

Election Day is November 4th and voting is a privilege that should be taken very seriously. In some countries people walk for days to get to the voting place and enthusiastically cast their ballot. I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of this privilege for there is no better way to directly determine your quality of life than by voting for people to represent your interests especially on the local level.

So many residents have busy schedules and do not have the time to attend council meetings. I believe, as your Mayor, that I have a responsibility to inform you of facts and mistruths that directly affect you and our community. In two recent articles that appeared in *The Breeze*, our local community newspaper, Council President Tozzi presented some skewed information. He gave himself credit for the establishment of the Raritan Dog Park when it was actually Councilman Lobell's idea and his hard work that brought it about. The Council President also claims credit for the borough calendar when it was Councilwoman Gara who did all the work compiling information, designing and producing the calendar. The Council President also takes credit for the benches on the Nevius Street Bridge which, again, was Councilman Lobell's idea and his hard work that solely brought that wonderful concept to life. Mr. Tozzi also takes credit for the River Fest when in reality I formed an ad hoc committee to facilitate the River Fest through our Economic Development Committee. Even the material being handed out door to door is questionable. How could someone who has been sitting on the council for three years and has been Council President for the past two consecutive years not know that we do not now nor have we ever had a Parks & Grounds committee? The liaisons are to Buildings & Grounds or Parks & Recreation. This is just another example that even after sitting on council and attending meetings Mr. Tozzi does not understand that his committee assignment is Buildings & Grounds.

In another article in *The Breeze*, Mrs. Carra fails to mention that three years ago when she, Mr. Tozzi, and I campaigned door to door together, she told voters that she would be giving up the health benefits that she, her husband, and their three children, received from the borough. People were impressed with that voluntary give back, and, I am sure, she garnered many votes based on that statement. Unfortunately, she paid one monthly payment and then went back on her promise. Remember, she and her family have been receiving free health benefits for last 12 years. Legally, she is entitled to health benefits however her past promises to the voters should be considered and if re-elected this will cost you the tax payer approximately \$75,000 over the next 3 years. As a voter, ask yourself this question, what has Mrs. Carra accomplished during her tenure? How has Mrs. Carra improved the quality of life in Raritan?

Personal agendas are fine but they have no place on a borough council especially when you lobby for family and friends. The only agenda that council persons should have is one that benefits and promotes the well being of the borough. Keep this information in mind when you cast your vote on November 4th.

Jo-Ann Liptak, Mayor
Raritan Borough