealth one gains, if they compromise their value system, then they are failures.

The following profile should serve as a model for a Peterstown infomercial for success. It stresses how Mike LoBrace of Michelino's stayed true to his values to be where he is today. Mike just opened his eighth establishment, including a pizzeria, a cafe, restaurant and bar.

Even though Mike LoBrace worked in pizzerias and restaurants since he was 13 years old, he did not rely on his street smarts to accomplish all that he has. Mike's mother stressed the importance of education and he took her advice and earned two degrees from Rutgers University, one in Italian Literature and another in Economics. He did his graduate work at St. John's University and picked up a masters degree in Finance.

It took a combination of his experience in and out of school to make things work. There are many talented people who never reach their potential because they are one dimensional. Mike is an artist in the kitchen but he can also market his craft. He has personally run every aspect of his business and then recruited quality employees and trained them. His staff is an extension of his work ethics. His partners Jerry Nigro and Sal Davi, though they are not in the lime light, are equally responsible for the success of the day to day operations.

His book smarts gave Mike his ability to manage his complex business but it's his upbringing that allows him to make the right choices. Mike credits his Uncle Tony for teaching him to do the right thing and his mother, Millie, who taught him how to treat people. His business philosophy is based on their teachings. Life is about choices and Michelino's is committed to choosing to do what is right in business, in the way they treat their customers, and their employees.

Mike's strategy for success: First, he rewards employees for their hard work, initiative and loyalty. Michelino's has a very low employee turnaround. Second, he is focused on customer service. Michelino's only uses the best ingredients, his food is priced right and, most importantly, Mike personally responds to any concern a customer would have with his service.

In the big picture Mike realized that work is the biggest consumer of a persons time so instead of separating his personal life from his work, his job is part of his life. His family is his number one priority and he never loses sight of that. They are included in every choice he makes.

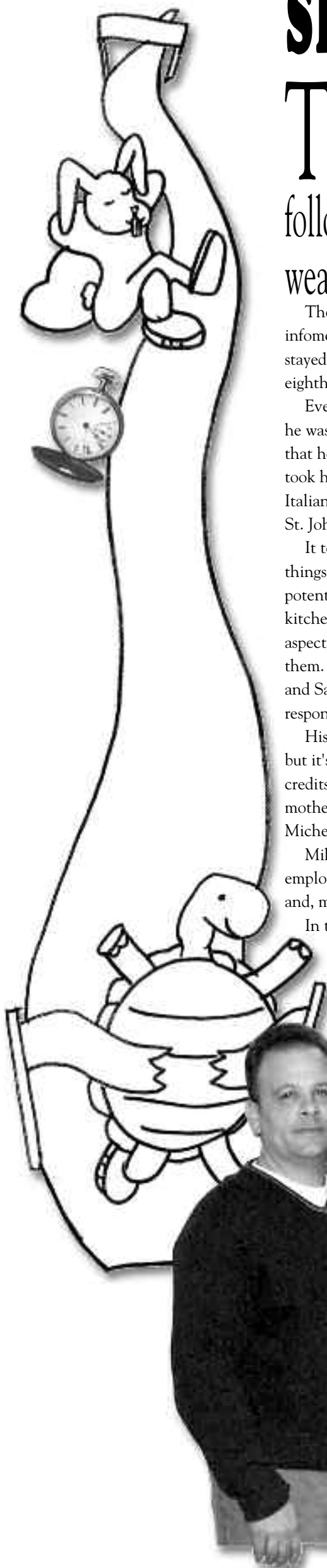
Mike started his business when he was 27 years old. The opportunity was there; and though his professors may have told him it may not be a good time to start he knew better. He knew there is never a good time to start. Business is a risk and the food business is the riskiest. There is always justification for putting it off. His wife, who was expecting their first child, could have nixed the decision right away.

Mike got in the business for the long haul. His business plan wasn't some get rich quick scheme, he didn't want an overpriced food boutique or a high volume pizza factory. He wanted some place that he would be comfortable in and that his family would be comfortable in. Money was not the motivation but his finance degree made sure it was not overlooked. Mike knew that in time the money would come. In the meantime he was going to take it slow and steady and enjoy the ride. 🍕

(left, l-r) Mike LoBrace, Sal Davi and Jerry Nigro combined hard work and business savvy to build Michelino's Pizzeria into an impressive business which includes four locations and a recent expansion into a 4,800 square foot restaurant, bar, and lounge. Despite the size, it still has the flavor of a family business.



(above, l-r) Marie Cirone and partner Luis Gonzalez sit at the bar in Luis' Place in Clark, NJ, while Amanda (Iazzetta) Sodano tends. Luis, a native of Puerto Rico, graduated from the school of hard knocks to realize his American dream, to open his own restaurant, which he did one year ago.



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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:

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**President's
Message**



It seems that St. Anthony's Grammar School has a reunion every year. This year the class of 1966 is getting together. This is a phenomena that must be unique to Peterstown. Where else do you hear about grammar school reunions? Forget about one every year. High schools have a tough enough time getting a reunion together.

This just shows how tight and close knit the neighborhood is. It doesn't matter where people moved or how long ago. The Burg is always in us and our friends are friends for life. Those of us who stayed close by, or in the same place for that matter, we get to see everyone come and go, year after year.

I have a reunion every day in my butcher shop when anyone who comes back to visit the Burg stops in. It doesn't get any better than that. Hope to see you soon.

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.

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**Letters
to the
Editor**



Michael J. Mariano
7/12/26 - 11/8/05

In 1945 he was drafted into the Army and was stationed in Manila, Philippines and then Hiroshima, Japan after the bomb was dropped.

In 1951, he married Doris T. DeMarzo of Second Avenue and wound up on Rankin Street which is where my sister, Dareen and I grew up. He was a pigeon fancier and he and his father were known as C. Mariano and Son Loft. We attended St. Anthony's Grammar School and church until we moved to Roselle in 1967.

To honor our father, a Memorial Plaque on the Oncology Floor (3rd) at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ has been installed. He was such a jovial friend to everyone he met especially all his friends in Peterstown. He just loved going back to the Peterstown Senior Club functions and did so every chance he got. He will be sadly missed.

On behalf of our family, I would like to thank everyone for all the kindnesses expressed to us and our mother Doris during this time of loss.

Franceen Mariano Reeher
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Friends and neighbors,

On Tuesday, November 8, 2005, our father Michael J. Mariano, age 79, formerly of Peterstown, Roselle and Scotch Plains lost his battle with lung cancer. For all who knew him, he never met a stranger and was always full of life. In his younger day's he lived at several locations on Palmer Street with his parents, Charlie and Frances Mariano and his sisters Esther and Anna.

Dear Editor,

I happened to receive a copy of your paper from a relative and I was so pleased with the fond memories your paper generated. I'll look forward to receiving your paper and search the pages to find photos and stories of some of my old friends.

Sincerely, Tim Kaczmarek
Brick, NJ

Hello Joe,

The Ambulance Service of Elizabeth is forming a Special Operations Response Team (SORT) and is looking for donations so the team could be set up. Donations would cover (vehicles, maintenance, equipment, supplies, etc.) The team will be used to respond to large scale incidents or large events.

Eventually we will assist all of Union County and bordering counties EMS agencies if a large incident occurs (plane crashes, train derailments, multi car accidents, large fires, collapses, flooding, hazmat incidents, hurricanes, snow/ice storms, power outages, terrorist attack, water emergencies, festivals, sidewalk sales, concerts, etc.)

Best Regards,
Carlos Gomez
Vice President, EMBA Local 1
Elizabeth NJ, 07201
cgomezvp@gmail.com

POSTAL WORKERS ARE PART OF THE FAMILY

Each year, the Letter Carrier's Union treats their retiree's to a free party at Big Stash's Restaurant in Linden, NJ. The party has been a tradition going on five years. Current employees are welcome to buy a ticket to the event and many do. There's a kinship that is shared among the group that is unique. The common bond has no age or gender boundaries.

