

MAKE IT COUNT!

ALL ABOUT JACKSON!

By COMMITTEEMAN MIKE KAFTON

Volume 1, Issue 3
Spring 2006

ONCE IT'S GONE...IT'S GONE!

IMAGINE a developer going from door to door in your neighborhood, buying up every single home including your own at a price you can't refuse. After every home has been bought, the developer then takes a bulldozer and proceeds to destroy every single one of those homes. He hauls away all the debris, fills in all the swimming pools, and rips up all the driveways, leaving nothing but an empty lot.

NOW picture that same developer planting grass seed, as well as bushes and trees; hauling in a truck load of birds, rabbits and deer then letting them run free in the very neighborhood you and your neighbors once lived.

A beautiful sign is erected that says "THIS LAND PRESERVED BY XYZ DEVELOPERS FOREVER".

YES, you have entered the Twilight Zone, because that is about the only place we may ever see such a thing happen. The bottom line is ONCE IT'S GONE...ITS GONE!

Since 2001 the majority of voters have voted to support not one, but



VISIT MY WEBSITE at
www.MICHAELKAFTON.COM

two Open Space questions. This May, you will once again be asked to vote for an Open Space tax. This tax is dedicated to ONLY one thing, THE PRESERVATION OF LAND. That means politicians can't use the monies for anything else.

The question is...

Does it help? Here are the facts, you answer the question.

In 2003, we purchased an approved 185 lot subdivision on Jackson Mills Road for \$6.5 million. Based upon the State average of 2.5 kids per household, these single family homes would have put about 462 more children into our schools which is almost the same amount of kids that attend the Rosenauer Elementary School today.

It costs taxpayers about \$8,000 a year to educate one student. If the development just mentioned were to have been built, it would have cost us taxpayers over \$3.6 million JUST in school taxes alone each year. That doesn't include the potential construction of a new school as well as municipal costs of snow removal, leaf pick up, police patrols, added congestion to our roads and so on.

The cost of a new elementary school is about \$15 to 20 million. The cost to the taxpayers to bond \$6.5 million for Open Space is about \$35.00 a year for a home assessed at \$200,000. The cost of preserving nature's beauty - PRICELESS.



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

DID YOU KNOW??

An application has been submitted to the Township for a 13,000 sf CVS Pharmacy at the corner of 528 and Don Conner Blvd (across from Townhall), on the corner next to Public Works.

THE JACKSON OPTIMIST CLUB



MOMS CLUB OF JACKSON EAST and WEST

The Jackson Optimist Club may only be in its infant stages, but since the club's formation, just 4 short years ago, they have hit the ground running at full speed. The Optimist Club is just one of so many great non-profit organizations here in town. The main focus of the Optimist Club is children. As their mission statement says ...

"By offering children the opportunity to enrich their lives through fellowship and personal growth today, they will develop into the leaders of tomorrow."

The members of the Optimist Club work tirelessly year round raising money. They can be found at Jackson Day, The Sidewalk Chalk Art Show, concerts in Johnson Park, and the Mother Cabrini Feast as well as many other fundraisers throughout each year.

Although the Optimist Club is the newest non-profit organization in Jackson, their accomplishments have made them a force to be reckoned with.

Each year the Optimist Club provides scholarships for 2 graduating seniors. They have also made substantial donations to the new playground in town for disabled children as well as donations to organizations like Harbor House, Providence House, the Ronald McDonald House, Head Start, The Moms Club of Jackson, The Jackson Food Pantry and even Camp Moore, a camp for the disabled.

One of the most touching and generous fundraisers the Optimist Club held was a dance to benefit a 13 year old Jackson Student, Dana Jefferson who was diagnosed with... **CONTINUED on pg 4**

SO, YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN AN ORGANIZATION IN TOWN, but having young children to take care of all day has left you with no time?

You are not alone and I've got just the club for you. The Moms Club of Jackson NJ. There are 2 of them here in town, The Moms Club East and The Moms Club West.

I truly admire the commitment these dedicated women give to their organization as well as to our community. At any given meeting, you may find more children in attendance than adults.

These moms are making our community a better place while at the same time teaching their children the importance of being an active part of our community. The Moms Club appropriately focuses their efforts on bettering the lives of children and mothers.

They recently held a very successful children's coat drive. More than 52 coats were donated and delivered to a local church.

