

Together for Tomorrow

We live in a great place in New Jersey. Otherwise, why are we here? We live in a gorgeous setting that includes the natural world of the Pine Barrens. Photographers flock to our parks and shoreline to capture its beauty. Families enjoy the lakes and waterways. We live among friendly, caring people with good schools and transportation. And, as our community grows, we can and should have a say in its direction including our roads, schools, and economy, all the while doing no harm and retaining our natural resources.

Nostalgia for a 'simpler' time is often a fallacy of childhood memory. We cannot be the town time forgot and expect a good living and working environment tomorrow. Progress is a friend. It is how we achieve the future we envision. As with any living and growing entity, there are decisions that must be made on how we educate, support, and decide on issues so that we can achieve our expectations. For example, in our elections we put our trust in those people who best represent our present and evolving opinions on where we want our town to go. Those who represent us, in turn, must know what we, their constituents, are thinking. Because time is hard to find for most of us to keep up with changes in town, the tendency is to keep the same people in charge. What this tells our officials is that everything they have done is just fine and to keep on keeping on. This occurs at every level including church, town, state, and country. Instead, social media is often used to point out some problem or complaint. Many of these 'conversations' get contentious so that good ideas can fall to the wayside with the bad. Here are some pointers on how to go about involvement and communicating our best ideas so that we are getting the change necessary for our successful future. It is so important to make time to:

- Attend community meetings and get together so that you truly know your town and its current issues
- First, listen. Learn what you have in common with your conversant
- Volunteer with local causes important to you and your family
- Speak up! Ask questions in a clear and respectful tone. Offer your ideas
- Your opinion is important only if it is factual * Read and listen to several sources of news and opinion. Consider the source
- Learn patience with those with whom you disagree. Tomorrow is another day
- When you have an idea: Think long term. Don't try to 'win'. All you want is for others to 'think'
- Be aware of your delivery-of-ideas-skills and improve them if necessary

We have elections coming soon with so many different ways to vote: By mail, early voting and traditional in-person. Your vote counts.