

Township of North Brunswick 230th Anniversary Gala 1779-2009

Honorary Chairmen

Mayor David Spaulding

Mayor Paul J. Matacera Mayor Sylvester Paladino

Gala Honorees

Anthony Camaioni Cameo Cleaners

Frances DeVries

Nastus Brothers

Elizabeth Price Dance Dimension

Nicholas Puleio, Sr.

Gala Chairs

Michael C. Hritz

**Richard D. Liguori** 

Puleio's Service Center

DeVries Garden Center

Anthony S. Nastus, Sr. Carmen J. Nastus

Nino & Theresa Bellavia Nino's Pizza & Subs

Mayor Francis "Mac" Womack

October 23, 2009

Dear Friends,

We provided the premise behind tonight's gathering in the program notes from the 225th Anniversary Gala, five years ago:

Today, people of good will continue to debate challenging issues that shape our township, but all with a heart and mind towards preserving our unique way of life as crafted by our ancestors. This anniversary gala provides, if for no other reason, a moment in time to pause, reflect and celebrate our achievements as a community.

We were compelled to heed the spirit of John Adams, who encouraged the nation's Independence Day "be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." While there will not be fireworks in the ballroom, we expect good will, friendship and an abiding love for North Brunswick will make this a memorable evening.

As friends, neighbors, community volunteers, board members, elected officials, or supportive vendors, you all play a role in shaping and making North Brunswick a wonderful place to live and work. Tonight we also pause to reflect and remember all those who came before us and dedicated themselves to creating and sustaining our town.

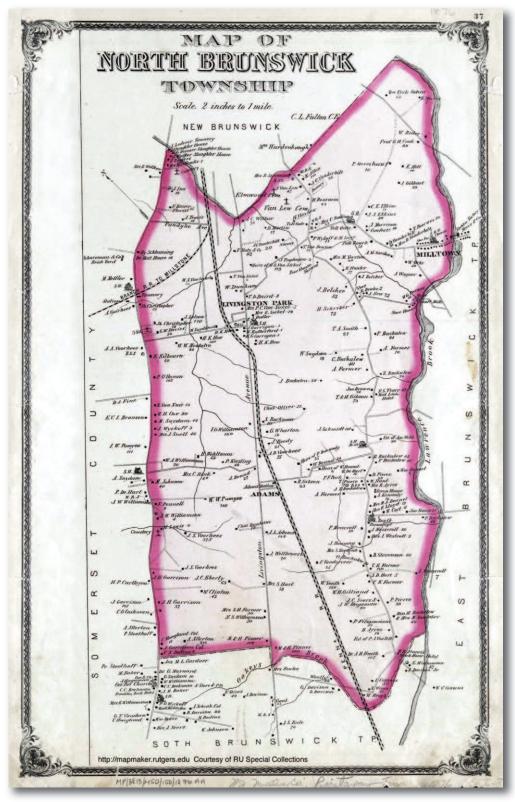
The volunteer committee's hard work will be on display this evening with our thanks, along with significant and greatly appreciated financial support from the many individuals and firms who sustain our community professionally.

Adams thought the nation's independence "ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade." We trust John would approve of our local celebration marking 230 years as the Township of North Brunswick.

Michael Hritz and Rich Liguori Co-Chairs

*Gala Committee* Connie Adamo Jocelyn Caffrey Ray Caffrey

Nansi Krauss Nancy Nicola



Map of North Brunswick Township, 1896

Mayors of North Brunswick ...



Mayor Francis Womack 2004 -



Mayor Sylvester Paladino 1981 - 1982



Mayor David Spaulding 2000 - 2004

"North Brunswick

people are proud people...

They elect us to go

out and do the best job

that we know how."

Mayor Fred J. Hermann in his annual message to residents January 1, 1959



Mayor Jack Pincus 1972 - 1975

Mayor Kenneth Rupprecht



Mayor George Luke 1965-1968



Mayor Paul J. Matacera 1983 - 2000



Mayor Charles Nicola 1976 - 1980



Mayor Fred Gilbert 1970 - 1971



Mayor Fred Hermann 1946 - 1964

Georges Road Baptist Church...



