



black, white & red all over

a River Edge community newsletter

Mayor Peg Watkins Leaves Office

For 22 years, Margaret "Peg" Watkins served the Borough of River Edge in elected office with dedication, competence and a strong sense of responsibility. This January she left the public spotlight of town service for some much deserved rest.

Peg was elected to the River Edge Council in 1989 and served several terms before running for Mayor. She was elected Mayor 3 times and was narrowly defeated in her bid for a 4th term this past November by only 72 votes. Peg brought impressive credentials and a wealth of experience to the positions.

She enjoys a very active career in education, with a Masters degree in biology and genetics, and several awards to her credit. Peg continues to teach in New York City.

Being the Mayor in a town like River Edge means being out among the people, and Peg certainly was always there. She attended business openings, memorials, ceremonies, worship services, town events, meetings, senior breakfasts, Knights of Columbus dinners, you name it. Peg made time for everyone in town. She held regular Saturday morning open office hours for any resident that needed to speak with her about an issue. She always tried to address problems and you always knew where she stood on the issues. Peg was not afraid to speak her mind, or take a stand to do what was right.

Peg was a strong advocate for River Edge with neighboring towns, the County and the State. Peg will definitely be missed, and we are grateful for her years of devoted service.

Did we mention Peg was getting a little rest? She's going to need it, for Peg has announced that she is seeking the Republican nomination to run for County Freeholder in this year's election! Way to go Peg!



The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any specific elected officials.

Join us for a lunch in honor of Mayor Peg Watkins!

Seasons in Washington Twp
Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 12:00 noon

Reservations are \$50 per person
RSVP by February 24

Make check payable to:
Saverio V. Cereste
P.O. Box 845, Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Please include your name, address, phone number and the number of people attending with the check.

Councilmen Cordts and Porco Champion Fire Siren Changes

Through an effort championed by Republican Councilmen Paul Cordts and Johnny Porco, residents in the area of the Kensington/Elm Avenue fire siren have achieved a victory in their struggle with the town Fire Department. Last year, residents' outrage at the loud fire siren grew and the two Republican Councilmen came to the assistance of their fellow citizens. The River Edge Fire Department, while sympathetic to the residents, maintained that fire sirens were a necessary supplement and vital backup to radio pagers and cell phones for calling in fire fighters.

Following several public Council hearings on the issue, the two Councilmen held a special meeting late last year between the citizen representatives of homeowners in the affected area and the Fire Department. The group reached a compromise, which has already been put into effect, whereby the Kensington/Elm Avenue fire siren's blasts would be reduced both in volume and duration, making it easier to tolerate.

The Fire Department also agreed to initiate a town wide study of all sirens to assess volume, coverage and alternatives to current siren locations. New procedures, methods and technologies for notifying fire fighters would be included in the study. We commend Councilmen Cordts and Porco for their strong leadership on this issue.