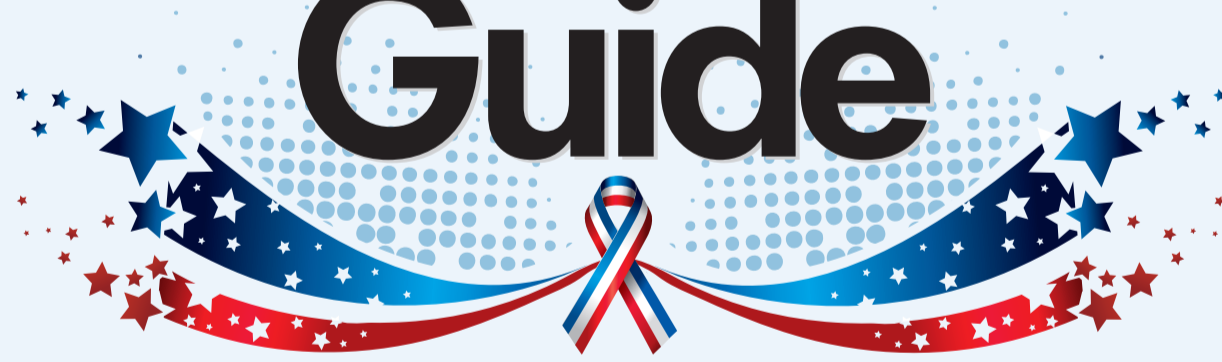




Local Election Guide



2023

Star News Group provides you with full election coverage so you are ready to be an informed voter through Election Day
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023.

This 2023 Voter Guide is a review of the candidates on the ballot originally published throughout the month of October in The Coast Star and The Ocean Star.



MONMOUTH COUNTY CANDIDATE PROFILES

WALL TOWNSHIP

2023 ELECTION

Erin Mangan, Township Committee

Candidate profile

BY CHRISTINE WALSH
THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — *The Coast Star* has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Erin Mangan, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Township Committee

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Teacher at Belmar Elementary School; Realtor at Salt + Cedar Properties

EDUCATION: Born on July 26, 1982 and received Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology/ Human Relations from Pace University.

Master of Science- Counseling from Pace University



ERIN MANGAN

Master of Science-Childhood/ Childhood Special Education from Long Island University. Currently enrolled at Georgian Court University- Master of Education- Reading/ Literacy Specialization

MESSAGE: "As my first term on the Wall Township Committee comes to a close, I reflect on the significant honor it has been to serve our community these past three years. If re-elected to another term, my top priorities will be maintaining public safety in our community, implementing fiscally responsible budgets that ensure affordability for our residents, prioritizing the preservation of township land, and improv-

ing facilities throughout our municipality. I have had the pleasure of serving as Deputy Mayor for 2023, the liaison for the Recreation Committee, Wall Township Alliance Committee, Senior Advisory Committee and Monmouth County Library. I am incredibly proud to have established a Women's Leadership Committee and Young Women's Leadership Committee to encourage, inspire and educate women throughout our community. This year, we adopted a budget that included 24 hour township EMS to prioritize public safety. In the past three years, we have utilized grant funding to make necessary upgrades to our township park facilities, including a new pavilion, parking lot and an ADA compliant all inclusive playground at the municipal complex as well as new pickleball courts."

Candidate profile

BY CHRISTINE WALSH
THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — *The Coast Star* has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Daniel Becht, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Township Committee

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Attorney in private practice.

Mr. Becht has served on the following Commissions: NJ Turnpike Authority, NJ Lottery Commission, NJ Law Review Commission, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, NJ Public Broadcasting Authority and as a Brookdale Community College Trustee.



DANIEL BECHT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Served one term on Wall Township Committee; served as Deputy Mayor, 2001, 2022; maintained stable budget 2021-2023; increased number of officers in the PD; converted EMS workers from part to full time; created more recreational space and updated children's playgrounds.

EDUCATION: Born on January 22, 1957 and received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University in 1979 and Juris Doctor from New York Law School in 1984.

MESSAGE: "As a lifelong public servant, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve my home town of Wall. If re-elected, I would like to continue and expand upon some of the successes the

Township Committee have collectively accomplished. First and foremost is to maintain the quality of life that all residents have come to know and expect. A major priority will be the continuation of acquisition and preservation of open space while creating additional recreational areas for residents of all ages. I will collaborate with Monmouth County to secure additional grants for the purchase of available large tracts of land as well as funding for Township infrastructure improvements. Additionally, I will focus on future development and mandate that proposed projects conform with the existing character of Wall and comply with our zoning and master plan. By working with my fellow Committee Members, I am certain we will maintain our successful compliance with state mandated affordable housing requirements as well as keep a stable and balanced municipal budget."

BELMAR

2023 ELECTION

Rebecca Herbert, Board of Education

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Rebecca Herbert

OFFICE SOUGHT: Belmar Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Senior Territory Business Manager at Bristol Myers Squibb

PERSONAL: Born July 9, 1975, Ms. Herbert is married to her husband, Lance, and they have three children; Ella, 19, Renée, 17, and Landon, 15.

EDUCATION: Ms. Herbert has a bachelor of science in biology and a master's degree of physical therapy

BACKGROUND: She has served five terms on the Belmar Board of Education, as well as on the library committee, finance and facilities



REBECCA HERBERT

committee, negotiations committee, Teacher of the Year Committee and the Manasquan Sending District Representative in 2022. She also successfully advocated for Belmar Elementary to participate in the Junior National Honor Society to recognize their high achieving students.

MESSAGE: "It has been a privilege to serve on the Belmar Board of Education for the past 15 years. My family has deep roots in Belmar, that began with my Grandfather who was raised in Belmar and graduated from Belmar Elementary School and Manasquan High School. My husband and I are also Manasquan High School alumni. Our 3 children attended Belmar Elementary school from preschool

through 8th grade graduation. My love for our town, school and community is immense. My top priority as a member of the Belmar Board of Education is ensuring that Belmar students receive the best possible education in a compassionate, happy, safe environment where they feel valued, respected, encouraged and challenged to learn and grow. Keys to achieving academic success require a great leader and awesome dedicated teachers, both of which we currently have. Our giant leap in test scores is one testament to the concerted effort of many dedicated educators, our students' drive to achieve and family and community support for our students. I look forward to continuing to serve and watching Belmar Elementary School students soar higher than ever before."

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Caitlin Donovan

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: She is currently employed as Senior Director for Patient Advocate Foundation.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She was born on September 22, 1982 and is an alumni of Wall High School. She received her Bachelor's degree with departmental honors in comparative politics from Brown



CAITLIN DONOVAN

University with graduate work completed at Johns Hopkins University. She has a husband, David Villeta, and three children; Aidan, 9, Ava, 7, and Liam, 4.

She was nominated to complete the unexpired term from Council President Tom Brennan's resignation in June and has been a strong advocate against proposed telecommunication tower construction in the borough.

MESSAGE: "Words and empty partisan promises aren't enough: Belmar needs action. I have led the fight against plans to build 20 5G towers on our beachfront, and through my seat on Council I can continue to ensure

that our community is protected from excessive telecommunication construction. There's so much more to do, though: Belmar must update our aging roads and infrastructure, refurbish the marina and renovate our senior building. I have already begun work towards revitalizing Silver Lake, including identifying potential funding sources, and I hope to see this project through to completion. With so many essential projects, the Council must work tirelessly to assess our budget and to secure outside funding to keep Belmar affordable. I grew up on the Shore and Belmar is my home. I pledge to continue to work with all people throughout Belmar, listen to their needs and respond quickly. Belmar deserves nothing less."

2023 ELECTION

Sean Patrick Di Somma, Borough Council

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Sean Patrick Di Somma, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Di Somma is a tech founder and is currently employed with



SEAN DI SOMMA

Card Shop Live, Inc.

PERSONAL: Born in 1982, Mr. Di Somma has a seven-year-old daughter, Scarlett.

EDUCATION: Mr. Di Somma attended Rider University.

MESSAGE: "I'm a Belmar community servant, I've been a soccer coach here in Belmar, I'm a St. Rose dad, I'm a tech entrepreneur and I really understand how to get the job done quickly. When

something like Silver Lake is infested with geese, I know that immediately we need to remove the geese, we don't need to spend seven months talking about removing the geese or having a bunch of meetings with a bunch of other people that have nothing to do with removing geese, just an example of how I'm a no-nonsense guy. When I see something that needs to be fixed, I try to fix it, and I hope that the folks of Belmar will see that about me and support me on November 7."

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2023 ELECTION

Liza Flynn, Board of Education

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Liza Flynn
OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

MESSAGE: "My name is Liza Flynn and I am running for a second term for a seat on the



LIZA FLYNN

Bradley Beach School Board [BBES]. I live with my husband and two children, one is a sixth grader at BBES and the other is a graduate of BBES. My priorities for the next three years will be the very reason that I ran in 2020. I love our school, our students and our staff. I still want to support

them and show our community what a gem we have right in our own backyard. Bradley Beach Elementary is moving in the right direction. Test scores are improving, skills are being mastered, great things are happening. I want to continue supporting student achievement and community engagement all while keeping the budget in balance. I look forward to another term working with a cohesive board that shares a mutual vision of success."

2023 ELECTION

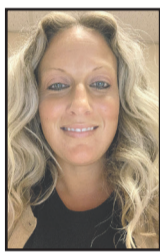
Roseann Caruso Walker, Board of Education

BY PALOMA AFFINITO
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Roseann Caruso Walker

OFFICE SOUGHT: Bradley Beach Board of Education
EDUCATION: [degrees held, etc]: Born on July 15,



ROSEANN CARUSO WALKER

1980, Ms. Caruso Walker received a Master's Degree +30 from Kean University.
PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Caruso Walker currently serves as Director of Human Resources in Rahway Public Schools.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Ms. Caruso

Walker is married to Kenneth Walker who is a physical education teacher in Piscataway Public Schools and a mother of five children who currently attend Bradley Beach Elementary.

MESSAGE: "As a board member, I will continue to center my priorities around promoting the best interests of the students, fostering a positive learning environment and ensuring the overall success of each student."

2023 ELECTION

Noelle Weinberg, Board of Education

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Noelle Weinberg
OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Weinberg is currently retired after three decades of teaching. She is a volunteer at the Bradley Food Pantry, while also serving on the borough's Shade Tree



NOELLE WEINBERG

Commission. Ms. Weinberg also volunteers with her therapy dog, Morty, in schools and adult homes and soon in hospitals. She is seeking a second term since being elected this past fall.

MESSAGE: "My name is Noelle Weinberg and I am running for a seat on the Bradley Beach School Board. I am a former teacher with 30 years of experience, working with students from Pre-K through high school. My husband and I have lived in

Bradley Beach for six years, and we love this community. As a member of the School Board, I will support the considerable work being done by the administration and staff in our school to develop a supportive, inclusive, and rigorous learning environment that is suited to our student body. I will help guide the administration to adapt and expand the program as Bradley Beach and its residents move into the future. Additionally, I take seriously the responsibility the School Board has to the citizens of Bradley Beach, and will work with my fellow board members to support a school that runs efficiently and sustainably."

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2023 ELECTION

Michael W. Mangan, Manasquan, Mayor

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

MANASQUAN - The Coast Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot, to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Michael W. Mangan, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Owner of Endurance Sports Floors, Endurance Squash Courts, and MWM Services — companies that perform installations of athletic flooring, squash courts, business consultation and home renovations respectively. Servicing the entire Northeast — but based out of his office in Manasquan.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born on Feb. 13, 1984. He received his Bachelor's degree in communication from George Washington University. He has a wife, Dana Mangan, and three children; William, 10, Matthew, 8, and James, 5.



