

MAKE IT COUNT!

ALL ABOUT JACKSON!

By COMMITTEEMAN MIKE KAFTON

Volume 1, Issue 2
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MYTHFAIRE in Jackson?

A proposed Super Adventure Multi-Themed Audience Participation Park could drastically reduce the property tax burden in Jackson and could STOP hundreds of single family homes from being built.

THE FIRST interactive entertainment park of its kind may very well be built here in Jackson Township. Imagine going back in time to the days of Caesar, participating in King Arthur's Court or watching a live jousting match.

Maybe you will even find yourself amidst prehistoric dinosaurs. You may be able to do all of this without ever leaving Jackson. The Board of Directors of the Mythfaire concept are considering Jackson as a possible location for its fantasy entertainment park. I, as well as other members of the Township Committee, have met with the principals of Mythfaire to discuss their concept and how it would benefit Jackson.



VISIT MY WEBSITE for more information on MYTHFAIRE at www.MICHAELKAFTON.COM

This entertainment park will be nothing like Great Adventure in that Mythfaire doesn't plan to have amusement rides.

Their concept is interactive participation from visitors in historic events.

As you walk through each time in history, you experience the events of that time and even taste the food of that era.

The benefits to Jackson in having Mythfaire built here are numerous. Clearly, the biggest benefit has to do with taxes.

If built, Mythfaire would become the 2nd largest property taxpayer after Great Adventure, utilizing between 200 and 400 acres.

They have also agreed to contribute to the Township, \$2.00 for every car that enters their parking lot plus \$2.00 for each person attending their concerts. This could amount to millions of dollars over time, moneys which could be potentially utilized for our roads, recreation, parks etc. The acreage that Mythfaire would occupy could (MYTHFAIRE story continued pg. 4)



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



JOHN SMATUSIK

John Smatusik was born on January 3, 1927 in Jackson and has never left. He currently lives on Frank Applegate Road just down the street from the house where he was born. John's love for this town is evident in so many places, most especially in the Department of Public Works which he began in January 1955. Back then, the Department consisted of John, Walt Galati and a big dump truck. John had

HIGHLIGHTING JACKSON'S BEST

the foresight to realize that eventually the town's trash would present a problem, so he began the recycling program in 1957 which served as a model for other municipalities. John served as a Township Committeeman from 1949-1951. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club and the Jackson Mills Fire Company. John probably knows more about the history of Jackson than anyone. That's what makes him such a vital part of our Historical Commission. It is a fitting tribute that the Public Works Building now carries his name in honor of his 31 years of dedication to public works and Jackson Township.

Melvin Cottrell

was a lifelong resident of Jackson. Mel spent his life selflessly helping others. At the time of his death on October 9, 2002 at the age of 73, Mel was serving the people of Jackson in his sixth term as our Assemblyman. Mel served on the Jackson Township Committee from 1986-1991 and was the Mayor from 1988-1989. As an Assemblyman, Mel concentrated his legislation on seniors, children and adults with disabilities. His empathy for others and his positive attitude helped him overcome his own speech and hearing disabilities which made him a wonderful role model for all of us.

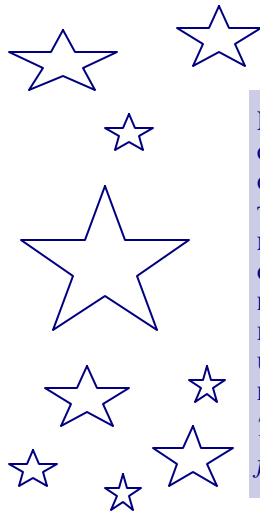


MELVIN COTTRELL

Mel worked tirelessly with autistic children alerting the public and the government to the need for legislation on their behalf. In 2003 I recommended renaming the Township Senior Center/ Disabilities Center to the Melvin Cottrell Center for Seniors and the Disabled in honor of a man who dedicated his life to helping others. Today a Bronze Plaque hangs at the Center dedicated in his memory.

DID YOU KNOW???

IN 2005:
SHOP RITE PLAZA PAID \$182,156 IN PROPERTY TAXES
STOP & SHOP PLAZA PAID \$320,244 IN TAXES
JACKSON OUTLET CENTER PAID \$767,875 IN TAXES
AND ...
GREAT ADVENTURE PAID OVER \$3.3 MILLION IN TAXES



LOOKING BACK...

