

CHOOSE CANDIDATES
MARCH 29



VID NEWS
224 W. Fourth St.
New York, 14 N.Y.

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Committee Hearings

COMMUNITY ACTION (Carol Greitzer, chrnm.). As a result of committee work the club has taken action to urge the City to: 1. Convert the Jefferson Market Court-house into a library. 2. Protest the small number of family units in NYU's Title 1 project at Washington Square Village. 3. Permanently close Washington Square Park to traffic. It is also reviewing a number of other traffic proposals.

* * *

FLIGHT (Alan Kohn, chrnm.). VID members and their families are signing up for the first-class charter flight to Europe via KLM; arriving London, Sept. 15; re-turning from Amsterdam Oct. 16. Members call Alan Kohn (GR 5-2736) for information.

* * *

STATE LEGISLATURE (Jan Goodman, chrnm.). VID recently participated in the city-wide Legislative Conference on State

Issues--the first major city-wide conference held by the NYCDV (Reform Movement). Two VID people prominent at the conference: John Westergaard as general chairman; Don Davis leading a panel on charter reform. State Controller Arthur Levitt was keynote speaker and panelists included State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein and Assemblyman Bentley Kassal and Mark Lane. Borough President Dudley also addressed the conference which issued position papers on housing, legislative and charter reform, and civil rights.

* * *

In another action VID sponsored a bus to the Rent Control Rally and Tenants March on Albany. VID took a firm stand to strengthen rent control and close loopholes in existing law to restrict demolition, dislocation, and hardship increases

MEMBERSHIP (Barbara King, chrnm.) A drive to bring VID's total membership to 1000 is beginning with letters to all E.D. Captains asking for names of possible new members. An advertising campaign in *The Village Voice* and *The Villager* will encourage reform-minded Villagers to join the club and work in the coming Primary.

VID news

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6

MARCH 1961

The Primary Fight: Members to Choose Candidates

Lanigan, Westergaard to Seek Nomination, March 29 Meeting



VID will show boss-ruled Tammany how it's done when its membership democratically elects candidates to oust Carmine De Sapio and Elsie Gleason Mattura as Greenwich Village District Leaders.

VID's candidates will be chosen at a membership meeting at TWU Hall, 12th Street and University Place, 8:00 P.M., March 29.

Two prominent Democrats, James Lanigan and John Westergaard, have been actively seeking the VID nomination. Lanigan, 42, is a lawyer with a distinguished record of party service. He was a founder, and member of the executive committee of the NYCDV (Reform Movement); a deputy campaign director for Stevenson in '52 and '56; and winner of the VID Primary fight for State Committee last year.

Westergaard, 30, a political economist and financial writer, demonstrated remarkable vote-getting power in his race for State Senator

last year; participated in John F. Kennedy's first Senatorial campaign; and did organizational party work in California in 1954-55.

Outlining VID's job in the months to come, Lanigan said, "I think this campaign is going to be the toughest VID has ever had. It is no longer enough to be against Mr. De Sapio. We must come to the voters with a positive program of party reorganization. And in the campaign we must show the voters what party reorganization means to them in their everyday lives."

Noting that the defeat of De Sapio will have far-reaching repercussions, Westergaard said, "Democrats in the Village must recognize that the outcome of this VID campaign will critically affect the future course of the New Frontier, both in Washington and in New York. I hope, as a candidate, to make this issue clear between now and Primary day."

VID President Ed Gold named Herb Rosenberg, assistant campaign manager in the last two Primary battles, as the new campaign manager.

On the distaff side, as we go to press three women have been mentioned to round out VID's district leadership team, but none has committed herself to the race. They are: Carol Greitzer, Elinor Herron, and Paula Whiteman. All are active in the club. Mrs. Greitzer is a founding member and past President; Miss Herron is now corresponding secretary; and Miss Whiteman is social chairman.

--SPECIAL BULLETIN. Candidates for District Leader Female will be interviewed and chosen at membership meetings on April 13 and 20.

V I D N E W S 224 West 4th Street
Chelsea 3-6555

published monthly by

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Ed Gold | President

James S. Lanigan | State Committee
Sarah Schoenkopf

Staff: Ray Bentley, Editor; Pat
Chapman, Bobbie DeJoia, Phyllis
Hoffzimer, Estelle Liberman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Choosing District Leader Candidates

Wednesday, March 29, 8:00 P.M., TWU
Hall, 12th Street and University Place.
(See page 1 article.)

Polio Clinic

Thursday, March 30, 7:30-8:30 P.M., polio
shots will be given to Villagers at cost (75¢),
at VID Headquarters, 224 W. 4th St.

Forum on Charter Reform

Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 P.M., TWU Hall,
12th Street and University Place, VID will
present a forum on charter reform. The
Mayor, Borough President, Controller, and
City Council have sent statements announcing
their positions and have been invited to speak.
At press time George Hallett of Citizens
Union, Mrs. Jerome Strauss, President of
the Women's City Club, and Seymour Graubard
of the Moore Commission have accepted invi-
tations.

WOMEN IN POLITICS



The young lady at left is
a newcomer to politics
but the Republican Opp-
osition already mentions
her name with a sigh.

Carmine De Sapio's Tam-
awa Club does not allow
women to join its ranks.
VID welcomes women as
members, workers, and
leaders. If you're a wo-
man--politically-minded--
join us. Application at
right.

Six VID Delegates Chosen To Serve Reform Movement

The voice of VID helped to bring the newly
reorganized New York Committee for Demo-
cratic Voters into being as an organization truly
dedicated to reform in the Democratic Party.

Bringing together reform groups throughout
the City, the committee, under its new structure,
embodies many of the democratic principles in-
cluded in VID's own constitution.

The new structure, a year in the making, was
approved by VID and other member clubs recently
and four delegates from the club were elected.

They are Don Davis, who was also chosen to
serve on the committee's executive board; Carol
Greitzer, Stan Geller and Ed Gold. Jim Lanigan
and Sarah Schoenkopf, State Committee members,
are delegates ex officio. VID alternate delegates:
Ed Koch, Micki Wolter, Art Pearlroth, and Mel
Kraft.

The proposed structure for the city-wide com-
mittee went through many drafts and revisions,
bouncing back and forth from VID and other mem-
ber clubs to the CDV structure committee.

At one point, VID recommended 31 changes,
most of them insuring that "ultimate power reside
in the General Committee" and tightening up require-
ments for membership; all of them were aimed at
making the document more democratic. Fourteen
of the major recommendations were adopted, a
victory for the VID viewpoint.

Stressing the importance of the NYCDV, Don
Davis, delegation chairman, said: "The whole
purpose of the movement is to gather steam for
party reform throughout the City. We can do this
only by joining with other like-minded clubs."

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed
is _____

(regular membership - \$5.00 -
sustaining membership - \$15.00)

I wish to contribute to VID's good work.

Enclosed is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

home
phone

business
phone

Shame of Greenwich Village

BY SARAH SCHOENKOPF, STATE COMMITTEEWOMAN

Save the Village, Stop Evictions, Don't
Demolish 15 Sheridan Square, Save Rent
Control; Stop Shulman on MacDougal Street,
on King Street, on Sullivan Street, on Waverly
Place; Save the Tenants on Verrazano Street.
These have been cries of the Village and this
reporter during the past year. And to that
we have now added; Don't Raze the West Village!

The Mythical Street

"Verrazano Street" is the thoroughfare
the City has wanted to build by demolishing a
group of tenements on Downing, Carmine and
Bedford Streets. After the City bought the
tenements ten years ago, it promptly became
the worst kind of landlord, ignoring violations,
severely limiting services and not painting for
years. But perhaps the worst crime of all was
the City's refusal to rent apartments as they
were vacated. Today, when Village families
are being evicted from their homes and are
driven to Queens and the Bronx, there are 70
vacant apartments in the "Verrazano Street"
buildings.

To focus attention on the blight of these
buildings and the plight of their tenants, a
VID crew painted a three-room apartment in
one day (with help from tenants). Our next
step was to invite Deputy Commissioner of the
Department of Real Estate, Joseph Loucheim
to meet the "Verrazano Street" tenants at VID
on December 6. Mr. Loucheim promised at
that meeting that the City would spend \$7,000
to repair and paint the apartments. Although
a part of the work was done, it stopped in
January.

The fate of "Verrazano Street" lies solely
with the Borough President--he will decide
whether to build the street or rehabilitate
the buildings if the street does not go through.
VID arranged a meeting for a delegation, in-
cluding several tenants, with Borough Presi-
dent Dudley on March 21.

Controlling Rent Control

Since December, much VID Housing Com-
mittee time has been spent trying to get a
stronger rent control law passed in the current
session of the State Legislature. To this end,
VID was a founding, and hard-working member
of HELP (Housing Emergency Legislative Pro-

gram) a city-wide group of 70 tenants organi-
zations and political clubs.

HELP sponsored an all-day conference on
January 14 to discuss the elimination of loop-
holes in the rent control law and other correc-
tive legislation. In addition, there was a HELP
rally at the Community Church on February 23
to plan the march to Albany which took place the
following week. VID sent a delegation to Albany
which included several tenants from buildings
our lawyers are defending.

Last week HELP and VID had a sound truck
on 8th Street urging Villagers to sign letters to
Governor Rockefeller demanding stronger rent
control. As we go to press, reform Democratic
Assemblyman and HELP Chairman Mark Lane
promises a floor fight in the Legislature for
stronger rent control "even if it means extending
the session."

What Happened to the Vest Pocket?

A City Planning Commission official remarked
privately last week, "What the Village doesn't want,
it doesn't get." The comment was based on the ex-
perience of the Village with City Hall during the
past year and a half, beginning with our successful
battle for better zoning. If our Planning Comm.
friend is right, the West Village will not be razed
as originally proposed and \$350,000 requested by
the Housing Redevelopment Board to make a plan
of the area will be refused.

Hopefully, the Board will start from scratch,
working with all local groups to plan spot rehabi-
litation and development within the proposed site
or on other sites that may be suggested. Not being
a housing expert, this reporter finds it difficult to
understand why we have to evict tenants from good
buildings to build other buildings, when there are
empty lots, vacant schools, and other available
sites where no relocation is necessary.

