

Mary Jo for Mayor

May 26, 2015 (Introductory Postcard)

Dear Residents and Neighbors,

I am Mary Jo Guinchard and I am running for Mayor in the Village of Tuxedo Park.

I have been a homeowner in Tuxedo Park since 1999 and for the last two years, I have had the honor of serving as your Trustee. I have proven that I am resourceful, an independent thinker, and a careful listener who takes effective action to preserve our historic Village's unique beauty.

As your Trustee, I have gained experience around the many resources at our fingertips to safeguard and improve our community's future. If elected as your Mayor, my focus during my tenure will be to:

- Preserve and protect our Village's beautiful landscapes, lakes, and drinking water
- Reconcile our taxes to maximize opportunity
- Streamline decision making processes

During the past two years as your Trustee, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you. As your Trustee, I have made strides and as your Mayor, the Board of Trustees and I will work together with residents, the Tuxedo Park Police, the DPW, the various other Village Boards, the Town of Tuxedo, etc. to provide effective solutions for the Village's challenges; forming a resident financial review committee will be a first step to provide transparency, one I will champion if given the opportunity to take the seat as your Mayor. By incorporating a more transparent framework, I hope to encourage participation from the community, foster involvement in our governing process and minimize litigation to the extent possible through mitigation.

I will be a transparent, decisive, and resourceful Mayor and serve as your representative.

Thank you for your vote and support. Please contact me via the methods below if you have any questions or if you need an absentee ballot. I would love to hear from you and visits are always welcome.

Sincerely,



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Tuxedo Park NY 10987
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June 4, 2015 (Follow-up Letter)

Dear Residents and Neighbors,

This is a follow-up letter to my introductory postcard.

1. On the Village website, on April 22, 2015, our Mayor wrote the following about the Causeway Wall settlement:

"A settlement was hammered out by Trustees Guinchard and Kilduff, along with Village resident Alan Yassky."

While I am very appreciative that the Mayor and Board of Trustees voted 5-0 in favor of the Causeway Wall settlement, the Village did not need to wait 2 years for this final result.

Since my election as your Trustee in June 2013, I worked relentlessly to solve the Causeway Wall issue. I continually met with Cindy Booth to keep the communication channel open and to propose solutions. Ms. Booth is the homeowner involved with the Causeway Wall. I also was in communication with Alan Yassky with regard to the Causeway wall. In the end, Trustee Kilduff and I met with Ms. Booth and Mr. Yassky at my home over dinner where we drafted the settlement terms that were presented to and finally agreed to by the Mayor and Trustees. Mr. Yassky is the resident personally overseeing the project for free. More importantly, the wall is now beautifully restored and the Causeway could be open as soon as today.

From my perspective, the financial risk and liability to the Village of an uncertain legal outcome and continued closure of the Causeway for an indefinite period were too great relative to the \$135,000 settlement amount that we agreed to (especially when compared with our Village engineering firm's cost projection of approximately 2.5 times this amount before litigation costs).

2. The 2015/16 fiscal year budget for legal fees is \$100,000. I will rein in these fees. First, I will not have a lawyer present at every Board of Trustees meeting, and second, to the maximum extent possible, my Board and I will maintain an open dialogue with all residents and proactively deal with and mitigate disputes before these escalate to litigation.

As your Trustee, I have been firm with respect to keeping the budget within the NYS mandated cap each year. I will re-introduce the resident Financial Committee to assist the Board of Trustees with monthly reviews of the budget and financial planning.

3. I suggested and created a Welcome Packet for new (as well as existing) Village residents. It is now posted on the Village Website at www.tuxedopark-ny.gov and is available in hard copy at the Village Office and front gate. This is part of my transparency pledge. This packet was a collaborative process whereby every Trustee and the Mayor, the chairpersons of the BAR, Planning Board and BZA,

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the Tuxedo Park Police and Fire Departments, the Village Clerk and Village Building Inspector (in addition to various clubs) wrote informative letters to new and existing residents. The Welcome Packet also contains a list of key telephone numbers, websites and important information from the Police.

4. Since Trustee Gluck was elected last June, he and I have met various times each month to review the Village Code. Paul and I have presented various proposals to the Board of Trustees to revise certain sections of the Village Code. One such proposal enacted into law by the Board of Trustees updates the language with respect to the issuance of Building Permits. As your Mayor, I will continue this process of streamlining our Village Code going forward.
5. As your Trustee, some further accomplishments include the following: I negotiated the Village cable and garbage collection contracts. I submitted a claim for storm damage sustained on the Village's entry "Keep" roof. The Village received the proceeds and repaired the damage to the "Keep" roof with no impact to the budget. I applied for (and the Village received) a grant through Cablevision for video equipment to stream Village meetings. Most recently, I resolved a significant water bill issue for a Village resident.
6. All residents agree that protecting our lakes and drinking water is paramount. It is our duty as a Board to use best management practices with respect to maintaining the fragile ecosystem of our lakes and to proactively deal with invasive plants and other threats in a cost efficient manner.
7. With respect to the Town of Tuxedo, I have an excellent relationship with our Town Supervisor, Mike Rost. We speak often and discuss many of the issues that are in front of both the Town and the Village.

As your Mayor, I will continue with my commitment to improve and preserve our Village's way of life. Please contact me via the methods below or visit me at my home anytime with your questions. You may also join me to discuss anything on your mind at my Open Houses at my home, from 2PM-4PM, on Sunday June 7th and June 14th.

**I ask for your vote on June 16th either in person or by absentee (attached).
The Village election will take place at the Village Office, 80 Lorillard Road, PO
Box 31, Tuxedo Park, NY 10987.**

Respectfully,



Trustee Mary Jo Guinchard
Candidate for Mayor of the Village of Tuxedo Park
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