Angelo Nigro retired from the post office after working there 35 years. That was ten years ago but he still goes back to visit old friends about two to three times a week. Angelo walked his route in Hillside during his entire tenure. As a side note, Angelo was known as "The Singing Mailman". He was not shy about serenading the people on his route while he was delivering. Angelo actually wrote over 75 songs in his lifetime and would perform when opportunity arose. He once appeared on the Joe Franklin Show.

Norman Harris was also in attendance at the last get together. Norman also retired after a post office record of 38 years. He also had the distinct accomplishment of spending his entire career on one route, and that was in

the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. Harris met with Denise Wilson at the event and they both shared their experiences of working the same route. Norman had such a long presence in the neighborhood that he felt that he was related to those on his route. In turn he says he was treated like family. 📷



(above) Angelo Nigro, Denise Wilson and Norman Harris mingle at an annual event for retired postal workers hosted by their union.

**Tricky Tray
Auction**

FRIDAY MARCH 31

St. Anthony's Cafeteria

853 Third Avenue, Elizabeth

Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Tickets for admission are \$6.00

Food and beverages will be sold

Under 18 not permitted.

For more information call:
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call Jo at (732)882-0210
or Nancy at (908)925-3816

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

This country needs a strong leader to get the wheels turning. It is obvious that it isn't going to be the government. The need to develop an alternative energy source so that we are not dependent on foreign oil has been an out cry since the crisis in the 1970's. It was President Carter back then who insisted on the change. Now it's George W. Bush echoing the same sentiments. Thirty years have gone by and the initiative is still not a priority.

In a capitalist society, what is most profitable wins out. Right now developing alternative fuel would be a drain on resources. Until there is a promise of profit the money makers will be sticking with what they have.

The one thing that spikes profitability is crisis and I don't want to wait for another crises before we act. If we started our commitment in the 1970's maybe the solution would be at hand. As it stands, thirty years from now, our president will be demanding congress "to pass legislation that makes America more secure and less dependent on foreign energy". No doubt that the speech will follow another disaster or crisis that points to the oil powers.

The question is, who will lead the charge if not government or big business? Can someone do it in spite of them? Conspirators claim that government and big

business have actually dwarfed efforts in development of alternative fuels. The theory is interesting but hard to believe. The person who takes the lead in developing a viable energy source to rival oil will be richer and more powerful than all the oil companies combined. It would be nice if the ecology and world peace were the motivation for change but if it's money that stirs the pot, so be it.

We should be steering our students today into fields that will be prominent in the energy industry in the future. If the movie "The Graduate" was made today, someone would have whispered "alternative fuels" into the ear of young Benjamin instead of the word "plastics". 🐼🐼



I wonder if someone
whispered "computer
operating system" in
Bill Gates' ear while
floating in a pool.



IN MEMORY OF PAUL RENNA, HE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL

On the evening of December 16, 2005 Paul Renna passed away quietly in his sleep. He was just 39 years old and his unexpected death sent a shock wave through those who knew him. His family, friends, and co-workers.

Paul was a pretty unique guy. He was without malice and loved life. Paul treated others with respect and went out of his way to help. His most outstanding trait was his ability to lift the spirits of others, through his humor and his basic happy demeanor.

Ask his co-workers and they will all say that he made the work place fun. His presence made the time fly by in what would other wise be a day of drudgery. Paul worked for the Road Department of the County of Union. He was a heavy machine operator. He worked for the county for 19 years and always on crews doing the toughest most physical work there was.

Paul and his department were responsible for maintaining public roads, a basic safety need of the people. There was no faking this job. It was hard, physical work. The men in his crew relied on each other to get the job done. The bond between Paul and his co-workers was close. One can only hope to have friendships so strong.

Paul enjoyed his life and wanted others to enjoy theirs. Paul dealt with daily challenges differently than most people. He practiced acceptance and patience and made the best of every situation. He would try to relieve stress in others though he may have been stressed himself.

Paul's priorities were in the right place. He was an honorable guy. Someone who could be trusted and who could be counted on. He loved his family more than anything, his mother, Angela; his wife, Laureen and their seven year old son, Anthony; his sister Angela, and brother Nick. He extended that love to include his extended family and friends. There was only one side of Paul Renna. It was refreshing.

Paulie's wake and funeral was a testament of how much he was liked. Along with his extended family,

childhood friends from Peterstown and St. Anthony's grammar school came to pay their respects. County workers who knew him over the past two decades also visited. It was his present crew that served as pall bearers and who were visibly shaken by the loss of their buddy.

Three county trucks led the procession of cars from St. Anthony's Church to Rosedale Cemetery in Linden. At one point the procession rolled up South Avenue alongside Elizabeth High School. At the time the school was in the middle of a fire drill and the entire student body quietly lined both sides of the street. The students stood in silence as the motorcade advanced, they knew the funeral was for the son of Angela Renna, who has worked in the offices of the Elizabeth public school system for 30 years. The student body has the utmost respect for her and they wanted to show their sympathy.

Paul's death was a great loss to the community of people who knew him because he was an example of how to live according to what is important, while others are wheeling and dealing and chasing superficial goals. During his life Paul showed us what was important and in his death he shows us that life is too short for anything else. 🍷🍷

3
Peterson
Feb 06

Aggravated? Get Activated!

Learn how regular folks can remove barriers to citizen participation in local government, and become more effective self-advocates within their hometowns.

MARCH 9, 2006 7:00 pm FREE
CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
 220 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ

This training is being hosted by the Union County
Watchdog Assoc. www.unioncountywatchdog.org/

UNION COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE BEING OFFERED A FREE LESSON ON ACCESSING THEIR LOCAL POWER CENTERS

Union County citizens are getting a free class on the political skills to effectively self-advocate and participate in municipal government. This new course taught by the Citizens' Campaign, and sponsored by Common Cause NJ, the Center for Civic Responsibility, and the Union County Watchdog Association will teach citizens how to be more effective advocates for whatever issues they may have within their own communities.

Citizens throughout New Jersey have used the information in this course to change the structure of their town's government and to enact local good government legislation. Learn what your paths to power are as a regular citizen with no money and very little time.

Each participant will receive a free copy of The Citizens' Manual: Paths to Power for Regular Citizens, a resource book of legal rights and political skills for citizen participation in local government.

The training will be held on Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 pm at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ. For more information and to reserve your seat, please contact Tina at (908)709-0530, or email at tinarena@unioncountywatchdog.org. You can visit www.JoinTheCampaign.com for more information on the Citizens' Campaign.



(left) Paul Renna
and his son, Anthony.



(left) This decal was designed by Paul's co-worker, friend and fellow musician, Bobby Martinez. The guys he worked with wanted to honor Paul with a decal applied to the truck that he drove.

Playing music was a passion for Paul and so the decal incorporates a silhouette of a base guitar, Paul's instrument.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Advertising starts at \$45 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 709-0530.

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A NEW LOOK AT THE POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (PAL)

The Elizabeth Police Activities League (PAL) started their first ever Girls Basketball team. The program was the brain child of officer Michael Tropeano, who resurrected the boys basketball team two years ago.

Tropeano, who was raised in Elizabeth and has been on the job for seven years, saw a void in the activities for the youth in the area. He has always been involved in community and youth programs and saw the need to bring more opportunities to play to local youth. He presented his idea to Police Director James Cosgrove and Elizabeth's Mayor Chris Bollwage and they gave Mike the support he needed to get the programs started.

After two years the boys program has grown to about 30 players, 15 playing on an under 14 team and 15 playing on an under 12 team. In their first year the girls team attracted 12 players under 15. Tropeano is looking to establish more teams and is starting a campaign to attract more participants.