We like the people who live in the Village,
whether they live east or west of Houston Street
(our political boundary) and we don't want to see
them uprooted, or forced to live in thousand-family
"projects." There's plenty of room in the West
Village and even in the area east of Houston Street
(th 13th Street school site being only one) for small
vest pocket buildings at authentic middle-income
levels (less than \$30 a room). We don't have to
tear down people's homes in order to put up
homes for other people.

Times Editorial Blasts De Sapio

Mr. De Sapio's Mistake

Under attack as he is, with his leadership of Tammany seriously threatened, Carmine G. De Sapio has worsened his position with the public by joining in the assault on City Charter revision. It is of no substantial significance whether he instigated the taxpayer suit that challenges constitutionality of the 1961 law establishing a Charter Revision Commission. The New York County Democratic leader denies Mayor Wagner's charge that he prompted the suit; but he hopes "that it will succeed."

What there was favorable in the De Sapio reputation, to counteract the "image of bossism" that has become the chief complaint against him, had been built by the Tammany leader's asserted policy of noninterference in the city government. Perhaps this hands-off aloofness was always a fiction, a carefully cultivated illusion. But he has managed, with the help of the Mayor he now calls a "boss," to nurture successfully the impression that once his candidates got into major public office they were on their

own, and that if they did their job well his reward was the honor that rubbed off on the Democratic party as sponsor of these officials.

Now, however, Mr. De Sapio has dropped all pretense of nonintervention. He is leading the fight against a Charter reform that aims at strengthening and improving the city government. He becomes the advocate of stand-patism, of preserving status quo. He is the political boss saving his power structure, and the public interest be damned. His oft-vaunted faith in the wisdom of the people is abandoned, as he pulls the strings of political power to deprive the voters of a chance to say whether they want a new and better structure of municipal government, based on a revised Charter.

For reasons of self-interest alone Mr. De Sapio might have been expected to separate himself from the unenlightened party chairmen safeguarding their machines, and to pay lip service at least to a civic cause that could bring him applause. Perhaps, by failing to rise to the occasion or the opportunity, he confirmed—as Averell Harriman once suggested—that he is only a little boss after all.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1961.

VID Program...

(Continued from p. 1)
open to every enrolled Democrat in the district; meetings are open; all political decisions about candidates and issues are made by the membership.

VID reflects the needs of the Village and fights for them. We want to save the Village from the bulldozers, to preserve it for the families and creative people who live here now, and not let it become canyons of luxury housing.

Community Needs

We want Washington Square Park to be open and landscaped for all the people. We want to keep roadways and buses out and baby carriages and guitars in.

We have been seeking low and middle-income housing by rehabilitation of housing that's here and not by wholesale destruction and relocation. It's a tragedy to lose

families in South and West Village; to lose writers, artists, loft and cellar dwellers; shops, theaters, all the groups that make the Village unique.

We know there's valuable real estate here, and the city can get tremendous revenue from the factory-modern luxury buildings with paper-thin walls. But there are human values that can't be measured in tax dollars.

We know there's a serious problem of drug addiction in an alarming number of Village families. The mob is responsible and we want to throw the mob out.

This, in brief, is the VID program—a program to rebuild the party and the community. We need your help now and your vote on September 7. We need your determination to return power to the people, to make the Village and the city a better place to live.

Political War Resumed; Needed: Members, \$\$\$\$

Membership Blank

Name _____

Address _____

☐ I am a VID member and am renewing for '61.

☐ I would like to join VID.
Enclosed is \$5.

Gift Membership Blank

Please enroll the following in VID. I am enclosing \$5 for each membership:

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

VID War Chest

Name _____

Address _____

☐ This is a contribution to VID in its efforts to beat the boss-rule forces in the '61 Primary.

VID news



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 7

APRIL 1961

The Primary Election:

Lanigan, Greitzer Vs. De Sapio Slate

VID's Candidates Begin Fight Against Tammany
Summer Campaign to Climax at Polls, Sept. 7



James S. Lanigan

VID's primary election battle with Carmine De Sapio is joined. Co-leader candidates, Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, have been meeting with enthusiastic workers to plan the three-month campaign. It will climax at the polls Thursday, September 7, two days after Labor Day.

Villagers are planning vacation schedules to be here for the showdown.

VID first challenged Mr. De Sapio in 1956, winning 37% of the vote. Two years later, VID tackled the Tammany Boss again and moved to within 47% of victory. And last year VID standard bearer Jim Lanigan defeated De Sapio's choice for State Committee.

With the tremendous increase in Village Democratic registration, and continuing public clamor for Mr. De Sapio's defeat, another VID triumph is in sight.



Carol Greitzer

Stressing the importance of canvassing and efficient organization in the coming campaign, District Leader candidate Jim Lanigan told VID captains and canvassers, "The Tammany tiger is wounded and fighting for his life. He'll stop at nothing to win. We've got to tell our story to every voter before September 7. And that means pounding the pavement and climbing stairs all summer."

"The future of the Democratic Party is at stake. We're going to make it the party of the people again. We're going to support and elect public officials who will give more than lip service to the things the Village and this city need: low and middle-income housing, better schools, better parks—a city run by decent, honest men. We want a city that cares for its people, not just for the real estate and tax dollar."

Lanigan Outlines VID Program

By JIM LANIGAN
District Leader Candidate

What is VID's quarrel with De Sapio and the Tammany machine? It's a fight to rebuild the city, to give it back to the people. And it can only be done by reforming and rebuilding the Democratic Party. It can only be done by making the party and elected officials responsible to the voters and not to an elite ruled by a Boss.

What Voters Want

Voters are interested in housing, schools, parks, playgrounds; the problems of narcotics, delinquency, traffic, etc. But the present party establishment is only interested in patronage, in serving itself.

Party reorganization may seem a remote issue to many voters, but it must take place before the programs we all want can be carried out. It is the only way power can be taken from the self-seeking few and be returned to the people.

If the party is allowed to continue choosing back-room hacks to run for party and public office, there will be no gains for the people. The establishment will squeeze out candidates with ideas, with genuine programs.

What is VID?

We believe VID is the kind of organization the new Democratic Party must have: membership in

Continued on p. 4

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VID Executive Committee

Monday, May 8, 9:30 P.M.,
VID headquarters, 224 W. 4th
Street, the Executive Com-
mittee will discuss the plat-
form for the primary election
campaign. Members and the
public are welcome.

Membership Meeting

May 10, or 11. The VID mem-
bership will meet to discuss and
approve a campaign platform
for the primary election. Mem-
bers will be notified about time
and place by mail.

Councilmanic Convention

West Side Democratic Reform
clubs will hold a Councilmanic
Convention to designate a can-
didate for the City Council in
the forthcoming primary elec-
tion. VID's District Leader
candidate, Jim Lanigan will
be Presiding Chairman. ten-
tatively scheduled for May 20.
Watch newspapers for time
and place.

WHERE WILL YOU BE SEPTEMBER 7?



September 7 is the day Village
Democrats go to the polls to
defeat De Sapio and return city
government to the people.

Does your vote count? Remem-
ber how much it counted to elect
Kennedy? And just 3% more VID
votes would have beaten De Sapio
in 1959.

In making your vacation plans,
remember September 7, two days
after Labor Day. Plan to be home
to vote and join VID's victory
celebration. And join VID now!
(Blank at right.)



Summer Tammany Hunt Season Begins

**VID BATTLES TO SAVE
GREENWICH VILLAGE!**

By CAROL GREITZER
District Leader Candidate

When VID takes a stand on com-
munity issues, resolutions aren't
buried in the minutes--they are
immediately translated into ac-
tion: letters and follow-up to
public officials; open VID meet-
ings; and testimony at public
hearings (Board of Estimate,
City Planning Commission, state
legislative hearings).

As we go to press, a VID com-
mittee is scheduling a meeting
with Parks Commissioner Newbold
Morris to discuss all matters re-
lating to Washington Square Park:
closing the road permanently; re-
routing buses; improving play-
grounds and recreation facilities;
landscaping and lifting the ban on
Sunday folksingers.

VID is one of the leading groups
fighting to close the park to traf-

fic; unfortunately, the necessary
map change has not yet been made
and forces are at work trying to
reopen the roadway. We have
also suggested alternative routes
to get buses out of the Square.

VID In Action

A recent two-week period illus-
trates VID's concern with Village
problems. Our representatives
met three times with Borough
President Dudley--twice on the
"Verrazano Street" project we have
opposed; once on the West Village
housing project. We also met
with City Planning Commissioner
James Felt to voice our support
for a new library in Jefferson
Market Courthouse.

In discussions with J. Clarence
Davies and Walter Fried of the
City Redevelopment and Planning
Board, VID outlined its proposal
Continued on p. 3

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224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.
Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed
is _____
(regular membership - \$5.00 -
sustaining membership - \$15.00)
I wish to contribute to VID's good work.
Enclosed is _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____
home phone _____ business phone _____

(Continued from p. 2)

for middle-income housing on the
site of the old P.S. 35 on 13th St.
between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

Middle-Income Housing

The 13th Street proposal demon-
strates VID's positive approach
to housing. Jim Lanigan and I
persuaded Mayor Wagner to take
the school off the auction block to
give a Village group a chance
to work out a design for a middle-
income, Mitchell-Lama, co-op
on the site.

We were instrumental in organ-
izing a non-partisan community
group to draw up plans. The final
draft, prepared with the help of
architect William Conklin, and
builder James Scheuer, was an
exciting concept, providing about
100 family-sized apartments, a
public sitting area, sheltered
outdoor play space, artists'
studios, and a theater.

The city rejected the idea on
the grounds that private bidders
were willing to pay top prices for
the site, and Village land is too
expensive for middle-income
housing.

The 13th Street group hopes to
find other sites and persuade the
City to change its current policy
which, if continued, would event-
ually make all Manhattan a luxury
preserve.

Scope of VID Concern

This past year VID held a series
of general meetings on housing
problems, including a protest
meeting on the NYU-Title 1 deal,
and a face to face meeting be-
tween City officials and the tenants
of "Verrazano Street." Housing
Committee members painted a
"Verrazano Street" tenant's apart-
ment to dramatize the City's neg-
lect of its own property.

In other action a benefit raised
over \$200 toward court costs of
MacDougal Street tenants in their
fight against slum landlord Martin
Schulman. VID lawyers volunteered
their services free of charge.

VID, in marked contrast to Mr.
De Sapio's Tamawa Club, has a vital,
constructive interest in all aspects
of the Village community.