MICHAEL W.
MANGAN

PUBLIC SERVICE: Borough Council, Manasquan, completing fifth term.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2% Tax Increase Cap in place since 2014. Expanded

the Recreation Program 10-fold and now turns a profit for the town yearly. Saved and rebuilt the boat docks, which also return a profit for the town each year. Created the first-ever dedicated Manasquan Senior Center. Increased Parking in North Main St Parking Lot. Implemented the Beautification Committee. Increased funding for road improvements without raising taxes to pay for it. Created the Citizens Advisory Committee. Improved Curtis Park, Skokas Park, Indian Hill Park, Mallard Park. Helped the town recover from Superstorm Sandy. Helped the town through the 2019-2020 pandemic.

MESSAGE: "My top priority is preserving our town's unique charm while ensuring the necessary improvements to the very things that make Manasquan special. I am committed to maintaining tax stability — managing the town's finances to fund necessary improvements to our roads, buildings, and parks without raising taxes — which includes preserving the 2% tax cap that Manasquan has had in place since 2014. Additionally, I firmly believe in curbing overdevelopment. Manasquan's beauty and essence lie in its quaint character, and we have to safeguard against changes to that character. Finally, as a life-long resident and councilman, I respect the people of our town — and I believe that a better result is achieved by promoting and encouraging two-way communication between residents and town hall. I believe that two heads are always better than one — and together, I know that we can cherish our past while providing a stable and bright future."

2023 ELECTION

Gregg Olivera, Manasquan, Mayor

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Gregg Olivera, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Deputy director, Division of Purchase and Property. Employed by the State of New Jersey.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born on Aug. 1 in 1965. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science from Stony Brook University and a Master's of Business Administration in finance and international business from Seton Hall University. He is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two dogs. He has lived in Manasquan for 27 years.



GREGG
OLIVERA

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: He is currently serving his fourth three-year term on the borough council. He is the chair

of the Administration and Finance committee, and sits on both the Public Safety and the Code and Land Use committees. He is a former member of the Manasquan Tourism Commission, which he served on for 15 years. He is a member of the Manasquan Elks, for which he has, at various points in the past, been the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Exalted Ruler and Board Chairman. He is a Lifetime Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Manasquan 1838. He is also a member of the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore and the Manasquan Presbyterian Church.

MESSAGE: "I have been asked the 'priority' question each of my previous Council election years, with similar responses. However, the priorities of the Mayor are markedly different than that of Council. Right off the bat, at the reorganization meeting, there are mayoral Board, Commission, and Committee appointments that have to be made. Immediately following the election, the plan is to interview and meet with chairs, incumbents and prospective appointees to discuss their, and my, vision for each role. Also, connect individually with 2024 Council members to discuss our Borough's collaborative goals and how the Office of Mayor can help support that agenda. Most importantly, my paramount priority is to treat the office of Manasquan Mayor with the respect that it deserves, and has historically been given by its predecessors. Leveraging that respect, to lead and represent the Borough with integrity and passion, not only in town, but in the County and the State."

2023 ELECTION

William H. Dibble, Board of Education

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: William H. Dibble

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Consultant

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born on June 21, 1953. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree from Seton Hall University and his Master's of Arts degree from Rutgers Univer-



WILLIAM H.
DIBBLE

sity. He is a resident of Manasquan.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: New Providence board of education, two terms from 2006 to 2018.

MESSAGE: "As a Board member my priority would be to ensure a safe and appropriate environment to afford each student the opportunity to successfully engage in an educational process that ultimately supports his or her desired path. Some of the areas of my focus would be to remedy the lack of funding provided by the state to our district that

is significantly less than most of the local districts located in the southern part of the county, how we deliver the educational content using technology; how we assess student performance; expand the curriculum for those students that are not planning to continue their education after graduation, the issue of safety should always be of great concern to protect all of those in this educational community; and assessing our physical plant to maintain our buildings and grounds to ensure a safe and proper environment that supports the educational mission. I would also be mindful of the balance between providing these resources to ensure we meet the needs of this community and being fiscally prudent."

2023 ELECTION

Sheila Vidreiro, Borough Council

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Sheila Vidreiro, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Councilwoman

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Elementary school teacher in Howell Township since 2004

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She received her Bachelor's of Arts from Georgian Court University. She lives in Manasquan with her husband, Jorge, and has two



SHEILA
VIDREIRO

children: Dan and Kristen.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: She served on the Manasquan tourism

commission in 2023. She is Co-President of the Woman's Club of Manasquan from 2020 to present. She also served on the Manasquan Citizen's Advisory Council for four years and worked on the Street Scapes Committee and Sea Watch Planning.

MESSAGE: "As a member of the Borough Council, I would like to continue the extraordinary work initiated by the current council.

Keeping our taxes stable and controlling overdevelopment is priority. Change is inevitable, but we want to make sure it is what our town wants and needs. I look forward to working with our community and listening to the ideas and concerns of my neighbors. Town hall can be intimidating to navigate; therefore, I would like to be a facilitator to make the process more accessible to all residents. Since my husband and I moved to Manasquan I have worked hard to contribute to the wonderful volunteer groups that serve the community. Whether born and raised here or a new resident, we all know that what we have here is special. I look forward to working as part of a cohesive team to keep it that way."

2023 ELECTION

Eugene Cattani, Board of Education

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Eugene Cattani

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Currently, he is the national director of sales at ICASST USA.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born on Feb. 25, 1963. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree in business from Seton Hall University. He is a resident of Manasquan, and is married to Nancy Cattani with



EUGENE
CATTANI

two children: Kelly and Meghan, both of whom are graduates of Manasquan Elementary School and Manasquan High School.

PUBLIC SERVICE

AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Nine years as a member of the Board of Education with three years as president. He was also chairperson for the referendum committee which passed and constructed the MHS science labs and other education improvements. Member of the negotiation, budget and facilities committees.

MESSAGE: "If elected, I will continue to focus on Manasquan as a comprehen-

sive school district. The current board is very focused on upgrading our academic offerings, improving our vocational classes, advancing our arts programs, and continuing to add to our special services. In the elementary school improvements are underway, including a new art room and science lab, which will allow us to expand our curriculum as we continue to work towards making the elementary a "Blue Ribbon" school district. New pre-school classrooms will make it possible to expand classes and add more full day classes. In the high school we continue to add new courses of interest to our students and are in the process of working towards MHS qualifying as an International Baccalaureate high school."

2023 ELECTION

Jay Bryant, Borough Council

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Jason "Jay" Bryant, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Councilman

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Manasquan High School, History Teacher 22 years. Georgian Court University, Adjunct Professor of History, State and Local Government, and National Government.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He received his Bachelor's of Arts degree from Rowan University and his Master's of Arts degree from Rutgers University, and was awarded the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. He lives in Manasquan with his wife Sharon and his children, Lillian and Jack.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Manasquan Environmental



JAY
BRYANT

Commission. Open Space Committee. Manasquan Citizen Action Committee.

Manasquan VFW Scholarship Coordinator. Spring Lake - Brielle Rotary Club. Trustee, Historic Allaire Village. Served one

prior term as a Manasquan councilman, from 2019 to 2021, with the following accomplishments: supported and voted in favor of a 2 percent cap on municipal taxes during my term; secured grant funding for infrastructure projects, effectively relieving the tax burden on residents. Examples include the paving of 1st Avenue, Curtis Park, and Skokos Park; organized the open Main Street Shop and Dine pedestrian zone that continues to run on Thursday nights throughout the summer months; worked with the Chamber of Commerce to support local businesses throughout the pandemic; co-chaired the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

MESSAGE: "My long-term priorities include safeguarding Manasquan's small-town character, promoting fiscal responsibility, making needed infrastructure improvements, expanding recreational opportunities for all ages, and ensuring our local government is responsive to our community's needs. It is imperative that our local government remains attentive to the ever-evolving needs of our community, a commitment that lies at the heart of my priorities. I am committed to fostering initiatives that reflect the values, interests, and concerns of our residents. To achieve this, I will seek every opportunity to communicate, listen to, and work with local residents to create the best ideas and solutions for our town. Manasquan has a proud past and a strong sense of community. Together, the people of our town and local government can work to preserve Manasquan's small-town quality of life and traditions, while making needed and responsible investments in our future."

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS

2023 ELECTION

Michele Degnan-Spang, Borough Council

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Michele Degnan-Spang

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Degnan-Spang has been a senior media buyer with Jersey Mike's Franchise Systems for the past eight years. Ms. Degnan-Spang obtained a B.A. in communications from the University of New Mexico. She is seeking a second term since being appointed to a vacant seat this past fall.

MICHELE
DEGNAN-
SPANG

OTHER PUBLIC OFFICES HELD: Ms. Degnan-Spang served on the Spring Lake Heights Board of Education from 2010 to 2019, which included being president 2017 to 2019. She also served on the Manasquan Board of Education as the Spring Lake Heights sending district representative 2012 to 2014.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Passing of a school referendum in 2018, the first preschool program at Spring Lake Heights and an increased out-of-district tuition program.

MESSAGE: "If re-elected, I will work with the Mayor, Council and administration ensuring that property taxes remain stable. As Water and Sewer Utility Commit-

tee Chair, I will partner with the Public Works director to address current needs and identify anticipated improvements necessary to keep the water, and sewer infrastructure safe, utilizing grants and other funding opportunities where possible. I look forward to a continued collaborative relationship with our dedicated Police and emergency service, public works and Borough administration. I will listen to community feedback, making informed and responsible decisions with residents' concerns in the forefront. The Heights community is close to my heart. I have loved raising my family in town and understand the importance of preparing for and investing in the borough's future. My focus continues to be keeping this borough moving forward, while continuing to preserve it as a community-oriented and safe place to live."

2023 ELECTION

John Casagrande, Borough Council

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: John Casagrande

OFFICE SOUGHT: Spring Lake Heights Borough Council

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Casagrande is currently the Vice President of Danskin Insurance Agency. He obtained a Bachelor's of Industrial and Systems

JOHN
CASAGRANDE

Engineering from The Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Casagrande is seeking a third term on the council.

MESSAGE: When I was first elected, my commitment

to the residents of Spring Lake Heights was to keep taxes low, to improve our infrastructure, and to maintain our outstanding borough services. If elected in November, I will remain focused on these same objectives. I am proud of what we have achieved in the last few years - we have kept our borough tax rates low, while

making great additions to our service teams, and substantially improving both our parks and our utility service infrastructure. Our next objectives include further road improvements, additional park enhancements, and public safety initiatives. In addition to these primary objectives, I will continue to work with our mayor and council team to promote activities and changes that serve to enhance the culture of our community. We were delighted with how the SLH Fall Festival was received last year, and we look forward to the event's second year. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve the residents of Spring Lake Heights and I hope to be able to continue to do so for another term on our council.

SPRING LAKE

2023 ELECTION

Brendan Judge, Borough Council

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

Spring Lake - The Coast Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot, to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Brendan Judge, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Partner with the law firm of Connell Foley LLP.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born in 1965. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and his

BRENDAN
JUDGE

Juris Doctor [JD] from the University of Notre Dame Law School. He lives in Spring Lake with his wife, Beth, and has four adult children.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Borough Council, Spring Lake, completing fourth three-year term.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Worked to build a collaborative and effective council that focuses solely on what is best for Spring Lake.