Tropeano and the coaches are volunteering all their time. Though the PAL has the support of the city and police department the programs really rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses. The cost for

equipment, uniforms, transportation and tournament fees are always a concern. Mike has received some great support already, for instance, last year, a local businessman donated the cost for new uniforms.

The teams practice and play their home games in Erxleber Recreation Center located in Droter Field in the Bayway section of Elizabeth. The program runs year round and includes road trips to various tournaments. Elizabeth PAL teams have played in the 2006 National PAL Basketball Tournament, Union County Basketball League, North Brunswick Basketball March Madness, Our Lady of Peace Annual Rev. Gerald P. Kelly Memorial Invitational Tournament, Clark Winter Tournament and the Garden State Basketball League.

Anyone who would like to play or knows someone who would like to play should call Mike Tropeano at 908-354-9725 or email him at trope@aol.com. Any individual or business who would like to make a donation should also contact Tropeano. Donations should be made payable to Elizabeth PAL, PO Box 9742, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above) Elizabeth Police Activities League 2005 - 2006, N.J. Family Care, Basketball Team

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(right) Elizabeth's Police Director James Cosgrove and Mayor Chris Bollwage accepts a ball signed by the members of Elizabeth's first PAL Girls Basketball Team.

(below, Standing, l-r) Coach Cynthia Champagne, Taianna Thomas, Adjie Currie, Lianabel Bottero, Heather Mear, Janasia Swinson, Coach Ralph Mear. (kneeling) Dynesha Frazier, Chelsea Tropeano, and Michael Tropeano. Ball girl is Amber Tropeano. Missing from Photo are Karriema Hines and Quanesa Lanier. Players are students attending Cleveland, Roosevelt, St. Mary's and St. Anthony's Grammar schools in Elizabeth.



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www.trinitashospital.org

Trinitas Hospital is a Catholic Teaching Hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

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The FREE 6 week program
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and interview techniques.

Project Ready
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For more information please call
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Project Ready, a component of St. Joseph's Social Service Center, exists as a means of providing job readiness training skills to those economically disadvantaged who seek to become a financially independent part of the work force. Our clients are those who fall between the cracks of eligibility for other state and federal programs.

The twenty-one day program has two equal parts; teaching basic computer skills and working on personal qualities necessary for successful employment. In today's technical workplace, while basic skills are considered irreducible minimums for low job skill jobs, they do not guarantee a career. In one month our candidates receive eighteen hours instruction in data entry, eighteen hours in Microsoft Word and nine hours in Internet techniques. The balance of time spent is taken up with interview techniques, resume writing, interpersonal relationships, the job search and want ads. We estimate our success rate to be about 40%-that being the ability to land a job and keep it for a period of at least six months.

Before being accepted into the program, the intake interview determines whether the applicants can successfully complete the program. If they do not have a high school diploma they are referred out to a GED program. If their knowledge of English is limited they are

referred to an ESL program. Our census can run from as low as four to a high of thirteen. Anyone who meets our standards is accepted. The group make up has been fairly consistent through the years-38% Hispanic, 60% Afro-American, 2% Anglo.

For some this is an introduction into a world of responsibility, of set hours, self management and self esteem. They have taken step one toward improving their status. Before we send them out on the job hunt, we help them secure proper clothing and help with their personal appearances.

Because of their precarious financial status, our enrollees are hard pressed to find funds for out of town job interviews, and even worse, when successful, is having to manage transportation costs for one to two weeks before receiving their first paycheck.

Project Ready assumes responsibility for this expense, which currently costs \$2,500 a year for bus tickets. One of our recent successful clients obtained a job in West Windsor, a commute from Elizabeth of more than an hour, but felt it worth it as the job paid \$10.50 an hour.

The teaching staff is made up of seventeen former teachers and business people, volunteers all. The project director and part time administrative assistant, a graduate of the program, are the only paid personnel. ❧

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BE PART OF OUR 2007 CALENDAR

The 2006 town planners have been distributed and Worrall Community Newspapers has begun selling ad space in the 2007 edition. Space is limited and fills quickly so businesses are encouraged to reserve early or they may be shut out. The Town Planner is a popular keepsake that Worrall has been publishing since 1999.

The calendar features

- Special Events
- Municipal Services
- School Schedules
- Phone Directory
- Emergency Information
- Recycling Schedules
- Sports Schedules
- and much more!

Organizations and municipalities are encouraged to submit service schedules and special events dates for inclusion.

Town planners are mailed to every household in the towns where they are distributed and in some communities, every business also receive them. Rates are affordable, starting at just \$195. The exposure a business gets from a calendar is unmatched. A calendar works all day, every day, all year long.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Town Planner, or would like to place an ad, please feel free to call Joe Renna at Worrall Community Newspapers 908-686-7700 ext. 142.

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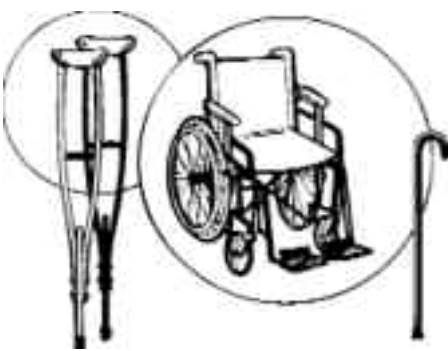
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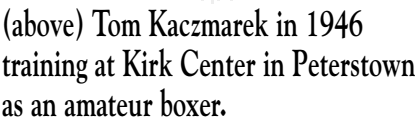
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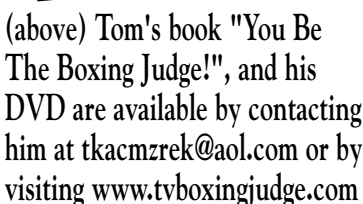
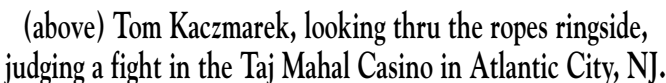
WE NOW CARRY

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Though Tom received recognition state-wide for his governmental work, it was his involvement in boxing that gave him world wide exposure. Following a short amateur and professional boxing career from 1946 to 1949. It should be noted that his boxing career was short in duration only. in the four years that he boxed, Kaczmarek had 28 fights. His amateur record was 8 wins

Now when people run into Tom and try to remember where they know his face, they usually don't remember that they saw him last year Ringside on HBO, or at a town council meeting in the 70's or that he was the guy who sold them their saddle shoes in the 5th grade. 🐾🐾



● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

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REUNION PLANS FOR ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '66

submitted by Bill DePaolo

The 1966 graduating class of St. Anthony's Grammar School is planning a 40th reunion for November of this year. Details as to where and exactly when still need to be worked out, but interest in such an event has gained a great deal of momentum in the past few years; especially when two or more of our group meet. Unfortunately these meetings usually occur at funerals.

An evening of frivolity would be a much welcomed change of venue and would give everyone a chance to visit, catch up and exchange stories of our Salesian education.

We are fortunate in that this publication will provide updates as we develop final plans for our get-together. Unlike other reunion plans, we are starting with a solid core of definite and almost definite acceptances to attend. The list at this point includes: Dino Annucci,

Billy Acito, Gary DiGirolamo, Bobby Vaccaro, Benny Candelino, Josa Castagna, Oscar Petraglia, Sal Signorelli, Lorraine Grazio, Rosemary Coppola, Connie DeCesare, Donna Dippilito, Mary Ann Nufrio, Jim Imbriaco, Anthony Ferrara, Lorraine Cascio, Vince Kornmeyer, Mary Sasala, Frank Grossi, Joe Addressa, Joe Capece, the Caravano twins, Jimmy Caravano and Bill DePaolo.

