

The Examiner

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ELECTION 2018

A Guide to
the Candidates

Buchwald Looks to Make a Difference in Fourth Assembly Term

By Martin Wilbur

Before he was elected to the state Assembly in 2012, David Buchwald was a practicing tax attorney. He likely never thought it would come in as handy as it did this year.

He was part of a group of lawmakers during this year's session that crafted bipartisan legislation designed to help New York taxpayers facing a much steeper federal tax bill because of the loss of the state and local income tax deduction above \$10,000.

The legislation, which allows taxpayers to make their payment a charitable contribution so it can be tax deductible, was approved although the IRS has issued proposed regulations that would nullify the attempt.

"I know there are more opportunities and I know I'm making a difference in Albany," said Buchwald, 40, a former White Plains councilman.

Perhaps Buchwald's most notable accomplishment was his pension forfeiture bill. The measure now allows a judge to strip a state public official's pension if he or she is found to have committed a felony related to their job. A constitutional amendment was overwhelmingly approved by voters last November.

When it comes to ethics reform, Buchwald, a Democrat, said there is still much more work to be done to regain the public's trust in Albany. Closing the LLC loophole to limit exorbitant campaign



David Buchwald

contributions would be one step, he said. If there can be contribution limits for corporations – about \$5,000 – in state races, then exploiting the loophole shouldn't be allowed, he said.

"I'm a believer in a political system that is more focused on people in New York State," Buchwald said. "It's not just a matter of reform, it's also making it easier to vote in New York State."

He wants to encourage greater turnout and remove New York from the list of 12 states that does not allow for some form of early voting.

Buchwald is in favor of a mandate relief law, one of a minority of Assembly members to support such a measure.

While Buchwald said he's worked with his district's municipalities when local officials need legislation from the state such as for implementation of a hotel tax, the state must do its share to reduce the burden on taxpayers, he said.

The largest portion of a property taxpayer's bill is schools and finding a more equitable formula for the Regional Cost Index for Westchester and other lower Hudson Valley counties is critical, Buchwald said.

"You can update the formula that doesn't hurt other parts of your region but does recognize the injustice to the lower Hudson Valley," he said.

Buchwald said he was proud that the first vote he cast as an Assembly member in January 2013 was to support the SAFE Act, the strongest gun measure in the country. It instituted universal background checks and banned assault weapons, among other restrictions.

Buchwald wants to see passage of the red flag bill that would remove firearms from those individuals deemed to be a threat to themselves and others and safe storage laws, among the steps that the Assembly passed last session but didn't come up for a vote in the Senate.

"What's clear is that the Republican Senate on a host of issues would rather stifle the debate than bring forward topic areas that they know a vast majority of New Yorkers are on the other side from them," Buchwald said.

Despite recent changes pledged by Con Edison representatives, the assemblyman said when the next major storm hits he lacks confidence that the utilities will be as prepared as they should.

However, ongoing public scrutiny of their performance has been intense, he said. Buchwald, along with County Executive George Latimer, organized officials from different levels of government to write a 48-page report that makes specific recommendations.

He said the issue is too important for public health and safety reasons and the region's economy.

"There's not enough redundancy in the system, there's not enough manpower to address what now are predictable consequences of intense storms, nor is there a communications plan in place that allows people to believe what they're hearing," Buchwald said.

"Con Ed and NYSEG have gotten the message loud and clear," he continued. "They just can't run out the clock on this. We're going to continue to hold their feet to the fire."

Buchwald said he's enjoyed his tenure in the Assembly and takes his service to the public very seriously.

"I really feel that having 130,000 constituents means that I have 130,000 bosses," he said. "If one of my bosses has a question, it's my job, as well as possible, for me to answer that question."

First-Time Candidate in Long Shot Run for 93rd Assembly District

By Anna Young

John Nuculovic has maintained an energized and enthusiastic attitude striving for commonsense solutions in his first bid for public office in the race for 93rd Assembly District.

He plans to use his extensive background as a veteran, law enforcement official, first responder and educator to help his district and New York.

After spending his professional life serving in various public service positions, Nuculovic, a Republican from Bedford, said he's running against Democratic incumbent David Buchwald because he has seen the negative effects government can have on the public. He hopes to restore the standards of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness into the decision-making process.

"I know what government looks like from multiple perspectives inside and out," Nuculovic said. "Whether the bars close behind you or you are given a ticket to go overseas, things get very real and you can see the government from both sides."

Nuculovic, 40, began his career in public service as a corrections officer at Rikers Island and was a military police officer with the United States

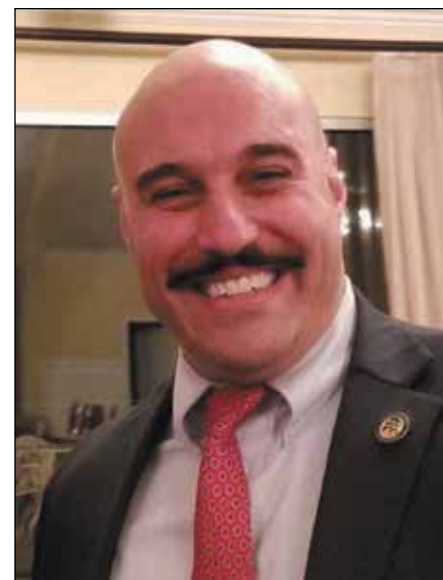
Army. While he devotes his time to volunteering with the Bedford Hills Fire Department and the Westchester County Special Operations Hazmat team, he currently serves as the asset manager for Putnam County.