CAN YOU IMAGINE A TIME WHEN JACKSON HAD ONLY ONE POLICE OFFICER? THERE ARE NOW 84 OFFICERS ON THE FORCE. PRIOR TO 1947, WHEN JERRY SHOWELL WAS NAMED THE 1ST AND ONLY POLICE OFFICER AND CHIEF OF POLICE, JACKSON WAS PROTECTED BY THE NJ STATE POLICE. IN 1962, JACKSON'S POLICE FORCE BECAME FULL TIME. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT SAME YEAR, CHIEF SHOWELL DIED IN A BOATING ACCIDENT IN THE BARNEGAT INLET. *Thanks to Mary Moore and Capt. Dave Newman for this footnote in history.*



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!!



Here are just some of our schools best students . Please let me know about others for future issues.

CONGRATS! JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM - PLACED #1 IN THE A SOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW!

CONGRATS!

SEEMA SAMUEL

Chosen President of the NJ State Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America.

CONGRATS!

MICHAEL DERLING

Was named National Hispanic Program Scholar

CONGRATS! to the following High School Students for Earning the EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

**RUSSEL BARTON
JOEL BLENNER
TRAVIS BOOK
JOHN CANTALINO
JEANETTE COOK
ALISHA CROWLEY
F. FERRANTELLI
VINCENT INGRAO
JESSE LOWE**

**AMANDA LUKACS
JOSEPH MONTANO
AMANDA MULVIHILL
DANA PUGLISI
ANDRI RIZHAKOV
JENNA RODRIGUEZ
CHRISTINA ROTSIDES
NATALIE SHLOEDER
SEJAL SHAH**

**MARA SIRBU
AMANDA STECKLER
HAO SUN
STEVEN SUCHARMAN
BRIAN TRAN
SUZANE WALZER
JEREMY WEISSMAN**

KIDS CORNER

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES

Kids, if you want to see some real local heroes, I invite you to stop by Town Hall to visit the Wall of Pride that I put together. It has the pictures and names of some Jackson residents serving in our military.

They give of themselves unselfishly to insure that we all continue to enjoy our freedom here in the United States.

I would ask all of you to write letters of thanks and appreciation, but equally as important, are letters of encouragement. Remember, many of our servicemen and women are away from their families for many months at a time. One of our Jackson residents, who is serving his second tour in Iraq would love to hear from you. Please write to: Sgt. Ben Ravioli/Military Police.

Please send your letters to Ben to my office and I will make sure that he receives them.

Sgt. Ben Ravioli c/o Committeeman Mike Kafton 2200 W. County Line Rd. Jackson, NJ 08527

If you know of any other Jackson servicemen or women who would like to receive mail, please contact my office at 732-905-7898.

DID YOU KNOW????

THE GREAT AMERICAN SCREAM MACHINE DEBUTED IN 1989. IT WAS THE TALLEST AND FASTEST ROLLER COASTER IN THE WORLD FOR 2 WEEKS, UNTIL ANOTHER ROLLER COASTER TOOK THAT HONOR. THE GREAT AMERICAN SCREAM MACHINE WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE CALLED NINJA, BUT WAS RENAMED BEFORE OPENING WITH A MORE PATRIOTIC NAME.



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

QUIZ IT

Kids, test your knowledge! Can you answer the following questions about our town?

1. What playground in Jackson was built by hundreds of residents, including kids in only 6 days?
2. What school built in 1974 started out divided into 4 separate Pods with a library in the center?
3. What year did Great Adventure open?
4. What is the name of the State Wildlife preserve located largely in Jackson?

Answers can be found on my web site at www.michaelkafton.com. Just click on Kids Corner.

LOOKING BACK...

STANLEY SWITLIK, ONE OF JACKSON'S MOST GENEROUS RESIDENTS, WAS ALSO ONE OF JACKSON'S BIGGEST LAND-OWNERS. SWITLIK DONATED THE LAND THAT THE SWITLIK SCHOOL IS ON TODAY. SWITLIK'S BIGGEST LAND HOLDING WAS THE SWITLIK ESTATE LOCATED ON PROSPERTOWN LAKE. STANLEY SWITLIK SOLD MOST OF HIS ESTATE TO SIX FLAGS UNDER THE PREMISE THAT THEY WERE TO BUILD A WILDLIFE PRESERVE. AFTER A LONG COURT BATTLE, SWITLIK LOST HIS DREAM AND THE SIX FLAGS THEME PARK WAS BUILT ON HIS PROPERTY INSTEAD.