The Georges Road Baptist Church was organized in 1843 and the building with its distinguishable steeple was created in 1847.

National Musical String Company...



The National Musical String Company was built in 1897 on the border of North Brunswick and New Brunswick. The building, which provided employment for more than 100 workers, closed as a supplier of strings for musical instruments in 1979. The building is listed on the New Jersey and National Registrars of Historic Places.

Adams School...



The two-room Adams School on Route 1 was established in the early 1900's, abandoned for some time, and later used from 1951 to 1961. The school provides fond memories for many North Brunswick residents who enjoyed its small size and sense of family. The modern John Adams Elementary School on Redmond Street was dedicated in 1961.

Maple Meade School...



The Red Lion School Class of 1913, above left, was located on Old Georges Road and destroyed by fire. Renamed Maple Meade to avoid association with a local tavern, a new school was built across the street in 1926 and was home to thousands of students for nearly 50 years before becoming school district administration offices in 1973.

### Parsons Elementary School...



The Parsons School Class of 1941 is pictured in front of the original school building on the former Mill Lane. The building later became home to the municipal staff, library and police department until it was demolished in 1993. The modern Parsons School on Hollywood Street was dedicated in 1966.

Linwood Middle School...



The dedication of the corner stone of Linwood School took place on December 1, 1951 with the theme, "Universal Education is the Foundation of Democracy." Several significant expansions have led to Linwood Middle School, which now houses 1,400 children in grades 6-8.

Livingston Park Elementary School...





Livingston Park Elementary School, named after New Jersey's first governor William Livingston, celebrated its 100th year in 1996. Automotive and policing history is reflected in the change from an old township police car to a modern DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program vehicle.

North Brunswick Police Department...

Travelers who violated local speed laws on the old Trenton-New Brunswick Turnpike, now Route 1, met justices in the roadside court which once stood on Aaron Road. Today, the North Brunswick Police Department includes approximately 80 sworn officers and a support staff of 15.

Boy Scouts of America Headquarters...



North Brunswick was home to the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America from 1954 through 1986. The tree-lined campus site is now an operations center for Wachovia Bank. The Boy Scouts moved to Irving Texas, with many longtime residents following in order to maintain employment with the organization.

George Babbage...Babbage Park...



Local resident George Babbage was beloved by local children and well known for flooding park areas to create ice skating ponds in the winter. Babbage Park was named in his honor and a commemorative stone placed in 1958.



North Brunswick's 230th Anniversary Celebration Friday, October 23, 2009 East Brunswick Hilton

We gratefully acknowledge the gracious support of these North Brunswick friends and neighbors...

The "Somers Dream Orchestra" appears courtesy of CME Associates Robert and Joan Campbell

> Cocktail Reception courtesy of American Water DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Wisler

Dining table flower centerpieces courtesy of TOD Associates Atlas Homes, LLC

Commemorative program courtesy of Atlantic Realty Cablevision Church and Dwight Gloria Zastko Realtors

Commemorative Video courtesy of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Historical Displays & Exhibits courtesy of Selover Funeral Home

General Event Support and Gala Honoree Gifts courtesy of Borrus, Goldin, Foley, Vignuolo, Hyman & Stahl, CMX Engineering, Delaware-Raritan Engineering, George Logan Towing, Grant Supply, Phil Hauer, Integrity Consulting, PRC Management, Frank Mangravite, Stanbery Development, Shain, Schaffer & Rafanello, Wachovia Bank,

....and others too late for publication.



