

MAKE IT COUNT!

By DEPUTY MAYOR MIKE KAFTON

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HIGHLIGHTING JACKSON'S BEST

MAKE IT COUNT is a Newsletter about Jackson Township and the unsung heroes who make a difference in our community. Jackson Township is more than just a place to live and work. It is a place that more than 50,000 of us call home. It doesn't matter whether you moved here from New York, North Jersey, South Jersey, another state, a neighboring community, or if you are a life long resident of Jackson as I am. In one way or another, each of us, individually or as part of a group, has made a difference in this town.

Residents like Chris Fallon, who took an idea to build a

unique playground and made it a reality. So many of us came together to build what is known today as the Jackson Jungle. Or... The Westlake Women's Club who, through great effort and dedication, presented a check for \$60,517.00 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, New Jersey Race for the Cure. The magnitude of this donation kept them on the same level of sponsorship as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Commerce Bank, Johnson & Johnson and Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The Jackson Women of Today (JWOT) spend countless hours running the Food Pantry, ensuring that no one in this town goes

hungry. These women are also involved in many other charitable functions in town.

Westlake Mews, a rental complex consisting of about 150 seniors, threw a gala Christmas party, for many needy families in town. These residents also bought more than enough gifts to put a smile on every child's face.

Jackson's best can also be found in our High School's marching band which had the unprecedented honor of playing at the Inauguration of President Bush. And, of course, Jackson's best was once again exemplified when the High School Football team won this year's State Championship with 13 wins and no losses.

Getting involved in our community is what makes it a better place for all of us. Let's come together and MAKE IT COUNT!



DEPUTY MAYOR MIKE KAFTON

*If you know of a worthy individual or organization that you think has made a difference and would like to see them highlighted in future newsletters or if you want further information on any of these organizations, please visit my website at www.Michaelkafton.com or call my office at

732-905-7898.

PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE AT
WWW.MICHAELKAFTON.COM



This Newsletter is paid for by Mike Kafton and dedicated to all those that give their best in the name of Jackson Township.

PREPARING FOR CHANGE

2006 will most likely be recognized as an important turning point in the history of Jackson. As you know by now, this past November Jackson voters overwhelmingly supported changing our municipal government to a Directly Elected Mayor. This coming May 9th, for the first time since Jackson was incorporated in 1844, the voters will get to decide who their Mayor will be. In addition to the Mayor, the voters will be electing a new Town Council.

This new form of government will enable our elected officials to put forth a plan for Jackson's future and see that plan through to fruition. Under the existing form of government, the town changes the Mayor every year giving us very little continuity and no real vision. Rather than the people choosing the Mayor, currently, the Township

Committee chooses the Mayor.

I urge every registered voter to come out and vote in this May's election. The only names on the ballot will be those seeking office on the municipal level. Jackson voters can focus on who will best be suited to run their government. If you are not a registered voter and would like to pick up a registration form, please call my office at 732-905-7898 by April 18th which is the deadline to register for the May election. We can all be part of history simply by voting.

For more information on the Directly Elected Mayor form of government you can go to www.electyourmayor.com or call my office at 732-905-7898.

