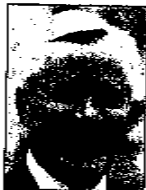


Saturday, July 7, 2007

READER'S VIEWS

City needs mayor with ability to cooperate



**SCOTT
JOHNSON**

Since my recent announcement to run for mayor, some people have asked why anyone would want to be mayor. In large measure, these questions are prompted by the uncontrolled deterioration in the conduct of our city council, more aptly termed a council of chaos and a public embarrassment.

I decided not to remain on the sidelines as a bystander and, instead, chose to act. To coin an old adage, I will lead by example. I am running as your next mayor to restore leadership, stress fiscal responsibility and seek common sense solutions to the important issues facing our city.

Regardless of party affiliation, all fellow Saratogians deserve and

demand better representation. The current administration has failed to lead us toward effective solutions for the tasks at hand. As a successful litigating attorney with over 25 years experience, I have made my living the old fashioned way: I earned it. I bring to the table the necessary skills and demeanor to build consensus, as needed, coupled with the ability to recognize why and when to stand your ground. Fiscal responsibility and tax burden, now and for future generations, must govern for any administration to be effective.

My opponents, Mayor Kœhn and Gordon Boyd, have not been able to build consensus within their own party. If you cannot unite your own party, then how can you succeed in uniting those from other parties and the community at large? It makes absolutely no difference to me if a good idea comes from a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Conserva-

tive or non-affiliated citizen. Our community needs a leader who will take an idea, from whatever source, and do what it takes to make it happen. It should be shared issues and cooperative solutions that matter, not party affiliation.

Having grown up in the West Side's Dublin, and then Jefferson Terrace, I appreciate our city's roots and strong sense of family, with neighborhoods and families looking out for one another. I graduated from St. Peter's Academy. As a teenager, I remember busing tables at Colamaria's, selling clothing at Mr. Jack's, bell hopping at the Holiday Inn, doing summer maintenance for the school district, all during a time when Saratoga did not enjoy the prosperity of today.

Times have changed but we must remember and respect our proud heritage. We must embrace what good the future brings, while pre-

serving what makes Saratoga so special. Toward that end, I offer a perspective enriched by proven community values.

On a familial note, my wife, Julie, and I returned here in 1987 to begin our family. Our son, Conor, is a junior at Spa Catholic. We hope to be meeting many of you as we canvass neighborhoods throughout the campaign.

I will be addressing specific issues of concern to us all. I write today to simply open the door to discussion. I can and will be a full time Mayor. Please visit or contact me at www.ScottJohnsonForMayor.com and ScottJohnsonForMayor@yahoo.com.

Everyone is welcome to join me in the cause.

Scott Johnson is the Republican candidate for mayor of Saratoga Springs.