MESSAGE: "The Borough has multiple construction projects in either the plan-

ning or construction phases that will significantly improve Spring Lake, the most exciting of which is our conversion of the first floor of the former Wells Fargo Bank building into a restaurant with a bar and the second floor into affordable housing units. We are also in the midst of a multiphase plan to improve Marucci Park, starting with the addition of new pickle ball courts and the rebuilding of the field house. The next phase will involve the expansion of the park by several acres for passive recreation. My priority, if elected, will be to work with our professionals on each of these projects to ensure the timely and cost effective completion of each project."

2023 ELECTION

Jennifer Naughton, Mayor

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN
THE COAST STAR

The Coast Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot, to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Jennifer Naughton, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: She is the president and CEO of Radiant Resources, an IT Consulting and Project Management firm.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She was born on Dec. 4, 1960. She is a graduate of St. Catharine School, St. Rose High School and Montclair State University.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

She served one three-year term as councilwoman in Spring Lake before being appointed to the remaining

JENNIFER
NAUGHTON

one-year unexpired term of former Mayor, Tom Byrne. She has also served four full terms as the mayor of Spring Lake.

Her accomplishments include "the

renovation of both pools and pavilions, the replacement of the boardwalk after two major storms, the installation of a \$6m outfall pipe to relieve flooding in the Wreck Pond neighborhood, replacement of the footbridges over Spring Lake, a major upgrade to the Borough's water system, miles of newly paved roads and a new sidewalk on east side of Ocean Ave, significant park improvements including new tennis courts, pickleball courts and a recreation building at Marucci Park and our latest project to preserve a historic bank building and anchor our

downtown with a restaurant and bar."

MESSAGE: "It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Mayor and if returned for another term, I will continue my efforts to maintain our vibrant and resilient community, remaining prepared, accessible, fiscally responsible and transparent in my work. Our police, public works, emergency services, municipal staff and volunteers are the backbone of our community; we work together regularly to deliver the best service for all Spring Lakers. I remain committed to a healthy working relationship with my council colleagues as together we bring energy, creativity, and the ability to get things done for our residents. We will no doubt have some challenges ahead. I can promise you sound policies, unwavering advocacy for our residents, and clear and responsive leadership in times of uncertainty and change."

SEA GIRT

2023 ELECTION

Diane Anthony, Borough Council

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Diane Anthony, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Sea Girt Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Anthony currently works as a Master's prepared Certified School Nurse in Long Branch Public Schools.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Diane Anthony is 63 years old and married to Chuck. The two have one son, Michael.

EDUCATION: She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from College Misericordia, now known as

DIANE
ANTHONY

Misericordia University, and a Master of Science in Nursing from Monmouth University.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Ms. Anthony has served on the Sea Girt Borough Council since 2018 and as Council President since 2022. She is an active member of the Sea Girt Planning Board and an active member of the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission Board of Commissioners.

MESSAGE: "It continues to be a personal privilege to serve the residents of Sea Girt with the dedication and integrity that is expected and deserved of this meaningful role. Ensuring public safety, maintaining SG's reputation of exceptional, efficient and effective municipal services, which includes SGPD and

SGFD, in conjunction with fiscally responsible government management, remain my focused priorities. I continue to support and encourage the participation of the outstanding SG Library and SG Recreation programs.

I am a strong advocate for a transparent governance in the hopes that this will foster community-based initiatives with those who share the appreciation of the significance of SG's treasured beaches, parks/open spaces, and Wreck Pond watershed, while enhancing environmental, educational, recreational and beautification opportunities for present and future generations. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with past and present mayors and councilmembers as well as the SG volunteers who tirelessly give their time and energy to support these ongoing efforts. It will be a distinct honor to continue to serve the residents of Sea Girt."

2023 ELECTION

Hilary DiFeo, Borough Council

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Hilary DiFeo, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Sea Girt Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Homemaker

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: A Sea Girt resident, Ms. DiFeo was born on Dec. 23, 1971, is married to Samuel and has four children

who were all graduates of Sea Girt Elementary School. She obtained a bachelors

HILARY
DIFE0

in arts from Providence College.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Ms. DiFeo sat on the Sea Girt Board of Education for two terms [six years], four of those years as vice

president and also served on the Executive, Policy/Legislative and Personnel/Negotiations Committees.

MESSAGE: "As a lifelong Sea Girt resident I am honored to be considered as a Boro Council Member. As a Council Member I will proudly serve all residents in an inclusionary manner to ensure that our community remains such a special

place. I intend to continue the proven track record that has provided Sea Girt residents an exceptional quality of life and highest standard of living- all in a fiscally conservative manner. I am committed to holding the line on property taxes. I will keep our citizen's safety a priority, especially the children at our Blue Ribbon Elementary School. I will prioritize open spaces and shade tree initiatives to keep our town green, and nurture our greatest asset- the beautiful Sea Girt beach. I will support our Recreation Committee to provide recreational activities for residents of all ages. Please come out and vote Tuesday Nov. 7th and keep Sea Girt special."

2023 ELECTION

Frank Garruzzo, Brielle Mayor

BY CHRISTINE WALSH
THE COAST STAR

BRIELLE — *The Coast Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.*

CANDIDATE: Frank Garruzzo, Republican
OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor



FRANK GARRUZZO

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Senior Vice-President Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley

EDUCATION: Mr. Garruzzo was born on Dec. 12, 1962. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from

Saint Bonaventure University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Currently serving his ninth term as councilman to end Dec. 31, 2024.

“As Finance Chairman I was able to consistently balance the budget and avoid any major tax increases. As Commissioner of Public Safety I helped usher the department into the 21st century with technological improvements and worked hand in hand with Chiefs Palmer and Olsen in seeing

the department become fully accredited.”

MESSAGE: “Brielle is not an island; we cannot separate our community from the budgetary issues that plague municipalities throughout the state. One of the major concerns is the increased cost of insurance. The Borough is fortunate in being a member of the Monmouth Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, but even a self-insured entity needs to purchase excess coverage in a marketplace that is faced by on-go-

ing and seemingly relentless climate events from forest fires to hurricanes and tornadoes. These events drive up costs.

Daily operations require the purchase of equipment and commodities. Inflation has escalated prices across the board. Our union salaried employees all receive contractual increases, while not exorbitant, they still increase the cost of municipal operations.

I believe the solution to these cost problems is to seek

economies of scale through inter-local agreements that can avoid duplication of services and streamline the delivery of essential public services in a more cost-effective manner. I believe that it is essential that the public recognize that their elected officials are their fellow residents and the Mayor and Council strive to maintain the quality of life that has always characterized Brielle.”

2023 ELECTION

Sean Wohltman, Brielle Board of Education

BY CHRISTINE WALSH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Sean Wohltman

OFFICE SOUGHT: three-year term, Brielle Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Global Head of Cloud Geography for Google

EDUCATION: Mr. Wohltman was born on March 13, 1982. He has a Master of Science in Geography.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Brielle Board of Education 2020 - 2023, where he has



SEAN WOHLTMAN

served on the Policy Committee for 2 years in addition to serving on the District Operations and Community Relations Committees. While serving on the Negotiations

Committee, he reached a successful contract renewal with the teaching staff and served on the selection and interview committee for both the interim and our new permanent superintendent.

MESSAGE: Brielle families deserve an exceptional public school experience, especially considering the significant financial commitments the town devotes to its operation. My first prior-

ity for my second term is to continue to ensure that all aspects of the school's operation are held to the highest levels of accountability, and that our new administration continues to raise the bar and correct prior deficiencies. Second, that our wonderful staff receives the resources, training, and guidance they deserve for their continuing education and success. Finally, that the policies Brielle Elementary School adopts reflect the desires and values of our town. That increasing-ly means that we must adjust and challenge them as necessary when there is political overreach from Trenton that is detrimental to our students' educations and childhoods.

2023 ELECTION

Tedd Vitale, Board of Education

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Tedd Vitale, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Three-year term, Brielle Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Vitale & Company LLC, owner & Certified Public Accountant

EDUCATION: Mr. Vitale was born on Feb. 27, 1960. He received a bachelor of science degree in accounting and a master of science in taxation.



TEDD VITALE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Over six terms served, including serving as the Chairman of Finance and District Operations Committee.

MESSAGE: “I believe that an educated child is a gift to our community.

For the past 19 years I've witnessed our teachers, administration, support staff and maintenance staff work together to support and educate our children from pre-K to graduation. Our responsibility as board members is to provide and support the administration with the resources to make decisions

that will positively impact the educational experience of our students and I believe our board has been successful.

My priorities are overseeing the budgetary process and reviewing the Administration's recommendations for an exceptional, cost-effective educational experience for all students. In addition, helping the Administration in the maintenance and preservation of adequate reserves that will be necessary to provide for expected capital expenditures within the next several years. Lastly, overseeing the building and grounds related projects to ensure the Administration's responsibility toward child health and safety on a financially responsible basis.”

2023 ELECTION

Nicholas DeMauro Jr., Board of Education

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Nicholas R. DeMauro Jr.

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lake Como Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Mr. DeMauro is currently coordinator of social media and special events for Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence.

PERSONAL: Mr. DeMauro was born on Sept. 2, 1999.

BACKGROUND: Mr. DeMauro is an incumbent running for re-election for a full term seat on the bor-



NICHOLAS R. DEMAURO, JR.

ough's board of education. He was first elected in November 2020.

MESSAGE: “If re-elected to the Lake Como Board of Education, my top priorities will

continue to revolve around two crucial pillars: ensuring a high-quality education for our students and striving to maintain or reduce taxes for our hardworking taxpayers,” he said. “Having graduated less than a decade ago from a 21st-century classroom, I bring a unique perspective to the board. I intimately understand what our students have, are, and will go through, as I've experienced it firsthand. This insight

allows me to advocate for policies that directly benefit our students, fostering an environment where they can excel academically, socially and emotionally.

“Moreover, I am deeply committed to fiscal responsibility. We must find innovative ways to provide the best education while keeping the burden on taxpayers in check. By scrutinizing budgets and exploring cost-effective solutions, I aim to strike a balance that prioritizes both quality education and financial prudence,” he said. “In my next term, I will work tirelessly to ensure that Lake Como's education system remains a source of pride, offering our students the tools they need to succeed while keeping the interests of our taxpayers at the forefront of every decision.”

LAKE COMO

2023 ELECTION

Peter Ventrice, Council

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Peter Ventrice, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lake Como Borough Council

EMPLOYMENT: Partner with the law firm Brause, Brause & Ventrice, L.L.C., in Metuchen

PERSONAL: Born April 13, 1965, Mr. Ventrice is married to his wife, Mary Beth, and became a full time resident of Lake Como in 2016. He also served in New Brunswick on the zoning board and as public defender.



PETER VENTRICE

EDUCATION: Mr. Ventrice has an undergraduate degree from Lehigh University and a law degree from New York Law School.

BACKGROUND: He was first appointed to serve on borough council in February 2021 to fill the vacancy left by former councilman David Gardner's resignation and was later elected to complete the two-year unexpired term in that year's general election. As a current councilman, Mr. Ventrice is the council liaison for the borough environmental commission.

MESSAGE: “If re-elected, my priorities will be to keep taxes down while providing

our residents with the services that we need. We are a close community. We have built and maintained beautiful and friendly neighborhoods that make us one of the most desirable communities in the state. I am proud of what we have accomplished with the Mayor, fellow Council Members, and Borough Administrators to accomplish these goals. My immediate priority would be to continue to work with the Environmental Commission on projects that enhance our community's natural beauty while making improvements on an environmental level, such as our project for an arboretum which is planned to be a botanical garden devoted to trees down Main Street. I would be proud to continue to serve as a Councilman.”

