

As we head into the final days of the campaign, it is time for us to concentrate on getting voters to the polls on November 6.

This year presents a challenge in that there are no federal or gubernatorial candidates 'topping the ticket'. We should not let this hamper our efforts in getting the vote out. With the entire Legislature on the ballot, we must be active in all our municipalities to ensure Democratic candidates are either re-elected or elected in their districts.

We have a strong county ticket with Freeholders Pete Dalina, Chris Rafano and Blanquita Valenti, Surrogate Kevin Hoagland and myself as Sheriff.

Our Freeholder Board has done a superb job in keeping county taxes stable, preserving open space and protecting our residents

There are a couple important mayoral races as James Phillips, Robert Szegeti, John McCormac and Francis "Mac" Womack seek re-election in Old Bridge, South River, Woodbridge and North Brunswick, respectively. Tom Vahalla is seeking his first term as Metuchen mayor.

We have an opportunity to pick up two mayoral seats as Thomas Pollando and Michael Skarzynski face Republican incumbents in Sayreville and Milltown, respectively.

Jamesburg Mayor Anthony LaMantia is running for re-election while Highland Park Mayor Meryl Frank and Middlesex Borough Mayor Gerald D'Angelo have uncontested races.



Chairman Joseph Spicuzzo

I want to congratulate Monroe Township Mayor Richard Pucci on his 20th anniversary as mayor. He is up for re-election and I know that his stellar record will lead to victory.

In our local races, council control is at stake in South River, Milltown and Old Bridge so we must work hard to ensure a Democratic majority.

I want to conclude with a few words about Joseph Buttafuoco, who passed away in September.

He was a great man, living life to the fullest. His was a life of service, beginning with his family and then to his country, community and church.

Joe was also very involved with the Democratic Party, serving as a member of the Middlesex County Democratic Executive Board and New Jersey State Democratic Committee.

To me, Joe was a true friend. I will miss him greatly.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Paid for by the
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DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION**

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Fall 2007

COUNTY CANDIDATES ENTER HOME STRETCH

With only days to go before Election Day, the Middlesex County Democratic candidates are confident about their re-election chances on November 6.

"Our record speaks for itself," said county Democratic chairman and Sheriff Joseph Spicuzzo. "Our Freeholder candidates get the job done, whether on property taxes, parks and recreation or keeping our area safe. Kevin Hoagland has done a fantastic job as Surrogate, offering user-friendly services and setting up satellite offices around Middlesex County. As for myself, the sheriff's office has worked to keep our county courthouses secure and established initiatives to alert our residents about scams and gang activity."

One initiative which has been very successful since its implementation in 2005 is the Middlesex County Project Lifesaver program.

The program uses radio technology to locate missing persons. It has been particularly effective with those suffering from dementia, Down's Syndrome or autism.

"It has been well received," said Freeholder Blanquita Valenti. "(Caregivers and parents) like it very much."

The county candidates received



Freeholders Pete Dalina, Chris Rafano and Blanquita Valenti



Surrogate Kevin Hoagland and Sheriff Joseph Spicuzzo

good news as they were endorsed by the Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council.

"We commend the endorsed candidates for their continued efforts to improve the quality of life of the residents of Middlesex County," said AFL-CIO Labor Council President Joseph Jennings.

The county Freeholder candidates picked up an early endorsement from the Middlesex County Education Association.

Freeholder Pete Dalina said that ensuring a quality education for students is something the Freeholders take very seriously.

"We will continue to do all we can in support of public education," he said.

The county candidates have been visible on the campaign trail, attending numerous events.

"It is always good to get out to events and talk to our constituents," said Surrogate Hoagland. "We are able to hear their concerns and, if possible, address them to the best of our ability."

RAFANO TAPPED TO BE ON TEEN DRIVING PANEL

Middlesex County Freeholder Chris Rafano was named to the New Jersey Teenage Safety Study Commission, which will study and evaluate a host of topics associated with teenage drivers.

In a letter to Rafano, State Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts wrote that the commission will evaluate the availability and effectiveness of driving education and training programs for teens, assess the problems of driving under the influence and

evaluate the role of usage of defensive driving and accident prevention programs.

The commission will study the issue for six months then present its findings to the Legislature. Senate and Assembly officials will then decide if the findings warrant legislation.

Rafano said he is excited to be a participant on the commission.

"As the father of two sons, one of whom will be driving in the not-so-distant future, I put my children's safety and welfare first. This commis-

sion will do exactly the same thing as we set out to study the things that are working, things that aren't and what we can do to better protect the state's teenage drivers," he said.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, who sponsored legislation to create the commission, said he hoped that by bringing together legislators, residents and automotive safety experts to discuss teen driver safety, it would better educate and protect teenage drivers.

LEGISLATORS READY FOR ELECTION

It has been a busy fall for area Legislative candidates as they shore up support in their districts. "I believe we have a solid group of state Senators and Assembly mem-

bers who have worked hard for their constituents," said state Senator Bob Smith. "I'm confident the voters will see that and give us a chance to continue to serve their needs."

The most contested race of all the legislative districts is in the 14th as Senate candidate Seema Singh and Assembly candidate Wayne D'Angelo seek to earn a seat in the State House.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

13TH LD

for State Senate
Leonard Inzerillo
for Assembly
Patricia Walsh and
Robert "Bob" Brown

17TH LD

for State Senate
Bob Smith
for Assembly
Joseph Egan and
Upendra Chivukula

19TH LD

for State Senate
Joseph Vitale
for Assembly
John Wisniewski
and **Joseph Vas**

14TH LD

for State Senate
Seema Singh
for Assembly
Linda Greenstein
and **Wayne D'Angelo**

18TH LD

for State Senate
Barbara Buono
for Assembly
Patrick Diegnan and
Peter Barnes III

22ND LD

for State Senate
Nick Scutari
for Assembly
Jerry Green and
Linda Stender

SPICUZZO ENDORSES SENATOR CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT

Middlesex County Democratic Chairman Joseph Spicuzzo threw his support to U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. He said that he discussed his intention to endorse Senator Clinton

with party leaders in the county. "The overwhelming majority of all those mayors, legislators and other leaders with whom I have spoken will also endorse Senator Clinton," Spicuzzo said. He continued, "The entire nation

has struggled during seven years of divisive and all too partisan leadership. I believe Senator Clinton has the experience and decisiveness to be an outstanding leader for our country and for the free world."

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO

VOTE COLUMN **A**

ON NOVEMBER 6

FOR OUR DEMOCRATIC STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL CANDIDATES

JOIN US AT PINES MANOR ON ELECTION NIGHT
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR DEMOCRATIC VICTORIES

CAMERAS ROLL FOR FREEHOLDERS

As the sun rose on August 31 at Roosevelt Park, Freeholders Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, Chris Rafano and Blanquita Valenti were ready for their day in front of the camera. Scenes for the freeholder candidate TV commercial were shot in Highland Park and Edison. Below are photos from the shoot.



FUNDRAISERS AND FOOTBALL TO BOOT



The Middlesex County Democratic Organization hosted two events over the summer. The organization, with Democrats 2000 serving as a co-sponsor, held a Young Professionals event at the Old

Bay Restaurant in New Brunswick in mid-August. It was a success as those in their 20s and 30s had a chance to mingle and learn more about getting involved with the Democratic Party. In early September, the MCDO

had a Campaign & Football Kick-off Party for the County Democratic candidates at Perle in New Brunswick. This was the first time the organization held an event at the city night-club.