Under the leadership of Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Nuculovic said his understanding of fiscal responsibility for taxpayers has only heightened. He is focused on reducing taxes, promoting infrastructure and revitalizing downtowns in municipalities throughout the district. Increasing jobs will also ease the tax burden, he said.

Nuculovic said he wants to eliminate unfunded mandates and waste in the state budget, citing how money could be saved by overhauling the Scaffold Law. The law holds developers and contractors liable for accidents on their sites, even if the injury is caused by worker negligence.

He also noted the need for welfare system improvements that would more effectively help people move forward and restoration of the Star Program to ensure the middle class, the handicapped and seniors can afford to live in Westchester.

"Fiscal responsibility is a huge thing



John Nuculovic

for me. If you're doing what you're supposed to do, you really should think of the secondary, tertiary effects of what you do," Nuculovic said. "It's what you're supposed to do, it's part of the oath you take."

Nuculovic said he is pro-life but believes a person has the right to choose what they do with their body. Despite his personal views, he said it's important to balance constituents' needs and

represent their views and would consider support of the Reproductive Healthcare Act.

Nuculovic said the SAFE Act, considered one of the toughest gun laws in the nation, was approved with good intentions but is arbitrary and capricious legislation. While he would support defunding the SAFE Act to protect citizens' constitutional rights, he said he would favor enacting aggressive vetting laws for gun owners, more robust databases, safety courses and aggressively address mental illness issues.

"You have legislation that is really borderline ineffective that comes from a good place, but makes felons out of people who aren't felons," he said. "It's something we have to tackle with the increase of violence and you have to balance that increase in criminality versus making people criminals that aren't."

As severe storms periodically impact the region causing extended power outages, Nuculovic said the utility companies must devise a plan to monitor trees and power lines. As a volunteer firefighter, he has spent many hours babysitting downed trees and

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Harckham Outlines Sharp Differences in Battle Royale With Murphy

By Martin Wilbur

Peter Harckham had been approached to run for the 40th state Senate District on two previous occasions.

The former county legislator said neither time was right for him to take the plunge, with his children still in high school.

But 2018 is a different story as the political landscape at the national and state level has been turned on its head. Harckham, 57, who worked in two separate state authority jobs from mid-2015 until this April, said some of those same constituents, including the governor, once again appealed to him to get into the race in hopes that this could be the year the long-held Republican seat could turn Democratic.

"It was the belief that we had to do better at this level and we had to have a unified state government against the Trump assault on New York," he said of his decision to try to unseat two-term Republican incumbent Terrence Murphy. "You can't have your hand tied behind your back. You can't have a Senate majority that just sits on bills and abdicates its responsibility."

While this campaign has careened from silliness to nastiness, particularly as Election Day draws near, Harckham said the issues where he believes the majority of the district's residents need greater protection are reproductive health rights, gun safety and seeking justice for child abuse victims.

Harckham said Murphy has also failed to do his part to even out the disparity

in state education foundation aid to the Hudson Valley. The Senate Republicans' Long Island power base keeps Nassau and Suffolk districts grouped with New York City schools in the Regional Cost Index, while the northern suburbs are paired with districts as far north as Ulster County.

As a result, Harckham cited a Brennan Center for Justice report stating that schools in the 40th Senate District have lost about \$77 million because of the inequity.

"While the property taxpayers have been shortchanged \$77 million, Sen. Murphy and the Republican majority have voted to send tens of millions of dollars to charter schools," Harckham said.

Harckham said stronger gun laws are critical. Most notably, he wants the red flag bill, which can take a gun away from someone who is considered a threat to themselves and others. Banning bump stocks and raising the age to buying a gun to 21 is also needed.

"It's simply protecting the public or protecting an individual, it goes to suicide prevention as well," he said.

Harckham is a supporter of single-payer health coverage, a move that would guarantee health care coverage for all. He claimed the shift would not be more expensive for the state; rather than employers and employees paying insurance companies with a premium, that money would be moved into a payroll tax.

"Republicans in Washington are cutting

protections to the Affordable Care Act, it's important to find other ways to deliver these services more cost-effectively and to give people peace of mind that they're not one illness away from bankruptcy," Harckham said.

Another protection would be the Reproductive Health Act. He insisted that with a Conservative majority now on the U.S. Supreme Court the protections for women in New York since the state passed abortion legislation in 1970 could be weakened or lost. The bill would

The number of high-profile sex abuse cases has highlighted the need to pass the Child Victims Act, Harckham said. The legislation has passed multiple times in the Assembly but

It would extend statutes of limitations for sex abuse cases by allowing victims to file suit up to 28 years old and increase the maximum age for a victim to file suit from 23 to 28. Civil suits could be filed until the victim is 50 years old.

