



Candidates Guide for Ridgewood Village Council Election 2020

ELECTION DAY:
TUESDAY, MAY 12th



CANDIDATES:

- ✓ Sergio Alegre
- ✓ Bernadette Coghlan-Walsh
- ✓ Mahmoud Hamza
- ✓ Pam Perron
- ✓ Lorraine Reynolds



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WWW.LWVRIDGEWOODNJ.ORG

***Disclaimer:** The League of Women Voters of Ridgewood does not write, research or fact check the candidates' statements, but rather publishes them verbatim as submitted by the candidates. The statements do not necessarily reflect any official policy or position of The League of Women Voters of Ridgewood.*

Candidate Profile: **Sergio Alegre**

Address:

603 Frederick Street

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/AlegreForVillageCouncil/

Website:

www.alegreforcouncil.com

Years Residing in Ridgewood:

9+

Occupational Background:

Attorney; Compliance Officer for a pharmaceutical company

Education:

B.A. Rutgers University; J.D. Fordham University School of Law

Family:

Deana Alegre (wife); Aidan Alegre (son)

Record of Community Involvement:

- Current Chairman of the Ridgewood Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Dads' Night alumnus
- Parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Current and former coach of basketball, baseball, soccer and flag football
- Chaired the Somerville school 4th of July float building committee
- Construction lead for Somerville Children's Theatre sets



Candidate Profile:

Bernadette Coghlan-Walsh

Address:

444 Red Birch Court

Facebook Page:

N/A

Website:

www.walsh4ridgewood.com

Years Residing in Ridgewood:

23

Occupational Background:

Head of Global Workforce Mobility, Messer Americas, Bridgewater, NJ

Education:

Pitzer College, Claremont, CA – Bachelor of Arts
Johns Hopkins University, Masters Candidate
State Licensed Residential Real Estate Appraiser – New Jersey
Worldwide ERC: GMS-T and CRP Designations
Society of Human Resource Management: SHRM CP Designation

Family:

Married to Michael, three children

Record of Community Involvement:

- Councilwoman – completing second term
- Planning Board 2010-2012
- Served on: Citizen Safety Advisory, Parks & Recreation, Fields Committee, REAC, Ridgewood Arts Council, Historic Preservation
- Girl Scout Leader 2006-2018
- President, Junior Woman's Club of Ridgewood 2009-2010
- Adjunct Professor Bergen Community College, 1991-1999
- Council Liaison to Library Board of Trustees and Chamber of Commerce
- OLMC Moms, Circle of Care Coordinator, 2008-2012
- OLMC CCD Instructor for elementary school grades 2004-2010
- RSA Coach, Elementary Level 2004-2006



Candidate Profile: Mahmoud Hamza

Address:

528 Amsterdam Ave

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/Hamza4Council

Website:

www.HamzaForCouncil.com

Years Residing in Ridgewood:

29-years resident

Occupational Background:

Long career in technology and software management across a variety of sectors including defense (Parker Hannifin), public utility (QEI), semiconductors (Sony) and financial (Bank of New York).

Currently founder and owner of White Water International, Inc., a software development consulting firm.

Education:

BSc in Electrical Engineering, Cairo University.

BA in Mathematics, Ain Shams University.

Diploma in Management, American University.

MSc Electrical Engineering, SUNY @Stony Brook.

Family:

Married to Gihan Mohamad; six children, all of whom attended Ridgewood Public Schools.

Record of Community Involvement:

- Ridgewood Ministerial Association, furthering the interfaith dialogue
- Community Relationship Advisory Board
- Habitat for Humanity, building homes in the Oranges
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee
- Muslim Society of Ridgewood, teaching in Sunday school
- Women's March participant
- Clothing collections for refugees; educating new citizens on life here in the U.S.
- 4th of July Celebration volunteer
- Ridgewood Wildscape Association, helping to maintain parks and trails
- Peace and Justice Committee



Candidate Profile: **Pam Perron**

Address:

123 Kenilworth Road

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/pamperron2020

Website:

www.perronforcouncil.com
email: pamperron4council@gmail.com

Years Residing in Ridgewood:

46 years (total)

Occupational Background:

Lawyer. Assistant U.S. Attorney 1985 to 2015
Private practice 2015 to the present.