2023 ELECTION

Nicholas DeMauro Sr., Council

BY GIANNA MEHES
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Nicholas DeMauro Sr.

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lake Como Borough Council

EMPLOYMENT: He is the executive director and chief executive officer of the nonprofit Law Enforcement Against Drugs

PERSONAL: Mr. DeMauro was born on Sept. 11, 1960. He has a wife, Jennifer, and three children; Amanda, Alaina and Nicholas Jr. Pre-



NICHOLAS DEMAURO SR.

viously, Mr. DeMauro served as president of the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education.

EDUCATION: He has a bachelor of science degree in human and public administration, and an associate degree in applied sciences.

BACKGROUND: He was first nominated to serve as councilman in September 2019 to fill the vacancy left by former councilman John Carvelli for the remainder of a three-year term that later expired in November 2020. Following this, Mr. DeMauro was elected for his current three-year term on borough

council, which expires this year. As a current councilman, Mr. DeMauro is the council liaison to the police department.

MESSAGE: “Being an international expert in prevention and also serving law enforcement throughout the United States, I have a key interest in making sure that our community is safe, being a resort town. We have a good police department but I think it's the mayor and council's responsibility to make sure that we have all the ordinances and resolutions in place so they can do their jobs the best they can do, and we need to have more community-based policing activities.”

AVON-BY-THE-SEA

2023 ELECTION

John Magrini, Avon-By-The-Sea, Board of Commissioners

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: John Magrini
OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Commissioners
PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Senior account executive - Educators Insurance Services; real estate agent, The Connolly Agency, Avon

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Mr. Magrini was born in June of 1961. He obtained a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University.



JOHN
MAGRINI

He is married to Norah and they have two children, Emily and Brendan.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Eight years Avon Board of Commissioners; four years as mayor; four years as commissioner; 13 years on the Avon Board of Education and five years as president.

MESSAGE: "My priority going into my third term

is to continue providing the services our residents expect while also maintaining the low local tax rate. Also take a close look at the boro's water and sewer infrastructure to develop a phased approach to make improvements before a serious failure occurs.

Begin a thorough and updated review of Avon Master Plan. Continue improvements to the Main Street business zones. Including working with New Jersey to replace the cement islands on Main Street with grass and plantings.

Support the many volunteer organizations who enhance our community."

2023 ELECTION

Edward Bonanno, Avon-By-The-Sea, Board of Commissioners

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Edward Bonanno
OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor/Commissioner

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: For 25 years, I was a prosecutor in the New Jersey Attorney General Division of Criminal Justice where I served as Supervising Deputy Attorney General and Bureau Chief. Over the past 12 years I have been working at the Belmar law firm Pringle Quinn Anzano handling insurance fraud and municipal litigation.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Fordham Law School, J.D, 1984; Hamilton College, 1980, B.A.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Chairman of the Environmental Commission, member of the Sylvan Lake Commission; Sylvan Lake Commission, Avon Planning Board

MESSAGE: "I have had the privilege of serving as Mayor and Commissioner of the Borough of Avon by the Sea for the past four years.

During that time, I have tried to be responsive to the needs of our residents and have worked with my fellow Commissioners



EDWARD
BONANNO

to address the issues that we have faced. Shortly after I was elected, we were confronted with the Covid pandemic.

During that challenging time, we worked to find ways to balance Covid-related health and safety concerns with the need to continue providing services to our residents, including our police services, public works services, beach operations and recreation programs. In addition to dealing with those challenges, we were able to initiate a number of programs and enact ordinances to preserve and enhance the unique character of our Borough: Stipend Program for our First Aid Squad and Fire Department to acknowledge the work of these volunteers and to assist in recruitment; creation of our annual Avon Day; redevelopment of the north end of Main Street, improvements to Volunteer Park; improvements to the Avon Pool; improvements to the Borough's water and sewer

infrastructure; purchase of additional radar signs and use of additional signage as well as new youth bicycle safety programs to improve traffic safety; and adopting ordinances regulating the maintenance of construction sites, regulating the installation of sump pump systems, regulating short term rentals and prohibiting the sale of cannabis and use in public places.

Moving forward, I would like to keep working on completing the installation of the Living Shoreline on the Avon banks of Sylvan Lake and working with Bradley Beach on a Project that will involve treating the water entering the Lake and dredging it. These measures will dramatically improve the Lake as a resource for our community, including the control of the geese population.

With my fellow Commissioners, I would like to also work on the enhancement of our downtown area, including addressing parking for our stores and restaurants and supporting our businesses with events such as Avon Day and Shop Local Day.

I look forward to having the opportunity to work with our next Board of Commissioners, Borough Staff, and Borough Volunteers to address our residents' concerns and the Borough priorities over the next four years."

2023 ELECTION

Michelle Devoy, Avon-By-The-Sea Board of Commissioners

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Michelle Devoy
OFFICE SOUGHT: Avon-By-The-Sea Board of Commissioners

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: In 2021, I retired from teaching in the Rumson School District and I am currently the Director of Alum-



MICHELLE
DEVOY

ni Relations St. Rose High School in Belmar.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Master of Arts in Teaching from Monmouth University, 1996, Bachelor's from Rosemont College, 1994. Married to Christopher, two sons, Alex and Christopher.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Founding Member and Vice President of the Avon By the Sea Education Foundation; Member of Avon by the Sea

Board of Education - three years [one term].

MESSAGE: "As a resident of Avon by the Sea for 23 years, I have come to understand that our town depends on our Borough staff and volunteers, as well as our Board of Commissioners, in order to run smoothly. My priority is to work with these groups and to address concerns that may arise. I would also like to work with my fellow Commissioners to continue many of the projects that were started, including the improvements to our downtown area. I look forward to being a part of our cohesive, local government and serving the residents of Avon by the Sea."

2023 ELECTION

Michael Evans, Avon, Board of Education

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Michael Evans

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Evans currently works as a self-employed compliance consultant.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Mr. Evans was born January 2, 1971, is married to his wife Catherine and has three children; a son attending Fairfield University, a daughter at Northeastern University and one at



MICHAEL
EVANS

Trinity Hall High School, after her three years at Avon Elementary School. Mr. Evans obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Colgate University and a Masters of Business Administration degree from New York University Stern School of Business.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Mr. Evans served one term on Avon-By-The-Sea Board of Education.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Evans cited his participation as a BOE member in the replacement of the chief school administrator and in efforts to improve the har-

mony of the entire community of students, families, teachers and residents.

MESSAGE: "My priority is to do the greatest good for the most students. This is achieved by building and supporting a school that has a teaching staff with strong empathy, experience and intelligence. Our new administration leadership is also now in place to support the entire school community of students, teachers, parents, etc. As a parent of a recent AES graduate, I know the importance of these relationships and I want to build upon that groundwork for continued success of our school. I also encourage parents of young students to take an active role in their school, including joining our Board of Ed!"

2023 ELECTION

Kristin Scrabis-Fletcher, Avon, Board of Education

BY SAMANTHA SMITH
THE COAST STAR

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CANDIDATE: Kristin Scrabis-Fletcher
OFFICE SOUGHT: Avon-By-The-Sea Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Scrabis-Fletcher currently works as an associate professor at Montclair State University.



KRISTIN
SCRABIS-
FLETCHER

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Ms. Scrabis-Fletcher was born August 29, 1974. She and her husband Mark have two children, Abby and John. She holds a bachelors of arts degree and masters degrees in arts and philosophy, as well as a Ph.D.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Ms. Scrabis-Fletcher has served two terms on the Avon Board of Education.

MESSAGE: "I look forward to continuing the work

we have begun as a Board of Education. I have learned a great deal over my last 2 terms as a Board of Ed member and as an active parent in the school community and community at large. We live in such a unique town and our school is such a wonderful place, I want to continue to grow opportunities for the students, faculty, and staff so ALL can excel and thrive. I also look forward to fostering more community engagement to help all take pride in Avon Elementary school and the Avon community. We should celebrate the unique qualities of our town and our students while moving forward as a cohesive unit."

ELECTION DAY



NOVEMBER 7



OCEAN COUNTY CANDIDATE PROFILES

BAY HEAD

2023 ELECTION

William W. Curtis, Mayor

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: William W. Curtis, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

OFFICES HELD: Republican Committeeman - West Chester, Pennsylvania, June 1981 to June 1991; League of Municipalities Legislative Committee, January 2018 to present; League of Municipalities Executive Board, Jan. 2019 to present; Ocean County Mayors As-

sociation, January 2008 to present; Trustee in 2012, Secretary in 2013, first Vice President from 2014 to 2018 and President from 2019 to present; Bay Head Planning Board, January 1999 to January 2000 and then again in January 2008 to present; Bay Head Council, January 2000 to January 2008; and Bay Head Mayor, January 2008 to present.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Teacher and Assistant Football Coach - Toms River Board of Education, September 1968 to Sept. 1969; Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. New York, New York, September 1969 to July 1973 - Underwriter and Sales Group Insurance and Pensions; Frank B Hall & Co. of PA Insurance Broker - Large Groups - Philadelphia, July



WILLIAM CURTIS

1973 to April 1983; Johnson & Higgins of PA Insurance Broker - Large Groups - Philadelphia, April 1983 to December 1991; Johnson & Higgins of CA - Large Groups - Costa Mesa, California, December 1991 to April 1996; Curtis' Central Market - Owner, November 1995 to Nov. 2012; and Property Manager - Bay Head, November 1995 to present.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts, University of Virginia, 1966; and Master's in Education University of Virginia, 1968.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Married to Stevie Curtis with three children, Whitney Ann Curtis, Courtney Curtis [married to Michael Urban] and S. Adam Curtis [married to Shannon Fury Curtis] with four grandchildren, Ainsley Urban, Tanner Curtis, Owen Curtis and Coakley "Coco" Curtis.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Instituted Non Voting Taxpayer Annual Meeting, 2008 to present; Led Bay Head's rapid recovery efforts after Superstorm Sandy. Hired first ever Bay Head Borough Administrator; Entered into a shared service agreement with Point Pleasant Borough for the services of a Borough Administrator, the first such arrangement in the entire state of New Jersey; Ini-

tiated participation in New Jersey's Mayors Wellness Campaign earning the distinction of being awarded the first Jersey Shore town to be called a "Well" town, doing so with an all volunteer committee and using no taxpayer dollars; and instrumental in bringing The Kate Shea Memorial [Now Known As The Bay Head Memory Run] 5K, held now for nearly 20 Years.

MESSAGE: "Over the last several years, we've made significant improvements to our community and we will continue to do so. It's a balancing act in Bay Head because you want us to keep that small town feeling while moving forward."

"In light of recent events throughout our State and Country regarding crime,

we've made public safety a priority and hired an additional police officer for our patrols. Public Safety has and always will be a priority for me and the Council.

"We've also introduced a number of initiatives with neighboring communities, implementing Shared Services, thus saving us considerable money. Going forward, we plan on working closely with County and Federal Officials on a number of initiatives like opposing offshore wind farms (windmills) and other environmental issues directly affecting Bay Head such as flooding.

"It's been my honor to serve our community and I hope you will allow me to continue."

2023 ELECTION

Jennifer Barnes Gambert, Borough Council

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

BAY HEAD — The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Jennifer Barnes Gambert, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Attorney with Manfredi & Pellechio and adjunct professor at Brookdale Community College.

OTHER OFFICES HELD: Board members of OCEAN Inc.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Two daughters and one son.

EDUCATION: J.D. cum laude New York Law School and B.A. summa cum laude in Political Science and His-



JENNIFER BARNES GAMBERT

tory Saint Peter's University.