James S. Lanigan

A professional with ideals!
That's Jim Lanigan, who brings
a wealth of political know-how
into the race for District Leader
in Greenwich Village.

Jim combines professional
skills with a solid program for
reform within the Democratic
Party.

Neck-deep in things political
since he managed his first camp-
aign from a college dormitory
room, Jim whipped De Sapio's
hand-picked candidate for the New
York State Committee last year,
running under the VID banner.

Jim joined Thomas K. Finletter,
Eleanor Roosevelt, and Herbert
Lehman as a charter member of
their New York Committee for
Democratic Voters (Reform
Movement) in 1958.

An attorney, he is vice-pres-
ident of the real estate investment
firm of Roger L. Stevens, former
finance chairman of the Demo-
cratic National Committee.

Nationally, he has served as a
White House aide, and as assistant
campaign manager for Adlai Steven-
son.

In the city, Jim was founding
President of the Tilden Demo-
cratic Club and a founder of the
New York Young Democrats.

He served on the appeals panel
of the Brown-Sharkey-Issacs
Bill to enforce non-discrimination
in housing.

If Jim emerges from this year's
campaign as a champion of women,
it's because he feels strongly about
the importance of having their voice
in government.

"The machine thinks they're
trouble-makers," he says, "but
that's just what we want. Women
are close to community problems.
We want their ideas. We must
replace indifference with people
who care about the community."

Carol Greitzer

Carol Greitzer brings a new look
to New York politics...and a fresh
outlook on things to come in Green-
wich Village.

The VID candidate for District
Leader Female is a dynamic young
homemaker who moved into politics
in 1956 when she climbed the stairs
of Village walk-ups to ring door-
bells for the Village Stevenson
Committee. That committee later
became VID, and Carol was on
hand to help organize the club,
serve on its executive committee,
and become its first distaff pres-
ident.

A devotion to the Village as a
good place to live and rear a fam-
ily has led the former advertising
copywriter into a host of commun-
ity crusades.

As chairman of the VID Commu-
nity Action Committee, Carol has
devoted herself to problems cover-
ing the closing of Washington Square
Park to traffic; housing, libraries,
zoning, schools, etc.

With members of her committee
she has testified on club positions
before the Board of Estimate and
the City Planning Commission.

In the Village, she is a member
of the Greenwich Village Association,
NAACP, the Village-Chelsea Open
Neighborhood Committee, the Comm-
ittee for a Library in Jefferson
Courthouse and the Village Family
Housing Committee, which she
helped organize.

VID and the Village are a family
affair in the Greitzer household.
Carol's husband, Herman, an
attorney, is also a past VID Pres-
ident and twice a club candidate
against De Sapio and the Tammany
machine. And daughter, Eliza-
beth, sported bright campaign
ballons on her stroller during the
1960 campaign.

"I don't want to be a leader if
that means 'Boss,'" Carol says,
"I want to be a district represent-
ative, voicing the views of all the
Democrats in the Village."

Lanigan and Greitzer!
Sign For

Petition Period Begins June 22

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VID NEWS
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Verrazano Street:

No Starring Role— DeSapio Stays Home

by Mary Perot Nichols

An attempt to make Carmine DeSapio the stellar attraction at last week's Board of Estimate hearing on Verrazano Street collapsed when the tenants—the people who are facing eviction—balked. Although they are predominantly members of the South Village Italian-American community, neither DeSapio nor his supporters, with a single exception, showed up at the hearing.

The Voice learned that a few days prior to the Board session, a Tamawa Club captain had promised to "deliver" DeSapio on the condition that he would be given sole and star billing at the hearing. The tenants, who have had the backing of other groups, including the anti-DeSapio Village Independent Democrats, refused the bait. The VID and Save the Village have been in the fight to prevent the city from evicting the tenants for almost a year.

The only DeSapio supporter to appear at the hearing on behalf of the tenants was Peter A. Canevari, chairman of the Borough President's Local Planning Board. He proposed new middle-income housing for the site, but this was apparently not too well received by the tenants because it would involve relocation.

The Board of Estimate made no final decision on the Verrazano Street situation. It put off action

until July 27 to enable the members to give the problem further study. At the hearing, Mayor Wagner paid close attention to the speakers. After listening to James S. Lanigan, the VID's district leader candidate in opposition to DeSapio, argue against the razing of low-income housing to make way for a thoroughfare of doubtful value, the Mayor called him to the platform. He then told Lanigan and the tenants that the postponement of the Board's action on the street proposal was to be taken "not only to review your suggestions but to give the whole Board of Estimate the chance to visit the area."

The tenants' views were supported in a statement read by Carol Greitzer, VID co-candidate with Lanigan for district leader, and signed by Sarah Schoenkopf, Democratic State Committeewoman; Charles McGuinness, president of Save the Village; Lawrence Maxwell, chairman of the Village chapter of ADA; and Mrs. Jane Jacobs, chairman of Save the West Village. Rudolph Castore, who heads the Verrazano Street Tenants Association, spoke for his group.

Other speakers against the project included architect Robert H. Jacobs and Father Mario Albanesi of Our Lady of Pompeii Church who begged the Board to "listen to the plea of my parishioners."

The request to give DeSapio top billing at the hearing had apparently been made by Tamawa captain Joseph Repetti, who is a tenant on the Verrazano Street site and a member of the local planning board.

In an interview with The Voice Doris Diether, vice president of Save the Village, confirmed the story. She said that she and Castore had encountered DeSapio, Canevari, Repetti, and Assemblyman William F. Passannante in the street early last week. DeSapio greeted them, and left. Repetti then made his request, according to Mrs. Diether. Because the immediate response was negative, Repetti asked that a meeting be held at Our Lady of Pompeii Church to find out the views of the tenants.

At the meeting, the request was turned down by the tenants as being unfair to the groups that had been working with them long before DeSapio's clubhouse had shown any interest in the situation.

the village VOICE, June 1, 1961



122 VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8

MAY-JUNE 1961

The Primary Election:

Members Adopt Campaign Platform; Villagers Sign For Lanigan, Greitzer

Canvassers Carry Petition, June 22

The Primary Election campaign moves into its second phase beginning June 22 and ending August 1. VID's canvassers will ask Village registered Democrats to sign the official designating petition for James Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, the club's candidates for district leader opposing the De Sapia slate.

Candidates for party and public office are required by law to obtain a certain number of signatures on designating petitions to get on the ballot. The petitions are green and list the names of candidates for the Democratic County Committee and judicial convention as well as for district leader.

Be Sure It's Lanigan, Greitzer

VID supporters are urged to read the petition carefully and make sure they sign only the petition bearing the names Lanigan and Greitzer printed at the top of the page.

VID canvassers will clearly ask voters to sign for Lanigan and Greitzer, but the opposition may merely ask, "Will you sign the Democratic Party petition?" In previous elections many anti-De Sapia voters were surprised to find they had inadvertently signed a De Sapia petition and helped put him on the ballot.

Voters who work at night or are not usually at home between 7 and 10 when canvassers usually call, may telephone VID headquarters, CH 3-6555, and a canvasser will bring the petition to their apartments.

It costs Jim Lanigan about \$2.32 each week for shoelather to canvass against Carmine De Sapia for the post of District Leader.

It costs Carol Greitzer about 32.5¢ in lollipops each week to appease daughter Elizabeth while Mommy fights bossism in the Village. It costs VID President Ed Gold about 8.2¢ daily for aspirin to meet the challenges of campaign meetings.

All the above costs are happily and personally absorbed.

Shoelather & Lollipops

But there are other financial responsibilities that must be shared. For example, the expanded VID News costs \$250 a month. It requires \$1 from each of you to keep it going for the rest of the campaign.

And a "little extra" would be most helpful, too: To meet a gigantic postal bill, an expanding rental, an ambitious literature program which will carry the Reform message to every Democratic voter in the Village.

Fill in the coupon below and help Lanigan and Greitzer to victory over De Sapia and Bossism. (Envelope enclosed.)

Name _____
Address _____
☐ Here's \$1 to help keep VID News alive.
☐ Here's that "little extra" to win the Reform Fight against De Sapia

Platform Stresses Village Problems

In three recent meetings VID members hammered out a platform for responsible political leadership in Greenwich Village and the city. Essentially, it urges Democratic voters to take back the enormous power now wielded by the present Tammany leadership and use it to make the Village and city a decent place for people rather than corrupt party hacks, real estate speculators, and automobiles.

The first two meetings considered planks on housing, parks and playgrounds, education, traffic, narcotics, and the preservation of Greenwich Village. The final session dealt with party reform and the city charter.

VID, unlike the De Sapia's moribund Tamawa Club, is already well known for its progressive efforts in community affairs. The following are highlights from platform planks on housing, parks and playgrounds. Succeeding issues of VID News will outline the remaining planks.

Housing

We urge:

- Strengthening of rent control.
- A change in housing philosophy so that "greatest possible financial return" is not the guiding principle. Manhattan should have balanced housing - new middle and low income housing as well as luxury building.
- Development of publically aided "vest pocket" housing on small sites with little or no tenant relocation.
- Rehabilitation and preservation of existing housing.

Continued on p. 3

VID NEWS 224 West 4th Street
Chelsea 3-6555

published monthly by

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Ed Gold | President

James S. Lanigan | State Committee
Sarah Schoenkopf

Staff: Ray Bentley, Editor; Pat
Chapman, Bobbie DeJoia, Phyllis
Hoffzimer, Estelle Liberman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VID Executive Committee.

Members and the public are always welcome at meetings of VID's Executive Committee. Meetings are usually scheduled for Monday evenings, 9:30 P.M., VID Headquarters, 224 West 4th Street, but dates are subject to change during the campaign period.

Campaign Social Activities

Committees are at work planning an ambitious schedule of social activities during July and August, but no specific dates have been released as yet.

Four "Meet the Candidates" cocktail parties will be held for Villagers in the coming weeks and a fifth for vacationing voters will take place on Fire Island.

Several dinners, coffee klatches, and a gala entertainment night with well-known Broadway stars are also being planned.

Canvassing

VID election district captains and their workers will be canvassing the 19,000 Village registered Democrats every night until the end of the campaign. If you can spare one or two nights a week to help, call Campaign Chairman, Herb Rosenberg: CH 3-6555.

