

Louis Aufiero, Jr.

By Artie Maglionico

Louis Aufiero, Jr. recently celebrated 50 years of dedicated service as a DPW worker for the Borough of Lodi. Louis was born on November 13, 1952. His parents, Louis and Lena, purchased a house on Hill in the early '50s. It was there that Louis and siblings Christopher, Geraldine, and Denise were born and raised.

“My dad worked for the state,” recalls Louis. “My Mom worked for the T.A. Farrell Company in Garfield. She later left her job to be there for her children.” Louis attended Columbus Grammar School on Westervelt Place and graduated in June of 1966. His childhood friends included the Russo Brothers, Frank and Joe, Bill McNeil, Kevin Mella, Alfred “Porky” Manzella, Vince Ingraphia, William “Bill” Polito, John Leto, Steven Dente, and Bill De Marco. “Most of our games were played on the School playground,” recalls Louis. “We played games such as touch football, stick ball, and baseball. I enjoyed an active and fulfilling childhood.”

Louis attended Lodi High school, from which he graduated in 1970. Favorite “hang outs” included Humphries Pizza, Carvel, and Eddie’s Luncheonette, all of which were located on Main Street. “I remember the long lines at Modern Bakery, especially during the Holiday season,” said Louis. “My Dad used to bring home rolls still warm from the oven every Sunday. The butter would melt as soon as you

spread it.” Sorrento’s and Dursy’s were also among Lodi’s most frequented bakeries.

Louis’s first job was at National Family Stores as a material handler. He later worked as a Burger flipper at Wetson’s on Essex Street in Lodi. “I joined the CETA program in 1972 and later as a meter reader for the Water Department. I was then transferred to the Road Department fixing broken water lines during the winter months.” Lou’s bosses at the time were Rick De Rosa, Andy Olivieri, and Supervisor Carmine “Jimmy” Polito. In 1982, Lou was transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department. Anna Belli served as Director and was assisted by Al Perrilli.

Over the years, Lou’s jobs included snow plow operator, sewer blockage, building repairs, and sprinkler system repairs. “Lately I’ve been doing a lot of tree work,” said Louis. “Me and Jerry Rinaldi work as a team shaping trees that are overgrowing on the sidewalks.” Louis was married to Nancy Sebastian in 1983. The couple has a daughter, Jessica, who works as a school teacher in Hamilton Township. “There have been many changes in town over the years,” said Louis, “The Napp Chemical explosion and the UPDW fire that claimed over 11 acres of land.”

“I met and worked with many nice people along the way,” said Louis. “Lodi was always a friendly, close knit community and that’s how I’ll always remember it.”