The Moms Club has also done book drives for the Childrens' Home Society as well as toy drives. They are big supporters of Providence House (a home for battered women), continuously helping with donations of clothes and personal care products. This spring, the Moms Club will be doing a spring clean up and will also be planting flowers for Providence House. If you have ever been to the Jackson Jungle, you can see the care the Moms Club puts into beautifying the playground with plantings of flowers. These busy moms even find time to help out at the Jackson Food Pantry. So, if you are a Mom here in town and would like to be a part of a great community group, then the Moms Club of Jackson, NJ, East or West, would love to welcome you and your children as a part of their family. For more info, e-mail either: momsclubjacksoneast@yahoo.com or mcjw@optonline.net for West Remember...**MOMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ALL OUR LIVES!**

IT'S JUST A RUMOR
I have been asked many times over the past few years if it is true that the new Liberty High School will also be used by Lakewood students. **THIS IS NOT TRUE.** Jackson schools are used by Jackson Students ONLY.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS! THIS YEARS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- LINDA SELITTO**-Crawford Rodriguez Elementary
- ALYSSA AGOSTON**- Elms Elementary
- CAROL ANN SHILAN**- Holman Elementary
- SUSAN WOOLVERTON**- Johnson Elementary
- DONNA MOLLICA**- Rosenauer Elementary
- CHRISTINE TEMPLE**- Switlik Elementary
- ADRIENNE PREVITERA**- Goetz Middle School
- JAMIE BOCCIA**- McAuliffe Middle School
- MAUREEN CRADDOCK**- Jackson Memorial High

CONGRATS! SCOTT GOODALE.
For receiving the....
NATIONAL FEDERATION COACHES ASSOCIATION AWARD
For **WRESTLING COACH**
Of the **YEAR**

DID YOU KNOW???

ON COUNTY LINE ROAD NEXT TO WALGREENS (which is currently under construction) AN APPLICATION IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY CONSISTING OF 3 BUILDINGS WITH A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 56,000 SQ. FEET

KIDS KORNER

SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST

NEW HELMET LAW

I'm sure you all know that you have to wear your helmets when you ride your bicycles, roller skate, skateboard or go in-line skating . That's not only the law, but the safe thing to do. Up until now, the law covered kids under the age of 14. However, beginning March 1, 2006, the age requirement went up to 17. Anyone under the age of 17 now has to wear a helmet when doing these activities. It's not only the law, but will keep you safe while having fun!

INTERNET SAFETY

The internet can be fun and educational, but can also be dangerous if not used safely. I am sponsoring a seminar on Internet Safety for your parents to attend so that they can give you the information that you need to keep safe while having fun online. Please tell your parents to come to the Internet Safety Seminar on Tuesday April 20 from 7-9 pm at the Jackson Municipal Building. There will be several speakers discussing internet safety. **Sorry, but this seminar is for adults only.** For more information your parents can visit my website www.michaelkafton.com.

HAPPY EASTER

HAPPY PASSOVER

LOOKING BACK...

The first development in Jackson was Brookwood 1 (one). It was started in the 1960's. The development consisted of several hundred homes, with paved roads, sidewalks , street lighting with natural gas lamps and even an elementary school built by the developer. Four of the model homes that were built were the...

RANCH (Arlington Model)

3 bdrm,1 bath starting at **\$10,990**

CAPE (Salem Model)

4 bdrm 2 bath starting at **\$13,990**

SPLIT-LEVEL (Saratoga Model)

4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1 car garage. starting at **\$14,990**

BI - LEVEL (Huntington Model)

3bdrm 1..5 bath & 2 car garage starting at **\$15,990**

Today the ranch, which was the lowest priced model when built, is selling on the real estate market for just over \$300,000.

QUIZ IT

Kids, Test your knowledge:

1. **What is the New Jersey State bird?**
2. **What is the New Jersey State flower?**
3. **What is the New Jersey State animal?**
4. **What is the New Jersey State tree?**

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

LOOKING BACK...

DRILLING FOR OIL IN JACKSON???

In the early 1920's , seeping oil was noticed coming out of holes along the edges of the brook in Jackson Mills where the sawmill was located.

A man by the name of William Driver drilled for oil at each of the Jackson Mills Ponds.

After drilling 5,000 feet, he gave up and that was the end of oil exploration in Jackson Township. If you go to the end of County Line Road and look to the right , you can still see the pipe of one of the oil wells which sticks out of the ground.