NUMBER OF TERMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Five terms on council. Over the past 15 years, Ms. Barnes Gambert initiated and administered the municipal website, started and administered the emergency notification system and drafted and revised countless ordinances in Bay Head's Municipal Code. She has also drafted various policies and resolutions.

MESSAGE: "There are several important issues facing Bay Head which deserve our attention and effort. While the Borough may be a smaller municipality, we still face the same challenges found in every other community. We need

to ensure that Bay Head grows in terms of prosperity and innovation while simultaneously maintaining the charm, serenity and quaintness of a residential seashore community. It is a challenging balancing act, but I firmly believe that we are up to the task. Safe neighborhoods, upholding the rights of property owners, limiting our legal liabilities, fighting for our residents' quality of life and decreasing government regulation are keys which I believe are necessary to ensure that Bay Head remains the jewel of Ocean County. We must continue to face the challenges that arise with transparency, input and participation from our residents, and guidance from our amazing professionals and employees. I am so honored to work with such an amazing group of individuals who share my vision to keep Bay Head spectacular."

2023 ELECTION

James W. Gates, Borough Council

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: James [Jim] W. Gates, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

OFFICES HELD: Finishing first term on council, served two years on Planning Board. Land Use chair for two years and finance chair currently.



JAMES W. GATES

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT:

Financial advisor - Equitable Advisors, Wall

EDUCATION: Seton Hall University

MESSAGE: "If

elected I will continue to work closely with the Borough finance team to balance Bay Head's budget while being mindful of our property taxes. Every effort will be made to provide a robust offering of services while managing the challenges of

increased vendor contracts and purchasing costs.

I will support proposals and initiatives that insure the safety and security of our residents and our thriving downtown that puts Bay Head, NJ on the map. Reviewing and updating our ordinances will keep us contemporary and relevant.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and am proud of the things we've accomplished and the relationships we've developed."

MANTOLOKING

2023 ELECTION

Francis T. Donaldson, Borough Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Francis T. Donaldson, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mantoloking Borough Council

EMPLOYMENT: Retired and former owner and principal at an engineering and machine fabrication company

EDUCATION: Born on May 22, 1952, Mr. Donaldson received a Bachelor of



FRANCIS T. DONALDSON

Engineering degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Donaldson had served as a township councilman for Bridgewater

Township. He served for five years with one term as council president. During his time on the council he listed an accomplishment as reducing the tax rate.

MESSAGE: "To maintain the Mantoloking quality of life we enjoy. We have a wonderful community with wonderful citizens that are the foundation of the char-

acter of our community. To that end I will take care to avoid any actions we take as the Mantoloking Governing body that may result in unintended consequences. I will be prudent in the expenditure of any of the taxpayers funds. I will work with the Mayor and Council Members to provide the best outcome for any issues that may arise. I will strive to maintain affordable municipal services. I will work together with the Mayor and Council to seek county, state or other appropriate higher level authority to obtain help when needed. I will take care that all citizens obtain an appropriate amount of service and consideration."

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LAVALLETTE

ELECTION 2023

Anita Zalom, Borough Council

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Anita Zalom, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lavallette Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Zalom is a former music teacher who has lived year-round in Lavallette for the past 60 years. She has served 30 years [10 full terms] on the borough

ANITA
ZALOM

council to date, where she currently sits as its president and member of the Friends of Lavallette Beautification Committee and the library, Community Development Block Grant, environmental and recreation committees. Previously, she has also served three years as president of the Lavallette Parent-Teacher Association and 12 years on the Lavallette Board of Education.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Ms. Zalom was born in Elizabeth and raised in Howell Township until age eight. Eventually, she moved to Clifton, where she saw a Lavallette real estate listing in the local newspaper. She has lived in Lavallette since 1968.

MESSAGE: "Want to continue keeping this Borough the best; fun, friendly and safe for all ages. Lived here 60 years and can't say enough about how all do their share to keep us all so happy to be here. I am anxious to serve you all another three years. Call me with any concerns anytime."

ELECTION 2023

David Finter,
Borough CouncilBY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: David Finter, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lavallette Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Finter was employed at New Jersey Bell,

DAVID
FINTER

that while he did not go to college, his degree is in "Common Sense. Just because people go to college does not make them smart." He also served in the Viet-

Bell Atlantic and Verizon for 32 years, working as a lineman, splicer, foreman and field engineer.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

He was born in 1947. Mr. Finter said

nam War in 1966. He was first on the Lavallette Board of Education from January 2013 to September 2014, and was then appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Lee Horan. Mr. Finter has a wife, Margaret, two children and three grandchildren. He was elected to the council in 2014.

MESSAGE: "[To] work with other council members, especially my running mate Anita Zalom, to address concerns of residents and help keep the taxes in Lavallette one of the lowest in New Jersey."

ELECTION 2023

Lisa Connor, Board of Education

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Lisa Connor

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lavallette Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Since 2021, Ms. Connor has been employed by Nestle Health Science as a senior manager of U.S. payer marketing.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She was born March 6, 1993. Ms. Connor received her doctorate of phar-

LISA
CONNOR

macy from Albany College of Pharmacy in 2018. Currently, she is a master's candidate of Washington State University with an anticipated graduation date of December 2023. She first joined the Lavallette Board of Education in January of 2023. Ms. Connor has a husband, Kyle, and two kids, Malia and Zoe.

MESSAGE: "I have had the pleasure of serving on the Lavallette Board of Education since January 2023. During this time as a new board member, I have learned a tremendous amount from my fellow board members and

truly appreciate the role that the Board of Education holds in serving the Lavallette students, school, and community. I have also enjoyed being a part of the Strategic Planning Committee. I am dedicated to our students and ensuring that they continue to receive a fostering, high quality, and enriched educational experience with the right opportunities and resources to flourish and grow. I am committed to ensuring our next generation receives the support and environment they need to achieve success. I would be excited and honored to continue to serve on the Lavallette Board of Education."

ELECTION 2023

Steven Shohfi,
Board of EducationBY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Steven Shohfi

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Since 2015, he has been an adjunct professor at Kean University. Mr. Shohfi also taught physical education at Union County Regional School District between 1977 and 1997, as well as at Kenilworth School District between 1997 and 2015.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born on January 7, 1955 and received his undergraduate degree in physical education and

health from Kean College

STEVEN
SHOHFI

in 1977, followed by a master of arts in teaching from Marygrove College in 2000. He has a wife, Jami, and two daughters, Jessica and Sarah.

MESSAGE: "I have served on the Lavallette Board of Education for close to twenty years. In that time I have sought to help provide an excellent and comprehensive education that meets the needs of all students. In order for students to receive a comprehensive educational experience they must be provided opportunities in academics, athletics, and the arts. It's also important to help students understand that these areas are not mutually exclusive. I have worked collabo-

rately with my fellow board members and school administration to ensure that all Lavallette students have access to these opportunities. I have also served on the Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education as the Sending District Representative for approximately fourteen years, making sure that Lavallette students, and the Lavallette School Administration, have an advocate at that level. I have long been involved with The NJ School Boards Association as a member of the Legislative Committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, serving as the NJSIAA President in 2020. My involvement in these associations allows Lavallette to have a voice in education at the state level. I have considered my service to be a privilege, and it would be an honor to be allowed to continue."

ELECTION 2023

Alison Zylinski,
Board of Education

THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Alison Zylinski

OFFICE SOUGHT: Lavallette, Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Zylinski is currently the director of special services for the Bradley Beach Board of Education in Monmouth County.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She was born Sept. 30, 1972. Ms. Zylinski has also received a master's

ALISON
ZYLINSKI

degree in social work. She was first elected to the Lavallette Board of Education in 2003, and has served on the board since then. Ms. Zylinski has a husband,

William, and four kids: Tyler, Luke, Sydney and Morgan.

MESSAGE: "As a Board of Education member, I want to ensure a high quality education for the children of our school community while ensuring fiscal responsibility for our taxpayers."

It is my priority to support the vision and mission of our school developed by our

school community through an extensive and collaborative strategic planning process. As an educator with over two decades of experience, I am able to utilize my knowledge of and skill set in education to benefit the operation and progress of the Lavallette School.

Lastly, my four children benefited greatly from their educational experience at the Lavallette School, therefore to serve our community as a Board of Education member will allow me to pay it forward and continue the legacy of educational excellence for all the current and future students of the Lavallette School."

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POINT PLEASANT BORO

2023 ELECTION

Cheryl L. Salway, Board of Education

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Cheryl L. Salway

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

OFFICES HELD: Veteran BOE member; served as both vice-president and president. Two full terms as BOE member, previous to that, appointment to finish a term.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Since July 2021, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, Shrewsbury Borough School District, Monmouth County; previously teacher of middle school English, H.W. Mountz



CHERYL L. SALWAY

Elementary School, Spring Lake.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of arts in political science, minor in history from The Catholic University of America, Master of Arts in Curriculum and Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University and Kean University; teacher, supervisor and principal certification.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Two children, Cassidy and Eren.

MESSAGE: "Education is my life and my passion. I am fairly certain that God put me on this Earth to be an advocate for children. I didn't know that teaching would be my course in life until I taught swimming lessons at my local community pool in my hometown of Clark. When my daughter entered

the public school system in 2015, I knew that my passion needed to extend beyond my classroom and to my community. Since then I have served the community of Point Pleasant Borough as a Board of Education member, where I currently serve as BOE President. If elected in November, I will be serving my third elected term in the Board of Education. During the next three years my vision is to see our district through the completion of our Strategic Plan: Charting the Course, especially as it pertains to Learning and Achievement. Point Pleasant Borough School District is on a 'Panther Path' to being one of the best school districts in the state of New Jersey. We have the potential to be a Blue Ribbon school district. I hope to see this potential become a reality in the next three years."

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT — The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Natalie A. Gagliardi-Levine

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant School Board

EDUCATION: Born on Sept. 12, 1979 and holds an undergraduate degree in education, concentration in psychology from The College of New Jersey, a master's degree in special education and learning disabilities teacher consultant certified from Rutgers University and a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Capella University.

EMPLOYMENT: She had spent the first 19 years of her career as a general education teacher and special education teacher in Freehold Township and currently is the Assistant Principal and Supervisor of Student



NATALIE A. GAGLIARDI-LEVINE

Services of Spring Lake. Ms. Levine has served in this position for the last three and a half years.

MES-SAGE: "I have dedicated 23 years of my professional life

to the education of children in public schools. I advocate for equity in education, completing post graduate degrees to help strengthen my knowledge in an effort to provide exceptional educational opportunities for every student. It has become my mission to ensure that all students, families and community members are confident in the programming and resources allocated for each student to reach their fullest potential. My dedication will be unwavering when joining the Board of Education in Point Pleasant Boro. I intend to foster relationships with all stakeholders in the community in an effort to ensure that these partnerships will lead to building opportu-

nities for our students. My intention is to leverage my experience, skills and knowledge as a general education teacher, special education teacher and school leader to make the exceptional educational community even stronger for all children, including my own!"

NOTE: Of the two seats, only one is currently being sought for re-election. Board President and incumbent Cheryl Salway was the only person to file a candidate's petition by the deadline for the November 2023 school board election.

Joan A. Speroni, who served from April 1997 through December 2012 and then was elected to the board again in 2017, is not seeking re-election.

The candidates would serve a three-year term if elected.

Ms. Gagliardi-Levine is running a write-in campaign for the Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education.

2023 ELECTION

Jonathan DeMeester, Board of Education

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Jonathan DeMeester

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Forensic Special Agent

EDUCATION: Master of Science degree in forensic computing and Cybercrime, Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Married to Valerie with three children,



JOHNATHAN DEMEESTER

Gracie, Margot, and Brady

MES-SAGE: "If I am elected to the Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education, my priorities will be to:

- Work together with other board members to tackle problems that come to the board's attention.