Education:

Ridgewood High School 1974; Columbia University, B.A., *cum laude*;
Tulane University, J.D., *cum laude*, *Maritime Law Review*

Family:

Married to Chuck Jennings (RHS '65). Children: C.J. Jennings (RHS '11),
Levi Jennings (RHS '12), and Shayna Jennings (RHS '16)

Record of Community Involvement:

- Homebound Helpers: founder of this service to shut-ins during Covid-19 pandemic
- League of Women Voters: Vice President; Water Committee Chair; Observer Corps coordinator, editor and reporter, which required regular attendance at Council meetings 2017 to 2020
- Green Ridgewood member: Green Business recognition program
- Jamboree: performer, backstage participant, and fundraiser since 2011
- GeesePeace member
- Girl Scout leader 2004 to 2011.



Candidate Profile: Lorraine Reynolds

Address:

550 Wyndemere Ave

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/ReynoldsForVillageCouncil

Website:

www.ReynoldsForVillageCouncil.com

Years Residing in Ridgewood:

30 years

Occupational Background:

Business Administration and Property Management

Education:

B.S., Business Administration (BSBA), University of Massachusetts

Family:

Happily married to Jim for more than thirty years - together we've raised three sons - Tyler, Parker and Cooper all graduates of Ridgewood Public Schools

Record of Community Involvement:

- Attended Hundreds of Village Council & Planning Board meetings over nearly 20 years
- Active advocate for rational and reasonable development in the Village (CBR, RCRD)
- Steering Committee, Concerned Residents of Ridgewood (CRR)-Advocated for a reasonable expansion of The Valley Hospital
- Co-Chair, ITS2BIG campaign, 2016: Successful Village-wide effort to promote a binding referendum on the proposed multimillion-dollar bond for the Hudson Street Garage, giving voice to the taxpayers
- Member, Central Business District Advisory Committee (2016-present)
- Member, Observer Corps, League of Women Voters of Ridgewood
- Somerville Home and School Association: Organized and implemented fundraising initiatives
- Co-Chair, Somerville and Benjamin Franklin Middle School Outdoor Beautification Committee
- Parishioner, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (1990-present)



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Question 1: Why do you want to serve on the Ridgewood Village Council? Please include in your response what drives you to represent others' interests and describe the commitment you have to public service.



Sergio Alegre

I began giving back to the Village of Ridgewood since I moved here. The Dad's Night motto of "Family, Friends, Community" is taken seriously by its members, and I was recruited to join before I had unpacked my moving boxes. Almost all of my community service – coaching, for the schools, the 4th of July, etc., stems from the friends I have made in that great organization. While there are so many things I love about this Village, its passion for community service is at the top. Seeing residents step up to help their neighbors during the current pandemic is heartwarming, and not the least bit surprising. That's what we do.

- I have significant business experience. The Village of Ridgewood is a multimillion-dollar organization and I understand how a business works, including budgets, balance sheets, employee relations and the gamut of issues faced by a complex organization.
- I have leadership experience. I am the current Chairman of the Village Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as an executive on the senior leadership team of a publicly traded pharmaceutical company.
- I get along well with others. Nothing is worse in government than people who can't get along. I may not agree with everyone, but I promise that I will treat everyone with respect.
- I am open-minded. No one person or group has a monopoly on good ideas.



**Bernadette
Coghlan-
Walsh**

I have great respect for those willing to serve their community and give freely of their time to make our beloved Village a better place. I firmly believe that our Village needs public servants who have varied backgrounds and skills to provide us with knowledge, expertise and diversity on many fronts.

I realize the importance of giving back and sharing your skills. I'm involved in various activities within Ridgewood, but I truly enjoy serving the community as a Councilwoman the most. My experience in project management and my measured approach to planning have been a benefit to the Village. I'm always respectful of other opinions and find collaboration expands the realm of possibilities. As a property owner, taxpayer and parent – I have a stake in our community and assure the electorate I will always do what is in the Village's best interest.



**Mahmoud
Hamza**

I love Ridgewood. It is my home and where I chose to raise my family. I have lived here the major part of my life. I want to give back to the Village, do my share, and show my gratitude by serving the community.

I strongly believe that with my background and experience, I can serve the wider range of Ridgewood residents:

- Being a member of the Ridgewood aging community and approaching retirement, I understand empty nesters and those who want to age-in-place here in the Village.
- Having raised six children in the Village who are now young adults and starting their careers and families, I understand the challenges and needs of young families.
- Being a minority myself, who used to be part of the majority in my native country, I empathize with and understand both groups.