The measure would also provide a one-year period when victims of any age could file suit, a crucial component of the law, Harckham said.

"All of these organizations have been documented to have been aware of predatory behavior and not done anything because they were concerned about the bottom line," Harckham said. "This is abhorrent and justice for victims has to be the driving factor of this legislation."



Peter Harckham

Harckham said Murphy has failed to come to grips with Indian Point's scheduled 2021 closure, a move made by Entergy and other operators because nuclear power is unprofitable. He said he would press for a dedicated cessation fund for Cortlandt and the other entities hurt economically by the plant's closure.

Harckham favors a get-tough policy with the utilities, particularly NYSEG, to build a more resilient grid and communications for severe weather. If neither the Public Service Commission nor legislation can't accomplish that, then threatening loss of license would have to be considered.

Murphy Touts Performance, Eyes Third Term in Senate

By Rick Pezzullo

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) is proud of his record serving about 325,000 residents in the 40th District over the last four years and is looking forward to continuing working tirelessly for his constituents if re-elected on Nov. 6.

"I represent everybody. I try to do my best to help people," said Murphy, who succeeded Greg Ball, extending the Republican dominance in the seat to 104 years. "It has been an honor and a privilege. I never thought I would do this and get to do some really good things."

Murphy, 52, grew up next to Wilkens Fruit Farm in Yorktown. He decided to study nutrition after graduating from Yorktown High School. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a doctorate of chiropractic from Life University College of Chiropractic. In 1999, he opened the Yorktown Health and Wellness Center on Commerce Street in Yorktown.

He was elected to the Yorktown Town Board in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. His district serves Peekskill, Cortlandt, Somers, Yorktown, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan and other municipalities in Westchester, along with parts of Putnam

and Dutchess counties. He has been endorsed by 250 different unions and the New York League of Conservation Voters, among others.

"We've done so much stuff in the last four years," Murphy said. "I try to be pro-active, not reactive. It's about representing the people."

Murphy stressed he was particularly proud of his efforts in trying to combat the heroin and prescription opioid crisis. The father of three was appointed co-chairman of the Senate's Task Force Against Heroin & Opioid Addiction. Murphy later introduced a legislative package with a four-prong approach to tackling the problem through prevention, treatment, recovery and enforcement.

"We crafted the most comprehensive legislation not only in New York State, but in the nation," Murphy said.

Murphy said he was also in the forefront of the fight to prevent the U.S. Coast Guard from anchoring barges in the Hudson River, secured \$500,000 for meadow restoration at Croton Point Park and was able to get \$24 million placed in a cessation fund that was intended to be only for communities affected by the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan.

Instead, in what he called "a bait and switch" by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who reached a deal with Entergy to shut down the plants in 2021, the cessation fund was also made available to other municipalities in the state facing similar financial struggles. Murphy unsuccessfully called for the plants to stay open until 2030 to allow more time for a smoother transition.

Noting his father worked for Con Edison for 50 years, Murphy said he has held NYSEG's "feet to the fire" for being "a complete failure" in dealing with storms and upgrading equipment.

"This is 2018. We shouldn't be going out with electricity every other week," he said, stressing greater transparency was needed from the Public Service Commission.

Regarding gun control measures, Murphy said, "I've signed on to every piece of legislation that would protect our kids' safety. With gun control you need to use common sense. Anybody with a mental illness should never have a gun. Do I believe in your Second Amendment rights? I certainly do."

Murphy said the SAFE Act was approved before he was elected and his opposition to it is the way it was done.

"You have good, law abiding citizens



Terrence Murphy

who would lose their guns because they forgot to register them," he said. "The SAFE Act is not going anywhere. The reality is we have to protect our community."

As for the Child Victims Act, which has passed multiple times in the Assembly but has not been supported in the Senate, Murphy said there "should be a compromise somewhere."

The legislation would extend statutes of limitations for sex abuse cases by

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DiLeo Hopes to Continue 4MK Electoral Momentum Next Week

By Neal Rentz

The independent 4MK party emerged with a bang last year in Mount Kisco when its candidates, Gina Picinich and Isi Albanese, defeated longtime Mayor Michael Cindrich and longtime Trustee Anthony Markus, respectively and gave the Village Board a much different look.

Next week, first-time candidate Gina DiLeo is hoping to give 4MK a majority on the five-member Village Board, running against Democrats Jean Farber and Karen Schleimer in a three-candidate race for two trustee seats. DiLeo is a registered Independence Party member and appears on that line as well as 4MK.

The momentum from last year, she said, has carried over to this year's campaign.

"It is attracting more people because there is so much positive energy," DiLeo said. "It's not because of a party line."

DiLeo, 43, has worked for Westchester County Department of Emergency Services for 22 years. She is currently a senior communications operator in the 911 dispatch center. A lifelong village resident, she has been a volunteer for 25 years with the Mount Kisco Union Hook & Ladder Company and has FEMA training.