There are still a lot of people we have to get in touch with, so anyone with information regarding any of those not yet accounted for, please call them, and contact Bill DePaolo at (908) 351-1568; or via Email:masterprinting@earthlink.net; or, Billy Acito: (908) 354-8782, Email:biagioacito@netscape.com All suggestions and volunteers are welcome. 🍷🍷

.....

Not for Nothing But...

does anyone else

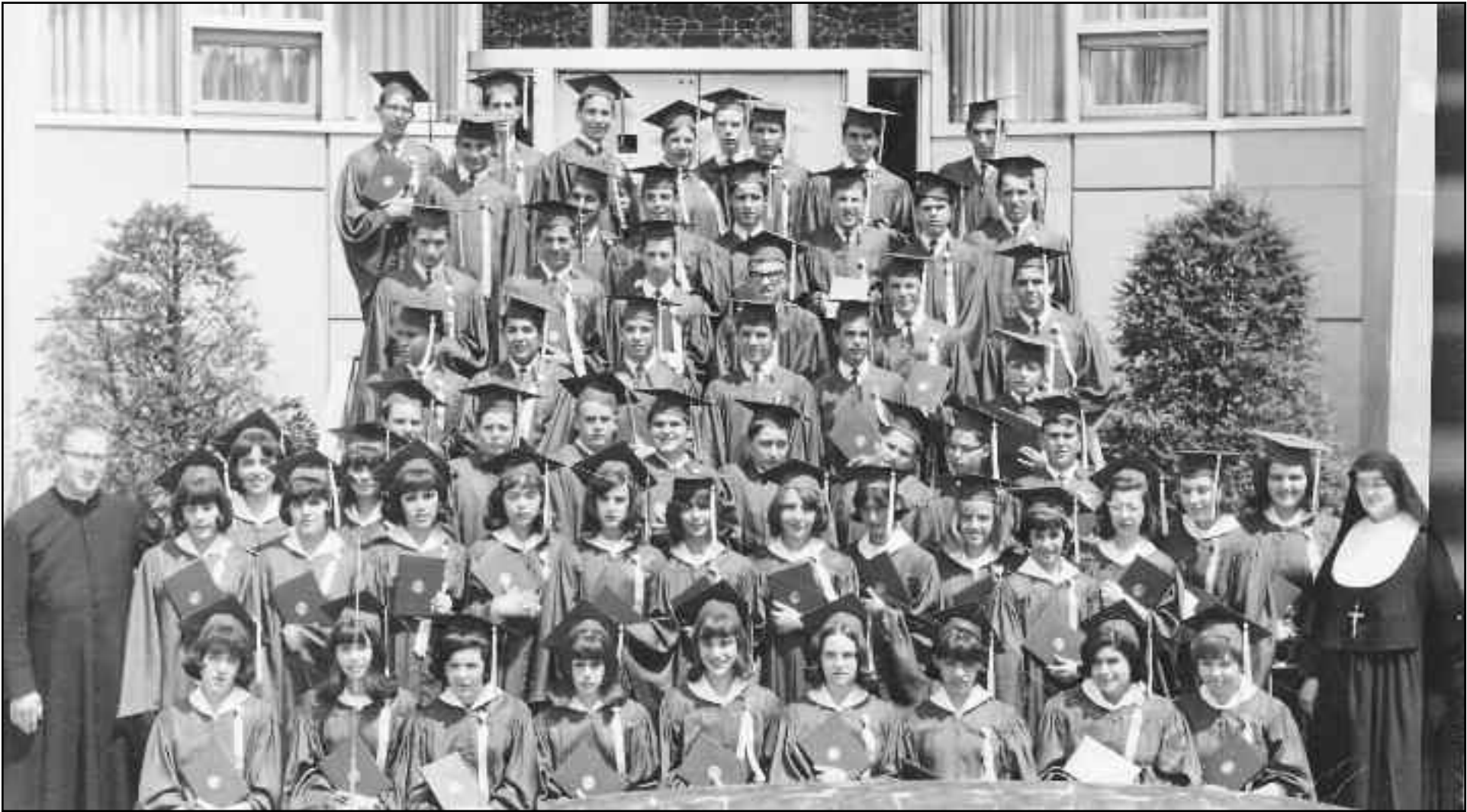
flinch at the sight

of a yard stick?

.....



(above) Graduation day for St. Anthony's Kindergarten class of 1958
(below) Fast forward eight years to their 8th grade graduation as St. Anthony's Class of 1966.



(note) Could the owner of the blue AMC Rebel please move the car so we can take a picture of the graduating class.



(right, l-r) Grandma Francesca, baby Mike and mother Millie.

Words to live by, by Uncle Tony

~~~~~  
 “When you die, your success will be measured by how many friends you made.”  
 ~~~~~

~~~~~  
 “Enjoy what you do.”  
 ~~~~~

~~~~~  
 “Live first, work second.”  
 ~~~~~



(left) 1915 wedding of Francesca and Alfonso Dimaggio



(above, l-r) Francesca with daughter, Millie; husband, Alfonso; Sons, Charlie, Tony, Al and Frank. Missing are son, Tom and daughter, Louise. The photo was taken during WWII when, by chance, all three brothers were on leave. Al would later serve during the Korean War.

THE DIMAGGIO FAMILY'S INFLUENCE ON MIKE

Mike LoBrace's family have been a fixture on John Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth for four generations, ever since his grandmother, Francesca, moved there from Italy in 1915. She was 20 years old at the time. Francesca and her husband Alfonso were the parents of Mike's mother Millie. It was his maternal grandparents' family that grew up in the two family home that Mike was raised in. It is their influence that he attributes all his success.

Mike could imagine the risk his grand parents took

when they bought the house on John Street in 1925. He could relate because he knew how he felt when he opened his business. He thought the decision must have weighed heavy for them at that time, which was during the depression. Mike still has his grandparents' mortgage book. They purchased the house for \$4,700 and paid it off in 28 years. The entries into the book showed the payments were \$2 per month.

Mike's mom still lives in the house along with a lifetime of fond memories. 📖 🍷

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THE INFLUENCE CONTINUES



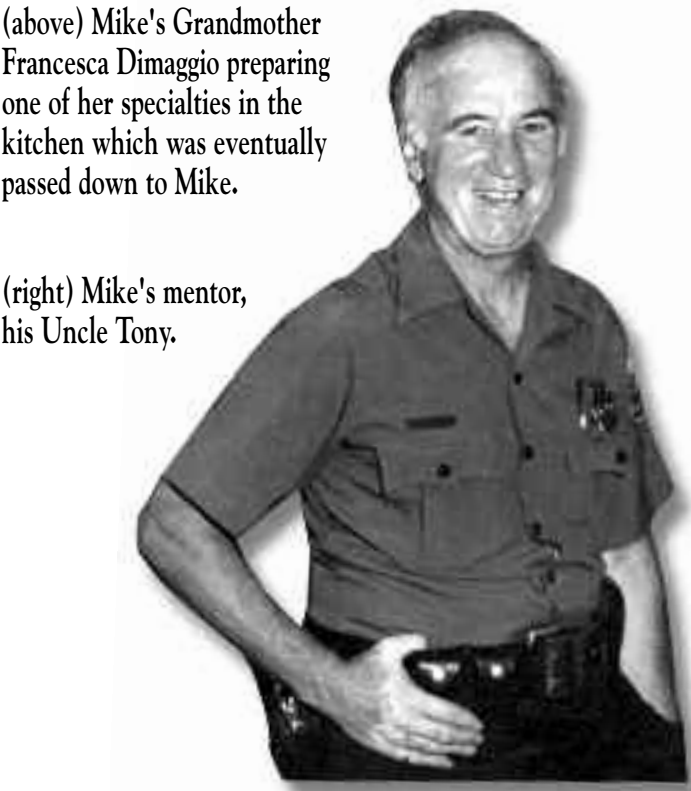
(above) Mike's Grandmother Francesca Dimaggio preparing one of her specialties in the kitchen which was eventually passed down to Mike.