- Uphold Point Pleasant family values and prepare students for success in their endeavors.

- Create a solid partnership with the school board, school teachers, and parents to work together to provide the best education for our children, free from political agendas.

- Let teachers show our students the way to success.
- Let parents decide what's best for their children.

I love Point Pleasant and want to do my part by giving back to the community."

Of the two seats, only one is currently being sought for reelection. Board President and incumbent Cheryl Salway was the only person to file a candidate's petition by the deadline for the November 2023 school board election.

Joan A. Speroni, who served from April 1997 through December 2012 and then was elected to the board again in 2017, is not seeking re-election.

The candidates would serve a three-year term if elected.

Mr. DeMeester is running a write-in campaign for the Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education.

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POINT PLEASANT BORO

2023 ELECTION

Valerie Coulson,
Borough CouncilBY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Valerie Coulson, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

OFFICES HELD/ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Current Point Pleasant Borough Council President; completed remaining two years of Pamela Snyder-Madas' term as she was appointed a judge. All accomplishments are a team effort - Fallen Heroes Memorial, purchase of Beaver Dam Property for new Recreation Ctr., installation of sidewalks by schools and parks utilizing grants, enacted an ordinance regulating operation of E-bikes, worked with Point Pleasant Garden Club [hardest working group around] to create Pollinator Garden.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Johnson & Johnson - M&A Specialist

EDUCATION: William Paterson University - BA



VALERIE COULSON

in History & Teaching Certificate; New York University - post grad work in Legal Studies

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She and her husband, Thomas, have

lived in Point Pleasant Borough since 1994. She has two daughters, Lierrin and Brianna, and one granddaughter, Aryia.

MESSAGE: "I am seeking reelection for a second term on the Point Pleasant Borough Council. My husband Thomas and I have owned our home in Point Pleasant Borough since 1994 and have two daughters, Lierrin and Brianna and one granddaughter Aryia. I earned my undergraduate degree at William Paterson University with post graduate work at New York University. Currently I am employed at Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick. Prior to my term as a council member, I served on the Point Pleasant Zoning Board of Adjustment. My main priority if my running mate Joe Veni and I prevail in the election will be to continue the

work our team has accomplished. Team Point Pleasant along with Mayor Sabosik have kept municipal taxes under control, improved our parks, improved our roads, added a record number of sidewalks and have strengthened public safety all while keeping that small town feel we all cherish. The Borough is constantly ranked as one of the best places to live and one of the safest communities in all of New Jersey and I want to make sure it stays that way. One major project on the horizon is our new Recreation/Senior Center that will be the jewel of our community. With this project we are saving almost two acres from being overdeveloped in our community by commercial builders. People want to move to Point Borough and I intend to make sure it always stays that way. Often enhancements to the borough are achieved through the diligent efforts of the council in seeking out cost saving measures through grants and shared services with other communities. I am proud to serve on the council with each and every member because of their integrity and dedication. It's awesome to be part of a great team!"

2023 ELECTION

Wayne Martiak,
Borough CouncilBY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Wayne Martiak, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 456, Journeyman Wireman, Apprentice Instructor, Journeyman Instructor and Business Agent.

EDUCATION: Ukrainian Assumption School, Perth Amboy, St. Joseph's High School, Metuchen, International Brotherhood of Electric-



WAYNE MARTIAK

cal Workers Apprenticeship, University of Tennessee, IBEW Instructor Training and University of Michigan, Advance Instructor Training.

AL BACKGROUND: Separated, three Children: Wayne Jr., who has one daughter, of Monroe Township; Melanie, who has one daughter who attends Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School, of Point Pleasant Boro; and Michael.

MESSAGE: "I have always been involved in my community and now I am seeking a position on the Boro Council to help make the Boro Better. We need to keep our residents and children safe on our streets. In the past 5 years

we have had 73 Bicycle accidents resulting in 49 injuries and 1 Fatality. This does not include this year especially with electric bikes. We have also had 24 Pedestrian accidents resulting in 23 injuries. Sidewalks are very costly. Marking our streets with bike lanes to make drivers aware of pedestrians, bicycles, and parents walking their children.

Safe streets are needed for all residents and is one of our main priorities. We need to have open discussion on the Council that is non-partisan and in the best interest of all residents. Please vote Michelle Viggos and Wayne Martiak on November 7th for Point Pleasant Borough Council."

2023 ELECTION

Michael Permuko,
Borough CouncilBY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Michael S. Permuko, registered Republican running as an independent

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

OFFICES HELD: Point Pleasant Borough Planning Board from 2011 to 2016

EMPLOYMENT: Independent Insurance Agent educating individuals in their transition to Medicare with the various health insurance plans available in their area. Also, substitute teacher in



MICHAEL S. PERMUKO

the Point Pleasant Borough School District.

EDUCATION: Born on March 11, 1959 and graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor of Science de-

gree in finance.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Married to Rita Permuko and has two daughters who are married,

MESSAGE: "4 priorities when elected:

1. 4-way Stop Signs on the corners where Public Safety is at risk. I have asked for a 4-way on my corner and adjoining corners. Only to fall upon deaf ears of the current Mayor and Council. Children

riding their bikes, possibly looking at their phones, and crossing these intersections. I will be proactive in protecting our residents' safety.

2. Research a change of government to a non-partisan form. Imagine having an election for the Boro in May, that only deals with electing the Mayor, Council and Board of Education. Partisanship does not belong in a small town like the Boro.

3. Look into viable solutions to our neighborhood speeding problems. 4-way stops in areas may work or how effective are speed humps.

4. Representing ALL of Point Boro. Walking the neighborhoods, only small areas are being represented. That will change while I am in office."

2023 ELECTION

Joseph Veni, Borough Council

BY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Joseph Veni, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

OFFICES HELD: Point Pleasant Borough Zoning Board of Adjustment, 2019 to present

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Manchester Township - Supervising Engineer CPWM LEED AP, State VP of PWANJ, President of PWANJ Region VIII, Rutgers Public Works Instructor - CPWM Program, TRFD - Station 29 Vol. Firefighter, Just Believe/ Code Blue - Kitchen services volunteer and OPEIU Local 32 shop steward for the



JOSEPH VENI

supervisor union.

Past Employment - Radio Frequency Engineer - American Tower

EDUCATION: Bachelors in Engineering Science from NJIT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Married to Victoria Veni with three children: Nico, Sergio and Kayla

MESSAGE: "To continue with the good government responsible for making Point Pleasant Borough one of the most desired communities to live in America. Continue with the successful efforts of the current administration to make our streets safer for the walkers to walk and the bikers to bike. Continue supporting our Police, Fire, EMS, Municipal Employees, and Volunteers as they are the reason Point Pleasant

residents feel safe and secure, something many other NJ municipal residents do not feel. Continue to utilize grants and any other available funding sources to efficiently and effectively keep the taxes to a minimum without sacrificing vital town services and necessary maintenance to continue upkeep of the town's various components. I plan to find ways to provide more open space so our recreational and travel sports teams will have more practice and playing fields available to them. I plan to create 'back to basic' programs for children and adults to learn about the basics of wood & metal work, car maintenance & repair, various trade basics for home maintenance, importance of energy & water efficiency, gardening & cooking basics, etc. I plan to incorporate volunteer programs for our residents in need and residents looking to give back to our 'small town' community."

2023 ELECTION

Michelle Viggos,
Borough CouncilBY TOMMY WATTERS
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT — The Ocean Star has invited all municipal and school board candidates on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot to submit information for individual profiles that will be published once in print and later in a voters guide at starnewsgroup.com prior to Election Day.

CANDIDATE: Michelle Viggos, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Borough Council

EMPLOYMENT: Currently a business owner of Sustainable Tax Services Inc, registered in New Jersey and Ocean County.

EDUCATION: Born on Aug. 3, 1962 and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Utah, B.S. in accounting; and received



MICHELLE VIGGOS

a Masters of Accountancy in Taxation from Rutgers University

MESSAGE: "I am honored to be running for a seat on the town council. My vision

for our community revolves around three key areas: fiscal responsibility, public safety, and enhancing our recreational spaces and am committed to being a council member who actively listens to the concerns and ideas of our residents.

1. Getting Taxes Under Control: I will work diligently to review the town's budget, identify areas for po-

tential savings, and explore alternative revenue sources.

2. Safer Streets for Bikers and Pedestrians: Creating a safe environment for bikers and pedestrians is crucial for the well-being of our community.

3. Upgrades to Parks and Recreational Spaces: Creating more opportunities for indoor/outdoor activities, community events and family-friendly gatherings.

4. A Council that Listens: Together, we can build a council that truly represents the interests and concerns of our diverse community.

Let's build a brighter future together."

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2023 ELECTION

Lisa Crate, Mayor

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Lisa Crate, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor of Brick Township

EMPLOYMENT: Teacher, Jackson School District

PERSONAL: Ms. Crate is married to her husband Will and they have two children William and Colleen, who both graduated from the Brick public schools.

EDUCATION: Born on Nov. 9, 1970, Ms. Crate received a Bachelor's in Education and a Master's in Education from Georgian Court University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Ms. Crate served on the Brick Council from 2016 to 2023 for two terms.



LISA CRATE

"I'm pleased that we have been able to provide new and improved services to residents without raising taxes. Our accomplishments include zero tax increase

in this years budget, opening of the new Senior Center, hiring new police officers to increase the size of our police force to record levels, instituting free Dialysis transportation, preservation of over 800 acres of open space including Breton Woods earlier this year, and improving and adding to our community events such as the farmers market and Summerfest. I'm particularly proud of my work with the Veteran community to honor our Brick Fallen Heroes at Windward Beach, assistance with renovations to the DAV building for our Disabled Veterans and the refurbished and updated Veterans Memorial outside of Town Hall.

All while reducing municipal debt and keeping taxes stable," said Ms. Crate.

MESSAGE: "If you want to know someone's priorities, look at what they've done, rather than listen to what they say. We are proud of our record of stabilizing taxes, supporting our police force, preserving open space and stopping over development.

For 12 straight years, our team has kept municipal taxes stable, and this year, we had zero increase in municipal taxes, while maintaining and improving municipal services. We have increased the size of our police force to a record level, 146 full-time police officers. We have preserved over 800 acres of open space, and passed zoning laws to eliminate future high density development.

We will continue to make fiscal responsibility a priority. We have reduced municipal debt every single year since I was first elected and we will continue to reduce township debt and prioritize the needs and the pocket-books of the residents."

2023 ELECTION

John Catalano, Mayor

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: John Catalano, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Mayor

EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Catalano is the owner and operator of Country Store Jewelers in Brick Township and has owned it for over 35 years. He also previously owned and operated Country Store Deli and Luncheon for 26 years.

PERSONAL: Mr. Catalano, born on Nov. 3, 1949, is married to his wife Bethann Catalano and together they have one daughter, Jenna Catalano.



JOHN CATALANO

EDUCATION: Mr. Catalano received a bachelor's degree in secondary education in physical education and English, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Catalano has been a New Jersey State Assemblyman since 2021 and had previously served on the Brick Township Council in 2011.

MESSAGE: "All that Brick has become, and all that Brick will be is rooted in the talents, dedication, and hard work of the people. A significant shift we need is to return to receiving the rightful state funding for our schools. Brick Township places a great emphasis on both academics and athletics, and it is imperative that we receive our adequate fair share of funding to encourage fami-

lies to choose Brick as their place to raise their children.