"There's exciting things going on in town. I feel I have a lot to offer being involved with the community and being here all my life," she said of her decision to run.

While new stores have recently opened downtown, DiLeo said encouraging residents to shop locally is crucial to attract more businesses and keep local merchants thriving. New sidewalks and parking are



Gina DiLeo

issues that must be resolved, including how the Metro-North lot is used.

"We need to address that space and make it easier for the commuters so they're not wasting time looking for a parking space rushing to catch the train," she said. "And there needs to be parking for people to be able to shop."

She believes a parking structure in the village-owned North Moger parking lot would be beneficial. If the structure is designed and is consistent with the area's character there would be no negative visual impact, DiLeo said.

DiLeo supports recommendations in the draft Comprehensive Plan, including calls for mixed-use development in the North and South Moger lots and the addition of more greenspace and civic spaces

downtown.

The additional development would increase the assessment rolls and generate fresh tax revenue. It could also encourage more residents to support village merchants, she said.

"I think that's attractive and that's becoming the wave of the future," DiLeo said.

DiLeo said she wanted the village to work with the state and county to reduce traffic on Mount Kisco's busiest thoroughfares. Changing the timing of traffic signals and discouraging drivers from cutting through the village to reach Interstate 684 are two ideas.

Solar arrays should be allowed on private property because "it's not a complete eyesore," but the village ought to save as much open space as possible, DiLeo said.

"We should not allow solar farms in parks," she said.

Some residents have expressed concerns regarding Planning Board Chairman Doug Hertz's company seeking approval for a ground-mounted solar array at Oakwood Cemetery because it's a potential conflict of interest. DiLeo said boards and committees in the village have members that have professionals and operate businesses. There are times in a small community when these applicants have to recuse themselves, which Hertz has properly done, she said.

DiLeo said Mount Kisco has been a model for shared services after consolidating its police department with the Westchester County Department

of Public Safety. Other potential shared services for the village could be information technology or partnering with neighboring municipalities regarding its sewer system, she said.

More aggressive pursuit of grants would be another way for the village to hold down spending.

One of DiLeo's goals would be to have the village develop an emergency preparedness plan. Currently, notifying the public during an emergency, including evacuation and sheltering residents, is missing, she said.

"We need to take steps to ensure that the public is safe during a storm or other type of disaster," DiLeo said.

DiLeo said she would have no difficulty opposing her two 4MK colleagues, Picinich and Albanese, on a vote if it concerned a matter she disagreed with. However, she would first work to iron out disagreements to find solutions.

DiLeo said she possesses a number of qualities, including her personal and professional experiences, that would allow her to effectively serve on the board.

"I'm a multitasker. I'm a team player," she said. "I work for government so I understand the processes and procedures."

DiLeo said there are many positives about Mount Kisco – affordability, convenience to highways and public transportation and the many civic organizations that make the village a better place.

"Mount Kisco is my heart and soul," DiLeo said. "I love helping people."

Mount Kisco's Farber Seeks Fifth Trustee Term

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco Deputy Mayor Jean Farber has been one-fifth of a Village Board that has guided Mount Kisco through change large and small over the past eight years.

With all that's been done and with the village on the cusp of what many believe is a renaissance, Farber doesn't want to walk away.

"I think experience actually matters, too, because there's lots of complicated issues going on right now," said Farber, 70, an associate broker with Houlihan Lawrence. "We have the Comprehensive Plan, a lot of zoning changes. I feel at this point in my term I understand what's going on and how necessary everything is to explain to the people that we serve."

Farber said the recommended Comprehensive Plan update contains excellent ideas that can change the direction of the community. However, she wants to make sure the public is given enough time to understand the recommendations.

"My fear is that not everybody is aware of what's going on," Farber said. "We're doing everything in our power as

a board to publicize that but sometimes as I'm walking around people say 'Can you tell me what's going on?'"

A vote on the revised plan shouldn't occur until all residents who want to provide feedback have been heard and their questions have been answered, she said.

One of Farber's major concerns is parking. If there is new mixed-use development in the village-owned South Moger lot, village officials have vowed not to lose any parking spaces, likely requiring a new parking structure, she said. There are currently about 600 parking spaces in the two lots.

There is enough parking in the village, Farber said, but many shoppers shy away from walking too far.

Mixed-use development would invigorate the downtown by attracting new residents to live near the village's Metro-North station, Farber said. The new residents would likely shop downtown, thereby helping merchants, she said.

There had been criticism that the village had previously failed to act quickly enough to stem the tide of vacant storefronts, but Farber said

hindsight is easy. Over the past two years, however, 33 new businesses have opened in Mount Kisco and others will follow in the near future, she noted.

The village needs to work with the state Department of Transportation to find ways to reduce traffic on the state roads, including changing the timing of traffic signals to create better flow, Farber said.

Farber added that the village has been successful in managing its finances by not once exceeding the state's property tax cap.

