

## **CARLSTADT DEMOCRATIC CLUB SHOULD BE ASHAMED**

To the Editor:

The recent letter to this paper from the leaders of the Carlstadt Democratic Club represents a gross attempt to obscure the recent history of the borough. The Democrats have essentially kicked off their fall campaign with an uninformed attack on our mayor before all the facts are in. They are ignoring their own highly questionable record and overlooking the many improvements made to the community over the years by Republicans.

When Republicans took control of the borough council, we inherited a community that was falling apart. Little or no investment had been made in roads, parks or schools, yet Democrats still managed to increase taxes.

Since Republicans became the majority governing party, the borough has been vastly improved while holding taxes at or below the rate of inflation each year. Carlstadt residents enjoy the third lowest taxes in Bergen County.

Under GOP control, the borough has repaved streets, improved drainage, upgraded parks and created a senior citizen housing complex that puts Carlstadt seniors first. The Republican council cut costs and aggressively pursued grants.

The previous Democratic administration approved the construction of 6,800 housing units in the Meadowlands called the "Mini-City" that would have destroyed our community. The Republicans fought that mini city and spared the town from the kind of overdevelopment that would have greatly increased taxes to pay for new services.

The Democrats allowed a proliferation of go-go bars that threatened to invade even deeper into our residential area. The Republicans successfully closed three such establishments and we continue to fight to preserve our community's family-oriented quality of life.

The Carlstadt Democrats want residents to overlook their close ties to the corrupt Bergen County Democratic Party. Last year, the local Democrats took at least \$6,000 in campaign donations from former Bergen County Democrat Chairman Joseph Ferriero, who was indicted by Chris Christie and the U.S. Attorney's office. Ferriero faces a corruption trial later this year. Why was Ferriero's money never returned by the local Democrats? Was it a mistake to take that money? If so, the Democrats never owned up to it.

The Carlstadt Democrats have never joined Republicans in fighting the ever-increasing county taxes imposed on us by the all-Democratic Bergen County Freeholder Board. Carlstadt residents pay \$3.56 million in county taxes to support a \$480 million bloated county budget. On top of that, we also pay \$240,000 to the county's Open Space Trust Fund, which is not really being used for open space preservation. Councilman Joe Crifasi argued earlier this year to cut that fee in half and spare our taxpayers \$120,000, yet

not a single Carlstadt Democrat joined him.

When Gov. Jon S. Corzine cut our state municipal aid this year, not a single Democrat uttered a word in opposition or protest.

The fact is that these are indeed tough economic times and we need leadership that fairly represents the community, not candidates from an organization that uses innuendo and selective amnesia to bolster its weak credentials for leadership.

Bruce Young

Vice President of the Republican Club of Carlstadt