8 pm Big Band entertainment provided by the Somers Dream Orchestra Welcome

"Home": A commemorative 230th Anniversary Video Presentation

Dinner Menu

Boston Bibb and Frisse Salad with Port Pear, Gorgonzola Cheese, Dried Cherries, Candied Pecans with a Port Pear Vinaigrette

ENTRÉE DUET Grilled Petit Filet with a Sambucca Demi Glaze and Grilled Shrimp Scampi accompanied by Potato Gratin and Chef's Root Vegetables, Dinner Rolls and Butter Rosettes

Or

Vegetable Wellington-Roasted Seasonal Vegetables Wrapped in a Puff Pastry Bundle served with Potato Gratin and Chef's Root Vegetables

9:30 pm Gala Honorees Recognition "Can You Feel It": A commemorative 230th Anniversary Video Presentation

Dessert

Chocolate Bombe featuring Dark and Milk Chocolates served with Seasonal Berries Freshly Brewed Coffee, Regular and Decaffeinated, Imported and Herbal Teas

10:30 pm Disc Jockey Music and Dancing entertainment

12 am Adjournment

Gala Honorees



Nino @Theresa Bellavia–Nino's Pizza @Subs

Nino and Theresa Bellavia fondly remember when their family eatery first opened in 1973, there were cows grazing on a working farm across the street. They had a front window from their storefront as the only pizzeria along Route 130 in the township. Clearly, a lot has changed since Nino's Pizza and Subs first opened their doors, and Nino and Theresa Bellavia have become iconic figures in the community.

"Nino" moved to Woodbridge from Italy when he was 19. He had just finished high school in Italy, and jobs were hard to come by. A friend offered him a job at a pizzeria in Woodbridge, and he took it. At that time, Theresa was a 16 year-old high

school student working an after-school job at the township's comptroller's office. The two met, fell in love, and married as soon as she graduated high school.

Nino and Theresa Bellavia then took a chance by opening up a small pizzeria in a single white building on a then-quiet Route 130 at the corner of Wood Avenue. Property owners Fred and Anna Lupo agreed on a handshake to let the Bellavias use the store for six months. The Bellavia's "chance" proved very successful. Theresa remembers people lined up at the door before they even opened. The Bellavia's fell in love with North Brunswick and they moved their family to the township the following year. Their business thrived, and in 1984, Nino and Theresa Bellavia bought the property.

Their success led them build an entirely new shopping center on the site, and they were able to re-open the pizzeria in 1985 as both owners and landlords. The pizzeria has become a township institution and a family venture. For years, Nino made the pizzas and Theresa made the submarine sandwiches. Their only son, Tony, who now runs the restaurant, used to come by after school with friends to play or help assemble pizza boxes. Tony is quick to point out that he does not take his responsibility lightly, adding that Nino and Theresa sacrificed their whole lives for the success of the business which now supports their grandchildren.

The Bellavia family is entrenched in the North Brunswick community, have been long-time sponsors of the North Brunswick Little League program, and have been donors to countless high school and area fundraisers and special events.



Anthony Camaioni-Cameo Cleaners

Anthony Camaioni, known as Tony, founded Cameo Cleaners 38-years ago and was an original tenant of what was once the Bradlees shopping center. He had moved to the township in 1967 from Brooklyn, after serving in the Army.

It was Tony's mother who suggested a laundry service would be a "nice business" because she had seen another family in Brooklyn who "all worked there and had nice cars" from cleaning clothes. Tony's plans for a career in construction were soon displaced for a three-year stint operating a coin laundry business in Hightstown. He took a year off to explore engineering before realizing a self-owned cleaning business could be meaningful and support his family.

Tony established his dry-cleaning business as Cameo Cleaners in 1971, the end tenant in the now named North Village Shopping Center. He believes customer service in the key to his business longevity and throughout the years has employed a part-time staff that embraces personal and friendly service. The business has grown to include over 2,000 dry-cleaning racks, a corporate pickup and delivery service, and a drive-through window to accommodate customers directly from their vehicles.

Tony attributes his fundamental success to Cameo's cleaning techniques, which have been carefully crafted and improved over the years to assure customer satisfaction. He now works with his son, Anthony. Tony's wife, Viola, and daughter Nicole also lend a hand whenever needed.

Tony has been active in the North Brunswick community, including serving as an appointed member of the township's Planning Board. He also supports the many initiatives of the Italian-American Social Club. Earlier this year, Cameo Cleaners liaised with Linwood Middle School and served as a drop-off for their "Keep Someone Warm for Valentine's Day" coat drive. The coats were distributed to area homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

Gala Honorees



#### Frances DeVries-DeVries Garden Center

Frances was born and raised in North Brunswick. It was her husband Albert DeVries who had always dreamed of buying a barn. It was 1953 when Albert learned of property available along State Highway 27. Two retiring schoolteachers were comfortable enough to make the deal on a handshake, and the DeVries family business was born. Property he once owned on Cozzens Lane later became home to Fire Company #3.

