

Dear Editor,

I want to offer my sincere apologies to everyone in Etna Township for my part in Trustee Evans winning the 2021 Township Trustee election. I am truly sorry

For several years, my wife and I were concerned about growth being under control and the schools continual need for more tax money. I met Mr. Evans after tracking him down during his “Keep Etna Rural” campaign against the Hagy development in 2021. We successfully got the referendum on the ballot, despite numerous dirty tricks.

Mr. Evans was sitting at my kitchen table when he “allowed me to convince him” to run. I helped by collecting signatures for his petition to be on the ballot. I passed out lawn signs, raised funds, and contributed hundreds of dollars myself. I made a huge 4 X 8’ sign and put it on our property on the corner of Watkins and Palmer. I went door knocking before the election with others to encourage votes for him.

As you know, we won the election, and nearly immediately Mark began ignoring me. Except for one text message saying he would let me know about the swearing in ceremony, I heard nothing from him. It was no big deal, and I imagine an incoming trustee has more to worry about than me.

Since I was expecting growing pains for the new board, I deliberately didn't watch any meetings on YouTube for the first six weeks to avoid any temptation I might have had to meddle. The first meeting I watched was the February 15 meeting of 2022, and I was shocked at how Mark as board president was treating everybody. He shouted down a citizen who was standing at the podium, set up Trustee McKee for failure over a stupid cell phone so he could humiliate her, and spent much time trying to built a case for getting former trustee John Carlisle arrested for corruption. When I tried to give Mark some advice on common courtesy and basic human respect for his fellow citizens, he called me names and said I never wanted change in the township in the first place.

Since that time, things have only gotten worse as he has driven a wedge of hatred and division through the heart of our wonderful township. His policy of not tolerating any opinion other than his own has led to long time neighbors snarling at each other on social media, and we have seen over and over him trying to stir an angry mob to come to the Trustee meetings and raise hell. Civil discussion is practically unheard of now-a-days, as his supporters do everything from getting people banned from social media to posting dissenter's addresses and pictures of their house so his supporters can make threats.

The recent events publicized in the Newark Advocate show just how far off the rails and bad for our community this person has become. He is now attacking the Advocate for being “biased” against him.

For all of this, I offer my sincere and deepest apologies to all the community for the role I played in bringing this disaster upon us, and I humbly ask your forgiveness.

Words cannot do justice to the shame and anguish I feel for my actions in contributing to the current situation.

I thought I was going above and beyond, trying to help, and only made things worse, much worse.

I am truly sorry

Respectfully,

Chuck LaRosa

August 7, 2025