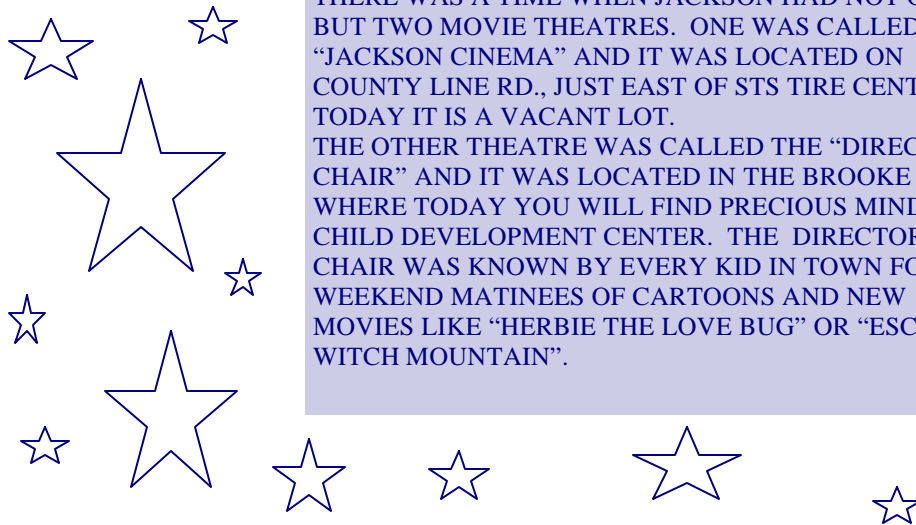
New government FACTS

- ** Mayor directly elected by the people to a 4 year term.
- ** Council directly elected with 4 year staggered terms.
- ** Non-partisan form of government.
- ** Elections held in May.
- ** All council members elected at large
- ** NO WARDS

DID YOUKNOW???

CHARLIE BROWN'S RESTAURANT IS COMING TO JACKSON!!!!

They paid \$312,000.00 for a liquor license—the most money ever paid for a liquor license in Jackson. This is an excellent commercial rate for Jackson and the monies generated by this license could help offset future taxes.



LOOKING BACK...

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN JACKSON HAD NOT ONE, BUT TWO MOVIE THEATRES. ONE WAS CALLED THE "JACKSON CINEMA" AND IT WAS LOCATED ON COUNTY LINE RD., JUST EAST OF STS TIRE CENTER . TODAY IT IS A VACANT LOT. THE OTHER THEATRE WAS CALLED THE "DIRECTOR'S CHAIR" AND IT WAS LOCATED IN THE BROOKE PLAZA WHERE TODAY YOU WILL FIND PRECIOUS MINDS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER. THE DIRECTORS CHAIR WAS KNOWN BY EVERY KID IN TOWN FOR ITS WEEKEND MATINEES OF CARTOONS AND NEW MOVIES LIKE "HERBIE THE LOVE BUG" OR "ESCAPE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN".

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Jackson sports teams which had an outstanding year with many wins and championship titles. Here are some of our Champs-tell me about other champs for future issues.

- JACKSON JAGUARS H.S. FOOTBALL TEAM-2005 State Champions
- JACKSON JAGUARS GIRLS H.S. CROSS COUNTRY TEAM-2005 Central Jersey State Champions
- POP WARNER FOOTBALL-MIDGET & PEEWEE CHEERLEADER- attended Florida Nationals
- PEEWEE BLACK SQUAD-attended Garden State Championship
- JR. MIDGETS-attended the Jersey Shore Finals
- JACKSON LITTLE LEAGUE 2004 & 2005 STATE CHAMPIONS -10 YEAR OLDS
- FIRST TIME EVER THAT THIS AGE GROUP WON BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

KIDS CORNER

***Kids are our future and at the same time, our legacy. I want every child living in Jackson Township to know that your opinions count and that my office is open to you as well as your parents. While in office, I have tried to consider your needs and was able to implement several programs such as SAFE TRICK OR TREAT; TEEN DANCES; and MOVIES IN THE PARK just to name a few. Like you, I have gone through the Jackson school system, and I know how important it is for kids to have things to do and places where they can go and feel comfortable. Let's work together so that we can make Jackson**

more and more kid friendly.

KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Do you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we, together can improve Jackson? Remember...

KIDS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! I would like to hear from you. Please share your ideas with me by visiting my website: www.Michaelkafton.com and click on Contact Me.

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

DID YOU KNOW????

JACKSON IS GETTING ANOTHER MCDONALDS. IT WILL BE BUILT ALONG WITH A BANK AND A PHARMACY AT THE INTERSECTION OF HOPE RD. AND 528 BEHIND THE NEW WAWA.



LOOKING BACK...

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND JACKSON TOWNSHIP??