While the Tammany Tiger Slept



Editorial:

WE FIGHT FOR THE SOUL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The beginning of the petition period on June 22 signalizes the formal opening of one of the most historic fights within the Democratic Party in this century.

The stakes are no more nor less than the soul of the Democratic Party.

For the first time since VID's inception four years ago there is confidence in reform ranks that the tide is running in favor of decent, humane, and effective government.

We believe in the people of this community and we believe in a democratically run Democratic Club in Greenwich Village.

We further believe in engaging at every level of government those forces of greed and incompetence that have thrown a veil of distrust and cynicism over the actions of our current political leaders, at the

community, city, and state levels.

For more than two decades an inefficient and cynical machine, dominated by Carmine De Sapio has held the district leadership of Greenwich Village.

During the primary period, we ask our fellow Democrats in the Village to register their disapproval of the De Sapio brand of leadership. We ask you to sign our petitions to insure that our candidates, Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, appear on the ballot on Primary Day, Thurs., September 7. We ask you to support this major effort on behalf of responsible government by helping us canvass, by attending our affairs, by joining our club, by making contributions. We ask your help in the struggle for the soul of the Democratic Party. --Ed Gold, Pres., Village Independent Democrats.

WHERE WILL YOU BE SEPTEMBER 7?

September 7 is the day Village Democrats go to the polls to defeat De Sapio and return city government to the people.

Does your vote count? Remember how much it counted to elect Kennedy? And just 3% more VID votes would have beaten De Sapio in 1959.

In making your vacation plans, remember September 7, two days after Labor Day. Plan to be home to vote and join VID's victory celebration. And join VID now! (Blank at right.)

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is _____

(regular membership - \$5.00 -
sustaining membership - \$15.00)

I wish to contribute to VID's good work.

Enclosed is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

home phone _____ business phone _____

Platform

(Continued from p. 1)

We pledge:

- Continued efforts by VID attorneys to help tenants in legal battles against unfair eviction.
- Continued VID efforts to pass bills in the State Legislature that: 1. Require relocation of tenants by landlord in comparable apartments at comparable rents in the same community. 2. Prohibit hardship increases by landlord until he has owned a building three years. 3. Repeal Section 57 giving permission to raze a building if one more building unit is added.
- Continued VID efforts to strengthen Fair Housing Laws.
- To eliminate red tape involved in bringing discrimination complaints to the Commission on Intergroup Relations.

Parks and Playgrounds

We urge:

- The immediate and permanent closing of Washington Square Park to traffic - but not to people.
- Removal of buses from the Park; re-routing buses to better serve South Village.
- Use of the Park by all peaceful citizens for such cultural activities as concerts, art shows, folksinging - and elimination of licenses for folksingers.
- Police vigilance against law-breakers and disorderly conduct in the Park - not harassment of law-abiding citizens.
- Better playground facilities, more benches, appropriate landscaping.
- Development of more small parks and sitting areas; pier facilities for recreation; public tennis courts and skating rinks; enlargement and improvement of Abingdon Square Park.
- More play streets.

NEXT MONTH: Highlights on planks on education, traffic, narcotics, and the preservation of Greenwich Village.

PROFILES

RUDY CASTORE Member, VID Executive Committee

Chairman, Verrazano Street Tenants Association

"I've never been much of an organization man until this thing began," he said, "but I've learned that without VID, Save the Village and other groups, I'd probably be out in the street. When you get into the world of political doubletalk and red tape, an individual is nothing."

"In days gone by I used to drive a cab weekends to make extra money. Now, I go to meetings," says Rudy Castore, plucky Chairman of the Verrazano Street Tenants Association, who has led the fight to prevent the demolition of his own and his neighbors' homes to make way for a useless road.

During his nine-year battle to save his own building at 38 Downing Street and surrounding dwellings, 35-year old Rudy has been to many an early morning meeting.

He's also gained tremendous respect for independent organizations

Truck-driver Rudy's first introduction to the effectiveness of citizens' organizations in fighting city bureaucracy came in 1952 when the city acquired control of his building and others in the area. Rumors started as services stopped. A tenants committee was formed to protest and Rudy was elected chairman. It was not until 1958, when the city

announced plans for Verrazano Street, that the fight really began.

"We didn't even get an official eviction notice," Rudy recalls. "Someone put a slip of paper under the door ordering us to get out. But where? I've always lived on Downing Street - I was born and brought up in the building next door. The church where I was baptized is down the street. I called my family together and the people I can count on who live in the neighborhood. Even my dog, Mitch was involved - the city doesn't want dogs in projects."

In two appearances before the Board of Estimate in recent weeks, Rudy has won the respect of Village leaders and the gratitude of his fellow tenants with his hard-hitting speeches and astute direction of the Verrazano Street tenants' role in the hearings. He is a true grassroots leader - emerging from the people to fight for the rights of the people.

Today, with the final round of the fight just a month away, Rudy has come far from the original cause and Downing Street. His interests encompass the whole area of low and middle income housing.



From left to right: Rudy Castore and his wife, Kathryn with VID's District Leader Candidates Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer at the recent Board of Estimate hearing on Verrazano Street at City Hall.



The New York Post Lauds Lanigan

Lanigan vs. DeSapio: a Main Event

James Lanigan's fight to unseat Carmine DeSapio from his district leadership may be one of the memorable political battles in local history. It could, of course, have repercussions far beyond the Greenwich Village area where the contest will be staged.

For DeSapio, this could be the last big bout. Regardless of all other factors, a decisive defeat for him now in his own bailiwick would be an irretrievable blow. But our view of the clash is affirmative rather than negative. We have often said DeSapio's exile is no sure cure for the political sickness of the state and city. He is not the worst boss in our annals, and better than many we could name.

But Lanigan is an authentic, fiery and able spokesman for political reform. He mingles earnest conviction with political talent. A forthright liberal, he has served at key posts in both domestic campaigns and in important government missions abroad.

We have talked frequently about the need for a new form of Democratic leadership in New York, drawn from the Kennedy generation and capable of imparting to the political arena some of the intelligence and spirit now discernible in the U. S. government. Lanigan has strong qualifications for such a role.

In fighting for the chance to run against DeSapio when he might have chosen a more comfortable place on the new frontier, he displayed the resolve and concern so sorely needed in our political life. His victory in the September primary would be important news.



LANIGAN

...Blasts De Sapio

Carmine Speaks His Piece

If Carmine DeSapio wanted to prove in his TV production yesterday that he could do a better job of character assassination than any of his opponents, or that he knows more sordid political stories, his show was an unqualified success. But if his intention, as advertised in advance, was to convince the voters that he was being unfairly criticized and that his continued leadership of Tammany Hall was in the best interests of the Democratic Party, he failed dismally.

As we have said in this space more than once, DeSapio is not the most benighted of men nor is he the most malevolent politician the Tammany machine has produced.



DE SAPIO

But long before the questions began coming from the reporters present, it was clear that his standard of political morality was on a level which justifies reformist demands for a change. The scurrility of his counterattack reflected more of a capacity for viciousness than for leadership; far from trying to show that the conflict between him and his opponents could be reconciled, he not only widened the breach enormously but did so with a tastelessness that was painful to behold. His plea for party unity under the circumstances was a pious gesture equally offensive.

DeSapio's "inside story" of what happened at the party's state convention in Buffalo was not without interest, but unfortunately the issue is not who did what to whom in Buffalo. The issue is how to make the Democratic Party of New York democratic so that it represents the voting membership and speaks with the voice of the people. DeSapio's play-by-play account of the machine's elective procedure was beguiling; only the most naive voter, however, would believe that the organization chart works in practice the way DeSapio had it working on TV. In asserting that it contained built-in guarantees against "bossism" and in dismissing "bossism" as a "synthetic issue" conceived by people who don't appreciate him, Tammany's star performer underestimated the intelligence of his audience.

VID news



122 VOLUME 1 NUMBER 9

JULY 1961

Victory For VID: The Way To Reform



A chat with Village voters: District Leader Candidates Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer discuss issues in the September 7 Primary fight.

Lanigan Calls For Local Clean-Up

By Jim Lanigan
VID District Leader Candidate

During the past months New York voters have witnessed a political circus featuring every trick of the Tammany Bosses--a vicious struggle to act "in the best interests of the people." Never before have the voters been able to watch battles in the back rooms so clearly and see through the cynical aims of old-line politicians. Their aim is, as it has always been, to maintain their political power through the control of patronage. Their interests are not in better schools, more housing, cleaning up corruption, etc.

Reform Possible On Local Level

How does VID view this farce that passes for democracy? It would be easy to become apathetic and say New York is too big--too sick and rotten--for reform. But VID and the growing number of reform Democratic clubs throughout New York have realized that reform can only come about at the local--district leadership level. A reform candidate on a white charger could storm City Hall, but working under the present City Charter, and frustrated on all sides by the Tammany Machine, he would be almost powerless.

Strike Major Blow For Reform

Reform can come about only by challenging Tammany in every district, by electing party leaders who are responsible to the rank and file in democratically-run clubs.

This kind of reform won't happen overnight. It will be a slow but complete clean-up.

The Reform Movement has already won a number of important primary fights in Manhattan--enough to give

Continued on p. 2

Tammany Rebels Enter Primary Race Like Bossism, Don't Like De Sapio

A new thorn in Carmine De Sapio's side is the challenge to his district leadership by a group of rebels from his own Tamawa Club. They have mounted a campaign to put former police lieutenant Patrick "Joe" Sullivan and Mrs. Elvine Noferi on the ballot for the September 7 Primary.

It has been reported that Sullivan, a former Tamawa stalwart, entered the race because his Boss had failed to keep his word. The implication is that Sullivan was promised something in the way of patronage and De Sapio failed to come through. In announcing his candidacy, Sullivan made no mention of open membership, open meetings, giving women and the rank and file a vote in choosing candidates, and getting rid of abuses in the patronage system--the key political reforms sought by VID and its anti-De Sapio candidates Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer.

Sullivan has no announced program on community issues, and his group has held no open meetings to discuss Village problems.

Irked by the rebellion in his own club, De Sapio reportedly took drastic measures to keep Sullivan out of the race. Sullivan told the Village Voice that De Sapio supporters had promised him "financial independence" for the rest of his life if he would drop the fight.

VID leaders view Sullivan's revolt as a sign that some old-line Tamawa workers believe De Sapio is becoming a political liability. There are no indications that Sullivan or his followers have had a change of heart about Bossism--only about who should be Boss.