One of the greatest things about Brick, and the thing I love the most about it, is the people. We work together to maintain a vision of the future centered around safety and community. Recently, Brick Township has seen a rise in criminal activity and this situation requires immediate attention and action. We will accomplish this by establishing a task force with our public safety committee, the Chief of Police and other law enforcement officials from the Township, County Sheriff's office and County Prosecutor's Office. I want to bring our Township back to being one of the safest places in America to live.

In closing, I am confident that under my leadership, I will run a government that is efficient, effective, and fiscally sound. I will ensure that Brick remains affordable for our senior citizens and young families. A place that families want to make home."

2023 ELECTION

Derrick Ambrosino, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Derrick Ambrosino, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Worked in various roles in sales and sales management within the technology sector for the past 20 years, with a focus on cloud-based software and services for the healthcare industry.



DERRICK AMBROSINO

EDUCATION: Mr. Ambrosino, who was born on Dec. 13, 1980, is a graduate of Brick Township High School, Rutgers University and Monmouth University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Ambrosino has served one term as a Brick councilman

MESSAGE: "I believe that, first and foremost, effective municipal government requires diligent fiscal responsibility, so that we can continue to deliver services that our community needs. I am a

strong proponent of supporting our outstanding Police Department, supporting local businesses, providing services to our senior citizens, improving our parks and public spaces and sponsoring the public events (such as Summerfest, Farmers Market and Trader's Cove Concerts) that make Brick a fantastic community.

Mayor John Ducey is why I got involved in our town's government, and Mayor Lisa Crate is why I want to stay involved. It's critical that our Town has a government that will continue the policy of transparency and the cost-effective approach to delivering services to Brick residents that has been demonstrated over the past ten years."

2023 ELECTION

Vince Minichino, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Vince Minichino, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Minichino works as a business agent for Teamster Local 469

EDUCATION: Mr. Minichino, who was born on April 19, 1965, is a graduate



VINCE MINICHINO

of Jackson Township High School.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Minichino has served one term as a council member and was originally elected in

2019. **MESSAGE:** "We need to keep taxes stable, stop overdevelopment and build a strong community. We need to pay attention to what's good for Brick and not let partisan politics distract us. My kids grew up in this town, my grandchildren live

here now, and I think it's a great place to live. I want to do my part to keep it that way. That's why I'm running.

"I'm proud of the work our team has already accomplished over the last decade. As a member of the Township Land Use Committee, I worked to update our master plan, hold the line on rampant overdevelopment and high-density housing, and preserve our treasured open space. This summer with the help of our community, we were able to save 31 acres in Breton Woods. If I am re-elected, I will be seeking more opportunities to keep our green spaces green and continue our record of stabilizing taxes."

2023 ELECTION

James Palmisano, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: James Palmisano, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Retired and owner of CIMS Gas Products. "Literally scratch started an entrepreneurial Industrial Gas Company in 2002, selling cryogenic gases, industrial gases, medical gases and specialty gases and related equipment. Acquired and integrated three companies and built it into a multi-million-dollar distributorship across nine states. Successfully operated the company for fourteen years before selling to a multinational global company. Before launching CIMS, I worked for multi-national companies in various management po-



JAMES PALMISANO

sitions," said Mr. Palmisano.

PERSONAL: Mr. Palmisano is married to his wife of 41 years Deborah Ann, who is a retired teacher in Newark

and Asbury Park. His daughter, Dr. Jessica Jankos, is married to Brett Jankos.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1991 he was appointed commissioner of the Brick Economic Development Commission, a position he held until 1992; in 1992 he became a trustee of the Republican Club of Brick Township; 1993 he was co-chairman, for taxpayers for a Brick Township; from 1992 to 1994 he was elected as a member of the Ocean County Republican County Committee; from 1993 to 1994 he was appointed as a member of the Brick Township Board of Adjustment; in 1996 he was elected as a Brick Township School Board member; and from 1996 to 1998, 2002 to

2004, 2004 to 2006, 2006 to 2008 and 2022 to 2024 he was elected as a member of the Ocean County Republican Committee.

MESSAGE: "Conduct township business in a respectful and responsible manner."

"Ensure that all governing decisions will be open and honest and designed to help the citizens of Brick. I will use and encourage others to use; a commonsense approach to decision making and problem solving. Require efficiency in governing, making sure that the taxpayers' money is being spent appropriately and with utmost discretion. Identify areas of potential waste and inefficiency in our processes. Restore law and order and provide law enforcement with proper tools to keep us safe. Strengthen code enforcement and identify areas that need improvement. Take a macro look at how our township government works, prioritize issues and lay out a game plan as to how to proceed. We do not know what we are going to find until we open Pandora's box!"

2023 ELECTION

Mary Buckley, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Mary Buckley, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Physical Therapist Brick Township Schools for 24 years; Physical and Occupational Therapist Supervisor Lakewood School District for two years; retired from school district and over the years contracted to other school districts such as Point Pleasant, Jackson Township and Toms River.

"I am presently a self-employed physical therapist for Early Intervention - Comp Care Therapeutics and work predominantly in Lakewood," said Ms. Buckley.



MARY BUCKLEY

PERSONAL: Ms. Buckley is married to her husband Peter and they have five children.

EDUCATION: Born on Oct. 23, 1949, Ms. Buckley received a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and a doctorate's degree in science education. She has also received a New Jersey K-12 Science Certification and a Supervisor Certification.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Ms. Buckley previously served on the New Jersey State Physical Therapy Licensing Board member for three years and held the secretarial position. She also served as a Brick Township County Committeewoman for two years and is an active serving board member of the Ocean County Senior Advisory.

MESSAGE: "My primary objective is to restore trans-

parency and accountability to the council and our local government. I believe all actions taken by the council and the municipal government should be in full view of the public, including discussion on why an item is approved or disapproved.

"Currently, members of the public get up at council meetings, ask questions, and receive no answers. That should not happen. There must be significant steps taken, such as reinstating council caucus meetings so the public can see the council discussions in detail.

"I currently serve on the County's Senior Advisory Committee, and I know our senior population is very vulnerable with some seniors facing housing and food insecurity situations. So, another priority I would have is to ensure that our municipal government is doing everything it can to help these seniors by making sure all available services are accessible."

2023 ELECTION

Rocco Palmieri, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Rocco Palmieri, Republican



ROCCO PALMIERI

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council
EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Palmieri is a retired Brick Township DPW Assistant Supervisor and is currently working with ARC of Ocean County

PERSONAL: Mr. Palmieri is married to his wife Johannah Palmieri and has two children.

EDUCATION: Born on Dec. 30, 1961, Mr. Palmieri is a high school graduate.

MESSAGE: "If elected, my priority will be transparency and strong leadership. Also, as a former employee of Brick Township, I would like to boost morale and strengthen the workforce."

2023 ELECTION

Steve Feinman, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Steve Feinman, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Feinman is the owner and operator of Visiting Angels Homecare of Wall

EDUCATION: Born on April 28, 1980, Mr. Feinman



STEVE FEINMAN

received a degree from the University of Maryland [College Park].

MESSAGE: "My priorities are very simple - provide the services our residents need, and continue to keep taxes stable."

"I am seeking an elective office to help all our residents thrive and succeed in Brick Township. I run a small business that provides home services to seniors, and I am excited about the grand opening of Brick's new Senior Center. I'm proud of

our team's record of stopping overdevelopment and preserving open space, most recently the Breton Woods property which was slated for residential development. And of course, I'm proud that the Crate team was able to keep the Municipal tax at a 0% increase, which is great for everyone.

"As a small business owner, I understand the importance of providing excellent service while keeping costs down. As a Councilperson and a member of the Crate team, I will use my knowledge and experience to continue to improve our great town."

2023 ELECTION

Theresa Gallagher, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Theresa Mary Gallagher, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Retired Managing Director at Citigroup

EDUCATION: Born on April 2, 1960, Ms. Gallagher received a Bachelor's De-



THERESA GALLAGHER

gree in Economics from Rutgers University and an MBA in Finance from Fordham University.

MESSAGE: "I want this to be the go-to town for people relocating to the Jersey shore."

Brick is still a very affordable area and the number one reason Brick attracts young middle-income families. If our town wants to capitalize on our relative affordability as a coastal town, we need to start by addressing con-

cerns about the direction of the town. I'm observing an increase in crime,

the urbanization of our town, empty storefronts, and schools that are overcrowded and underperforming.

I would begin by addressing public safety and quality of life issues. Next, I would address our allocation of resources to ensure we are protecting the long-term health, safety, and attractiveness of our community for all residents. As residents and taxpayers we need accountability for our resources, and currently, there is very little information available that speaks to how and why certain decisions are made."

2023 ELECTION

Melissa Travers, Township Council

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Melissa Travers, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Township Council

EMPLOYMENT: Ms. Travers is a registered nurse who will soon be a family nurse practitioner. She has worked as a Float Telemetry Medical-surgical registered nurse since 2014. She previously worked at the former Kimball Medical Center, now known as Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus from 2011 to 2013.

Ms. Travers said, "I am a registered nurse, soon to be a family nurse practitioner.



MELISSA TRAVERS

I have been a nurse for 12 years, and have worked for 10 years at Jersey Shore."

PERSONAL: Ms. Travers is married to her husband Ryan Travers and have two sons, Will and Bruce.

EDUCATION: Born on June 25, 1985, Ms. Travers received a bachelor of science degree in Nursing from Wesley College in 2011. She then received her master of science degree in nursing with a family nurse practitioner focus from Chamberlain University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Ms. Travers was appointed to the township council in March of 2023.

MESSAGE: "As a registered nurse, my responsibility is to care for my pa-

tients' health and comfort. As a Council Member, my responsibility is to take care of public money and see that needed services are provided in a fiscally responsible manner. Careful stewardship of public money is one of the most important duties of a public official. This year, we delivered a municipal budget with no tax increase. This makes me so proud to be a part of Mayor Lisa Crate's team.

"My highest priority is providing needed services while making sure we stay within our budget. I'm proud that we are providing additional transportation for our seniors, and for the first time, providing free transportation for dialysis patients. I want to continue to improve our parks, and acquire open space, while funding these improvements and acquisitions primarily with grants, not local tax money."

2023 ELECTION

Michael A. Blandina, Board of Education

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Michael A. Blandina

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Retired from the State of New Jersey, previously worked for Brick Township and is the owner of Total Package Party Planning and Events, LLC.

EDUCATION: Born on Dec. 13, 1963, Mr. Blandina is a graduate of Brick Township



MICHAEL A. BLANDINA

High School and Ocean County College.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mr. Blandina has served as a Commissioner on the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority.

MESSAGE: "I believe the continual cuts in State Aid Cuts are the biggest issue facing the Brick Township School District. The restoration of that aid has been and will remain my highest priority. With more than \$20 million cut from the district in the past 6 years, I have continually supported and urged others to support any

bill coming out of the State Legislature, in Trenton, that restores Brick Township's funding. We have a long way to go but must continually push the Governor and Legislature to give Brick Township our fair share of aid. They should restore what they took from our district. Additionally, I am for Parental Notification, against State Mandates and support Home Rule. I believe, we in Brick Township should decide what is best for our children. The process should involve teachers, administrators and parents. Any decisions in regards to the curriculum in Brick Township Schools should be decided locally with local stakeholders involved."

2023 ELECTION

Mike Mesmer, Board of Education

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Mike Mesmer

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Senior Manager in charge of contracts and pricing at Bracco Diagnostics. Also, a current board member for the Healthcare Materials Management Society of New Jer-



MIKE MESMER

sey with the title VP of Education

EDUCATION: Born on April 20, 1989, Mr. Mesmer received a Bachelor's Degree from Stockton University and Master's Degree from Rutgers Business School.

