

MAKE IT COUNT!

ALL ABOUT JACKSON!

By COMMITTEEMAN MIKE KAFTON

TACKLING TAXES IN JACKSON!

Volume 1, Issue 4
Spring 2006

For most residents the number one issue is TAXES. The question is how do we control them in what is recognized as one of the most desirable communities in the State?

The answer is to control residential growth. The reason I didn't say "STOP residential growth" is because, although it may sound good it isn't realistic. Placing a moratorium on residential growth is illegal in this State. That should give us all an idea of just how powerful the

builders' lobby is in New Jersey. Builders don't even have to contribute to the future construction of schools. Unfortunately that burden is put back on us as residents.

There are three steps to controlling growth:

STEP ONE is to set a strong foundation consisting of the preservation of open space. The more land we buy for our future, the less land is available for developers.

In 2002 and again in 2004 the Township Committee placed a question on the ballot to create an open space fund to do just that.

Over the past five years, the Township Committee has preserved over 3,000 acres, which in turn stopped the development of hundreds of homes. But land preservation is limited to how much land we, as taxpayers, can afford for the town to purchase and the price of land today is at an all time high. That brings us to ...

STEP TWO is to reduce the number of buildable homes through strict zoning laws.

That is why the buildable lot size to construct a new home was changed in 2002 to a minimum of three acres. This one single zone change alone stopped over 3,000 residential lots from future approvals. Along with the new zoning changes came stronger laws to protect

our environment. A minimum 300 foot buffer along the Metedeconk waterways and a 600 foot buffer along the Toms River waterways are examples of some of those changes.

Even after completing Steps One and Two, we still won't be able to control future tax increases without focusing on step three.

STEP THREE is attracting Commercial Ratables.

Commercial Ratables provide not only essential services to the community but also create jobs for many residents. Equally important is the fact that commercial ratables do not contribute any children to the school system, and yet pay an equal share of school taxes.

Bringing in good clean commercial ratables such as office buildings, restaurants and medical facilities help to reduce some of the tax burden placed on all of us.

Today the largest taxpayers in Jackson are our Active Adult Communities, with Westlake Village leading with a total assessed value of over \$252 million.

This means that these communities are heavily contributing monies to our schools and municipal services, without adding any children into the school system.

Future Commercial Ratables will help to reduce the tax burden placed upon our Active Adult Communities as well as the entire town.

Commercial Ratables are the next step in TACKLING TAXES in Jackson .



MIKE KAFTON
MAYOR
Jackson Township
2003

DEPUTY MAYOR
Jackson Township
2005

COMMITTEEMAN
Jackson Township
1996-97, 2000-2006

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Jackson Township
2001

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR
Kimball Medical Center
2005

COMMISSIONER
CHARTER STUDY COMMISSION
2004-2005



HIGHLIGHTING JACKSON'S BEST

THE WESTLAKE WOMEN'S CLUB

Voted NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION of the YEAR by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce 2006

The non-profit Westlake Women's Club was founded in January 2000 at the Westlake active adult community. Their goals were to raise money for a wide variety of charities.

The Westlake Women's Club has contributed to so many worthwhile causes, including, but not limited to, the donation of equipment for a special needs children's playground at the Jackson Municipal Complex; a specialized exam table for the

pediatric center at Kimball Hospital; donations to a shelter for battered women; college scholarships for deserving high school women in the community; donations to various research foundations to cure diseases such as Crohns disease, diabetes, and Parkinsons; scholarships for children to go to a specialized camp; a special MRI machine for diagnostic purposes for breast cancer at Kimball

Hospital; a piano fund for the Jackson High School; toys and care packages for families of soldiers who are on active duty in Iraq and the adoption of several families at a local elementary school to provide supplies for them.

The Westlake Women's Club is probably best known for their contributions to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Each year they hold a walk to help raise funds

towards finding a cure. Over the past three years they have raised more than \$153,600.00

This year alone they raised over \$60,000 with \$25,000 of that coming from direct participation from our elementary school kids.

Westlake Village may be a private adult community but these woman are sure making a difference all over Jackson.

Congratulations for being chosen Non-Profit Organization of the year. It is a well deserved honor.

JACKSON FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Jackson Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that has done many wonderful things for Jackson. They recently donated a mobile 50' plasma monitor to the Jackson Library. They raised \$4600 from their April book sale and donated a number of children's books to children's schools in Africa. Books have also been donated to the YMCA and the Orchards Assisted Living Center here in Jackson. The funds raised from the book sale are also used for special programs at the library such as the puppet show this past holiday season. They are also trying to plant a garden on the library property. Membership applications for this worthy organization can be obtained at the Jackson Library.



DID YOU KNOW??
The Rite Aid Pharmacy currently located at Manhattan Street has submitted an application for a 11,500 square foot building at the intersection of Cooks Bridge Rd. and Bennetts Mills Rd.

DID YOU KNOW??
Do you hate the entrance and exit of Shop Rite Plaza? You are not alone and changes are coming.

A future entrance and exit will be located just beyond Block Buster Video.
There will be a jughandle installed with a traffic light. This will take place as the County widens County Line Rd. and puts a divider down the center.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

"JACKSON VIEWS"

Jackson Township Memorial High School's literary magazine
VOTED BEST IN NEW JERSEY 2005

The American Scholastic Press Association awarded the magazine its
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

For 15 years in a row the magazine has won
BEST IN OCEAN COUNTY

Once again, our Jackson students excel! Congratulations!