"We've been extremely good about keeping well below what we could charge," she said.

One of the achievements Farber is most proud of in her time as trustee is the police consolidation with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety. The village is also involved with purchasing programs, collaborating with the county and state to reduce the cost of buying trucks and equipment, she said.

An issue now before the Village Board is proposed legislation to regulate solar power. The proposal for ground-mounted solar panels on four



Jean Farber

acres at Oakwood Cemetery, land that the facility will not need for burials for many years, has been a recent controversy. Farber said Oakwood is private property and is searching for revenue to pay for some of the cost of perpetual care.

She said the cemetery should pursue

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Schleimer's Sees Value in Quizzical Approach on Board

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco Village Trustee Karen Schleimer doesn't relish her role as a self-described contrarian. But she realizes through her years in public and professional life there are times when the situation calls for further questioning, even when it's unpopular.

"It's not a very easy position to be in. Certainly, I prefer not to be in that position," said Schleimer, running for a fourth term next week. "But I feel that there are questions that need to be raised, more time needs to be spent discussing certain matters and if I don't say something no one will."

Schleimer, 70, a real estate attorney, said although the village has been working on its update for months, many residents "have no idea what's going on. This is new to them."

She said she first received a copy of the proposed 550-page updated document on Aug. 20 and only recently have many residents started to acquaint themselves with its contents. As a result, more time must be taken to analyze the proposed revisions.

Though there has been concern about downtown storefront vacancies, Schleimer said many new commercial tenants have moved in.

Schleimer is skeptical of the mixed-used development idea for the village-owned South Moger parking lot. Construction could last two years, disrupting commerce, traffic and parking and hurting existing businesses.

She also questioned whether new

residents would want to live near the train station, nearly an hour commute from midtown Manhattan, with shorter and less expensive options elsewhere in the metropolitan area. One possibility would be for the village to reinvent its image and improve aesthetics.

"I think we've gotten shabby," Schleimer said.

Outreach to landlords that began under former mayor Michael Cindrich should continue to learn why commercial property owners continue to warehouse space, she said.

Schleimer agreed with suggestions to create a downtown space and make the village more walkable.

"I think that is exciting and laudable," she said.

While the document's update focuses on the North and South Moger parking lots, the Main Street business area, Lexington Avenue and Radio Circle, the village's residential areas and the North Bedford Road corridor have been wrongly excluded from study, Schleimer said.

The focus on the heart of downtown has been driven mainly by the makeup of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, she said, which is heavily weighted with business community representatives. Residents have also contacted her to inquire why issues important to the Latino community, which comprises more than 40 percent of Mount Kisco's population, have been excluded from discussion, she said.

Schleimer said parking is a problem

on East Main Street, but the Shoppers Park and North and South Moger lots typically have room. If there is transit-orientated development in the South Moger lot it is unclear how much parking is needed elsewhere. Merchants who operate near the South Moger lot could be hurt, she said.

Schleimer said property taxes are lower in Mount Kisco than other municipalities making the village an attractive place to live. However, she is concerned about whether the village can fiscally handle multiple large projects at once, including the firehouse renovations, a streetscape program and infrastructure improvements. It's a matter to discuss with the Finance Committee, she said.

"I hope we're not biting off more than we can chew," Schleimer said. "You can't necessarily do everything at once."

Schleimer said the consolidation of the village's police department with the county Department of Public Safety has provided Mount Kisco with greater police presence and service and significant savings. In the future, the village could examine whether sharing trash hauling is feasible.

Schleimer described solar power as an exciting area for the village to study and favors allowing solar power pilot projects to see how they work. The Village Board already approved solar for residential roofs and for a landfill.

The village is also mulling larger solar projects and whether there is sufficient demand, she said. The proposal to place ground-mounted solar panels on a four-acre portion of Oakwood Cemetery is the largest solar plan before the village.

Schleimer has raised several concerns about the Oakwood Cemetery proposal, including the length of lease (currently 25 years), the look of the panels and that the company that submitted the proposal is owned by Planning Board Chairman Doug Hertz.

Schleimer said Mayor Gina Picinich and Village Manager Ed Brancati



Karen Schleimer

have met with officials from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss changing the timing of traffic signals from Route 172 to North Bedford Road. She said if transit-oriented development took hold, additional traffic would be generated, including cars from about 1,000 additional residents.

Schleimer said Picinich and Trustee Isi Albanese, elected last year on the independent 4MK line, have brought a fresh perspective.

"A lot of things they've done have been very exciting and new," Schleimer said. "I think they've worked incredibly well with the Chamber of Commerce to bring certainly SeptemberFest, which was a huge success."

They have also encouraged greater resident participation on current committees and have helped create new committees, Schleimer said.

But she said her own style "sometimes doesn't work as smoothly as we'd like."

"By raising the questions and raising the issues I have been partially successful in slowing down the process, probably not as much as I'd like, and probably much too much in terms of how other board members would prefer," Schleimer said.

