

PATCHOGUE VILLAGE

Who will you vote for?

Patchogue Village to hold 2020 elections on March 18

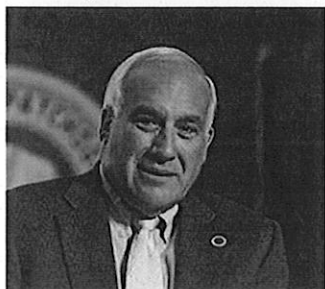
BY NICOLE FUENTES

The mayor's seat will be open, with incumbent Paul Pontieri running, currently unopposed. There are also three seats open, with all three incumbents running, including deputy mayor Jack Krieger and trustees Lori Devlin and Thomas Ferb. The election is at-large, meaning the three with the most votes take seats.

Only one person has announced a run rivaling the incumbents thus far and that is former Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce president and Toast general manager James Skidmore. Though it's still too early to officially file a petition, the first day to get petition signatures is Dec. 31, and the first day to file is Feb. 4.

Deadline to file petitions is February 11, 2020. Below are brief profiles on each of the candidates.

The Patchogue 2020 team: Mayor Paul Pontieri



At the head of the village is mayor Paul Pontieri, who will be seeking a fifth term after having served for a total of 16 years.

"It seems like forever," he said of his beloved elected position. "We have made a lot of progress, but we still have a lot left to do — promises we have made that need to be fulfilled."

The biggest thing on his list, he said, is getting a hotel in the village as well as continuing to look out for the quality of life of all village residents. The village, he explained, has an average age of 36, compared to the county's average age of 42.

"We need to take care of our young families that have moved in," he added, noting one of his priorities. "And you need experience to solve issues."

As for his team, he said, it understands the direction of the village, and each member brings something different to the table: Jack, the theater, family-minded trustee; Lori, the artists and the development planner; and Tom, the budget and finance man.

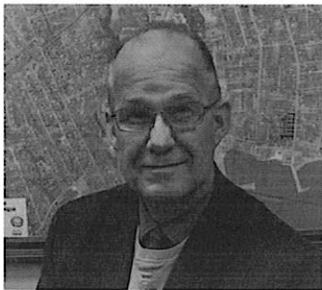
"I will work till my job is done," Pontieri added, explaining his reason for running for another term. "Back in when we first ran, we said, 'This is the next four years,' and here we are 16 years later, still looking at the next four years."

Deputy mayor Jack Krieger

As the veteran trustee on the board, deputy mayor Krieger is seeking re-election to what will be his fifth term on the board.

"I enjoy serving the community I live in, and we have a lot more to do," he said of why he should be re-elected.

Among his goals for his next term are to complete the development of the proposed parking garage, to take care of necessary paving projects and to continue to enforce safety in all neighborhoods.



Krieger, the father of three, lives in the village with his wife, Jennifer Ann. On the board he also serves as the Theatre liaison.

Trustee Lori Devlin

Trustee Devlin is the Arts Council liaison,



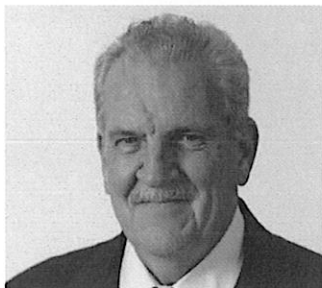
among other titles. She came to the board after being elected to fill a vacated seat during the middle of a four-year term back in 2006. She then went on to serve three more full terms; Devlin is now seeking re-election to her fourth. She currently lives in the village with her husband, John.

"I want to continue accomplishing what we have been," she said, hoping for a re-election. "This community is an incredible place with a great spirit of volunteerism. It's the community involvement that keeps me going, what we have accomplished and what we plan on accomplishing."

Her future goals include securing a site for a hotel and redeveloping the area across from the Blue Point Brewery on West Main Street; expanding the Long Island Museum of Contemporary Art with a larger collection of Long Island-based art; and further developing the recently rezoned Cultural Arts District on Terry Street.

Trustee Thomas Ferb

Known as the man with an eye on the



finances, Ferb will have served on the board for eight years at the end of this term; he served for a number of years on the zoning board prior to that. He is now seeking re-election to another term, his third.

A lot of what he does, he said, is not visible but certainly felt by reducing taxpayer cost. His philosophy is smart growth with some higher-density projects that help absorb the increases in operating the village, much of which, he said, happens due

to inflation.

"The pension and health care requirements handed down by the state often (are) greater than the 2-percent tax cap," he said, stating that it puts small villages between a "rock and a hard place."

He also hopes to continue with the expansion of projects like bringing a hotel to the village and in his position as the liaison for the BID and the Chamber.

"I really like it," he said of serving his community.

Newcomer seeks election

Former Chamber president runs for village trustees

BY NICOLE FUENTES

James Skidmore, the former president of the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Patchogue Foundation who just recently completed his term, has officially announced his run for



Village of Patchogue trustee. Skidmore is currently the general manager of Toast and a village resident with a new vision for his hometown.

"It would be hard to contest what the present administration has accomplished, but it would hardly be a democracy if it wasn't challenged," Skidmore said of his decision to run. "We need someone who supports positive momentum and who has fresh eyes to plant the seeds for the future — a future that respects the past and has insight to the generations that will follow."

His goals, should he be elected, include the betterment of Patchogue: to give further insight into present projects and to offer vision to the future of the community.

"I live, work, form connections and shop in the Village of Patchogue," he added. "Proud? I am Patchogue Proud! I seek to encourage transparency in our government and to engage our diverse community in the process of democracy and freedom."

Skidmore grew up on Silver Street in Patchogue with his parents and siblings, graduated from Patchogue-Medford High School in 1984, spent a brief time overseas studying philosophy in England, moved to the Bayport-Blue Point area and then finally settled back in Patchogue about 15 years ago.

At that time, he scheduled an interview with the BrickHouse Brewery & Restaurant, where he was then selected as entertainment manager, wearing many hats. A few years ago he moved on, taking the general manager position at Toast. He enjoys music, the arts and the newly revitalized village. ■

EAST PATCHOGUE



Suffolk Center receives national recognition

The Suffolk Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing on Schoenfeld Blvd. in Patchogue has received Tier 2 recognition by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living's (NCAL) "Quality Initiative Recognition Program" for 2020. The AHCA/NCAL commended the staff's proven commitment to quality and by indicating the Center's accomplishment is about improving the lives of the individuals the Center serves.

"Every associate at Suffolk Center, regardless of their role, is a dedicated and caring professional," said Paul Konstam, Administrator at Suffolk Center. "This award reflects only a small fraction of the heart and soul of our staff and, at the same time, amplifies the well-being of all of our residents, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Whether it is the holiday season or not, it's important to remember your relatives and friends who reside in skilled nursing facilities. This is our commitment to them."

The AHCA/NCAL has invited Suffolk Center to the upcoming Quality Summit in Grapevine, Texas, taking place March 9-11, 2020.

"Centers Health Care has always been proud of the work and commitment Mr. Konstam does with his staff and for his residents," said Kenny Rozenberg, CEO of Centers Health Care, the corporate entity that Suffolk Center is part of. "An award such as this is only proof of what an amazing facility Suffolk Center is and the great staff we employ. We are all about care for our residents and it is that staff and Mr. Konstam who provide that."

Pictured above from left to right are Paul Konstam, administrator; Emily Koplar, social worker; Alyse Gelenter, registered dietitian; Crystal Nevins, director of nursing services; Melissa Springer, rehabilitation director; Sandra Dwyer, RN, minimum data set; and Casey Quinn, recreation director.

Courtesy photo