Since moving to the States, I have been active in serving the community, be it the community where I live or the larger community. I strongly believe that I cannot live happily if my neighbor has a problem, I cannot enjoy my liberty if it is taken away from others nor can I benefit from justice if others suffer from injustice.



Pam Perron

I was born and raised in Ridgewood, and I love my hometown. Now it is time for me to give back to my neighbors. I have been a public servant for most of my legal career, first as an Assistant U.S. Attorney representing the United States of America and now representing indigent individuals in State court.

I respect the current Council members; however, I can provide a fresh, independent perspective. I feel strongly that communication with Village residents and businesses must be improved. We also need to help our downtown recover and revitalize. And preserving our natural environment can't wait.

The Covid-19 pandemic shows that local government can communicate and collaborate with resident volunteers, downtown businesses, and Valley Hospital. We should continue working together to strengthen our community.



**Lorraine
Reynolds**

“Attending Village Council and Planning Board meetings regularly for nearly 20 years has given me a comprehensive understanding of the history of issues and decisions that affect many aspects of residents’ daily lives. With a seat on the Council, I could apply decades of knowledge and experience to serve my fellow residents.”

Through observing many land use applications before the Planning Board, I learned that the selection of board members by the Council can literally make or break the Village’s future. The high-density multifamily projects now under construction in Ridgewood’s historic Central Business District will change our town forever.

The Village Council serves as the Board of Directors for Ridgewood Water. Water is a finite resource that must be protected for future generations. As a Council member I will work to ensure the continued delivery of safe water to all customers.

I understand the complexity and challenges of representing all Village residents, especially with competing interests vying for valuable tax dollars. I’m committed to serving our community honestly, openly, and diligently.”



Question 2: Our CBD (Central Business District) has been through some difficult times regarding parking issues, high rent, and recently with store and business closings due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. What are your thoughts and ideas on how we might help in the revitalization of our downtown?



Lorraine Reynolds

As a member of the Central Business District Advisory Committee since its inception, I have worked on strategies, programs, improvements, and enhancements for a more vibrant CBD. On the Council I will order an immediate review of CBD zoning restrictions, create business improvement incentives and urge landlords to maintain attractive window displays in vacant storefronts. On Village Council I will work with landlords to encourage strategies to assist in the recovery from the pandemic's economic devastation.

When physical distancing ends, people will be eager for group activities and shopping. Business owners might offer creative activities and incentives that can't be done online. Business owners should brainstorm now about ways to attract shoppers and diners downtown and how to collaborate. For example, people might enjoy creative combination specials such as a his and hers haircut, a meal, a movie, dessert, and discounted parking in the new garage.



Sergio Alegre

The CBD is one of the Village's jewels and should be treasured. It is not, however, without its challenges. We must agree that while there is no magic spell that will return the CBD to its thriving heyday, there are many things that we can do to encourage more visitors, and in turn, more business.

I plan on focusing on the following:

- Emphasizing pedestrian and vehicular safety
- Implementing creative ideas to address the parking needs
- Beautifying the common areas
- Communicating closely with the Chamber of Commerce and existing businesses
- Marketing the CBD to residents of the Village and other towns
- Creating a business-friendly environment that will encourage investment
- Review and amend the current B1 and B2 zones in the CBD to encourage more modern, experience-driven retail that can compete with the rise of online shopping.



**Bernadette
Coghlan-
Walsh**

We have seen the perseverance and collaboration to keep the CBD vibrant. Picking up food curbside to support restaurants and buying gift cards. Anticipating the pandemic will end soon, there may be a shift in consumer behavior and dollars spent.

The quarantine's end will engage the community in activities again. Treasured downtown events have been canceled so we need to collaborate with the Chamber and Guild to reengage residents in outdoor activities in the CBD. Dining, shopping, music and activities to ease people back into coming downtown. A "Shop Local" campaign allows the Village to cooperate with local businesses to bring our community back and jumpstart retail business. While we don't have control over landlords and rents, we advocate for small business making sure they receive the benefit of Village services. Ensuring the CBD looks its best; Vibrant tree wells, clean streets and sidewalks makes for an enjoyable trip downtown.



**Mahmoud
Hamza**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent disastrous fire are having and will continue to have a serious impact on the Village. We cannot let these unfortunate events dampen our spirits, we have to keep pushing forward.

First priority is to help small business owners to survive. We can assist them to navigate through the maze of Federal relief programs and any other similar State programs.

I strongly believe that a vibrant downtown is important for Ridgewood. Not only does it contribute to tax revenues, but it also meets the need of the residents and adds more charm to the Village.

