



THE SCARSDALE CITIZENS' NON-PARTISAN PARTY

Media Contact: ML Perlman, Campaign Chair
Email: themlperlman@gmail.com
Phone: 917 679 8779

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Our Vision for Moving Scarsdale Forward

Scarsdale Village, March 6th 2017: The Scarsdale Citizens' Non-Partisan Party is proud to support **Dan Hochvert** for Mayor, and **Matt Callaghan, Carl Finger, and Seth Ross** for Trustee.

Each of these candidates has passed the rigorous nominating process conducted by the elected Citizens Nominating Committee at least twice. Dealing with a broad range of matters integral to the successful management and operation of our local government, our candidates know that ideas are not enough. In the direct work of being a Trustee, **our candidates have a combined eight years of service.**

Moreover, our candidates have distinguished themselves in this service. They've demonstrated their ability to listen to the community. They know it's essential to hear every voice, not just the loudest ones. They know it's essential to gain a deep understanding of each issue before opining, and take no decision lightly. They've looked over every line item in the budget, sometimes dozens of times. They don't just make statements; they've taken the votes, done the work, and made a difference. They have the right experience and temperament to work effectively and collaboratively both for and with our whole community to move Scarsdale forward!

Keeping Property Taxes Low/Keeping the Quality of Services High

We believe there is no more important duty for the Mayor or a Trustee than to be a responsible steward of our taxpayer dollars. But that has to be balanced with providing the high quality services that Scarsdale residents expect and deserve. Although we agree with the goal of the property tax cap set by Albany, the mechanism itself has proven to be arbitrary and unpredictable. The single biggest line items in our budget are salaries and benefits, nearly all of which correspond to binding contracts. Last year, the cap was 0.12%. The increase in health insurance costs for Village employees was 6.67%. Our residents want us to achieve balance and make decisions based on what's best for our community, not just a number imposed by Albany. There's no magic gimmick, and no substitute for hard work. Since the institution of the cap, the Board of Trustees have kept

property tax growth to half of what the rate was before. We have dramatically increased investment in road repair, and finally have Con Edison contributing its fair share to the effort. Scarsdale has made bold choices to fund sustainability initiatives like recycling, and has avoided short-term budget tricks that would imperil our AAA rating. We can and will achieve that balance!

Building the Scarsdale of the Future Through Prudent Investment

Since we are obligated to spend capital budget dollars towards maintenance of the Freightway garage and the open lot around it, this is an opportunity to engage our community in a discussion about the Scarsdale of the future, and to explore ways the property can be developed to maximize our return on investment and inject vitality into our Village Center. No matter where this community conversation on developing the Freightway leads us, we will apply the same high standards, best practices, and rigorous oversight that we intend to use to monitor our investments in other major capital projects, like the rehabilitation of Fire House 1, and the renovation and expansion of the Public Library.

We strongly believe in making the prudent investments in the cornerstones of our community that will benefit our residents and our children for generations to come.

A Fair, Predictable, and Sustainable Tax Roll

Property tax valuations, including those done in the 2016 Village-wide revaluation, are done by the Town Assessor. As in other communities in New York, the Assessor's valuations are not subject to the control or influence of elected officials, including the Board of Trustees. New York State law in fact prevents elected officials from overruling those valuations or dismissing the Assessor.

Thus, while the law allows homeowners to grieve their assessments, there is no legal way for the Mayor and Trustees to simply disregard or reverse the 2016 revaluation, just as there was no legal way to reverse the 2014 revaluation. Those who are currently suing the Village to reverse the 2016 revaluation (the so-called Article 78 proceeding) are asking for something that cannot legally be done. Even if it were legally permissible, it would cause havoc with property taxes and have a potentially disastrous impact on the Village and the School District as well as the County. We believe the Village, on behalf of all 5000-plus households, acted appropriately by filing an application to have this lawsuit dismissed. Moving forward, we believe that Scarsdale's goal should be to have a fair, predictable, and sustainable tax roll, and that there are several constructive steps that the Mayor and Trustees can take to help achieve that result. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we should determine and take steps to restore the community's faith in the Town Assessor's office. We should develop a thoughtful timeline for the next Village-wide revaluation, and ensure that all homeowners are aware of their right in the meantime to grieve unfair individual assessments to the Board of Assessment Review later this Spring. We should find solutions that don't waste time, effort and additional taxpayer money, and we should do so in a manner that doesn't create uncertainty or play favorites.