DID YOU KNOW???

BENNETTS MILLS ROAD, along Lake Enno is under construction.

The project will take almost 2 years to complete. The objective is to remove most of the curve in the road along the lake.

The new ordinance that I introduced this year, no longer allows public roads to be closed for the convenience of a developer while inconveniencing residents (except for extreme emergencies) . The county has agreed to abide by this ordinance while reconstructing this project. But you may still experience delays in this area while at times one lane will be closed.

ALSO:

There will be a NEW JUGHANDLE added to the Bennetts Mills and County Line Road Intersection. The new jughandle will go behind Commerce Bank and CVS Pharmacy. When completed, cars going south on Bennetts Mills Road (from the post office or St. Al's etc...) will no longer be able to make a left onto County Line Road. You will have to go thru the light and take the new jughandle.

You will also no longer be able to make a right at the Bennetts Mills intersection when coming east on County Line Road (from ShopRite etc...). Right before the intersection, there will be a right turn next to Commerce Bank for those wanting to go onto Bennetts Mills Road .

P.S. This is not my design. I am merely the messenger!

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

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Leukemia.

Many of the members of the Jackson Optimist Club are active in other organizations as well.

These people are a perfect example of the best of Jackson and their accomplishments certainly deserve to be highlighted.

If you want to make a difference in your community, the Optimist Club would love to have you as a member. They meet every Thursday at 7:30 pm at Bella Terra.

Call 732-363-1346 or visit their website for more information at www.jacksonoptimists.org.

A special CONGRATULATIONS to past Optimist President, **Joe Kienzlen** who was recently chosen Governor of the NJ State Optimists.

**THANK YOU OPTIMISTS
YOU MAKE US PROUD!**

DID YOU KNOW???

That Jackson Township has a total land size of 100.4 miles. The Total acres that make up Jackson are 64,256 acres.

50.2% or 32,256 of those acres are located in the Pinelands.

ALSO

6,281 acres of the Lakehurst Naval Base are located in Jackson.

COMPETITION FOR CABLE TV ?????

Gas prices may be high but it is your choice which gas station you want to fill up at. When you're hungry for a burger, the choices are endless. You can even choose your elected official each election. This country is all about freedom of choice, or is it?

Do you remember when AT&T held the monopoly on phone service? Thanks to deregulation, I just cut my phone bill in half by switching to another company.

So, why is it that when it comes to cable service, the cable companies have a monopoly on each town? Our Cable bills continue to rise but our choices in companies don't.

Monmouth Cablevision is up for renewal in Jackson as they are every 5 years or so. They have always been renewed because there is no other choice, and that gives the town very little to bargain with. They may be the only game in town right now but the township is not ready to approve a new contract. As a matter of fact we have stopped negotiations with the cable company because Jackson residents are not getting as good a deal as neighboring towns. For example, Monmouth Cablevision currently offers Lakewood Township a 20% discount to its' seniors who qualify, while we are only offered 10%.

We have also asked for the ability to have some dedicated channels given to Jackson so we can keep our residents informed of community events. This is nothing more than what surrounding towns are receiving. It is my belief that if we had a choice in cable companies, we would all benefit. After all, competition is the backbone of this country.

This past March 11th, I spent the morning in Trenton listening to The State Economic Growth Committee as they heard testimony both for and against cable competition in NJ. I was one of many elected officials throughout the State who spoke to the committee in support of more cable choices for our residents. If passed, Bill 192 allowing for competition in the cable industry is predicted to cut cable costs between 15-23%. The bill also would provide free basic cable to seniors who qualify under PAAD as well as many other benefits.

For more information on Bill 192 go to:

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2004/Bills/S3000/2912_I1.PDF

SAVE THESE DATES— Sponsored By: COMMITTEEMAN MIKE KAFTON

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 732-905-7898

Refreshments will be served.

APRIL 20, 2006

INTERNET SAFETY

7-9 pm Municipal Building

Ocean County Prosecutor's

Office and other speakers will

discuss Safety on the Internet.

FOR ADULTS ONLY. Call

732-905-7898 for more info.

APRIL 25, 2006

WOMEN'S

SELF-DEFENSE COURSE

6-9pm Jackson Senior Center

45 Don Connor Blvd.

YOU MUST REGISTER TO

PARTICIPATE— Girls 13-18 may

attend with an adult.

Call 732-905-7898 to Register