While online shopping and the lack of parking contribute to the problem, we need to look further for other reasons why people do not come to shop and dine downtown. I would like to reconfigure CBD Advisory Committee to include seniors, young people, students from RHS, families with young children and CBD business owners and employees to exchange ideas. I would also advocate soliciting input from subject matter experts and residents from neighboring towns. **[continued on next page]**



**Mahmoud
Hamza**

[continued] We also need to do a better job promoting CBD within our own community and beyond in the social media. I will work with business owners and others to develop an app that pushes special events and promotions in CBD.

Other ideas like parking vouchers/discounts for those who shop or dine in town, more events such as those sponsored by both the Guild and the Chamber, more street side fairs for the local businesses and restaurants and soliciting new business ideas are on the table.



Pam Perron

Our CBD is distinctive. While our excellent school system may draw newcomers, often it is the downtown that keeps residents here after their children have grown. In fact, more than half the households in town have no children attending our public schools. We must help the business district thrive to protect our homeowner property values and keep tax hikes in check.

Ridgewood businesses have struggled to survive since the 2008 recession. Thirty storefronts stood vacant before Covid-19 (up from 20 just two years ago). Actually, rents have been falling; landlords have had to accommodate their tenants' needs and offer allowances to keep those merchants viable. In turn, landlords have applied to the Village and received tax abatements such that Ridgewood's commercial ratables have steadily declined. We residents absorb this lost revenue. Therefore, we need to work together with the business community to rebuild. When the CBD succeeds, we all succeed.

The Council should appoint residents to the CBD Advisory Committee who have professional backgrounds in urban planning, municipal finance or community redevelopment.

The Village should consider matching community development block grants for storefront businesses, as Jersey City has done. Depending upon the pandemic's outcome, the Council might consider declaring another portion of our downtown an economic redevelopment zone as a possible avenue to recovery.

Post-pandemic, we may need to waive or lower parking fees to entice shoppers and diners to visit our Village. The Council should also arrange off-site parking with shuttle service for CBD employees to free up parking.



Question 3: There has been much talk in the Village regarding the timing of elections and whether schools should be closed to students on these days. Our schools will be closed for the November 3rd General Election. This appears to be a one-time occurrence according to the current Board of Education. What are your thoughts on continuing as is with separate BOE and Council elections, possibly combining them or moving all elections to November? Do support a district wide effort to encourage Mail-in-Ballots?



Pam Perron

To increase voter turnout, save taxpayers money, and enhance safety in our public schools, I support combining the Board of Education and Municipal Elections. The turnout in local elections has historically been meager (only 14% for our last Board of Ed budget vote). Joining the two will likely increase voter participation and lower the costs.

I am interested to see how the experiment with an entirely vote-by-mail election turns out. If turnout is significantly higher and costs substantially lowered, and fraud does not become an issue, I would not oppose keeping local elections off-cycle in the Spring, so that voters can concentrate on local issues, without the distraction of national politics.



Lorraine Reynolds

Board of Education and municipal elections should remain separate, in the spring, so that our local non-partisan elections and issues are not buried under partisan county, state, and federal concerns.

The only way for residents to influence the school budget—which they pay for—is to vote before the budget is completed in the summer. Legal loopholes have already resulted in the doubling of school tax increase without voter approval.

More candidates appear when elections are held in the spring. In the 5 years since the BOE election was moved to November, incumbents ran unchallenged all but once. The election that was to have been held in April this year, but was moved to May due to the coronavirus, finally includes a robust choice of candidates—a healthy development.

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**Lorraine
Reynolds**

[continued] Holding April elections is well worth the small cost, less than \$2 per registered voter. As a result of Covid-19, the 2020 elections by mail-in ballot will provide an opportunity for a more comprehensive evaluation, resulting in a better understanding about how to conduct future elections.



Sergio Alegre

I believe there are two very important reasons why you would not want to combine the BOE and VC elections with those held in November. First, if the BOE elections were moved to November, residents would not be permitted to vote on all school budgets. The school budget is far too important to not allow residents a direct vote. Second, our municipal government is non-partisan. Both the BOE and VC elections are run without regard to political party. It would be impossible to separate political parties from local elections if held in November. The lawn signs alone would be a clash between partisan and non-partisan elections. Schools should be closed on election day for the safety of the children. Teachers can move professional development days and there will be no impact. Mail-in ballots should be encouraged to the extent that they can be shown to increase voter turnout.