DID YOU KNOW???

WOW! LAST YEAR MORE THAN 9,730 STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN THE JACKSON SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS OF 2005 HAD 609 GRADUATING STUDENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, 677 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS GRADUATED TO FIRST GRADE.

DID YOU KNOW???

IN THE 1970's JACKSON HAD A BOWLING ALLEY WHICH BURNT DOWN LEAVING ONLY THE OUTER SHELL WHICH WAS REBUILT INTO WHAT IS NOW THE JACKSON ROLLERSKATING RINK.

RIDDLE CORNER

Question #1: I have 2 coins that add up to fifty-five cents. One is not a nickel. What coins are they?

Question #2: A farmer had nine sheep and all but seven died. How many did he have left?

Question #3: Three large people try to crowd under one umbrella but nobody gets wet. How is this possible?

Question #4: If you take 2 apples from three trees, how many do you have?

Question #5: A certain 5 letter word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to it. What is the word?

For Answers, visit my website at www.michaelkafton.com and click on Kids Corner.

MYTHFAIRE

continued from page 1...

prevent hundreds of single family homes from being built on that same space, thus limiting the number of children entering our already overcrowded schools. Mythfaire will consist of lush gardens and park-like surroundings.

It would also boost our local economy by creating jobs and would help existing local businesses.

Since they are considering building along the I-195 corridor, there would be very little impact on our local roads.

I believe that this is a good clean commercial ratable for Jackson Township and I will continue talks with Mythfaire executives on the potential for Mythfaire to become a reality.

DID YOU KNOW??

WALGREENS is under construction at the corner of 526 & Harmony Rd. Diagonally across the street on 526 and Cooksbridge Road will be another super WAWA with a gas station.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

From Committeeman Mike Kafton

GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT YOU. It should not be about politicians and their personal lives. You deserve the best from your government and you should demand nothing less. Do you want a government that responds to your needs and looks after your best interests? If so, you must force your local politicians to address the issues that affect your daily life. Taxes, over-development, programs for your kids and land preservation for a better quality of life are just some of the issues facing Jackson residents.

I have publicly announced that I am running for Mayor. I am running because, as your elected official for the past 6 plus years, I have given nothing less than 100% of myself to you and to my job. I have drastically reduced development, lowered municipal taxes and preserved hundreds of acres of open space.

More importantly, I have been responsive to you. I created "Meet the Mayor" nights at the library, The Mayor's Safe Trick or Treat, Teen Dances, Movies in the Park, a Pedophile residential restriction ordinance, an ordinance to STOP road closures, a commuter bus service to New York and so much more. Most of all, I have always been there for you whenever you needed help because I believe that is what my job is all about-helping people.

Last year, DWI charges were brought against me and I pled guilty in order to put it behind me and continue on with my life. I want to assure you all that I am not a drinker, nor do I take drugs. To be honest, the events of that night are still suspect to me, but I have moved forward and have learned a great deal from that experience. There are many of you who have never met me, but I am asking you not to judge me on 1 hour of my life, but rather on the work that I have done as well as my commitment to you over the past 6 plus years. Remember, **GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABOUT YOU.** This May 9th, I am asking for your support and your vote in my run for Mayor. Thank you for your support.

Mike Kafton

SAVE THESE DATES— Sponsored By: COMMITTEEMAN MIKE KAFTON

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS SEMINAR

7:30 pm-9:30pm Municipal Building

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Dr. Emilia Eiras,
Dr. Martin Fried, Dr. Robert Bransfield &
Betty Markonas will discuss:**

**HOW TO PREVENT, IDENTIFY
AND TREAT LYME DISEASE.**

RSVP 732-905-7898 Refreshments will be Served.

APRIL 10, 2006

American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

10 am-4pm Municipal Building

Blood Supplies are dangerously low.

Please Donate and Save a Life. Call for an appointment for April 10, 2006. 732-905-7898
Refreshments will be served.