Albert quickly learned that landscaping was more than selling shrubs. The cultivation of residential and commercial customers demanded quality and attention that Albert was eager to provide. Early customers like Levitt Brothers were key to the company's growth and success. Today, DeVries has grown beyond the garden in the original barn. The barn was extended to include a showroom for a large inventory of patio furniture and the popular Christmas Shoppe was established a new adjacent building.

Since Albert's passing 13 years ago, Frances has dedicated herself to the family business. With each season's demands and customer's needs foremost in her mind, Frances has established a loyal and dedicated staff led by family members to ensure Albert's vision continues to be fulfilled. Son Joseph DiGiovanni developed the maintenance business, son Jeffrey DiGiovanni runs the residential business, nephew David Sirna manages the Patio and Christmas Shoppe, and Jeff King supervises the commercial business. More than 40 additional employees are engaged in keeping Albert's vision alive.

DeVries is a 50-year member of both the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association and the New Jersey Businessman & Industry Association, and also active with the Forest Stewardship Council. Success has enabled support of various charities, notably the Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital. Frances is the proud grandmother of four grandchildren, Julia, Joseph, Gianna, and Antonio.



Anthony S. Nastus, Sr. and Carmen J. Nastus– Nastus Brothers

Carmen and Rosaria Nastus established their home on Beverly Avenue in North Brunswick in 1948 and became parents to four children, Roseann, Anthony, Carmen, and Ronald.

Anthony, known as Tony, has lived in North Brunswick for all but five years of his life. He attended Maple Meade and Livingston Park Elementary Schools and Linwood Middle School before graduating from New Brunswick Senior High School in 1969. Tony began his plumbing and heating career in 1970 serving

his apprenticeship under Harry Agin and Son Plumbing Contractor in New Brunswick. After completing a five-year apprenticeship, he applied for and was awarded his Master Plumbing License from the State of New Jersey.

Carmen attended North Brunswick schools until high school, when he attended and graduated from the East Brunswick Vocational and Technical High School where he studied air conditioning and heating. After graduation, Carmen worked for Air King Services in Middlesex, NJ. In 1975, he opened his own business, Carm's Air Conditioning and Heating on Charles Street in New Brunswick.

In April 1979, brothers Tony and Carmen joined to form Nastus Bros., Inc. The business operated from the basement of Carmen's home on Allgair Avenue and started with three trucks and four employees. Today, the business is operating from Ward Street in New Brunswick with 16 trucks and 25 employees.

Tony married Mary Margaret Witt in 1971 and they have four children: Anthony Jr., James, Michael, and Christina. He is a member of the Italian American Social Club and served as a coach for the North Brunswick Soccer Club. Carmen has been married for 34 years to Jeannie and has a 22 year-old daughter Elise. He is a volunteer with North Brunswick Little League and St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church.

Together, the Nastus brothers volunteer their services to many organizations in the township including Carnevale Italiano, the Youth Sports Festival, and the Columbus Day Parade. Once known as their "little plumbing, heating and air conditioning company," Nastus Bros. proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary last April.

### Gala Honorees



#### Elizabeth Price – Dance Dimension

Elizabeth Price purchased the former Miss Marge School of Dance in 1981 after two years as its manager. For the past 28 years at her renamed Dance Dimension studio, she has been the motivating spirit behind hundreds of young boys and girls earning a dance education. This year Dance Dimension celebrates its 50th anniversary at its original location on Georges Road.

The dance school was originally established in 1959. Throughout its 50-year establishment, Dance Dimension has supported many North Brunswick events including the Columbus Day Parade, the Memorial Day Parade and Heritage Day. As a great supporter of the World Olympic Committee, Elizabeth strongly believes all young athletes deserve a channel for their perseverance and dedication to their sport. As hundreds of mostly

young girls pass through the doors of Dance Dimension gaining a strong dance education and sense of teamwork, they also graduate with something equally as important - an infinite love of dance and a lifetime respect for the performing arts.