There is one obvious similarity in the names Lanigan and Sullivan, but a world of difference in what the two De Sapio challengers believe and have accomplished in politics.

VID NEWS 224 West 4th Street
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Canvassing

VID election district captains and their workers will be canvassing the 19,000 Village registered Democrats every night until the end of the campaign. If you can spare one or two nights a week to help, call Campaign Chairman, Herb Rosenberg: Ch 3-6555.

VID Executive Committee

Members and the public are always welcome at meetings of VID's Executive Committee. Meetings are usually scheduled for Monday evenings, 9:30 P. M., VID Headquarters, 224 West 4th Street, but dates are subject to change during the campaign period.

Lanigan On Reform (Continued from p. 1)

it a quarter of the votes in the New York County Executive Committee ruled by Carmine De Sapio. A victory in the Village primary fight against De Sapio in September will strike the major blow for reform. Defeating De Sapio at the seat of his power can place control of the Democratic Party in Reform hands.

That is why your vote September 7, and the vote of every Village registered Democrat is vitally important and can help clean up the shabby political mess that is New York today.

WHERE WILL YOU BE SEPTEMBER 7?

September 7 is the day Village Democrats go to the polls to defeat De Sapio and return city government to the people.

Does your vote count? Remember how much it counted to elect Kennedy? And just 3% more VID votes would have beaten De Sapio in 1959.

In making your vacation plans, remember September 7, two days after Labor Day. Plan to be home to vote and join VID's victory celebration. And join VID now! (Blank at right.)

The question is asked in the Greenwich Village community: How can you keep a political club going if there are no rewards for the workers?

The answer is that there are rewards, but payment comes in the coin of idealism and public service; not in the "pirate's gold" of big-salary patronage, under-the-table "friendship" money, hole inspectorships, and the like.

"But you can't form a club on idealism!" the skeptics insist. Within each breast, they continue, beats a heart that yearns for the "payoff." The clubhouse always has operated on such principle, and will forever more.

But while part of the American Dream may include the receiving of favors, the acquisition of wealth; another aspect surely indicates an almost indestructible idealism.

For a political club born in the glow cast by Adlai Stevenson on the American scene, idealistic motivation comes fairly easy. And, it must be admitted, idealism and public self-interest are happily joined in our current effort to unseat Carmine De Sapio on Primary Day, September 7.

What we want, after all, is a community, a city, a state, operating in the best interests of its entire citizenry.

We in VID, just over 700 at last count, know a corrupt government run by weak men, hacks, opportunists, and incompetents cannot do the job needed.

From a founding group of 30 members VID has multiplied almost 25-fold. In two elections for District Leadership, this club of idealists has increased its vote from 37 to 47 percent. In 1960, its candidate Jim Lanigan won the State Committee race against De Sapio-backed candidates with 52 percent of the vote.

There obviously must be a reward for such people. The reward lies in community achievement, in proving democratic government can succeed, in doing what a Democratic club is supposed to do: Represent the people justly and honestly.

--Ed Gold, President,
Village Independent Democrats

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is _____

(regular membership - \$5.00 -
sustaining membership - \$15.00)

I wish to contribute to VID's good work.
Enclosed is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

home phone _____ business phone _____



Putting the Squeeze on the Village

Editorial:

VID: A NEW CONCEPT IN POLITICAL CLUBS

More Highlights Of VID Platform

Last month's VID News presented highlights from platform planks on housing; parks and playgrounds. This month: party reform. We will conclude in the next issue with highlights from planks on education, traffic and narcotics.

PARTY REFORM

Patronage:

The existing patronage system should be entirely eliminated. Appointments to the public payroll should be limited and should be made only to policy-making positions. All others should be classified under Civil Service, not subject to political interference.

Judicial appointments and assignments, such as surrogates lists, must not be made on a patronage basis. All qualified members of the bar should be eligible for such assignments on a rotation basis.

Democracy At All Party Levels

1. VID urges democratic procedures be adopted at all levels of the party--local clubs, County Committee, County Executive Committee, and State Committee. Rules of procedure and agendas should be circulated. There should be autonomy at local levels so that local committees can convene without waiting for the approval of the County Chairman as is the current rule.

2. The County Committee should be drastically reduced in size to make it a real working body--a membership of about 300, holding at least 8 meetings a year. It should be the basic legislative body, with working committees making decisions on policy and instructing the Executive Committee on carrying out policy. If local clubs and the County Committee function democratically, the County Committee may serve as a convention for the selection of candidates, with members voting as instructed by their clubs.

3. County Leaders: While some improvement can be realized by replacing the current Boss, we favor elimination of the concept of County Leader. There now exist no rules defining his duties or limiting his power. The importance of the position derives from tradition, personality, and the power of patronage.

4. Duplication of party offices: To prevent undue concentration of power, no single person should hold more than one key position such as National Committeeman, State Chairman, County Leader, etc.

VOTERS ARE ASKING

1. How can changing District Leaders affect government at City Hall?

The District Leaders in Manhattan are the spokesmen for their clubs and the rank-and-file in their districts. In theory, they should have a powerful voice in choosing candidates for public office and determining party policy. The events of the past weeks have clearly shown how the County Bosses, elected by the District Leaders, have usurped the power of the District Leaders and gagged the rank-and-file.

Most of the existing regular-organization clubs and District Leaders are willing to exchange their votes for patronage. The prevailing philosophy is: "What's in it for me?"

And under the present system candidates for public office are the chosen tools of the Bosses. They must obey them, because they got their jobs through them.

A district-by-district clean-up with a return to democratic procedures at all party levels (described in platform planks at left) will directly change City government. Party and patronage reform are the only means to good government in New York City. (See Jim Lanigan's front-page article in this issue for further information.)

2. In his campaign literature, Carmine De Sapio claims to be a reformer. What are the facts?

De Sapio claims credit for a number of reforms and community improvements. The facts are:

a. Permanent Personal Registration: While enacted during De Sapio's rule,

it came only after groups like the League of Women Voters fought to get it.

b. Voting Machines: The use of voting machines in primaries was achieved only after insurgents fought in the courts, over Tammany objection.

c. Closing Washington Square: De Sapio joined the fight to close Washington Square to traffic at the very end, when it became obvious that the community was unanimously for it. A number of private citizens, including VID members, organized and led the fight.

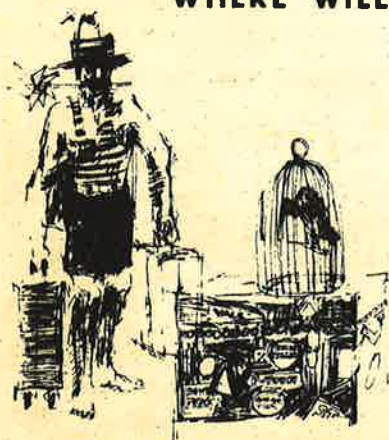
d. "Verrazano Street": De Sapio refused to testify at the crucial Board of Estimate hearing on the "Verrazano Street" proposal because the tenants in the South Village area would not let him be the sole witness. If anyone needs proof that De Sapio moves to help the community only when it benefits him politically--this is it.

3. Who is Joe Sullivan?

See front-page article in this issue.



While the Tammany Tiger slept, the home of Village sculptor Arnold Bergier at Greenwich Avenue and 10th Street made a final plea. De Sapio has never joined the battle to Save the Village from the bulldozers.



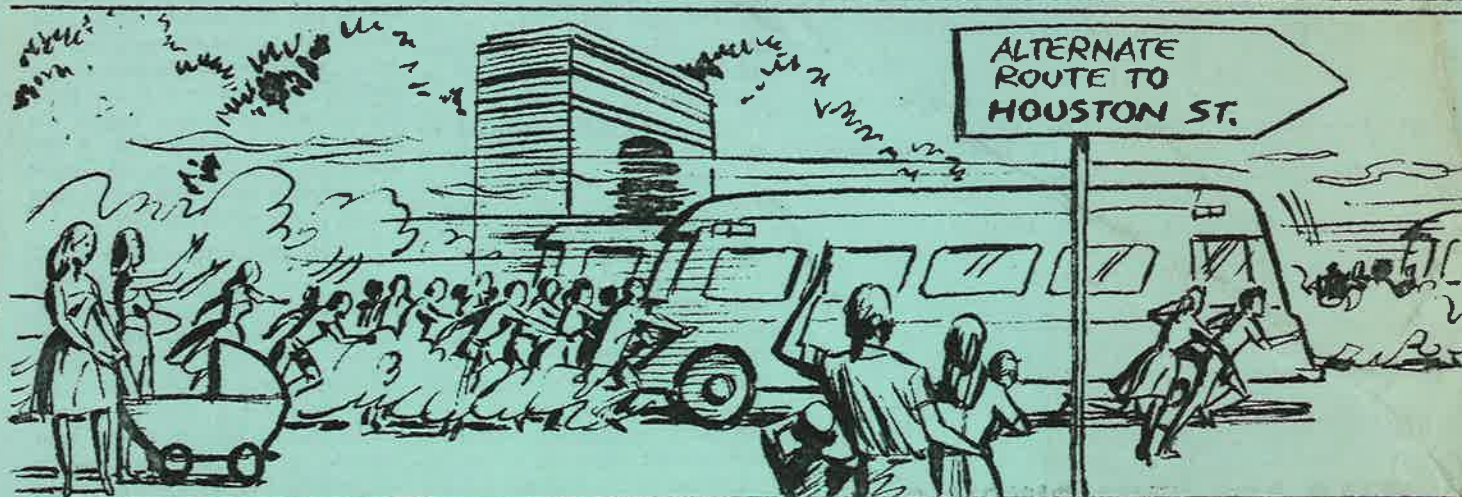
the VILLAGE Democrat

**DON'T FORGET
SEPTEMBER**

THURSDAY 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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Editor: Charles Miller • Artist: John Giunta



VID MOVES FOR NEW BUS ROUTES

TALK VEST POCKET HOUSING FOR SOUTH VILLAGE

Initial steps toward a low-income housing project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant-Carline Street area—site of VID's victory in the fight against the Verrazano Street proposal—have been taken by South Village residents and VID leaders.