(above) Mike's mom Millie LoBrace



(above) The next generation of LoBrace, Mike and wife Diana's children: Julis, Alex and Anthony.



(right) Mike's mentor, his Uncle Tony.



(left) Resolution from Acting Governor Richard Codey.

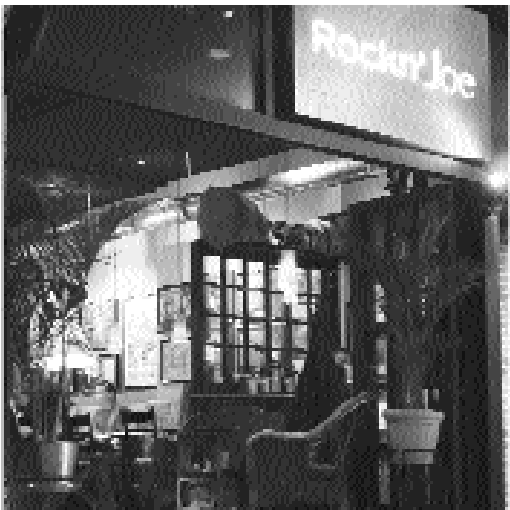
RECEIVING CREDIT

Mike's efforts to develop his business has been recognized by government agencies from the local to state level. His work on the old Elizabeth train station is still making a buzz around statewide historical redevelopment circles and is a model for doing the right thing. Michelino's has received laudatory resolutions and accolades from the City of Elizabeth, the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, the Union County Economic Development Corporation, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. He also received recognition from the offices of Congressman Donald Paine, Congressman Robert Menendez, Senator Jon Corzine, Senator Frank Lautenburg, and Acting Governor Richard Codey.

Mike's most prized compliment is a letter that was drafted by the families in the neighborhood his restaurant is located in. They wanted to express their appreciation for the quality job that Mike is doing to his building. They see his development as an investment in the community which is adding value to their properties and quality of life.

Where many businesses only take from the community they serve, Michelino's does just the opposite. Mike has been tapped to be chairman of the Midtown Special Improvement District in Elizabeth with the hopes that he can have a positive effect on the businesses in Midtown.

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(above) Michelino's has been attracting the most discerning of sports fans who like to watch games on nothing less than a 55" television.



(above, l-r) Dana Tanis and Nuno Afonso work off dinner with a game of Foosball.



(above) Iris Ramos, Millie Kiniery, Valerie Brito and Jolene Aponte shoot pool in the lounge behind the bar. Eddie Aquilar sits in one of the cushy chairs next to the fire place, waiting to play winners.

MICHELINO'S MAKING DUE WITH DEW'S TAVERN

Dew's Tavern has been a landmark bar in the Bayway section of Elizabeth for 38 years. Prior to that it was the very popular Blunelli's Tavern. And before it was a tavern it was a garage and gas station. Dew's building stood on South Street butted up against a restaurant which was next to another store front attached to another facing Washington Avenue. The corner property has housed Michelino's Pizzeria since 1993. In January 2005, Michelino's reopened the bar after a complete renovation.

The acquisition of Dew's Tavern was a final phase in which owner Mike LoBrace united all four units into a combination pizzeria/restaurant/bar/lounge, a total of 4,800 square feet . The layout is accommodating and the interior design is refreshing. The different entities are connected but remain distinct from one another. The people in the different parts of the building, lounge, bar and restaurant would mix only by choice. The pizzeria on the corner is currently for pick ups and deliveries only but will soon have booths. The outside of the building will see a total rejuvenation. The facade, which once looked disjointed, will be uniformly remodeled as one building.

Michelino's first expanded in 1999, taking over the three spaces in the corner building.

LoBrace expanded his already extensive pizzeria and catering menu to include an assortment of entries

featuring fresh seafood, steaks and Italian specialties. There's a menu with bar fare for those who want to nosh while watching a game. Partons are also invited to hang out for dessert and cappacino. Michelino's can also accommodate private parties.

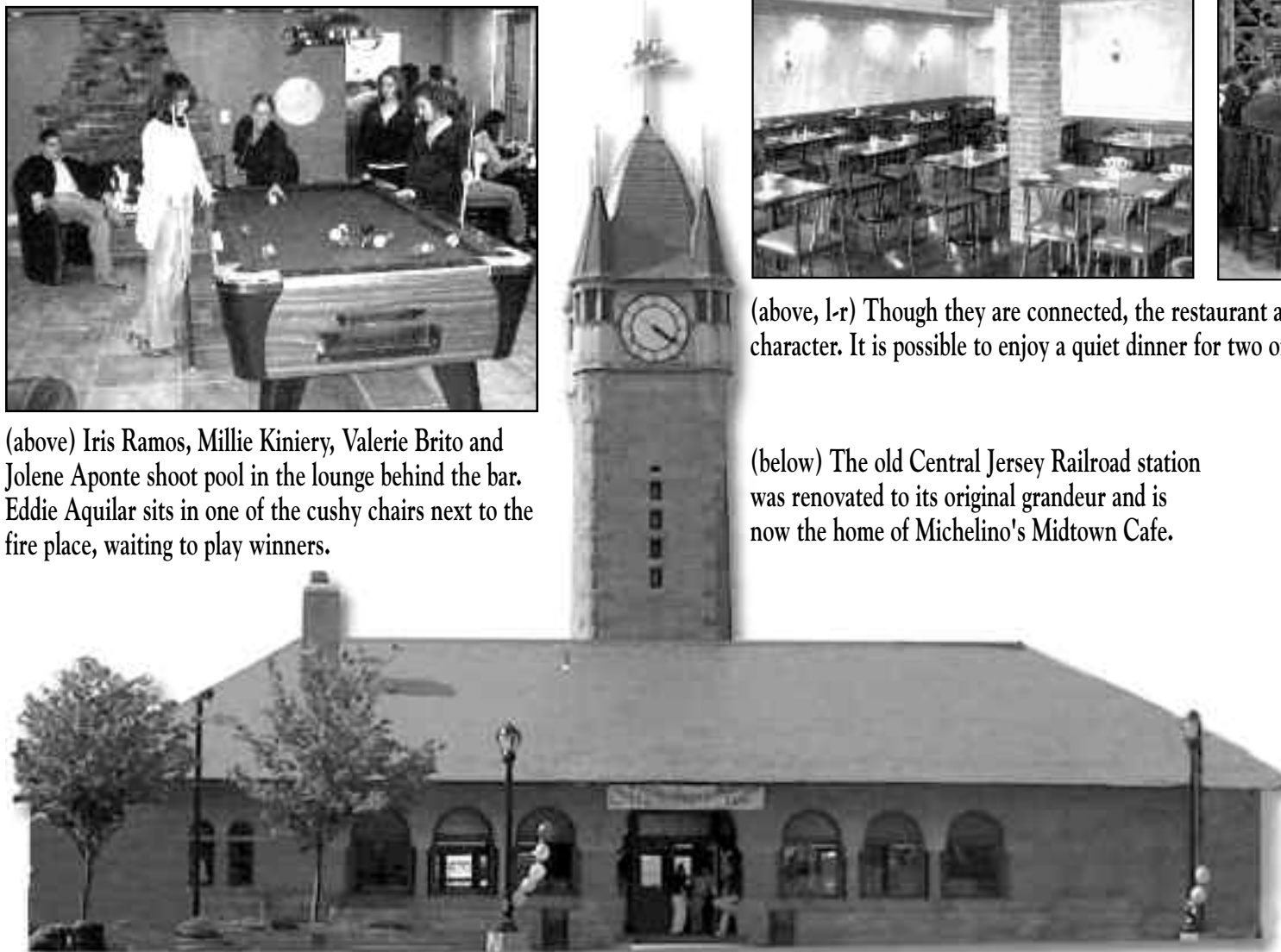
There are six plasma televisions along with a 55" projection T.V. to ensure that patrons have a chance to view what they want. Michelino's has a satellite connection and cable sports package. A foosball and pool table keep some patrons busy while others can just sit in big comfortable chairs around a soothing fireplace. Music is played from an internet juke box that is played through a crisp sound system throughout. Michelino's is open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner and late nights. Prices are reasonable and the atmosphere is casual. Most of the labor was done by Mike and his partners Jerry Nigro and Sal Davi. They used local plumber Ed Calixto and Allen Anderson for the carpentry work. These are the two contractors who did the work for LoBrace on the award winning renovations for Michelino's cafe located in the old train station in midtown Elizabeth.