**Bernadette
Coghlan-
Walsh**

The object is to gain participation by the educated electorate. This strengthens our democracy and provides a gauge to the community's desires. Ridgewood has maintained a decision to be Non-Partisan. It preserves the integrity of voting for residents who have the Village's best interest at heart and not partisan politics. The BOE election in April allows for residents to choose BOE members based on that role and budget.

I support an effort to encourage the electorate to have a consistent voting record by option of a mail in ballot and support educating the electorate on how to improve this process and increase voter turnout.



**Mahmoud
Hamza**

Although BOE and the Council are two different identities, they are very connected. Their funding comes from the same taxpayer base. I think it makes good sense to combine the BOE and Council elections. This will help our constituents to see the overall budget implications on the Village.

As for combining local board elections with the general election — even if it results in financial savings and a larger voter turnout — I am concerned that the general election will dwarf the Village election and that voters may not pay sufficient attention to local issues and candidates. I would like to review more data from other municipalities before making a final decision.



Question 4: Regarding the district budget and rising taxes, how best can we meet our Village needs while being conscious of the tax levy? Would you consider additional shared services, reduction of some services and or areas which might be appropriate for privatization?



Mahmoud Hamza

1. Within the Village, first priority is to streamline the process to prevent waste and coordinate efforts across different departments.
2. We want the best for our schools, our library, and our Village services, we must ensure that we are not spending extravagantly in any area. I will work on better communication between BOE and the Council.
3. I am in favor of increasing shared services. I will ask department heads to see how we can cooperate with nearby municipalities and the County without degrading or compromising our services. This does not mean merging services with other towns. Ridgewood should keep its own departments.
4. I encourage privatization as long as it is within the Village Master plan. I will also aggressively pursue more grants, especially for our historical sites, open space and the environment.



Pam Perron

Our Village CFO recently stated that the municipality could run out of money by June 2020. Therefore, we should certainly look at opportunities for shared services that genuinely save money, bearing in mind that sometimes the savings don't materialize. I would ask a team of Village leadership to meet with the Ridgewood school district leadership to review what opportunities exist (energy use, landscaping, vehicle and field maintenance, custodial services, etc.) and then cost out the options from there. Similarly, I would meet with other municipalities to see if our courts, police and fire departments could share physical assets or personnel.

Let's reduce garbage disposal costs by instituting an eco-friendly community-wide food waste composting program.

I oppose privatization of essential government functions such as tax collection, public safety and water supply. Nevertheless, I would consider outsourcing lesser tasks such as payroll.



**Lorraine
Reynolds**

The municipal budget represents only about 23% of each tax dollar. The current Council has mostly stayed below the 2% cap for increases. Yet services were maintained, roads paved, parks improved. I'm committed to quality municipal services, smooth roads, clean streets, a restored tree canopy, outstanding public safety, and beautiful parks.

Some shared services may be worth considering. The April 5 North Broad Street fire, however, reinforced my belief that we should not share services for Fire or Police. In an emergency, a speedy response is essential. And Ridgewood is larger than most nearby towns. I would work to maintain revenue streams currently used to offset municipal taxes while exploring new revenue opportunities.



Sergio Alegre

The most difficult, and possibly the most important, set of decisions that a councilperson must make is how to reconcile the needs of the Village within the realities of the budget. New Jersey has one of the highest overall tax burdens in the nation, and the highest property tax burden. We need to be conscientious stewards of our resident's money and not spend it inefficiently or on vanity projects. Additional shared services should absolutely be explored in order to benefit from economies of scale and to save money. We must, however, be vigilant that the quality of the services remains at the high level that we expect, and that any loss of control over such services does not in any way negatively impact the residents. Since the Board of Education controls 68 percent of local property taxes, it will be my top priority to reach out and work closely with the BOE to identify and execute potential shared services and budget savings.



**Bernadette
Coghlan-
Walsh**

The municipal budget is approximately 35% of the total tax levy. We have worked hard to increase collaboration with adjoining municipalities for Shared services within our Court System, Central Dispatch and County Police Personnel to name a few. Shared Services is an economical way to reduce municipal costs and keep key services running smoothly. I've always advocated exploring new ideas and partnerships.

We are continually challenged to think outside the box. Services can be re-examined and reconfigured. Our recycle center has become more efficient allowing residents to bring additional types debris to the center. A simple action with cost savings to our DPW overall budget. The goal is always optimizing overall operation.