IN 1944, BUSH WAS A NAVY LIEUTENANT WHEN HIS PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE PACIFIC IN WWII. HE LANDED TO SAFETY WITH THE HELP OF A PARACHUTE MADE BY STANLEY SWITLIK. STANLEY SWITLIK, ONE OF JACKSON'S MOST FAMOUS RESIDENTS, WAS THE OWNER OF THE SWITLIK PARACHUTE AND EQUIPMENT CO. SWITLIK, ALONG WITH GEORGE PUTNAM WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF AMELIA EARHART, ALSO FORMED A COMPANY CALLED THE SAFE PARACHUTE JUMP CO. THEIR FIRST PARACHUTE JUMP SITE WAS BUILT IN JACKSON ON SWITLIK'S PROPERTY (WHERE GREAT ADVENTURE IS LOCATED TODAY). AMELIA EARHART MADE THE FIRST JUMP FROM HIS TOWER HERE IN JACKSON. THE TOWER WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND SIMILAR ONES WERE BUILT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR BOTH MILITARY AND AMUSEMENT COMPANIES.

QUIZ IT

KIDS, Test your knowledge. Can you answer the following questions about our town?

1. Can you name all the elementary schools in Jackson? (Hint: there are 6)
2. Which elementary school was built first?
3. Which school was originally called the Brookwood school?
4. Which 2 elementary schools are called "sister" schools?

For the answers, visit my website at www.Michaelkafton.com and click on KIDS CORNER or wait until the next issue of my newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW???

JACKSON JUNGLE (which is located at the entrance of the Justice Complex) was built entirely by hundreds of residents of Jackson including many kids. The playground was built in 6 days. This playground is by far the single greatest example in Jackson of what people can accomplish working together and MAKING IT COUNT.

WORD JUMBLE

Can you unscramble these words?

HINT: They have to do with holidays and gifts.

- rtmicsah dopi
- dlscae zkanwaa
- lisght odninetn
- rnohaem ktebodrsaa
- nhucahak gnlea

For answers go to:

www.Michaelkafton.com

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
FIRE (non-emergency)	732-928-1666
POLICE (non-emergency)	732-928-1111
POISON CONTROL	800-222-1222
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	732-928-1200
JACKSON BD.OF EDUCATION	732-928-1400
JACKSON MUA	732-928-2222
STATE SENATOR ROBERT SINGER	732-901-0702
JACKSON SENIOR CENTER	732-928-2313
NJ ROAD CONDITIONS	800-336-5875

FOR OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS, PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE WWW.MICHAELKAFTON.COM

DID YOU KNOW???

GREAT ADVENTURE RECENTLY RECEIVED AN APPROVAL FOR A 500 ROOM HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER TO BE BUILT WITHIN THEIR PARK!



A HOLIDAY MESSAGE...

As 2005 comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to Thank You, the residents of Jackson, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your elected representative. As a lifelong resident of Jackson, I am so grateful to be able to give back to the very community that helped raise me. To me, Jackson is more than just another town on a map. It is a community made up of some of the most amazing and generous people all striving to make our home (Jackson) the best it can be. Whether you decorate a tree, light a menorah or observe the seven principles of Kwanzaa, I want to wish you the very best this Holiday season and a safe, happy healthy and prosperous New Year. Always remember, whatever you do in life, give it your all, and MAKE IT COUNT!!!

Sincerely,
MIKE KAFTON, Deputy Mayor

DON'T WORRY IF YOU NOTICE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WATER LEVELS OF LAKE ENNO & JACKSON MILLS LAKE. ON JANUARY 15th, THEY WILL BE DRAINED TO ALLEVIATE THE OVERGROWTH AT THE BOTTOM WHICH WILL ALLOW THE LAKES TO FLOURISH.

SAVE THE DATE.....

Monday, January 9 2006
7pm-9pm Jackson Memorial High School

Seminar on Gang Awareness & Influence on Youth

Sponsored by the Jackson Police Department and Board of Education.

THIS SESSION IS FOR PARENTS AND ADULTS ONLY.

Thursday, January 12 2006
10 am-12 noon Municipal Building

The High Cost of Staying Warm This Winter!! ATTENTION

Homeowners and Renters
Please join Deputy Mayor Mike Kafton and learn how we can conserve energy this winter and save \$\$ on our heating bills. Also, find out if you are eligible for any assistance programs