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Obituaries



Edwin R. Burger Jr., 77, former mayor of Wenonah

Edwin R. Burger Jr., 77, former councilman and mayor of Wenonah who was a longtime businessman in the small Gloucester County borough, died of cancer Friday, Nov. 5, at his retirement home in Summerfield, Fla.

by Claudia Vargas, Inquirer Staff Writer
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Edwin R. Burger Jr., 77, former councilman and mayor of Wenonah who was a longtime businessman in the small Gloucester County borough, died of cancer Friday, Nov. 5, at his retirement home in Summerfield, Fla.

Even before he became involved in town politics, Mr. Burger was a Mr. Wenonah.

"He was an active person around town . . . was involved in Little League," said former Wenonah Mayor Jack Sheppard, who suggested Mr. Burger fill a vacant council seat in the 1980s. "He was a natural for that."

Mr. Burger, along with his father, Edwin Burger Sr., founded Edwin R. Burger & Son Fence Co. in Barnsboro in 1953.

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Mr. Burger was always working on some project. "If he didn't have a job, he wasn't happy," his son said.

Mr. Burger retired from the family business in 1997. His sons now run it.

He served on Borough Council from 1982 to 1994, when he was elected mayor.

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As mayor, Mr. Burger was one of the main people to push for the current Town Hall, which houses the Police Department, public works, courthouse, and other municipal offices, his son said.

Aside from that project, Mr. Burger focused on keeping Wenonah intact, complete with the small-town charm its residents value, Sheppard said.

Elected mayors usually try to preserve Wenonah the way they found it and not intrude too much, Sheppard said. He added that Mr. Burger fit that description and was "totally devoted to the community. Honest and sincere."

Mr. Burger served as mayor through 2002. Six years later, he moved to Florida with his wife, Jean.

Mr. Burger was born in Philadelphia and moved to Mantua when he was

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In addition to his wife and son, Mr. Burger is survived by sons Frank and Mark; daughter Sheree Watson; his mother, Alva M. Burger; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, and from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, at Smith Funeral Home, 47 Main St. in Mantua. The funeral will follow at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, at the funeral home.

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BC By Claudia Vargas, Inquirer Staff Writer

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