The hallmark of Betty's tenure has been her personal attention and devotion to each and every student who has crossed her doors. The purchase of cookies and candy, birthday and achievement celebrations, and attendance at school, religious and family events are countless as Betty adopted her dance families. Dance Dimension is a family business with Betty's daughter Jill serving as Artistic Director and primary dance instructor. Son Craig provides behind the scenes support at the annual June recital. And nine year-old granddaughter Sarah has taken to the boards in a number of classes. At this year's 50th anniversary recital, Betty made her stage debut, joining Jill and Sarah on stage together for the first time for a performance of "Me and My Shadow."



#### Nicholas J. Puleio, Sr. – Puleio's Service Center

Nicholas Joseph Puleio is a lifelong resident of North Brunswick and the youngest of five sons born to Frances Parisi and Frank Puleio – an Italian immigrant couple determined to make their sons' future better than their own past. Vito, Sam (deceased), Frank Jr., Anthony, and Nicholas grew up taking care of each other, a fraternal bond held true today nearly 70 years since the untimely death of their mother.

Nick first attended St. Mary's of Mt. Virgin Grammar School in New Brunswick, then moved on to the North Brunswick school system. At a young age, Nick began spending his spare time at a corner gas station owned by Jake Morris. He was fascinated by automobiles and was eager to learn auto mechanics. At the station, they provided Nick with a wooden crate to stand on so he could see, learn and eventually participate in greasing a

car. Soon he gave up the gas station job for a job with De Angelis Cadillac in New Brunswick where he did odd jobs, polished cars, and could watch mechanics at work. Nick decided to become a mechanic himself and followed that course of study at the Middlesex County Vocational School in New Brunswick. While at the Vocational School, Nick worked for Bruno Motors, a Chrysler dealership in New Brunswick. It was a work relationship with Sam Bruno that would last 18 years.

Nick's work experience inspired him to start his own business. Nick's business began in 1963 with three employees and two trucks on Livingston Avenue occupying the site which later became Brogan Cadillac and is now the new Valley National Bank. In 1970, he moved his business down Livingston Avenue into a small garage. From that humble beginning, today Puleio's Service Center has one of the most comprehensive inventories of towing equipment in the State of New Jersey. Hard work and success have grown the company to include nearly 20 employees and a fleet of 30 vehicles.

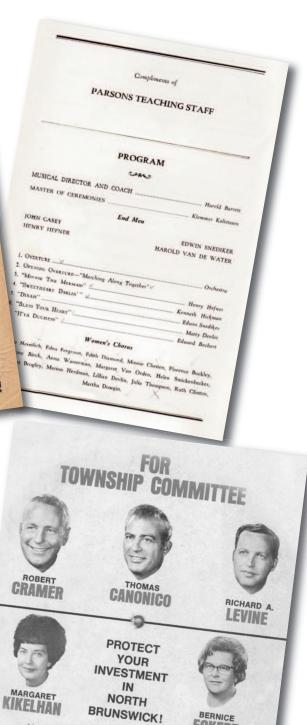
As an active member of the North Brunswick community, Nick belongs to the Italian American Social Club, The Adams Athletic Club, the Democratic Club and St. Mary's of Mount Virgin Church. His generosity was particularly notable in 1979 when Nick and his equipment erected the lights at the North Brunswick Township High School football field. Nick proudly holds a lifetime membership in the North Brunswick First Aid and Rescue Squad and is an Honorary Chief of the Fire Department. The North Brunswick Police Department awarded him their Silver Badge, which is the highest honor the department can bestow upon a civilian.

Nick and his wife, Joan, have been blessed with four children (Frances, Ann Marie, Nicholas, Jr., and JoAnn), six grand-children and four great grandchildren.

Written with excerpts from Salvatore Liguori, Ph.D. with permission.

# North Brunswick ... Through the Years.





Vote for the Republican Team with the

Experience & Ability To Serve You Best!

VOTE LINE 'B'

ECKERT

13

Adams Athletic Club....



