

## Michele Lombardi Ward 4 Councilmember

Married in 1965, Sal & Rosemarie Picciuto moved to Piscataway for its close proximity to the family business on Route 22 in Green Brook. They purchased a house around the corner from Sal's parents in the New Market section of the Township. Their home was always a meeting spot for the neighbors on Charter Street to enjoy coffee, Entenmann's pastries and long conversations about living the good life in central New Jersey. Many of the husbands on the block volunteered at the New Market Fire House and their wives all belonged to its ladies auxiliary.



In 1966 the Picciutos had the first of their three daughters, Michele Lombardi, who would eventually grow up to become Piscataway's Fourth Ward councilwoman. The daughters were raised in an idyllic childhood where Rosemarie had them involved in all sorts of community oriented groups. Michele was involved in Brownies, Girl Scouts, and the Sequinettes, a twirling group in Piscataway that traveled all over to participate in parades. In high school she was a member of the well-known Superchiefs Marching Band where she went to Ireland and California to perform. Her involvement in the band taught her many important traits in life: hard work, commitment, teamwork and perseverance.



**Michele with Mayor Brian C. Wahler  
at East Jersey Old Town Village**

Being raised in a Piscataway home taught you to care for your neighbor, be active in your community, always be available to talk and to build lasting relationships. Many lifelong friends were made on Charter Street because the neighborhood Michele grew up in was very close knit with kids playing after school together, having 4th of July block parties and snowmobiling.

Another lesson taught to Michele and her sisters by her parents was the importance of registering to vote when they turn 18 and to always exercise your right to vote on election day.



After graduating from Piscataway High School, Michele began her long career as a local hairstylist where she continued to engage closely with the community and build her craft of being involved and listening to people. In 1989 she married Nick Lombardi, Jr., a New Market firefighter. Nick was the fire chief for the first eight years of their marriage and Michele supported him by becoming a member of the auxiliary, eventually its president. The Lombardis eventually purchased Michele's grandparents' house staying close to the home where she grew up.

With Michele's wide-range of friends, dedication and community involvement, she caught the eye of former mayor Ted Light who would convince her to become a Piscataway Democratic committeewoman. Eventually when a seat on the Township Council became open,

Michele would become a political candidate herself, first elected in 2006 to represent the Fourth Ward.

With her father's and husband's passion for volunteer firefighting, it was only natural for Michele to dedicate herself to promoting public safety. She is also deeply rooted in promoting health and wellness where she has lead a weight loss challenge, walked with the American Heart Association and spearheaded the Piscataway Relay for Life. Michele has a concern for the environment; she organizes the springtime Piscataway Clean-Up Day which brings out volunteers of all ages to clear our Township parks of trash and debris.

Michele's first priority is her husband and family whom allow her to partake on this journey of service to her community. Michele's dad passed away at a young age to cancer which drives her to be the person she is. Her mom has always pushed her to be the best she can be and is always there for her. Michele's mom was a Piscataway crossing guard and continues to have a deep level of community involvement by making her own contributions to the Township by volunteering at the Senior Center and running the very popular "Rosie's Travelers" that provides fun trips for local seniors.



**Michele (front row center) with other volunteers  
at the springtime Cleanup Litter Day**



**Michele speaking with a member of  
Piscataway Elks Lodge #2414**

Elected to a new term on the Township Council in 2018, Michele is excited for the future and looks forward to seeing great things come to fruition, most notably the building of the Piscataway Community Center and the creation of the 75-acre open space Piscataway Ecological Park, both places that will encourage health & wellness and bring our diverse community together.

While Michele doesn't have much free time, she has a great love for music of all kinds, going to concerts, cooking, exercising, and spending time at the Jersey Shore.

With warm memories of a wonderful childhood and countless lifelong friendships, Michele continues to work hard on the Township Council so all children in Piscataway can enjoy growing up with opportunities in a supportive and caring community.