Michelin's also has pizzerias Union, Linden and Rahway. Mike stresses consistency in quality throughout all his operations. People have learned to expect only the best service from Michelin's, no matter what type of dinning they are looking for. 🍕🍷



(above, l-r) Though they are connected, the restaurant and bar at Michelino's maintain their own character. It is possible to enjoy a quiet dinner for two or a fun after work get together

(below) The old Central Jersey Railroad station was renovated to its original grandeur and is now the home of Michelino's Midtown Cafe.



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MICHELINO'S SPONSORS SEVEN YOUTH SPORTS TEAMS

Mike LoBrace incorporated much of his own life into his pizza and restaurant business, so it was natural that his love for sports is reflected in them. He combined his business with his commitment to the community and helping the youth. To do his part Mike sponsors a few youth sports teams. Well, more than a few. Michelino's Pizzeria and Restaurant sponsors teams in the Elmora Youth League, North End Elizabeth Youth Baseball

League, North End Elizabeth Baseball All Star Team, Rahway PAL Baseball Program, Town ship of Union Little League, and the North Edison Baseball League. He also sponsored a youth bowling team at Jersey Lanes. He keeps tabs on his teams but he doesn't meddle in the coaching. He just enjoys watching games and seeing the kids have fun. Some of his teams have had very successful seasons.

Michelino's also throws support behind St. Mary's High School teams, his neighbors on Washington Street. For his own personal amusement, Mike fields a softball team in local leagues. They were the Elizabeth Recreation Champs for the past two years. In a semi-organized league, Mike and his friends could be seen on the soccer fields of Elizabeth in tilts against other pizzerias, all in fun. 🍕



(above) Michelino's 2002 Elmora Youth League Bears



Michelino's North Elizabeth All Star team were state champs in 2004 under the direction of coach Joe Gutierrez. They represented New Jersey by beating the winners of the South Jersey All Stars. The 10 year old and younger road to the Little League World Series was derailed when they lost in the finals of the Mid Atlantic Regional playoffs to the team representing Pennsylvania.



(above) Michelino's PAL Team in Rahway won their league's championship two years in a row in 2004 and 2005.



(above) Michelino's 2002 North Edison Baseball League Cardinals.

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(above, l-r) Michael's wife Doris, Michael and daughter Franceen Mariano Reeher in Cafe DuMonde, New Orleans, 2004

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MIKE MARIANO CREATIVELY EULOGIZED - HE WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED IT THAT WAY

Submitted by Franceen Mariano Reeher

- Top ten list about dad (but there are really more). He was a David Letterman fan...
- Did you know that my dad:
- 10** Started the Karaoke craze...when dad was in grade school he had a soprano voice and won the lead in a school play. He was so short and skinny that he didn't reach the microphone and couldn't sing on stage. A taller classmate was placed in front of the microphone and lip-synced while dad sang from behind the stage.
 - 9** Had many odd jobs starting at the age of 9. He delivered "buengoline" (bleach) and made 5 cents per week. He gave all the money he earned to my grandmother to help with the family living expenses.
 - 8** Got drafted into the Army and was shipped to Manila in the Philippines and then to Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped. He befriended a Japanese American GI who was basically ostracized. He always told me that through all the trauma of the war, a highlight for him was going to the Opera in Kyoto on R&R with his friend.
 - 7** Was a Draftsman – not like everyone else's dad who either worked for the unions or Exxon. His father worked at the Bayway Refinery but dad was not employable by them because of his bad hearing. I went to work for them because he told me that I would be "crazy" not to.
He could do calculus and trigonometry in his head and basically was a math wiz but could/would not use a computer; an ATM card or direct deposit his Social Security check.
 - 6** Was a gambler - not really. He bought weekly lottery tickets for over 20 years so he could win the "big" one for us. At 8:00 p.m. he'd religiously watch the lottery numbers get called on T.V.
He loved to go to Atlantic City or any place to play the slots but as most of you know, he hated to lose but kept on going. He never could get over how Aunt Esther would win all the time.
 - 5** Loved to cook and was a fantastic cook. Could have patented his "manicotti" recipe. He and I used to have huge cooking fests and parties at my house and he'd always be my sous chef. He just loved doing that and the holidays will never be the same without him.
 - 4** Loved to eat. He should have purchased stock in Hometown/Old Country Buffet because he and my mother went there for lunch every Saturday afternoon for years. Everybody remembers how much he could eat...unreal.
 - 3** Loved to watch TV – Especially Emeril Lagasse at 8:01 p.m. every night for years. Made his T.V. debut on Emeril's show in January, 2005 and was thrilled to meet his hero. My husband Larry actually got us up front tasting table seats and I wish you could have seen how excited dad was to just be there and then go backstage to meet Emeril.
 - 2** Avid sports fan and puzzle fan. Raced pigeons with his father as C. Mariano and Son Loft. Bowled for over 40 years. Loved and hated the NY Mets; the NY Giants and Tiger Woods. Thought he could golf and actually almost got arrested for illegally crossing over onto the Schackamaxxon Golf Course to "go and get/retrieve" lost balls. He wound up with over 2000 golf balls and never used any of them....he just had to have them.
He did the crossword puzzle every morning for years and could sit there for hours keeping himself occupied.
 - 1** But most of all he was:
 - The best father / husband / brother / friend / grandfather / human being I ever knew
 - He was unselfish in anything he did
 - He was the most compassionate person to have taken care of my mother, Doris, unconditionally for over 40 years of their 54 year marriage
 - He was loving all the time
 - He never met a stranger
 - He will never be forgotten
 - He was my best friend 🐣

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FRANK AND MAE YORI CELEBRATE 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Frank Yori had a routine for getting to high school every morning. He would leave his house at 20 South Street and walk to the home of his friend, Ralph DeRose. They would both then make the half-mile trek to Thomas Jefferson High School via Elizabeth Avenue. They followed this routine for a few years until one day, in their senior year when something diverted them from their path.

While walking past Beck's Bakery, which was located next to Grampp's Hardware, Frank caught sight of a beautiful girl behind the counter. He thought she looked like the movie star Ingrid Bergman and the sight of her stopped him in his tracks. He now had a new purpose for his morning walk. He would still make it to class on time but not without first taking a peek at Ingrid.

He soon added breakfast to his routine. Well, it is the most important meal of the day. Frank and Ralph started going to Beck's on the way to school for a coffee and donut. Frank and Ralph began repeating their routine in

reverse on their way home from school. Frank started to take the walk at different times of the day, like after dinner and even days when school was out. He was so taken by this young starlet and wanted to know everything about her.

Frank started a conversation with the counter girl and found out her name was Mae Biekshi. She was 16 years old, Luthauanian and lived in Linden, NJ. Their conversation went so well that they talked up until closing time. Frank, being the gentleman that he is, escorted Mae to her bus stop. From that day on Frank and Mae were inseparable.