LANIGAN AIMS FOR \$25 PER ROOM

Rudolph Castore, chairman of the Verrazano Street Tenants Association, Democratic State Committeeman Jim Lanigan and former State Senate candidate John Westergaard met recently with Walter S. Fried of the City Housing and Redevelopment Board to discuss a Mitchell-Lama "vest pocket" housing project—with rooms renting at \$25—which would replace the vacant buildings now being demolished on the land formerly allocated to Verrazano Street. Mayor Wagner has assured VID that the occupied buildings will remain.

In another development, both Mr. Wagner and Deputy Mayor Screvane have told VID they are unwilling to oppose community interests in the West Village, currently aroused over a so-called "slum clearance" proposal. (Picture on page 2.)

Candidates Confer with City Officials

The Village Independent Democrats have launched major action to get the buses out of Washington Square Park—for good.

During the past three weeks, District Leader candidates Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer have stressed the urgency of re-routing the buses, in conferences with Mayor Wagner and Parks Commissioner Morris. They reminded the Mayor of the long-overdue report, promised nearly three years ago by Traffic Commissioner Wiley, following the closing of the Square to private cars. Mr. Wagner has arranged for a meeting of the department heads concerned, with an eye to setting up definite new routes before the primary. The bus problem was also presented in detail to Mr. Morris, along with VID proposals for regular maintenance and landscaping of the park.

CAROL GREITZER'S 'BUS' RIDE

On July 20, Mrs. Greitzer accompanied Senior Inspector Eugene Grun of the City Franchise Department and two city officials on a three-hour drive over several proposed alternate routes for the Fifth Avenue Coach Company. The new runs would take the buses east and south to Houston Street, thus removing the need for Washington Square as the line's downtown terminus. The proposed itineraries were drawn up by a VID traffic committee which has conducted a comprehensive study of Village transit problems.

WHY VID SUPPORTS WAGNER

VID SETS NEW PETITION RECORD

At the end of petition period on August 8, VID filed the signatures of 3934 Democrats supporting Lanigan and Greitzer. This is almost double the 1959 total—a new record for VID.

De Sapio filed 5168 names—about 700 fewer than in 1959, the year The Boss squeezed through by under 600 votes. The Sullivan-Noferi slate filed 743 names.

BELLS ARE STILL RINGING

Despite the record-breaking petition turnout for Lanigan and Greitzer, VID canvassers continue their doorbell-ringing, stair-climbing safaris in the district. They'll be talking to many voters back from vacation, and highlighting campaign issues in street-corner speeches. And if you'd like to meet our candidates—at various pre-primary public events—give us a ring at CH-2-6555. We'll bring you up to date.

REMEMBER TO VOTE

FOR LANIGAN & GREITZER

ON PRIMARY DAY,

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

WE STILL NEED HELP

VID, 224 W 4, NYC 14

I'll pitch in...Here's my:

☐ \$5 regular membership

☐ \$15 sustaining membership contribution

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Naming Wagner Upheld

Reform Group's Support Declared
Based on His Machine Fight

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Your July 27 editorial raised the question as to why the Reform Democratic movement endorsed Mayor Wagner after many of its leaders, including myself, had been critical of certain aspects of his administration.

The principal objective of the reform wing of the Democratic party is to restructure the obsolete machinery of the party and reorganize the procedures by which candidates for public office in New York City and state-wide candidates are selected. Only in this way will we be able to improve the quality of government at all levels.

We are endeavoring to remove the policy-making prerogative in party policy and nominating decisions from the small oligarchy at the top of the pyramid and transfer it back to the base, the enrolled Democratic voters, where it belongs.

Clubs Run by Rank and File

This can only be done by replacing the old tightly controlled Tammany-type clubs with open clubs run democratically by the rank-and-file Democrats of a community and by reorganization of the rules and procedures of the county and state committees.

Until this is done, any public official who accepts party nomination from the five county leaders is totally beholden to them and must conduct his administration and appoint his officials in accordance with the traditional rules of the regular political establishment. This is true despite his personal integrity or good intentions.

When men are selected for elective office within the confines of these rules and for the primary pur-

pose of furthering the patronage objectives of the machine, good government is virtually impossible. Mediocrity and corruption are inevitable.

The political system destroys the government which it has put into office.

It is obvious that no restructuring of this long-entrenched political establishment is possible unless the party leadership is changed at the district clubhouse level in the Democratic primaries, and unless the people elect a Mayor who is not bound by these narrow objectives of patronage brokerage and perpetuation of the establishment.

Mayor's Independence

This year circumstances have arisen which make possible the attainment of both these reform objectives. We have a very broad insurgent battle at the district clubhouse level along with the opportunity to nominate a Mayor who, irrespective of his past political ties, is now free from obligation to, or dependence upon, the Democratic machine. In fact, he is fighting the machine for his political life.

At the same time, the voters will have a chance to adopt a Charter revision which will substantially strengthen the ability of the Mayor to reorganize the municipal departments and clean out the incompetents and petty thieves who have been funneled into the government of the city through the Democratic political establishment for years.

Mayor Wagner understands what needs to be done and wants to act. If he is re-elected with a new ticket, he will be free to act.

Then, and only then, can we move at last on such pressing problems as slums, housing, narcotics, delinquency, traffic and the many other problems in such urgent need of solution.

JAMES S. LANIGAN,
Democratic State Committeeman,
New York, July 31, 1961.

Screvane Hits "Bulldozer" Tactics at Village Rally



VID's District Leader candidates Jim Lanigan (1) and Carol Greitzer with Rudy Castore of the Verazano St. Tenants Assn. (2nd L) and Paul R. Screvane, candidate for President of the City Council.

the VILLAGE Democrat

**DON'T FORGET
SEPTEMBER**

THURSDAY 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Published by Village Independent Democrats 224 W. 4 St. CH 3-6555 August 24, 1961

VIPs Aid Vid's Lanigan-Greitzer

Over 100 prominent Greenwich Village residents, representing business, public affairs and the arts, have joined in an Independent Sponsors' Committee to help put over the election of Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer as Democratic leaders in the 1st A.D. South.

Members active in civic affairs include Charles Abrams, former State Rent Administrator; Gordon Clapp, former TVA chairman; Trude Lash, executive director of the Citizens Committee for Children; Dr. Milton Levine, member of the Village Planning Board; and I.D. Robbins, president of the City Club of New York.

Among the artists, writers and entertainers are Edward Albee, Theodore Bikel, Bruce Bliven, Jr., Leonard Boudin, Sybil Cooper, John Cournos, Jack Diether, Art D'Lugoff, Jules Feiffer, Robert Gwathmey, Mary Hicks, Nat Hentoff, Carol Janeway, William H. Honan, Kim Hunter, Joseph P. Lash, Theodore Mann, Kathleen Murray, Joseph Papin, Ruth Preston, Jose Quintero, Tony Randall, Hugo Robus, Richard Stankiewicz, Kim Stanley and Werner Wolf.

NYU is represented in the membership by dean Paul A. McGhee, Warren Bow-

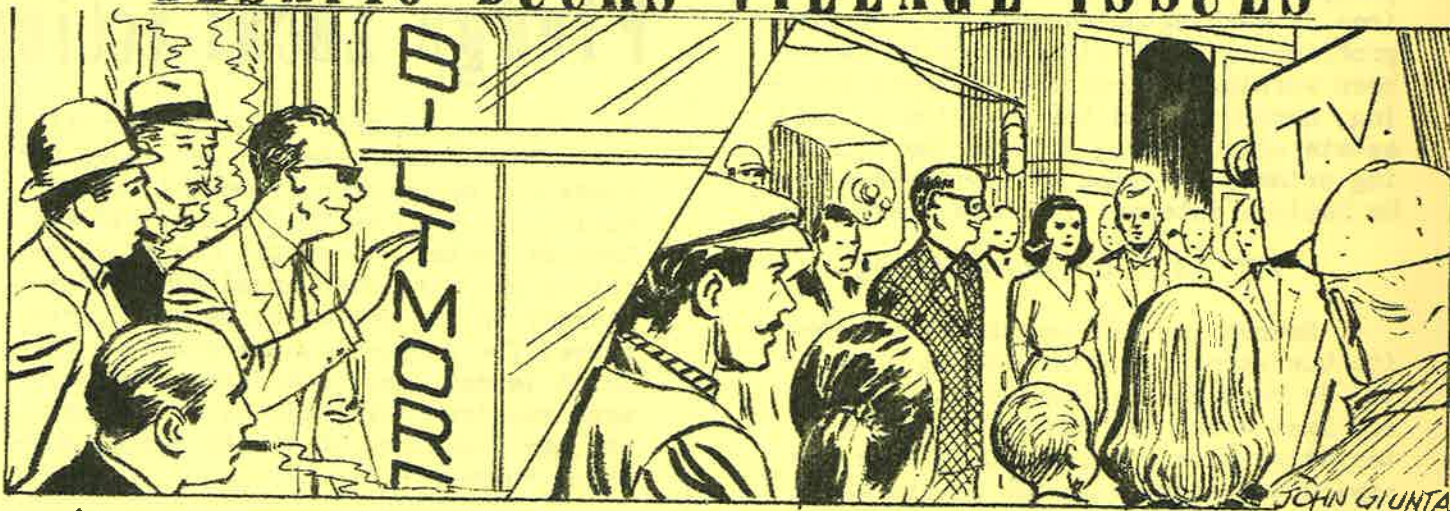
er, Edward Cahn and Daniel Collins. Among the lawyers, doctors, businessmen and housewives are Mr. and Mrs. William F. Blitzer, Dr. and Mrs. W. Bonime, Donald Conforte, Jane Droutman, Andrew A. Freeman, Rita Hocheimer, Robert H. Joseph, Dr. Rene Leviticus, Dr. Albert W. Mundes, Mrs. Jean Montague, Frederick Redefer, Melville Ringler, Thomas Stix, Hermine Weiss, Theodore Wilentz and Martin Wolfson.

ERIC LARRABEE, REV HOWARD MOODY JOIN

Officers are: president, Ben Goldstein; vice president, Rev. Lee Belford of NYU; secretary, actress Irene Olsen; treasurer, attorney William J. Isaacson. Executive committee members are publicist Kenneth Bache; producer Noel Behn; Betty Bernstein of the Citizens Committee for Children; attorney Adrian De Wind; Norman Dorsen, associate professor of law at NYU; and Village ADA president Lawrence R. Maxwell.

