

New Randolph Mayor Welcomes Input From Community

By Henry M. Holden

Mayor Christine Carey, a resident of the township since 1992, brings an extensive history of public service with her into the mayor's office.

Elected to the Randolph Township Council in November 2012, she served as deputy mayor in 2016, and was selected by her peers to serve as mayor in 2017. Seven members of the Town Council are elected and they in turn select one of their own to a one-year term as mayor.

The township, incorporated in 1806, is one of the oldest towns in the state. Randolph became a vacation haven in the early part of the 20th century, known for its woods, ponds, lakes and fresh air. Through the 1950s, farms, large hotels and bungalow colonies dotted the community. Its population in 1950 was 4,293; Today, the 21-square mile township serves 25,957 people.

Carey lives with her husband of 28 years this, Frank Brenner, and 16-year-old son, Joey, a junior at Morris Catholic High School. She has two other children,

Kelsey, a second-grade teacher in Buffalo, N.Y. and Nick, who works in social media marketing in Pittsburg, PA.

Carey graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's in pharmacy, in 1981. Following graduation, she worked as a pharmacist while continuing her education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, graduating in 1983 with a doctorate in pharmacy, and in 1991 with a doctorate from the Golden Gate University Law School before moving to Randolph.

Carey has worked as an executive director for Web M.D. since September 2007. Over her 25-year career, she has experience working in the pharmaceutical field, in the cancer therapy discipline.

As a longtime volunteer in the Randolph community, she has served on the board of adjustment, the planning board, parks committee, trails and recreation committee. She also had a role in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee in 2016.

She has also been active in Resurrection Parish, and

on the board of the Friends of Jersey Battered Women. Carey was appointed to the Randolph Library Board of Trustees in 1994 and served on the board for ten years.

Carey was elected for three terms on the Randolph Board of Education, first in 2002, before winning re-election in 2005 and 2008.

Carey will serve along with Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler, and liaison to both the Randolph Board of Education, and the County College of Morris.

"These education institutions both play critical roles in the Randolph community and it is important that we continue to maintain close working relationships with them," she said.

"As mayor, this year I will continue to serve as liaison to the Randolph Library Board of Trustees, where for the first time in 36 years, due to the upcoming retirement of Anita Freeman, we will be hiring a new library director," said Carey.

Carey serves on the economic development committee, and serves as a liaison between the township and the Randolph business

community.

"I look forward to working with our local businesses, especially those who are now looking to develop projects in our community, including the Shoppes at Randolph, Mark's Corner, A&P Plaza, and Kmart Plaza."

One of the attractive features about living in Randolph are the 600 acres of parks, 16 miles of trails, and many recreation programs.

"After extensive community input, the council adopted a parks and recreation master plan, which provides a vision for the future of our township's park facilities and recreation programs," Carey said. "The plan will be implemented over the next

10 years using funds from the Open Space Trust Fund with no new tax impact on residents.

"When you serve in the community, it helps to understand the community values," Carey said. "If you listen, you will hear a lot from residents. Whether it is about library programs, school programs, the curriculum or homework, or what your dreams and desires are for your children, it just translates into getting a real feel for the community."

Cary said her parents were both very involved in their community.

"My mother had five kids and she was involved in the PTA and other organizations. My father was a newspaper reporter and



always covered PTA, meetings, town council, and school board meetings. I felt like I knew what was going on in the town as I was growing up. It just felt like this was the thing you did. Not that you had to do it, but it was normal to volunteer.

"So, when I moved to

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Randolph, I started getting involved with the PTA, and library and it progressed from there. I think it's been a lifelong commitment to volunteering that grew from grassroots as a child."

Cary has no aspirations for higher public office.

"I'm very content where I am. I like serving my community. It's very personal. You know the people, their issues and understand the community."

"We are a very open to hear from the community. All the council members have phone numbers and email addresses on the website, and we welcome input from the community."