Three years later, on January 4, 1941, they got married in St. Elizabeth's Church in Linden. Frank and Mae just celebrated their 65th year of marriage, a celebration that really was a continuation of their wedding reception. Frank and Mae are so much in love that they celebrate their marriage every day just sharing their life together.

After a few years of being married to Mae, the country was in the throws of the war effort and Mae did her part by working in the General Motors Plant building fighter planes. Mae, at 22 years old, was one of the original "Rosie the Riveters." She lugged her rivet gun around and used a ladder to reach spots on the aircraft. Mae had no idea when she started working at the plant that she was pregnant. She would not have been allowed to otherwise.

Mae worked up to the birth of her first child, Brenda, while Frank was also working building at the plant cutting sheet metal. Together they earned about \$100 a week. To the Yori's the job was more of a duty. They thought of those giving their lives overseas. Frank had a physical condition that made him unable to join the army.

Though times may have been tough, Frank and Mae enjoyed their lives for the soul reason that they were sharing them with each other. The joy of their second daughter, Donna, came after the war and watching their children grow and have families of their own has been the source of pride for them.

Brenda is an educator at Solomon Schechter Day School in West Orange and is also a councilwoman in Woodbridge. Donna is a registered nurse currently working at JFK Hospital in Edison. Brenda and husband, Miguel, have two children, Scott and Daren. Donna and husband, Rich Wiegiers, also have two children, Rich and Donna. Scott and his wife, Gabrielle, are expecting Frank and Mae's first great grandchild. 🎉



(above, l-r) Frank and Mae Yori as in love as as they were 65 years ago.

(left, l-r) Frank courting Mae prior to getting married in 1941.



(above, l-r) Mae's beauty caught the eye of her future husband, Frank who thought she resembled Swedish movie star Ingrid Bergman.



(above) The Wiegiers family at the wedding of Frank and Mae's grandson Scott, a Marine Sargent.



(above) Frank and Mae's daughter Brenda Velasco being sworn in as Mayor of Woodbridge (temporarily).

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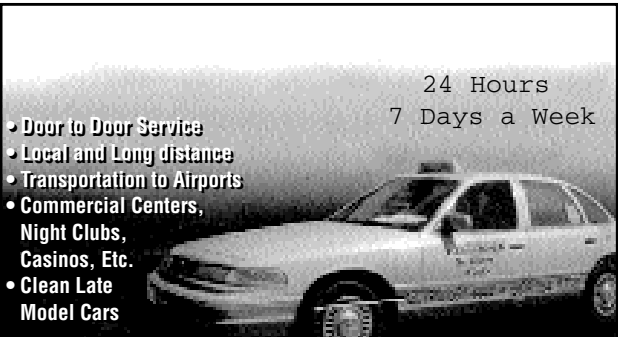


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ITALIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION FOCUSES ON EDUCATION

Various organizations and businesses gathered at the Galloping Hill Banquet Center on Saturday, January 21, to celebrate their Italian heritage at a gala honoring Elizabeth Board of Education Commissioner Carole Cascio. Cascio, a lifelong Elizabeth resident, has served on the board for six years, serving as both Board President and Vice President.

Carol has also been active as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society for the past 14 years and is a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board. Carol, nee Gallo, has been married to Peterstown native, John Cascio for 22 years. They have a son Jon Carlo who is a

junior at Wagner College.

Diodato (Dee) Villani, president of Villani Bus Company, was also recognized that evening for the outstanding service his company delivers transporting Elizabeth students. The Board presented the bus drivers with a laudatory resolution for their outstanding service. Their safety record earned them an "S" rating enabling the Elizabeth school district to qualify for lower insurance rates.

Vito Nufrio, another Peterstown native and longtime educator and administrator for the school system, was acknowledged for his stellar career. ❧



(above, l-r) Dee Villani, President of Villani Bus Company, is joined by members of the Elizabeth Board of Education, President Rafael Fajardo, Kathy Moore, Carole Cascio, Armando DaSilva, Francesco Gonzalez and Bud Whelan.



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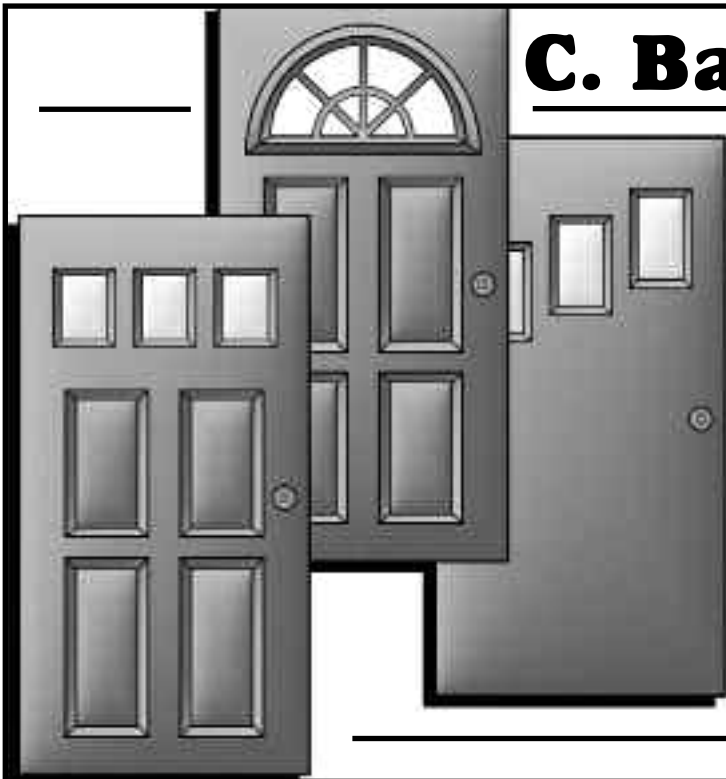


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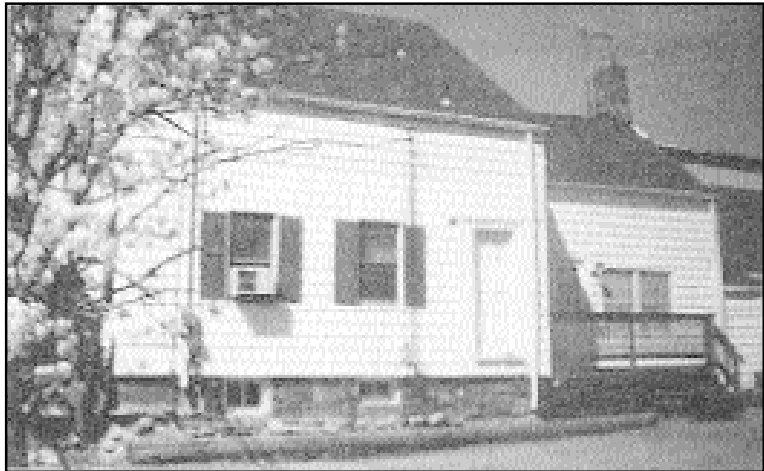
The business has expanded and moved from its Centennial Avenue store front in Cranford to its new headquarters at 515 Springfield Road in Kenilworth, NJ. The building that the DiBellas moved into is historically significant in that it is the oldest surviving structure in the town of Kenilworth.

Historically, the property was known as the Sayre-Shallcross home. It was built in 1710 by a tradesman named Daniel Syre. The property is adjacent to Black Brook Park and Sayre used water from a nearby stream to cure leather. The home predates the Revolutionary war and was later owned by Sayre's grandson who was a U.S. Continental Soldier.

The DiBellas are being joined in their new offices by their business associate First Metropolitan Mortgage, which offers a wide range of mortgage products.