Mount Kisco's Farber Seeks Fifth Trustee Term

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the proposal because if it fails financially its upkeep would become the village's responsibility; however, the land's wildlife corridor must be protected.

Concern has been raised by some residents about a potential conflict of interest between Sunrise Solar Solutions, the company that has proposed the solar array, and the village because its owner is Planning Board Chairman Doug Hertz.

Planning Board members should have the opportunity to propose new development projects, Farber said. Hertz has recused himself from all discussions.

"I don't think he is doing anything that is wrong," she said.

With Latinos comprising as much as 45 percent of the village's population, Farber said their presence is a positive. She would like to see more volunteers from that community on volunteer boards. The Village Board should also consider having a liaison to the Latino community through Neighbors Link,

Farber added.

Since last year when Mayor Gina Picinich and Trustee Isi Albanese were elected, Farber acknowledged greater enthusiasm.

"There's a tremendous amount of energy going on, which is really a wonderful thing in Mount Kisco," Farber said. "Sometimes you need a change to kind of re-create and re-think things. And I think Gina has really done an outstanding job of bringing a lot of new people onto some of our boards who would not (have) necessarily thought about it before."

Some of that new energy has generated from the Mount Kisco Arts Council, which Farber has been closely involved with as the organization's treasurer. Over the summer the council held free outdoor concerts outside the library. The series will continue next year.

Farber is also the liaison to other groups, including the Mount Kisco Historical Society.

(It's) "a very special village," Farber said. "It's a really caring community."

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Civic-Minded Amiano Looks to Continue on Mt. Pleasant Town Board

By Neal Rentz

Anthony Amiano may still be a very young man but he has already immersed himself in public service in several capacities.

Amiano, 24, was a Valhalla Board of Education trustee for four years starting as a junior in college. He has also been a member of Mount Pleasant's Architectural Review Board and the county Parks Board.

He took on a new role in June when he was appointed on an interim basis to replace Mark Rubeo, who was appointed town justice. Amiano is running next week in hopes of completing the final year of Rubeo's term on the Town Board.

"I must say I've really enjoyed the position so far," said Amiano, who will appear on the Republican, Conservative, Reform and Independence Party lines. "By far the best part is meeting residents, hearing their concerns hearing what's good about the town, what could be improved and just absorbing it all. There's a lot to learn."

Over the summer he met with each town department head to better understand how local government operates, learn how the Town Board could help and where each department could be improved. He called it an "eye-opening" experience.

"There's a lot that the town does that we need to put out there a little bit more," said Amiano, a communications and planning specialist for the president of Berkeley College.

The town is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan for the first time since 1970. Amiano is pleased that residents have been encouraged to provide feedback. The Town Board hopes to have a proposed draft



Anthony Amiano

early next year.

Amiano said the plan should address the business hamlets of Hawthorne, Valhalla and Thornwood, then analyze the rest of town.

"We can definitely revitalize those areas, those streets, to really make it more of a community hub in each of those hamlets," he said.

Hamlet improvements could include mixed-use development with retail businesses on the first floor and residential units upstairs that are within walking distance of the Metro-North station, Amiano said. New sidewalks should also be part of the revitalization.

There is a need in town for more housing for seniors, residents who want to downsize but remain in Mount Pleasant. The Town

Board is looking at different options for age-restricted housing, including repurposing vacant office parks and other land, Amiano said. Encouraging assisted living facilities should also be part of the equation, he said.

The town needs workforce housing for first responders, veterans and local employees, Amiano said.

How well the town attracts smart economic development could be the key to success.

"It's a great idea to expand the tax base without going to the taxpayers," he said. "But we need to remain cognizant of the fact that any potential development potentially impacts school districts, water and sewer, infrastructure, first responders, traffic and the environment."

He supports the proposed North 60 biomedical complex, which would be "a huge economic boon" for the town. A regional plan should be considered to provide housing for North 60 employees. The responsibility to provide that housing shouldn't fall solely on Mount Pleasant, Amiano said.

Keeping property taxes in check is an ongoing priority. Amiano said he wanted the town to explore potential shared services with neighboring Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow and Briarcliff Manor and is open to discussions with other municipalities.

In the past few years there has been "a vast improvement" in the town's use of technology to communicate with residents via its website, Facebook page and e-mail alerts, Amiano said. However, the town still must improve how it communicates with the public during emergencies.

A recent controversial issue was the Town

Board's reapproval of a cell tower at the town's leaf composting facility in Pocantico Hills. The action was to move the tower from its original location at the request of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, he said. Amiano said the Town Board was transparent about the issue, with the public hearing extending into September.

"The law was followed in terms of transparency," Amiano said. "However, the town went above that by putting all the information on its website and by essentially continuing the public hearing in three different meetings."

Emergency service personnel have said the area has dead zones, which hampers response time, said Amiano, a supporter of the tower. Real estate agents he spoke with said cell towers do not depress property values, he said.

Amiano said he disagrees with sentiment from his opponent and others in town that Mount Pleasant government is operated by insiders. His appointment to the board refutes that as he was one of six residents interviewed.