Formation of the committee reflects the growing wave of neighborhood support for anti-machine Democratic party reform.

DESAPIO DUCKS VILLAGE ISSUES



DON'T WORRY BOYS, IF YOU PRETEND THEY'RE NOT THERE, THEY'LL GO AWAY !

Apparently the tiger has decided that it's safer to play possum---or ostrich---in a primary fight.

This summer, Carmine De Sapio has ducked out of at least four major radio-TV programs in which he would have had to confront his VID opposition and defend his absentee "leadership" in the Village.

The shows are the Citizens' Union "Searchlight" (NBC-TV), the League of Women Voters' "Direct Line" (NBC-TV), the Betty Furness program (WNTA) and Barry Gray's radio show. On two of the TV vehicles, The Boss turned down the choice of appearing with Jim Lanigan or alone.

The Chief knows when to play it safe.

Wagner To Tour Village



On a recent visit to the Village, the Mayor is shown with, l to r: Borough President Dudley, Carol Greitzer, Verrazano Street tenant leader Rudy Castore and Jim Lanigan.

Carmines: 'ME TOO'

On the heels of VID action last week to reroute buses from Washington Square Park, Carmine De Sapio suddenly remembered that the Square is part of Greenwich Village, and issued a statement in which he borrowed nearly all of VID's proposals for alleviating the neighborhood traffic problem.

The Boss' preoccupation with the Square produced a reply from Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, his district leader opponents, who said: "As usual, Mr. De Sapio, after two years of silence about Greenwich Village problems, has decided that three weeks before Primary Day is the time to rediscover his community. We welcome his customary pre-primary indignation about conditions in Washington Square. We have other problems in the Village which we have been working on, such as low-rent housing, narcotics and the invasion of real estate speculators. We hope the impending primary election will stimulate Mr. De Sapio's interest in these areas, too."

VID STILL NEGOTIATING

Meanwhile, VID continued to press its bus rerouting proposals at a meeting in Borough President Dudley's office last week. Mr. Dudley offered a tentative plan which would further restrict bus parking in the Square and add substantially to the recreation area in the park. While VID has not accepted this as a final solution, it is believed that the Dudley plan may soon lead to the establishment of routes which would take the buses out of the park area entirely and lead to better South Village service.

Vid Plays Host Aug 28

Mayor Wagner, accompanied by running mates Paul A. Screvane and Abraham Beame, will make a walking tour of Greenwich Village next Monday evening, Aug. 28, as a guest of VID.

Escorted by district leader candidates Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, the Mayor will speak at the beginning of the Washington Square Concert, being held that night. He will visit various residential-commercial areas, and also meet Villagers in neighborhood coffee houses and at off-Broadway theatres during intermission. At 10:30 pm, Mayor Wagner and his running mates will greet Villagers at 8th St. and 6th Ave.

The tour will be the Mayor's third visit to the Village in as many weeks.

Pledge Local Action

To step up help for city narcotic addicts, VID has asked Mayor Wagner for funds for neighborhood rehabilitation facilities such as the Village Aid and Service Center. A capital budget allocation has also been urged by VID for a library in the Jefferson Market Courthouse. The proposals, presented by district leader candidate Carol Greitzer, were received favorably by Mr. Wagner, who has discussed them with budget director Beame.

REMEMBER TO VOTE
FOR LANIGAN & GREITZER

PRIMARY DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

POLLS OPEN 3-10 PM

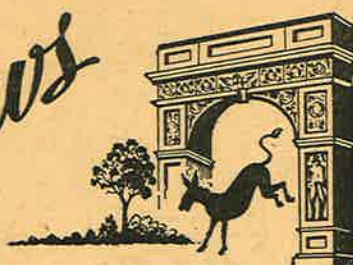
ELECT LANIGAN, GREITZER, THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

**ELECTION
SPECIAL**



VID

news



POLLS

OPEN

3-10 P.M.

VOLUME I, NUMBER 10

Village Independent Democrats

224 W. 4th Street

Tel: CH 3-6555

SEPTEMBER, 1961

WHERE WAS DESAPIO?

BOSS DUCKS LOCAL ISSUES



VID DISTRICT LEADER CANDIDATES JIM LANIGAN, CAROL GREITZER

VID Winning Major Victories:

Road Through Park—NO So. Village Housing—SI

VID is winning two major community battles that the do-nothing Tamawa forces of Carmine De Sapia merely paid lip service to or ignored.

First, Borough President Edward Dudley has assured VID and the community that immediate action will be taken to permanently close Washington Square Park to traffic. The tentative plans call for the transfer of over 50,000 square feet—more than an acre—of roadway to the Parks Commission for inclusion in a major rehabilitation program. The buses would be permitted only a temporary turnaround in the arch area, hedged off from the rest of the park, until a new location can be found for them.

VID is still pressing for permanent removal of the buses from the arch area and the re-routing of buses to bring service to South Village.

VID District Leader candidates, Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, have had several meetings in recent weeks with Mayor Wagner, Mr. Dudley, Parks Commissioner Morris and Traffic Commissioner Wiley. Out of these meetings came the new proposals to close the Park to traffic.

Veto Verrazano Street

Secondly, the City's 14-year-old plan to build "Verrazano Street," the "road to nowhere," that would destroy low-rent housing on Bedford, Carmine and Down-

ing Streets will almost certainly be scrapped.

New low-dividend cooperative apartments proposed by Jim Lanigan and Rudy Castore, Chairman of the Downing Street Tenants Association, will be built on the site instead. There will be about 120 predominantly family-sized units. Most will be sold on a cooperative basis, but 40 or 50 will be rented.

Rudy Castore, who fought City Hall and brought VID and Save the Village into the fray, will head the project's sponsoring committee. After Rudy, Jim Lanigan, and Carol Greitzer led Mayor Wagner on a tour of the area, the Mayor said the proposed "Verrazano Street" was indeed "a road to nowhere," and agreed to support the move for new housing. Deputy Mayor Paul Screvane and Walter Fried, Vice Chairman of the Housing Redevelopment Board, also gave their support. (See Rudy Castore's story of the "Verrazano Street" struggle on page 2.)

De Sapia's absenteeism in Greenwich Village affairs has earned him the title: "The Phantom Leader." He may sleep in the Brevoort at 11 Fifth Avenue, but he might just as well be living in his uptown office at the Biltmore. He shows contempt for the voters with his callous disregard of local issues.

No other District Leader in Manhattan is so unconcerned (even incommunicado) about community affairs as De Sapia and his running mate. Only since VID challenged his leadership and aroused Villagers to action has De Sapia begun to ask about Village problems — and he only does so a month before Primary election.

What goes on during the two-year period between Primaries? The Tammany Tiger sleeps!

Village voters demand answers to the following questions:

- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when rent control bills came up in the state legislature?
ABSENT!—But VID offered detailed legislation to strengthen rent control and protect tenants, sending delegations to testify.
- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when speculators evicted Villagers from low-rent apartments to carry on their "demolition" and "renovation"?
UNINTERESTED!—But VID fought for tenants' rights — winning many cases—and sought laws to curb the speculators.
- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when the Village fought and won the battle for protective zoning?
MISSING! — While VID conducted tours of landmarks in danger of demolition and presented a survey of business activity in the Village at both the City Planning Commission and Board of Estimate.
- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when NYU got more Title I land?
SILENT! (And he was silent when his friends were given the sponsorship of the Washington Square Village project.) — VID has consistently opposed subsidies for NYU and is still in the fight to get more multi-bedroom apartments in this project.
- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when newspapers revealed the poor conditions in the so-called "Verrazano Street" houses on Carmine, Bedford, and Downing Streets? (For that matter, where was he when the City first planned this unnecessary street?)
UNCONCERNED! — While VID arranged a meeting between the tenants and the Department of Real Estate's Deputy Commissioner which expedited improvements and relocated tenants out of cold water flats.

- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when the Board of Estimate held two hearings on "Verrazano Street"?
UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT!

While Jim Lanigan, Carol Greitzer, Sarah Schoenkopf and other VID people testified and rallied support from other community organizations, De Sapia flatly refused to appear.

- **WHERE WAS DE SAPIO** when it was revealed that the Village ranked high in narcotics traffic?

TOTALLY INDIFFERENT! — While VID sponsored the first community forum on narcotics; urged police action on pushers; and supported funds

(Continued on page 4)

VID CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR

By Sarah Schoenkopf,
Campaign Chairman

Want to know how VID is running its campaign? Well, if you're a registered Village Democrat, you can be sure we rang your bell several times. If we didn't find you, we tried to call you. If that didn't work, we wrote you a letter. If you didn't open your mail, you probably heard our street-corner speakers as you strolled through Sheridan Square, down Bleecker Street or Sixth Avenue. If you only walked back and forth to subway stations and grocery stores, you probably took literature from one of our workers. If you didn't take handouts from strange girls on street corners, you at least opened mail that appeared to be a party invitation before you realized the invitation was to meet our candidates, Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer.

If you were busy the night of the party, perhaps you'll join our torchlight parade and rally on September 6, Election Eve. If you don't join parades, you'll read about us in *The New York Times*, *Trib*, *Post*, etc. If you can't bear the world news these days, perhaps you'll buy a *Village Voice* or *Villager*, or see us on TV.

(Continued on page 2)



VID Rally and Parade Election Eve—Sept. 6





TAMMANY TIGER COWERS

At last the Tiger of Tammany Hall is at bay—in the polling booth. After many years of effort and hard work, a group of citizens—outraged at the moral decay of New York's Democratic Party and of the city government itself—have succeeded in arousing the voters of the city to the point where they are going to take back their power from the Tammany machine.

The voters are about to remove the Chief Tiger, Mr. DeSapio. But this is far more than a campaign against one man. It is a fight to destroy a decaying political system and to substitute an open and democratic party government by the rank-and-file Democrats in their communities. This will improve the quality of local government and the services it provides.

A new generation demands that the Democratic Party serve the needs of all the people in the City and State, rather than be used as the private preserve of a small group of powerful men who control the party and the government of the City for their own narrow interests and selfish purposes.

The voters are closing in on the Tammany machine at the polls—they have discovered that the real political power in this City is wielded at the Primary election. It has taken years to awaken the majority of voters to this fact. The political bosses have discouraged people from voting in Primary elections because this is the only opportunity for the voters to exercise their full sovereign power.