Better Communications, Deeper Engagement with the Community

This year, the Board of Trustees launched an ad hoc Communications Committee to foster meaningful dialogue, deeper engagement and full transparency with our community. That work needs to continue and expand. Besides the new website with enhanced functionality, more Village business and committee meetings are televised, recorded, hosted on websites, and posted on social media, prompting more online and in person discussions with residents than ever before. We need to use all of the modern tools of communication to make sure **you** know what we're working on, why we're working on it, and how you can get involved. Our candidates are committed to this effort.

Experienced, Ethical, and Responsible Leadership

We want to be absolutely clear. In our combined eight years of service on the Board of Trustees, none of us asked for or received preferential treatment from any vendor, or made any decision on Village matters based on our own personal pecuniary interest. If any one of us did or would have a personal financial conflict on *any* business before the Board of Trustees, whether by a lawsuit, a bond issue, or anything else, that individual would recuse himself, period.

We think that's the minimum you should expect from your public servants.

Scarsdale is one of the most admired and esteemed communities in the country. Our dedicated Village volunteers are committed stewards of this community, earning front-page coverage for supporting a renovated and expanded 21st century public Library and new sustainability initiatives. Most residents in Scarsdale believe we have consistently found the balance between the services we need and what we can afford, and our average increase in Village property taxes is half of what it was 8 or 9 years ago. Our AAA bond rating is a testament to our sound fiscal practices. Young families continue to come to our Village and make this community their own, and young, successful people who grew up here and could start their own families anywhere else in the world are choosing to come home and start them here.

We love this Village, we love our community, and we promise to dedicate the next two years to listening to all of the diverse voices of our residents, to rolling up our sleeves, and to working with anyone willing to help us move our Village forward. **We ask for the privilege and responsibility of serving you, and ask for your vote on March 21.**

Learn More:

www.scarsdalecitizens.com

nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.com

www.facebook.com/scarsdalecitizens

Upcoming Events:

Monday March 6th – Register to Vote & *Meet the Candidates with Experience* 7PM-9PM
@ Scott Room of Scarsdale Public Library Deadline to register to Vote is March 10th
(Absentee ballots will be available.) Facebook Event Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1152427228188059/>

Wednesday March 8th – Eve & Carl Finger Welcome Scarsdale to their home 7PM-9PM
@ The Finger Residence Carl is a Sitting Trustee and Candidate for Trustee Kindly rsvp:
nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.org

Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/384881978538995/>

Thursday March 9th – Register to Vote & *Meet the Candidates With Experience* 7PM-9PM
@ Scott Room of Scarsdale Public Library Deadline to register to Vote is March 10th
(Absentee ballots will be available.) Facebook Event Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/200873180390474/>

Saturday March 11th – Kid Friendly! *Meet the Candidates with Experience* 12PM-2PM @
Scott Room of Scarsdale Public Library Kindly rsvp:
nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.org Facebook Event Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1429672037045511/>

Monday March 13th – Susan & Dan Hochvert Welcome Scarsdale to their home 7PM-9PM
@ The Hochvert Residence Dan is Candidate for Mayor and former 2-term Trustee Kindly
rsvp: nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.org

Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/155533488290006/>

Wednesday March 15th – Susan & Seth Ross Welcome Scarsdale to their home 7PM-
9PM @ The Ross Residence Seth is a Candidate for Trustee Kindly RSVP:
nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.org

Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/638764706311356/>

Sunday March 19th – Kid Friendly! *Meet the Candidates With Experience* 11AM-1PM @
Scott Room of Scarsdale Public Library Kindly RSVP:

nonpartisan@scarsdalecitizens.org Facebook Event Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/159387567903685/>

Tuesday March 21st – VOTE for Candidates with Experience! ELECTION at Scarsdale Library! 6AM-9AM & 12PM-9PM “VOTE ROW A” across (top row) for the SCNP
CANDIDATES: Dan Hochvert for Mayor, and Matthew Callaghan, Carl Finger, and Seth Ross for Trustee. Facebook Event Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1749216092060584/>