KIDS KORNER

INTERNET SAFETY

The internet is fun and educational, but it can also be dangerous if you don't follow the rules. On April 20, I hosted an internet safety seminar for parents. The information presented at that seminar was so important that I wish all parents **had** to attend.

Kids, always listen to your parents' rules about using the computer. Sometimes it may seem unfair to you that your parents don't let you go on a certain site. They may know things that make that site unsafe. If your parents have rules about how much time you can spend on the Internet or if they don't let you go on at certain time of the day or night, they have very good reasons for having

those rules. Don't ever give out your name, age, address or telephone number to anyone online. If anyone says anything online that makes you uncomfortable or that you don't understand, tell your parents and they will help you.

Some sites have built in protection systems that protect kids below a certain age. Don't lie about your age to bypass those security systems. If you are careful and listen to your parents' rules, you can have fun and learn while enjoying the internet.



QUIZ IT

Kids, Test your knowledge:

1. **How many campgrounds are in Jackson ?**
2. **What are the names of those campgrounds?**
3. **How many golf courses are in Jackson? (private & public)**
4. **What are their names?**

The answers can be found on my website at...www.michaelkafton.com

LOOKING BACK...

As the result of a fire on Fort Dix property in 1960, an Air Force nuclear missile warhead melted down. In 1987, deadly radioactive plutonium was discovered on ground surfaces in the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area. The Dept. of Environmental Protection determined that there was too little plutonium released to be a danger. Ground water has been continuously monitored in the area and found to be safe.

DID YOU KNOW??

During the 1800's Jackson was known for its cranberry bogs. At one time there were 260 cranberry bogs in operation in Jackson. Cranberries were in very high demand during that time period because they were thought to prevent vitamin deficiencies.

LOOKING BACK...

Johnson Park was named after the son of one of Jackson's founding families. John F. Johnson Jr. was 25 years old when he died while trying to save someone from drowning in Island Beach State Park in 1978.

Johnson Park was a former landfill and the site of the 1st Jackson Day in 1976.

DID YOU KNOW???

The Commuter Park and Ride which I brought to Jackson keeps expanding its service. They have just introduced a 10 am Wednesday Matinee Bus from Jackson, arriving in Times Square at 11:30 am. I urge you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see a Broadway Show, shop or just sightsee without the hassle of driving or parking in New York City!

The Jackson Park & Ride is located off Cedar Swamp Rd. at Progress Place and parking is FREE!

Academy Bus is offering an Introductory 10:00 am trip on May 3 for FREE! For more information, call my office at 732-905-7898 or Academy Bus at 732-901-1933.

ENJOY YOUR DAY IN THE BIG APPLE



KIDS- GO TO MY WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO GAMES & OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES.
www.Michaelkafton.com

DID YOU KNOW???

An application has been submitted for the construction of Cooks Bridge Plaza which would consist of 3 buildings totaling 55,000 square feet. The project would have an office building, retail space and an indoor/outdoor restaurant with a beautiful clock tower and would be located at the intersection of Cooks Bridge and Bennetts Mills Road.

Dear Friends,
For those of you who enjoy receiving my newsletter each month I thank you for taking the time to read it. I must apologize for adding this political letter into this edition but I thought it was important that you know the truth.

Through all my years as an elected official I have always focused on the issues that mattered most to you. Taking personal shots at another elected official is the only thing that I haven't done while serving in public office.

We are all faced with an historic election and the question of who to choose as Jackson's first DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR.

Throughout this campaign I have continued to stay focused on the issues that affect your life. As we are only days away from this election, I want to thank all of you who have supported me over the years.

I also would like to ask you to please continue your support on this May 9th election.

One of my opponents, who had been a friend since elementary school as well as a fellow committeeman for the past 5 years, has dedicated his entire campaign on personal attacks. Issues that couldn't possibly reduce your taxes or preserve one acre of land. What makes things even worse is that they aren't even issues having to do with your life — they have to do with mine.

I had always thought candidates for public office were supposed to be concerned with you. Staying focused on issues that affect you is the only way to make government better and more responsive.

The ONLY thing Mr. Giblin has NOT lied about in his attack ads on me is that I did lose my license for 90 days for a DWI charge I received a year ago. I was a .09 alcohol reading and the NEW State Law was a .08 — I had 1 1/2 drinks.

Everything else in his despicable ads are LIES. There NEVER were illegal drugs and I am NOT on probation for illegal drugs.

Mr. Giblin also claimed that I am a developer. This is another outright lie. I have NEVER developed anything but good programs for this town. Sean Giblin you should be ashamed of yourself.

To my fellow residents, you need to be aware that some politicians are masters at distracting people from the real issues. But, I think they are more masters at hiding the fact that they don't know what the real issues are, nor do they know how to solve them. So their only choice is to resort to personal attacks.

As your elected official, I am proud to have created more programs than any other elected official serving office. I am also proud to have introduced more ordinances that protect you, the residents of this town.

As your Mayor I will continue to bring forth good clean ratables to our community, preserve even more open space and fight to keep your municipal tax rate down.

Let my opponents continue talking about nothing, while you and I get down to work and make this community better for all of us. Thank you .

Mike Kafton