The original Adams Community Club was on the corner of Cozzens Lane and Route 1, and became the site of Malouf Lincoln Mercury in 1986. The Adams Athletic Club is now located on Hartland Commons Blvd. across from Sabella Park, where it sponsors several youth sports programs.

Volunteer Fire Companies...



Volunteer fire companies have been serving and protecting North Brunswick since Fire Company #1 was organized in Berdine's Corner in 1926. Volunteers from Fire Company #2 (inset) are pictured from 1955, and were later joined by volunteers with Fire Company #3.

## Mayor Fred J. Hermann...



Fred J. Hermann, North Brunswick's longest serving mayor, was actually "chairman" of the township committee until the title 'mayor' came into use during the early 1960's. Hermann Road was formerly Mill Lane, and renamed in his honor. The Hermann monument was relocated from 711 Hermann Road to the front of the new municipal complex in 1993.

North Brunswick Municipal Building ...



The township's municipal building, pictured in 1951, was once located on Linwood Place before moving into the original Parsons School Building on Hermann Road in 1967. On January 1, 1992, the modern Government and Community Complex was dedicated across the street on the former Hermann Forwarding offices of the late Mayor Fred Hermann.

Our Lady of Peace Church...



The original Our Lady of Peace Chapel was built by volunteers in 1946. A parish center served the community until construction of a contemporary church in 1992.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company...



Among the first firms to locate in North Brunswick at the turn of the 20th century was E.R. Squibb and Sons in 1905. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Company now operates on more than 100 acres and is a significant local benefactor to many township, school and community organizations.

## Intersection of Route 1 and Route 130...





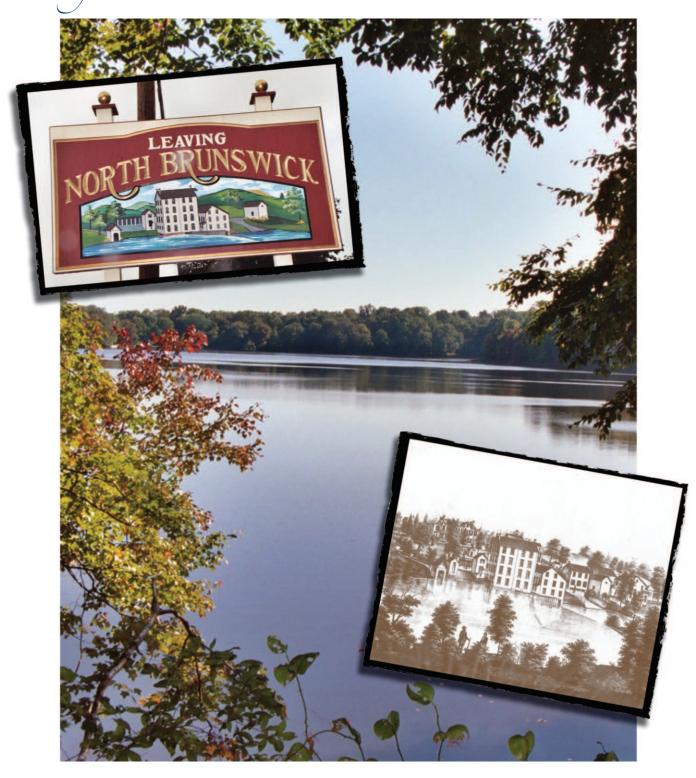
The home of Alfred Yorston is pictured above left, at the Route 1/130 intersection. Mr. Yorston was the superintendent of both Van Liew and Elmwood Cemeteries. In July 2003, after a two-year, \$55 million construction project, the traffic "circle" was replaced with a series of roads and overpasses designed to support over 130,000 daily motorists.

Milltown Road...



Milltown Road pictured in 1886, looking from Georges Road to Route 1. Today, the Brunswick Shopping Center occupies the right side of the road.

Farrington Lake ...



The Brookford Parsons Snuff Mill (lower inset) along the Lawrence Brook has come to symbolize the township's early history and is depicted on road signs throughout North Brunswick. Boating and fishing have displaced industry on scenic Farrington Lake.