Frank Locorriere, President of First Mortgage, has combined his services with those that the DiBella's already offer to make their business a one-stop shopping for income tax, mortgages, annuities, life insurance and other financial investments.

(right) How the Shellcross House, the new home of The Dibella Agency, looked circa 1900, and how it looks today. The house, build in 1710, is located at 515 Springfield Road in Kenilworth, NJ. It is the town's oldest surviving structure.



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A HISTORIC LOOK AT KENILWORTH



Both photographs are from the book "Kenilworth, Houses, People, Pictures and Stories", written by Walter E. Boright. This is Boright's second book on historic Kenilworth. His first was "Kenilworth, as told through street signs." He is about to publish his third, "Women of Kenilworth". The books contain excerpts from tape-recorded, first

hand interviews with people born before 1900, old maps, many old and new photographs, never before published information about Kenilworth, Upsala College, New Orange and some of Kenilworth's oldest families

Inquiries about the Kenilworth publications can be directed to Walter E. Boright, 585 Trinity Place, Westfield, NJ 07090, or through the email address drbori@aol.com, or call 908-518-0324.

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Frank M. Wade
1936-2005

FRANK WADE- ADVOCATE FOR WORKERS

Frank Wade, who passed away December 30, 2005 at the age of 69, will be remembered as an advocate for working men and women. Frank was Executive Director of the New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council since 1989. He was instrumental in reuniting trade unions that had split from the council. The Locals trusted Wade's honesty and counted on his integrity. He retired from the council in 1999.

The Trades Council was an organization that networked many local trade unions and their members, totaling approximately 125,000. Wade himself, like his father, was a member of the Iron Workers Local 480. He started out as an apprentice in 1954 and became co-business agent in 1971 until his appointment as Executive Director by the Trade Council then President Jim Grogan.

Frank represented the interest of the laborer. He gave a voice to the working men and women by serving on various government boards and committees. Appointed by Acting Governor Richard Codey, Wade recently served as the chairman of the state's Employment Security Council, which advises the labor commissioner on unemployment compensation and temporary disability benefits laws. He was also appointed by former

Governor Christie Whitman to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and Labor Round Table.

Frank Wade's gift was an ability to bring groups of people together and resolve differences in a way that both parties deemed fair. He did so with a calm and level headed demeanor, which were his signature traits.

Frank was born and raised in Elizabeth and was a product of the Elizabeth Public School System. His knowledge of the building and construction trades can be attributed to the teachings of his father and his relationship with the many tradesmen from the Peterstown area.

There has always been a need for someone to watch out for the interests of the working class. From fair wages to safe working environments, the tradesmen and laborers only strength was to organize and rely on advocates to see that their basic needs were met. Frank Wade was that person for many people.

Mr. Wade is survived by his wife of 47 years, Maria (nee Colicchio); son Frank Wade III; daughter Nancy Strada; brother Matthew Wade, and sisters Marianne Wade and Barbara Lesniak.

The dignity of labor and the laborer is his legacy.



(above, l-r) Frank's wife, Maria, his mother, Anna, Frank and his father Frank Sr.



(left, l-r) Frank and Maria are seated in front of their son Frank III (Butch), and his wife Debbie, and their daughter, Nancy and her husband Richie.

(below, l-r) Frank and his grandchildren, Lindsey, Nicole, Vanessa and Miranda.



(left, l-r) Monsignor Gilchrist inducted Frank into the Roman Catholic Church's Knighthood "The order of St. Gregory the Great."





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(Left) Family members celebrate Frank Wade's retirement from Iron Workers Local 480.

(top row, l-r) Barbara (Wade) and Bob Lesniak, Joe and Pat Menafra, Nancy and Richie Strada, Butch and Debbie Wade, Patty and Matty Wade, and John Wade.

(seated, l-r) Marianne Wade, Maria and Frank, and Frank Wade Sr.

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2006 IS HERE. It's hard to imagine another year has gone by. In 2005 we saw many things change in the real estate industry. Interest rates have risen and as I am writing this article today, the Fed's will be meeting on January 31, 2006, to raise the rates once again.

In the beginning of 2005, real estate was the most positive word that could be spoken in the English language. By September of 2005 real estate was no longer the positive focus in our economy with rising interest rates, increased value in real estate prices and, most importantly, the news media blasting real estate. Every time I listen to a radio station or a news program the first thing that is discussed is if we have a real estate bubble. Depending on who is speaking, their comments would vary but overall nothing positive has been said since September.

We must focus on why people buy real estate. There are many reasons, primarily for shelter. This is a basic human need whether you own or rent, all human beings need some place to live. Its been a driving factor in human nature since the beginning of time. In modern societies we not only look at this as a basic need but also as an investment. It's a fact of life that real estate has created more wealth for the citizens of this country then any other investment. We have to ask ourselves, "Where would we be if we did not own our own home?", the answer is very simple: we would be paying rent, living on the streets, or with a relative.

Wealth is created in real estate over time. A person or a family buys a home and pays a mortgage, and over time, the mortgage is paid off, creating

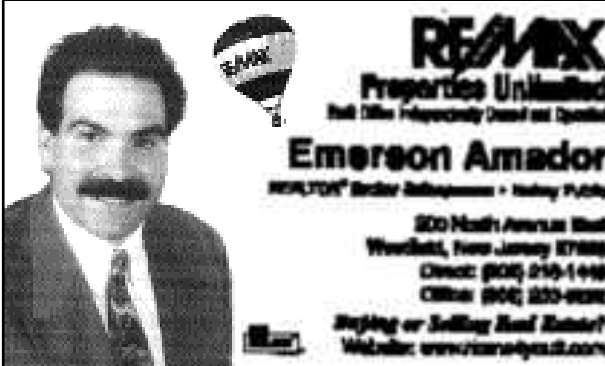
wealth in savings for the future.

This is not to be confused with speculations. Speculations are when we anticipate real estate values increasing in a very short period of time. Since 2003 anyone who purchased real estate in New Jersey has received the benefit of increased values.

The thought is that real estate values will never cease to increase. People who think this way may be in for a surprise. The affordability of purchasing real estate is predicated on mortgage rates and income. When prices rise above the affordability of the people who live in the area, real estate prices begin to drop. There is no magical solution to make people pay more than what they can afford. This basic premise is what people call the real estate bubble. The questions become, "Are we now in a real estate bubble?", "Will prices begin to decline?", and "Will they stay steady or will they continue to increase?". It's my professional opinion that our immediate area is not in a real estate bubble where prices will collapse. I do believe, though, that we will not see the increases in real estate values that we have seen over the last three years.

The City of Elizabeth is in a unique situation. It has a growing population with a solid community base that will continue to grow. Elizabeth is poised to withstand the pressures of rising interest rates. It's my personal belief that this is based on the ethnic groups that are moving into the city and their need for housing. I do have some concerns on some specific projects that appear to be over the affordability level in today's market place, but over all Elizabeth should fare well in 2006.

Submitted by Justino Rosa



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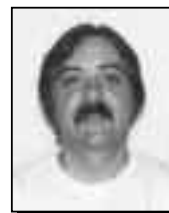
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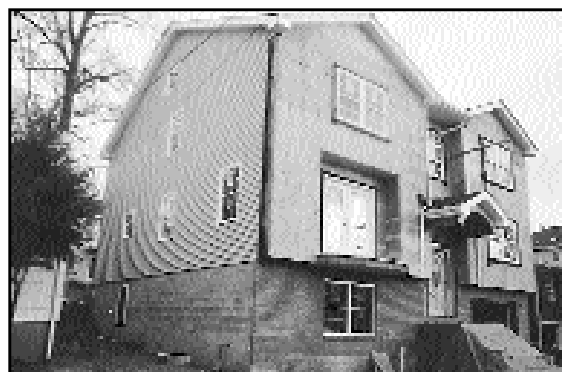
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