

# The Times Herald

TimesHerald.com

Montgomery County's Multimedia News Source

210th Year, No. 86

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

## Zurzola, Dainoff seek supervisor seats

By **CARL ROTENBERG**  
Times Herald Staff

**EAST NORRITON** — Two lawyers campaigning on the Democratic ticket for two supervisor seats in the fall election have already introduced themselves to more than half of the township's residential homeowners.

John Zurzola, 39, and Harris A. Dainoff, 29, have jointly raised \$6,000 for campaign costs and have a Sept. 12 beef-n-

beer fundraiser scheduled for 4 p.m., Sept. 12 at Teamsters Local 384 on Hannah Avenue. The fundraiser will also benefit Democratic candidates Tina Howell for tax collector, Susan Wendt for auditor and Joseph Valerio for constable.

Zurzola said the Republican-dominated supervisors' board "needs leadership. The township grew from farmland 40 years ago. It is now a very developed, very busy township. It needs professional leadership."

### EAST NORRITON

Zurzola, who supports the construction of a controversial 146-bed hospital at Wood's Golf Center, criticized how the supervisors moved the approval process forward over the last two years.

"They were having that hospital come hell or high water," Zurzola said. "It was the way they put off residents during the

See **SEATS** on Page A5

Harris Dainoff and John Zurzola, both Democrats, are making a bid for East Norriton Township supervisor seats. The candidates discussed their run with The Times Herald on Sept. 3.

Andrea J. Stanley  
The Times Herald



## SEATS

From Page A1

approval process."

Zurzola wants to improve the control of storm water in residential neighborhoods, plan effectively for improvements to the sewer collection system and preserve open space in the township.

He grew up in Philadelphia, graduated from Archbishop Kennedy High School in 1987 and earned a political science degree at Temple University. He got an MBA at St. Joseph's University in 1996 and his law degree at Widener School of Law in 1999. The seven-year East Norriton resident has worked for the last two years at

Willig, Williams & Davidson as an associate attorney. He worked at Becket & Lee for seven years.

Zurzola and his wife, Christine, an admissions counselor at Belmont Center, have two sons, John A. Zurzola III and William.

Dainoff said it was important that the new supervisor's

board carefully monitor the construction of the new hospital to insure Albert Einstein Healthcare Network fulfills all its obligations to East Norriton. The Philadelphia-based hospital has agreed to build sewer facilities to handle sewage overflows in the Germantown Pike neighborhood and off-site traffic improvements to ease traffic generated by the hospital.

Dainoff said the issues confronting East Norriton include a lack of open space, the impact of commuter traffic on residents and the need to closely monitor the township budget during the recession.

"Earned income tax revenues are down," Dainoff said. "The real estate transfer taxes are also off because of the larger economy."

Dainoff grew up in Lafayette Hill, graduated from Germantown Academy in 1998, earned a political science degree at Tufts University and a law degree at Temple University. He has worked at Fox Rothschild as a real estate attorney for the past three years.

He and his wife Beth, a marketing coordinator for a Philadelphia law firm, have

lived in East Norriton for 18 months.

Republicans in East Norriton hold a slim, 433-voter registration margin over Democrats, with 4,396 voters to the Democrats' 3,963 registered voters. The registration gap between the two parties has been progressively narrowing in both Montgomery County and East Norriton, as more Democrats move into the township.

"We genuinely believe it's time to elect Democrats in East Norriton," Dainoff said. "We believe we can win if we can get people out to the polls."

Zurzola and Dainoff will face off against Republicans Barry Papiernik, an auto restorer, and Kevin McDevitt, a CNC computer programmer for Thermo-Omega Tech of Warminster. McDevitt was appointed by the East Norriton Republican committee in July to run in place of Supervisor James Staufenberg. Staufenberg withdrew from a re-election bid after winning the primary election in May.

Carl Rotenberg can be reached at [crotenberg@timesherald.com](mailto:crotenberg@timesherald.com) or 610-272-2500, ext. 350.