

LETTER: Former Councilman endorses Verga, Goddard

Nov 3, 2022

TO THE EDITOR: As you are now aware, we have an election this year. We will select who will represent us on our Borough Council for the next three years. As a lifelong resident and former two-term councilman whose family has roots in Morris Plains for 100 years, I believe this election to be one of the most important in our town's history.

The choice to me seems quite clear. We must re-elect Councilwoman Joan Goddard and Councilwoman Nancy Verga. They have brought a fresh outlook to the government and provided concrete results, such as the creation of the Business Development Committee in 2021 which is today creating a revived business district. They are transparent, having improved the borough website and weekly newsletter and are advocating for virtual access to meetings. Joan and Nancy are willing to discuss and explain every position they take. They are independent: willing to agree with the mayor of their own party when they think he is right. They are courageous enough to respectfully disagree with him when they think he is wrong. Most important to me, they don't talk about being bipartisan; they are bipartisan. Recently, they advocated for and voted to hire an additional police officer.

Recently, I received a piece of campaign literature from competing candidates who claimed they would bring in their words "Transparency and accessibility; to listen to new ideas and work collaboratively towards solutions." I found this interesting in the fact that these two candidates:

1. Refused to participate in a debate with our current Councilwomen Joan Goddard and Nancy Verga. This is hardly transparent.
2. Offered no new ideas, just vague generalities.

It is because I love Morris Plains that I am voting to re-elect Councilwoman Joan Goddard and Councilwoman Nancy Verga and I urge you to do so, too. Transparent, courageous and bipartisan with a record of concrete results -- a combination that is hard to beat.

MICHAEL J. BUTCHKO

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Morris Plains

Borough Councilman, 1985-1991

Council President, 1988