



black, white & red all over

a River Edge community newsletter

Democrats Squeak By in Town Election Reinforces the Importance for All to Get Out and Vote

Despite a great campaign effort, the Republican team of Mayor Watkins and Council Candidates Della Carroll and Anthony Cappola were edged out in an extremely close election on November 8th. The vote tallies (uncertified) for Mayor were 1,511 for Peg Watkins and 1,583 for Moscaritolo – a difference of **only 72 votes!** With the Council race, the margin was even slimmer with **less than 50 votes** separating each of the Republican candidates versus the lowest polling Democrat candidate. Vote totals (uncertified) for our candidates were: Della Carroll 1,488, Anthony Cappola 1,483, and for the Democrats, Papaleo 1,530 and Murphy 1,564.

The margins in River Edge were the slimmest for at least the last decade and perhaps longer. Obviously with such a slim margin of victory, Moscaritolo, Murphy and Papaleo will take office in January without a mandate or the clear support or confidence of the town residents in their proposed policies and positions.

The overall River Edge voter turnout, as well as across the state of New Jersey, was extremely low. News sources report statewide turnout at only 26% of registered voters was an all-time low, shattering the 1999 previous record of 31%. Low turnout is being attributed to the lack of big “top of ticket” race such as President or Governor, general voter apathy and a growing disdain for all politics, especially among independent voters.

At the town level, a low turnout election usually means independents didn’t go to the polls in large numbers and registered Republicans and Democrats represent the majority of those actually voting. Unfortunately in River Edge registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans 3 to 2 and that may have been the difference in the outcome.

Nonetheless, the Republican campaign was well managed, well executed and extremely hard fought. Our candidates met and listened to the public directly by going door-to-door, at our great booth for River Edge Day and at many, many other events. The campaign addressed the town’s major issues head-on and responded to all our opponents’ allegations and fabrications. Our campaign mailing pieces, our website and social media presence remained informative, mature and responsible. This year’s fundraising effort was very successful. Finally, our candidates, Peg, Della and Anthony, as well as others close to the campaign worked extremely hard and deserve our gratitude for their dedication.

Unfortunately, the election outcome fell short by literally a few dozen votes. While we are all disappointed, we will not lose heart, nor will we be dissuaded from our mission. We remain committed to the success of River Edge and will always strive for town government that is fiscally responsible, pursues responsible redevelopment, seeks property tax relief and is accountable to you. We learned much from this town election and with your continued support Republicans will come back wiser, stronger and more successful in next year’s campaign!



*Thank you Peg,
Anthony and Della
for your devotion
to River Edge!*

Republican Council Vows to Stay the Course

Despite the loss in the election, the four River Edge Republican Council members who hold the majority – Paul Cordts, Johnny Porco, Ed Mignone and Al Bartelloni – vow to continue their fiscally responsible policies.

“Sure we are disappointed with the results of the election, but we remain as dedicated as ever to the common sense policies we’ve championed so far,” said Council President Paul Cordts. He added “We hope the new Mayor and Council Members will join us in our critical efforts to keep River Edge ‘Moving Forward.’”

Councilman Johnny Porco stated, “It is important for River Edge to know we will not waiver from our prudent policies of sustainability and long term property tax relief for the town. Our actions have turned the town in the right direction and we must stay the course. In no way will we tolerate a return to the failed fiscal policies of the prior Democrat controlled Council which led to our current financial problems.”



From all of us to you

Candidates Thank Supporters

Mayor Peg Watkins and Council Candidates Anthony Cappola and Della Carroll extend their heartfelt appreciation to the one and a half thousand River Edge voters who cast ballots for them. They also wish to thank those who worked tirelessly on the campaign or supported it in other ways, such as a financial contribution, displaying a lawn sign or simply passing on a good word on their behalf. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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