



# MENDHAM TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATS

## Announcing our 2019 candidates

We are pleased to announce that community volunteers Ryan Guthrie, 33, and Melissa Saharko, 36, are entering local politics for the first time to run for two seats on the Mendham Township Committee. The two are young parents and newcomers to politics. They hope to bring the perspective of the next generation of Mendham residents to the Township Committee. They both possess deep professional experience as problem solvers.

"I've devoted my career to helping people make good financial decisions and plan for the future," Guthrie said. "I will bring the same passion, skills, and professionalism to this office if I'm lucky enough to serve." Guthrie, a graduate of Mendham High School, is a Vice President Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. He received his degree in Economics from the University of Vermont. Immediately after moving back to town, Guthrie began giving back to the community, volunteering on the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee and the Master Plan Re-examination Committee. He is also Vice Chair of the Board of Adjustment. Guthrie lives with his wife, Taylor, who was born and raised in Mendham Township. Ryan and Taylor have two daughters, ages 1 and 3. Taylor is a consultant and entrepreneur. She also is on the Mendham Township Library Board of Trustees and leads Tinkergarten outdoor classes in Mendham.

Melissa Saharko brings her commitment to creative solutions and stellar constituent service to her candidacy. Saharko grew up on a farm in rural Texas and is proud to call Mendham Township her new home. A graduate of Texas A&M University, she began her career at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. That opportunity launched a career of public service in museums and libraries that includes stints at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress. She holds a masters in library science and serves on the Township's Historic Preservation Committee. She is using the skills she learned in graduate school in an ambitious effort to digitize the town's records. Saharko lives with her husband, Peter, and their son, 5, and daughter, 2. Their daughter is in the Tiny Tigers program, and their son will start kindergarten at Mendham Township Elementary School this fall.

"We moved to Mendham in part because of the impressive reputation of the school system and the pastoral nature of the community," Saharko said. "We have been impressed by the services offered by the school and the community's engagement. Serving on the Historic Preservation Committee has taught me so much about Mendham's rich history. That combination of fertile past and bright future inspire me to work to ensure Mendham remains a desirable place to live."

### Learn more about the candidates:

- Check out [their website](#)

- Like and follow them on [Facebook](#)
- Attend the Campaign 2019 Launch Party on May 3 at 7 p.m. at the home of Meghan Gregory, 124 Mountainside Road. (Parking is limited so please consider carpooling).



### **Mendhams Dems & Friends**

The Mendham Township and Mendham Borough Democrats have formed a social club called Mendhams Dems & Friends. Its purpose is to support Democratic candidates and causes, focused at the local level, by organizing and running interesting and fun social events that will welcome not only registered Democrats but all potential voters.

The club will run as a wholly separate organization from the official Borough and Township Democratic Committees and campaigns but will partner with them. There are no dues; events will be paid through small door fees and voluntary donations at events. Like and follow the group on [Facebook to learn more](#).

### **Upcoming Democratic events:**

- **May 3**—Mendham Township and Borough Campaign 2019 Launch Party, co-hosted by the Mendham Township Democratic campaign committee, the Mendham Borough Democratic campaign committee,

and the Mendhams Dems & Friends. Home of Meghan Gregory, 124 Mountainside Road, Mendham.  
Please carpool if possible.

### Upcoming Community events:

- **April 16**—Autism Awareness & Education Panel, Mendham Township Library, 7 p.m. featuring Trish O'Brien, our 2018 candidate and occupational therapist, a representative from Autism Speaks, and several parents. Hosted by Mendham Township Committeewoman Amalia Duarte as part of the Mendhams Stigma-Free Task Force.
- **April 22** – Community Seder hosted by residents including Jennifer Dubeck, Hilary Kelly, and Debbi Pollinger Dolce. Brookside Community Club, 5 p.m. \$18/adult or \$36/family. [Reserve your spot ahead of time.](#)
- **April 23**—Township Committee meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Public hearing and adoption of the 2019 municipal budget.
- **April 28**—Ralston Playground Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-Opening, 4-7 p.m. This will be a fun, family event with food trucks, games, and fire trucks and an ambulance for kids to explore. Thanks to Mendham Township Committeewoman Amalia Duarte for leading the effort to restore the playground. Come celebrate! (Rain date May 5).
- **June 15**—Patriot's 5K Race and Kids Fun Run. [Register today](#) for this great community event in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.