He also denies the town is fragmented. Those living in the town's villages seek assistance from their village governments first, Amiano said. When needed, they bring concerns to the Town Board.

"I don't differentiate between hamlets and villages or anywhere in between," he said.

Amiano said his prior experience as a school trustee and now town councilman is important.

"I think a record matters. Experience matters in this race," Amiano said.

Hagadus-McHale Strives for Democratic Breakthrough in Mt. Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

Pleasantville resident Francesca Hagadus-McHale is attempting to do something no Democratic has done for more than 25 years – win a seat on the Mount Pleasant Town Board.

Next week's special election will pit Hagadus-McHale against Councilman Anthony Amiano for the remaining year of former councilman Mark Rubeo's term. Rubeo resigned from the seat earlier this year when he was appointed town justice.

Hagadus-McHale, 65, a foreign language teacher who retired from the Chappaqua School District after 32 years and now teaches part-time at the Fusion Academy, has been working on political campaigns the past three years supporting Democratic candidates at various levels. Last year she became a Democratic district leader and when the special election materialized, thought it would be a good time to launch her first campaign.

Hagadus-McHale said she would bring a fresh perspective to town government and work to help unify the town. Many residents don't associate Mount Pleasant with the villages of Pleasantville and Sleepy

Hollow, Briarcliff Manor, Pocantico Hills and the sliver of Chappaqua that is included in the town. Town meetings should also be periodically held in the hamlets.

"One of my priorities is to engage the entire town in decisions that will positively impact the whole town," Hagadus-McHale said.

Annual events such as Mount Pleasant Day should include the villages and there should be days at the town pool where Pleasantville and Sleepy Hollow residents are allowed entry, she said.

"I think that it would be really nice to have everyone included in a joint (day)," Hagadus-McHale said. "I think there's almost a divisiveness going on right now."

One of the biggest issues facing the town is the Comprehensive Plan update. She said the revised plan should be in place before the town allows any new large development.

When considering rezones, the Town Board must effectively weigh concerns regarding traffic, environmental protection, the population of school-age children and access to services, including how new residents could get to the local



Francesca Hagadus-McHale

Metro-North stations and supermarkets, Hagadus-McHale said.

Revitalization such as new lighting, sidewalks and more parking near the Metro-North train station is particularly needed in Hawthorne, she said.

The town must do a better job at aggressively lobbying the state and county

governments for safety improvements near railroad crossings because they have jurisdiction over many of the key roads in town. Town officials should work to improve mass transit, pushing for possible additional bus service through shared service arrangements, Hagadus-McHale said.

On the issue of the proposed North 60 biomedical complex near Westchester Medical Center, Hagadus-McHale said she is open to the ambitious project but that many issues must be taken into consideration, particularly the impact of traffic on the area.

Hagadus-McHale said there is a need for additional senior housing in town, preferably near the town's senior center. There should also be residences that are affordable for teachers and town employees. Housing stock should include rentals and units for young adults, she said.

Mixed-use development featuring commercial establishments on the ground floor and rental apartments upstairs is essential near the Hawthorne Metro-North station. New development should also

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Rockland Candidate is 'David vs. Goliath' in Race Against Lowey

By Martin Wilbur

For the past 15 years, Joe Ciardullo has been involved in local politics around Rockland County, managing campaigns and being active in the Republican Party. This time he's doing it for himself on a much bigger stage.

The nearly lifelong Clarkstown resident is Rep. Nita Lowey's little-known opponent, appearing on only the Reform Party line, the ultimate underdog against the 30-year Democratic incumbent.

Ciardullo, 49, entered the race after he was notified earlier this year that he would be laid off after 28 years at IBM, where he last worked as infrastructure manager. Once he lost his job at the end of June, it was too late for him to gain entry on the Republican line so he settled for the Reform Party.

"I'm just fed up with a lot of stuff that goes on in Washington, and also frankly, that we have candidates running unopposed," Ciardullo said. "In 2016, Nita Lowey was unopposed. I was adamant about this. I was like how can the (Republican) Party not put up a candidate? Then again, in 2018, nobody's going to be running."

So Ciardullo took on the challenge because he's "got nothing to lose" and that he doesn't have to adhere to litmus tests.

"I'm telling people that I'm not beholden to either major party," he said. "I say right on the front (of my palm card) Washington is broken and it's not broken because of one party, it's broken because of the two parties. They won't work together at all. No matter if one side has an idea that makes sense or not,

either side they fight each other."

Ciardullo's campaign pitch is calling himself "an average Joe," and pocketbook issues are front and center. He said he would fight for more federal funding for public school districts in the region, by far the largest portion of residents' tax bills.

As a career IBM employee, Ciardullo stressed the need for the use of updated technology to reform education programs. Each student should also be outfitted with a tablet or laptop.

Ciardullo is a proponent of emphasizing traditional trades for those students who by high school may show an interest in them or may not be as academically inclined as some of their peers. Electricians, auto repair workers and plumbers make a good living for and more students should be encouraged to join those fields, he said.