MESSAGE: "If elected, I will prioritize our children's health, safety, and wellbeing in every decision made. I will advocate for parental involvement and would like to increase information sharing between the Board and parents so that there is clear un-

derstanding of what policies are being voted on and how it will impact the students of the district. We must come together as a community to stand up for what is right and prioritize a quality education for each and every child. There should be zero tolerance for bullying and parents need to be made aware of what is going on inside the schools. We need to promote a healthy lifestyle and mental well being with counseling services available for children in need. As a life-long Brick resident and past student within the district, this community is my home, and I would like to ensure our children come first."

2023 ELECTION

Alison Kennedy, Board of Education

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

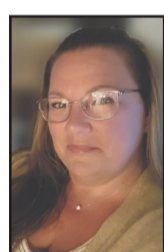
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CANDIDATE: Alison Kennedy

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Main Office Secretary at Brielle Elementary School

PERSONAL: Ms. Kennedy is married to her husband



ALISON KENNEDY

Dave Kennedy and they have two children Jack and Charlotte.

EDUCATION: Born on Sept. 15, 1976, Ms. Kennedy has an associate degree in business administration.

MESSAGE: "If elected, my priorities remain as they are in my current role on the BOE. I will continue to work with the BOE to further review all policies and regulations to ensure the

district and the parents work together for the better of our children. I will continue to push for local control so that the administration can do what is right for our shareholders. Trenton does NOT know what is better for the children and community of Brick, Brick does. I will continue to support our administration while they continue to do more with less after the crippling effects of S2. As a parent with two children in Brick Schools, I truly believe that when the parents and the district work together for the good of the whole child, the children excel. When the children excel, the community benefits."

2023 ELECTION

Gregory J. Cohen, Board of Education

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Gregory J. Cohen

OFFICE SOUGHT: Brick Board of Education

EMPLOYMENT: Director of Transportation, West



GREGORY J. COHEN

Orange Public Schools

EDUCATION: Born on June 14, 1963, Mr. Cohen has received a Transportation Supervisors Certification from Rutgers College of Government Studies.

MESSAGE: "I want to bring common sense and transparency back to the Brick Board of Education.

I will also work to increase the parent and citizen involvement in our schools most importantly at Board meetings. Board meeting agendas should be readily available at (and before) the Board meetings and should also contain sufficient explanation of the business being conducted. I will also support an environment where educators and staff will have the ability to speak their mind without fear of retribution. I want to truly place Our Children First."



POINT PLEASANT BEACH

ELECTION 2023

Doug Vitale, Mayor

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

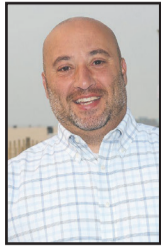
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CANDIDATE: Douglas "Doug" Vitale, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Borough Mayor

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Vitale is the manager of security outreach at Northeast Power Coordinating Council, a nonprofit organization focused on improving the reliability of electric utilities. He is also the safety officer for Point Pleasant Beach Little League.

OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE: He is currently in his second term as councilman. Mr. Vitale is currently council president,



DOUG VITALE

having been nominated in 2022 and 2023.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

He was born on Oct. 26, 1975. Mr. Vitale has a B.S. in criminal justice, and is married to his wife, Erin. He has three children, Nicholas, Daniella and Adrianna.

MESSAGE: "Every politician claims that their primary aim is to keep taxes low, a goal I've actively pursued during my four years as a Councilman. As Mayor, another crucial focus for me is to reunite the town of Point Pleasant Beach. Significant divisions arose due to local political elections. My priorities as your Mayor involve transparent governance, active citizen engagement, and ensuring that ALL voices

shape decisions made for the benefit of Point Pleasant Beach and its residents. It is my strong desire to foster trust between the residents and the municipal government, as well as strengthen the democratic process and our residents' sense of ownership in the town's future. I plan to scrutinize our ordinances, aiming for increased efficiency and reduced restrictions. I will continue to encourage local business growth, attract new investments, and create job opportunities to stimulate the local economy. Finally, public safety remains paramount. Collaborating closely with our Police, Fire and EMT Departments, I am committed to maintaining Point Pleasant Beach as the safe, family-friendly haven it has always been for future generations to enjoy."

ELECTION 2023

Scott Lee, Board of Education

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Scott Lee

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Lee currently serves as chief revenue officer of AYR, Inc. headquartered in Princeton, and he has 25 years in technology and executive leadership. Mr. Lee is also a former teacher at both the elementary and middle school levels. He has served on and is currently serving on the boards of numerous nonprofits and private companies.



SCOTT LEE

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

He was born in 1974. Mr. Lee has a bachelor's degree in Education from Emporia State University. He has spent 15-plus years serving as president, vice president and treasurer across numerous boards. Mr. Lee has a wife, Jennifer Chilenski Lee, and three kids.

MESSAGE: "I am running for school board to work tirelessly for our children and teachers with a 'back to basics' approach. www.scottlee4boe.com.

- Focus on a Strong Academic Foundation - Academic achievement results in better job opportunities, important life skills and self-confidence;

and helps our children realize their true potential.

- Fiscal Transparency and Responsibility - We need to understand and maximize the efficiency of every tax dollar allocated to our schools. Having run organizations with budgets in the tens of millions, I am very familiar with the need for fiscal responsibility and ensuring our precious tax dollars are spent wisely.

- Parents rights and involvement - Parents are essential partners in their child's education and parental engagement is fundamental to a child's educational success.

- Support our Teachers - I feel strongly that we must support our teachers who are our district's most valuable resource. Teachers play a critically important role in each child's success and deserve to be paid well. As a former teacher, I understand the challenges that teachers face, and the support they require."

ELECTION 2023

Christopher Mullins, Board of Education

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Christopher "Chris" Mullins

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Since 2021, Mr. Mullins has served as the business administrator for the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission. He also served as the business administrator for Robbinsville Township Public Schools between 2002 and 2006 and Hazlet Township Public Schools from 2006 to 2021.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born



CHRISTOPHER MULLINS

March 26, 1972. Mr. Mullins has a bachelor of arts degree in accounting. He first joined the Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education in 2022 after being

elected to fill an unexpired term. He currently serves as the commissioner of Ocean County Library. Mr. Mullins has a wife, Jennifer, and three kids: Ryan, Jake and Emma.

MESSAGE: "If re-elected to the Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education, my priorities as an experienced school business administrator and advocate of education will remain steadfast in fostering academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and a supportive learning environment for our students.

First and foremost, I will continue to advocate for the

allocation of resources that directly benefit our students and teachers. This includes ensuring adequate funding for classroom materials, technology, and extracurricular activities. I will also work to maintain a balanced budget, making the most of every dollar while keeping taxes reasonable for our community.

Additionally, I will strive to create an inclusive and safe environment where all students can thrive. Continuing progression will be at the forefront of my agenda, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Collaboration with educators, parents, and the community will be a cornerstone of my approach, as their input is invaluable in shaping the future of our schools. Together, we can continue to provide the best possible education for our children and prepare them for success in an ever-changing world."

ELECTION 2023

Caryn Byrnes, Borough Council

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Caryn Byrnes, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Early in her career, Ms. Byrnes was the owner and operator of a full service salon on West 57th St., in New York City. With her family, she owned and operated a bar in Jersey City. Later, she ran operations for a small, independent demolition firm in North Jersey. Currently, she is employed by Daniel's Bistro where she manages the front of the house.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: As a code enforcement official in Jersey City, she was commended by Mayor Bret Schundler for her ability to resolve code violations without fines, according to Ms. Byrnes. She serves as



CARYN BYRNES

liaison to the fire departments, Shade Tree Commission and until recently, the Golden Gulls senior committee. Accomplishments during her time on council include a new playground, a new fire truck, repaired and repaved roads, improvement to the three lakes, downtown revitalization and the creation of a senior committee. In her first election to council, she garnered more votes than any previous candidate.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: She was born in Jersey City. Ms. Byrnes attended the Academy of St. Aloysius in Jersey City and studied at Jersey City State College, now New Jersey City University. She first entered politics as a committeewoman in the Ward A District of Jersey City, then as a code enforcement officer. Ms. Byrnes is a widowed mother of three, and recently welcomed a grandson, Jett William.

MESSAGE: "Our work is not done. We still have more to do to make Point Beach the best it can be! If re-elected, I'll continue to work on the things that concern you, our residents. Keeping taxes low is my top priority. We have improvements still to come for our beautiful inlet, we have a revitalized Channel Drive coming soon, an improved and repainted water tower about to start work, and preservation of the Coast Guard station to look forward to. I will continue to work closely with our police, fire, and first responders to ensure we maintain and grow our safe, family friendly community we all love.

"Serving one's community doesn't just mean hard work. It means constantly having to turn the other cheek for the unfounded personal attacks that often come with the job. Some choose to take a negative approach to politics, but that has never been my style. If you know me, you know there's always a smile on my face and kindness in my heart. That's how I will continue to carry myself for the betterment of Point Pleasant Beach. If you value hard work and a long track record of real results that have made this town even better, then I'm your Councilwoman."

ELECTION 2023

Arthur Gant, Borough Council

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Arthur "Art" Gant, Republican

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Gant is a 16-year veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is also a retired police officer and currently a business owner.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born July 7, 1972. Mr. Gant forewent college and chose to enlist in the Navy, graduating top



ART GANT

of his class in communications. In Point Pleasant Beach, he is currently a member of the planning board.

MESSAGE: "I am looking forward to November's election. Throughout my campaigning, I have held fast to the idea that I can work well with anyone and that our town already has strong local government. So, my plan for council is not to make sweeping changes, but rather to revisit policies that speak to the concerns of our townspeople. While reaching out to the residents, I learned that there are a few main areas that most residents would like to see addressed. They are as follows: an examination of building department policies, procedures, and management; improvement of sidewalks, crosswalks, and beach access points, and a revisitation of current parking conditions and policies. Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional concerns or with any comments or questions. I will always address your questions, even if what I have to say is not what you were hoping to hear.

"I am hoping to have your continued support so that we can make this official in November. I look forward to running as part of the Republican ticket, and I am confident, that together, we can serve our residents and continue to improve the quality of life in our wonderful town of Point Pleasant Beach.

ELECTION 2023

Larry Schwartz, Borough Council

BY ALEX DYER
THE OCEAN STAR

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CANDIDATE: Lawrence "Larry" Schwartz, Democrat

OFFICE SOUGHT: Point Pleasant Beach Borough Council

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Schwartz worked in the communication sector in various positions, including as a television producer and writer at NBC News, a reporter for the New York Post, an adjunct



LARRY SCHWARTZ

professor at Rutgers University and a teacher in New York City Public Schools. He is currently retired.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: He was born in 1952. Mr. Schwartz received his B.A. in communications from the City College of New York, followed by a master's degree in education from Mercy College, also in New York.

MESSAGE: "My top priority will be to serve as the People's Watchdog and safeguard their money. The current administration has

spent more than \$650,000 in lawyer fees since 2021. Outrageous! This is just one example of the reckless spending that's taking money out of our pockets. No wonder our taxes continue to rise. It's time for a change. I will fight to stop the appalling waste of our tax dollars. My further priorities include:

- Enhancing our quality of life. A key part of my plan is to ensure that our beach remains open in accordance with state law.

- Bringing integrity, responsibility and independence to our government. I am a team player who will work with our new mayor to put the people first. People before politics. We all belong to one party: The Point Pleasant Beach Party!"