Question 5: For several years, Ridgewood has been dealing with issues of possible over-development: 1) Valley Hospital Expansion, 2) Ramifications of high-density ordinances, 3) Current requests from private developers for other projects. We are now in the process of preparing a new master plan focusing on a vision for our future. What are your views regarding how best to move forward, balancing current and future development, while maintaining the character and aesthetics of our village?



**Bernadette
Coghlan-
Walsh**

The Ridgewood Planning and Recreation guide from 1930 was a glimpse of what people thought they'd need moving forward to 1950. Surprisingly, things they held dear aren't different from what are important aspects of any visioning process for Ridgewood. We have NJ Transit running through Ridgewood. This assists our appeal and economy by transporting commuters. Our lifeblood is the stability of employment options and the ability to cover our tax base.

Coupled with economic considerations is a need for a vibrant community center – we have this in our CBD and a large percentage of our total tax levy comes from properties within. Mindful that many existing properties don't have a residential component, we must ensure that the money collected from the CBD is reinvested there as well. This must be balanced with the impending new development under construction. This new tax burden and accompanying school impact will be new territory for us. Balance must be created with the value of services and impact to the CBD and Village as a whole.

As mentioned earlier, additional assets of the Village need to be protected and examining in the Visioning process. Parks & Recreation facilities serve the 8500 households on a daily basis. Reinvesting in these programs, keeps our residents healthy and active. The Ridgewood Library is another topic mentioned in the historic book and serves as a key component to a thriving community. We as a Village need to maintain this established community asset.

A final note of Visioning, Ridgewood has a mixture of residences. The blend of housing allows for diversity within our community that is paramount to any thriving municipality in 2020 and beyond. Keeping the budget balanced strengthens property values and the appeal of our beloved Village.



Mahmoud Hamza

The impact of the new garage deck, the high-density buildings, and the coronavirus pandemic on the Village and its resources must be monitored and mitigated as required. But whether you supported or opposed the garage and the apartments, now more than ever we need to get together and move forward.

I have reviewed the proposed Master Plan thoroughly. It is a very good starting point. A lot of hard work was put into it with input from many residents. It is comprehensive and a good guideline on how to move forward.



Pam Perron

The character and aesthetics of our Village rest on the quality of our schools and vibrancy of our CBD. If we lose those two elements, then Ridgewood will no longer be an attractive place to live; our property values will plummet and homeowner tax rates will increase accordingly. The demand for housing in towns like Ridgewood, with a walkable CBD, is strong among both millennials and retirees. We ignore that trend at our peril. The four new apartment buildings currently under construction will add a total of 240 modern apartment units and will boost activity in our CBD. We must consider additional proposals with a sense of the balance between new tax revenues, aesthetics, and the added stress on our existing infrastructure.

The master plan should allow/encourage cluster housing, particularly for those over 55. This serves the environment better than single family homes and places less stress on municipal services.



Lorraine Reynolds

Ridgewood's Master Plan update is in progress. I believe public input and participation, in this process, are vital to ensure the document reflects stakeholders' views, values, and vision.

The approximately fifteen-year Planning Board process involving The Valley Hospital and high-density multifamily housing was completely avoidable. This process circumvented the Master Plan document through the ill-conceived Ordinance 3066, adopted in 2006. The ensuing litigation was also completely avoidable. Fortunately, 3066 was rescinded by the current Village Council in 2016. Understand that any future Village Council can restore it. Since the ordinance was rescinded, no high-density applications have been made before the Planning Board. **[continued on next page]**



Lorraine Reynolds

[continued] The key is to respect the concerns of the public. Getting our Master Plan revision right is the most important thing we can do for Ridgewood's future. A subcommittee of the Planning Board has been gathering data for over a year and will issue a report containing recommendations for the Council to consider.

In Master Plan surveys and workshops, residents' top concerns were to maintain Ridgewood's down-home feeling, preserve open space, plant more trees, and retain high-quality schools. I agree and will heed those wishes and plan accordingly.



Sergio Alegre

I firmly believe that the character of Ridgewood needs to remain as a Village. As Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment I have fought tirelessly against overdevelopment, and I will continue to do so if elected to the Village Council. This does not mean that I am anti-development; nothing could be further from the truth. I fully believe that reasonable development is

necessary; towns that see developers flee eventually wither away. We should encourage individuals and investors to develop the abandoned and underutilized parcels in order to beautify the town and increase our base of ratables. But any new development must be measured, and I will not support any additional development of the nature of the current recent projects.