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Infrastructure, Communication Priorities In The Borough Election

Warden And Burgesses Candidates Seek To Maintain Quality Of Life

By [Bree Shirvell](#) | [Email the author](#) | April 18, 2011

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Small quaint streets and tranquil spots mixed with passionate people make up the seaside village of Stonington Borough.

It's that character and quality of life the two warden, nine burgesses, two clerk-treasurers and unopposed tax collector and tax assessor candidates will seek to maintain if elected.

Streets and infrastructure projects are often the most important priorities for the borough. The narrow historic streets often take a wear and despite a \$100 fine for parking on the curb, trucks and cars often inadvertently drive up on the curbs causing damage.

But the small village, with a separate government, often has a hard time acquiring the funds for infrastructure projects. Current Burgess of Public Buildings Jeffrey Callahan, up for re-election as an unaffiliated candidate, said that the biggest failure of the borough government over the past two years was the inability to repair more streets for lack of funds.

Current Warden Don Maranell (D), [also up re-election](#), said the board is working off a list of street repairs based on an engineering study. Maranell added that after the elections he would like a subcommittee formed to see if borrowing some money to repair the worst streets would be better than doing it in bits in pieces. And current Burgess Paul Burgess (R), [seeking the warden position](#), said he would like to work on making the street repairs more cost effective, something he believes his engineering background may help with.

The lack funds often has to due with the small size of the borough, which makes it difficult if not impossible for the borough to be eligible for the same type of federal funds as other municipalities and can often make it hard to bid on projects.

Possible solutions could be borrowing some money to repair the worst streets or working with the Town of Stonington to bid on some projects, possibility making it more effective for both.

Another priority for the borough is communication. Current Burgess of Parks, Tress and Rights of Way Howard Park (R), also up for re-election, believes the biggest failure of the government over the past two years is that borough residents don't always take advantage of the borough government or come to the Board of Warden and Burgesses meetings to voice their opinions. That lack of communication is often cited when talking about the passionate debate that surrounded restoring Cannon Square.

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“Things could’ve been done to get people more involved,” Burgess said.

And Maranell hopes to have the public’s input when it comes to solving other borough issues, such as speeding, saying that having residents voice their opinions will help maintain the quality of life.

That quality of life is what many of the candidates hope to keep by getting residents’ opinions on issues such as maintaining and restoring parks like La Gruea park and the stone crosswalks throughout the borough.

Residents will have their say on what’s most important to them on May 2. Today is the [last day to register to vote by mail](#), but [registration in person is open until April 25](#).

What do you think the priorities of the Borough Government should be? [Tell us in the comments](#).

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