He said he understood why President Donald Trump and lawmakers from around the country signed onto the tax reform package that hurts high-tax states like New York. More representatives, including some Republicans, should have supported the legislation, because then they would have had a more willing negotiating partner to raise the limit on state and local tax deductions or scrap it altogether, Ciardullo said.

"I do see why the federal government went that route because why are (they) subsidizing those states that have exponentially high taxes," said Ciardullo, who would advocate for a higher ceiling on the SALT deduction.

To address the country's expanding deficit, Ciardullo said there are billions



Joe Ciardullo is Rep. Nita Lowey's opponent next week but appears only on the Reform Party line.

of dollars in fraud and waste built into the system, the most likely target being Medicaid and Medicare. He said he would attack the abuses in those areas first, more of which can be identified with technology upgrades.

He would scrap the Affordable Care Act, instead favoring Healthcare Savings Accounts. For those with pre-existing conditions, they would be entered into the large federal government insurance pool.

"Why are we insuring someone with a pre-existing condition as opposed to helping them?" Ciardullo asked.

He would create incentives for more people to attend medical school by having the federal government pay for their schooling in exchange for service to a clinic or medical organization.

Ciardullo opposes cuts to Social Security, what he called a promise to today's workers. He would explore raising the retirement age for younger workers and increasing the threshold for high earners who stop paying into the program at a certain point of the year. Currently, the maximum amount of taxable earnings is \$128,400.

He favors stronger borders and would support President Trump's funding for a wall separating the country's border with Mexico. He would also hire more personnel to process applications for citizenship and asylum.

"I'm all for legal immigration," said Ciardullo, who did not provide numbers for recommended annual immigration and refugee acceptance levels. "I think we need to speed up that process when people come to this country."

Ciardullo backs some form of public financing of campaigns to even the playing field, term limits and nonpartisan elections.

"I'm like the David versus Goliath here," he said.

First-Time Candidate in Long Shot Run for 93rd Assembly District

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power lines until personnel from the utilities arrive.

Nuculovic, who has a background in cyber security, said he would support extending the statute of limitations to prosecute a reported a sex crime. As technology continues to advance, he said it's necessary to extend the statute to certify law enforcement officials keep up with technology.

"I don't care if it's 32 years, 32 seconds, 32 months, it doesn't mean it didn't happen," he said.

Nuculovic acknowledged he's the underdog in the race. If elected, he wants to be a citizen politician and apply his life experience to every situation, review issues analytically and do what's right for his constituents and the state. But for now, Nuculovic said he's leaving his fate in God's hands.

"I want this bad, I want to help, but my life wouldn't fall apart if I didn't have it and it's a good place to be," he said. "Even if you can bring something to the community, elected or not, it's wonderful to help people."

Murphy Touts Performance, Eyes Third Term in Senate

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allowing victims to file suit up to 28 years old and increase the maximum age for a victim to file suit from 23 to 28. Civil suits could be filed until the victim is 50 years old.

"Every victim deserves some form of justice," Murphy said. "Should something be done? Absolutely, 100 percent."

Murphy voted against renaming the

Tappan Zee Bridge and supports term limits (no more than three terms). He also made no apologies for posing for a photo with President Donald Trump when Trump was a candidate. It's a photo Murphy's Democratic opponent, Peter Harckham, has widely circulated.

"Do I think he's (Trump) doing a good job on policy? Absolutely," Murphy said. "On politics? He should probably learn to shut up."

Hagadus-McHale Strives for Democratic Breakthrough in Mt. Pleasant

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include green spaces and underground parking, Hagadus-McHale said.

Communication improvements between the town and its residents is crucial to reach a larger segment of the population. A user-friendly town website that allows residents to express their opinions on issues to town officials, including the Town Board, is needed, Hagadus-McHale said.

The Town Board's recent approval, over the objections of several neighboring residents, to allow the construction of a cell tower at the town's leaf composting facility on Pocantico River Road was one of the most recent examples of communication lapses, Hagadus-McHale said. Some Pocantico Hills residents "were furious because they hadn't been told" about the project, she said.

Adding a feature such as photos of what the monopine cell tower would look like should have been added to the website, she said.

In preparing for the race, Hagadus-

McHale said she did her homework. She met with the mayors of Sleepy Hollow and Pleasantville and former Pleasantville Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer, held an advisory meeting with local residents to discuss town issues and absorbed as much information as possible from board meetings she's attended and the town's website.

Hagadus-McHale said she would have no difficulty working with four Republican colleagues on the Town Board if she's elected.

"They're not Democrats or Republicans. They are pros and cons," she said. "That needs to be pretty well communicated."

Describing herself as "community minded," Hagadus-McHale said she has been involved in several programs, including the Pleasantville Community Garden while volunteering at the Pleasantville Music Festival.

"I really believe in community and donating your time to your community is very important," she said.

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VOTE *GINA DiLEO* for *TRUSTEE*

NOVEMBER 6th

***At the bottom of the ballot, (Column 17)
but on top of what matters to Mount Kisco***



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