The Tammany machine, a product of the 19th Century, is crumbling. The bosses know it. The voters know it. And the bosses know the voters know it.—James Lanigan, VID District Leader Candidate.

◆ Campaign in High

(Continued from page 1)

If you don't do any of these things, you must be spending a lot of time thinking and anybody who really thinks about this election is going to vote for us.

VID is dedicated to bringing the rank-and-file into politics—our whole campaign is geared to the participation of all Greenwich Village voters in the election of Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer.

As you can gather, VID has been very busy trying to get your support in this campaign, and if we have it, we need your help to win the support and the votes of other Village Democrats on

Thursday, September 7. We need you to help do all the things we did to reach you, and we need you on Primary Day itself to knock on doors, call, and bring the voters out. We need poll-watchers and workers to insure honest procedures and a correct vote tally.

And we need you after we win the election to join with us in revitalizing the Democratic Party in New York City and throughout the State. Come and join us—if you "let George do it," he won't. Politics isn't for politicians, it's for the people—you have to do more than vote in this election, you have to be part of it. Our address is 224 West 4th Street; our phone number: CH 8-6555.

What Does De Sapio Think About Women?

De Sapio's most ridiculous claim is that he brought "equality" to women in party positions. His Tamawa Club doesn't even allow women regular membership. His basic piece of campaign literature—an 8-page booklet—nowhere alludes to the existence of a lady running mate or mentions who she is. Do you know her name? Have you ever seen her or heard her speak?

De Sapio takes credit for many other "reforms." Actually they were jammed down his throat. He is never an innovator—he only follows when pressure mounts through strong campaigns of civic and community groups.

—CAROL GREITZER,
VID District Leader Candidate



CASTORE HAILS ROUT OF VERRAZANO BULLDOZERS

By Rudy Castore
Chairman, Downing Street Tenants Assn., VID Executive Committeeman

At this writing the battle to stop "Verrazano Street" is very nearly won—a battle most people told me I was crazy to waste my time with. But I knew this street was ridiculous and so did they.

When I was elected chairman of the Downing Street Tenants Association, I figured all I had to do was to present the problem to local civic organizations who were used to handling such issues. Many of these groups didn't seem to care enough to put up any kind of a fight, even though they did announce that they were against the street. Even the Downing Street tenants were beginning to feel the fight was useless. They told me we were powerless to fight the city.

The Save the Village Committee became interested and began to acquaint me with the technical problems involved. I suddenly realized how complex fighting a city plan actually was and how much organized opposition it needed.

VID Enters the Fight

Luckily, at this time I met Sarah Schoenkopf, Democratic State Committeewoman, and she suggested that I discuss the project with VID, which I did. This is when the ball really started to roll. Sarah and Carol Greitzer first went down to "Verrazano Street" and painted one apartment to call attention to the city's neglect of the property. Following this and talks with city officials, conditions improved.

VID then started setting up conferences with city officials who might be able to stop the plan in its tracks. We saw Borough President Dudley twice and he agreed that the biggest problem

in the area was housing rather than traffic.

At an unexpected hearing at the Board of Estimate in mid-May VID, Save the Village and other community representatives were able to put up such strong and constructive arguments for vetoing the street that the plan was postponed for further study. The Mayor was so impressed by our testimony that he decided to see the site for himself, and agreed with us that "Verrazano Street" was a "road to nowhere." The Mayor is now strongly in favor of better housing on the street instead, and will be interested to see any proposals we have along these lines.

Long, Hard Fight—But Worth It

As it stands now, the families living on the site feel more secure now that Mayor Wagner himself has condemned the plan to tear down good houses for bad reasons.

It has been a long, hard fight, but at least people now know that there is another Downing Street, which like its famous namesake, has survived attempted demolition.

All I wanted from the start of all this was to stop the street, and help get some real middle-income housing for the people of our community. There is one thing I don't like: that is for the city to call us obsolete.

E TEMPO DI CAMBIARE — "TIME FOR A CHANGE"

By Sidney Dean,
South Villager for 34 years



Sidney Dean

I'd like to ask all of my friends and neighbors in the South Village to consider with me whether the time hasn't now come to change the leaders of the Democratic Party in the Village.

Let's go back to the beginning of the Tamawa Club, and consider how much it has truly helped our own community south of the Square.

Most of us remember when the Sixth Avenue Elevated crossed over on Third Street. We used to call it "the Chinese Wall." Under the elevated were some of the worst buildings and worst "joints" in the Village.

Neighbors Must Unite

"The Chinese Wall" is still there—a wall of false separation of neighbors and false divisions of the common goals of the entire Village for better homes, better business and job conditions and better surroundings for our families and children. The Village must be united, not divided, in its political and government organizations.

The "joints" on Third Street are still there, attracting sick customers far and wide. Why have our present Democratic leaders permitted this street to remain in the heart of their district. It could be zoned like the rest of the community, forcing the "joints" to close. What protection still keeps these unsavory places open?

Tamawa's Do-Nothing Leaders

What have our powerful Democratic leaders done to bring better homes to their own community? Nothing. They have done nothing to insure that our housing projects, built with federal and city money, provide some apartments that South Village families can afford. Meanwhile, get-rich-quick real estate speculation is driving up rents even in the oldest buildings.

And how have Tamawa and De Sapio improved the conditions in our streets, parks and playgrounds. The South Village is still troubled by gamblers, push-

ers, and other anti-social elements who drift in from the Bowery area.

When every other Village citizens' organization was working to get automobiles out of Washington Square and improve the Park for mothers and children, why were Tamawa and its affiliated organizations silent? Although Mr. De Sapio finally spoke up for temporarily closing the Square, why has he not used his leadership to secure permanent improvements?

Time For A Change—to VID

In these fifteen years of Tamawa leadership, what has happened to the income of workers and merchants? Outside, low-paid, unskilled labor has taken away jobs in the surrounding factory and loft districts. Shrinking population, shrinking jobs, lack of housing improvements, have cut down the sales of retailers and skilled services. The leaders of other city communities have been able to help their people by better planning and cooperation with government bodies—by caring for the people. Have our own leaders been too busy with city, state, and national politics.

These are some of the reasons why I believe we must decide, in the best interests of our people and our community, that it is time to change our Democratic Party leaders in Greenwich Village.

Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer have been chosen by the Village Independent Democrats, a party organization truly open to every Democrat, to bring about these changes. I know they have the courage, the honesty, and the ability to unite all Democrats in the Village, and to lead the Village to help itself for better homes, better jobs, and better moral conditions.

JOIN VID NOW!

- ☐\$5 Regular Membership
- ☐\$15 Sustaining Member
- ☐ And here's a "little extra" to help pay for this issue of VID News.

Village Independent Democrats
224 W. 4th Street, New York 14

VID Acts ...



THE WAY WE SEE IT: The plan to bulldoze moderate-rental buildings to make way for "Verrazano Street"—"the road to nowhere"—must go, VID explains here to Mayor Wagner. The Mayor took a look for himself and agreed. With him are Jim Lanigan, far right, and Carol Greitzer. The man at the map is Rudy Castore, Chairman of the Downing Street Tenants Association, and an active VID member.



VID TEAMMATE: Deputy Mayor Paul Screvane, candidate for City Council President, right, pledges his support to the VID program. He teams up here with Jim Lanigan at a special "Stop the Bulldozer" rally in Father Demo Square. VID is working to save the Democratic Party from boss rule.



Photo Courtesy of New York Post

JIM LANIGAN
Tammany Foe

While the Tiger Sleeps



Photo Courtesy of New York Post

CAROL GREITZER
Hard-Working Candidate



Let's lick all the problems connected with Washington Square Park

Conferring here with Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris, center, are, from right, State Committeewoman Sarah Schoenkopf (VID's campaign manager), Carol Greitzer, Jim Lanigan and Art Kugler, a VID member and treasurer of the GVA.

PRESS DIGEST

MR. DE SAPIO'S MISTAKE

Editorial, *New York Times*

"Mr. De Sapiro is leading the fight against a Charter Reform that aims at strengthening and improving the city government. He becomes the advocate of stand-patism, of preserving status quo. He is the political boss saving his power structure, and the public interest be damned. His oft-vaunted faith in the wisdom of the people is abandoned, as he pulls the strings of political power to deprive the voters of a chance to say whether they want a new and better structure of municipal government, based on a revised Charter."—April 15, 1961.

★ ★ ★

LANIGAN VS. DE SAPIO: A MAIN EVENT

Editorial, *New York Post*

"Lanigan is an authentic, fiery and able spokesman for political reform. He mingles earnest conviction with political talent. A forthright liberal, he has served at key posts in both domestic campaigns and in important government missions abroad.

We have talked frequently about the need for a new form of Democratic leadership in New York, drawn from the Kennedy generation and capable of imparting to the political arena some of the intelligence and spirit now discernible in the U.S. government. Lanigan has strong qualifications for such a role.

In fighting for the chance to run against De Sapiro when he might have chosen a more comfortable place on the New Frontier, he displayed the resolve and concern so sorely needed in our political life. His victory in the September Primary would be important news"—April 3, 1961.

★ ★ ★

KENNEDY MAN WILL OPPOSE DE SAPIO IN SEPT. PRIMARY

Article, *New York Herald Tribune*

"If Mr. De Sapiro were to go down to defeat in the September 7 Primary, he would no longer, under present rules, be able to serve as county leader.

"It is known also that Mr. Lanigan has strong support from the Kennedy administration. . . ."—March 30, 1961.

★ ★ ★

NO STARRING ROLE— DE SAPIO STAYS HOME

Article, *The Village Voice*

"An attempt to make Carmine De Sapiro the stellar attraction at last week's Board of Estimate hearing on Verrazano Street collapsed when the tenants—the people who are facing eviction—balked.

The *Voice* learned that a few days prior to the Board session, a Tamawa captain had promised to "deliver" De Sapiro on the condition that he would be given sole and star billing at the hearing. The tenants, who have had the backing of other groups, including the anti-De Sapiro Village Independent Democrats, refused the bait. The VID and Save the Village have been in the fight to prevent the city from evicting the tenants for almost a year."—June 1, 1961.

◆ Where Was De Sapiro

(Continued from page 1)

- for the medical treatment and counseling of addicts and ex-addicts.
- WHERE WAS DE SAPIO when the West Village Title I threat rocked the community?
OUT OF THE DISTRICT! — While VID publicly opposed the plan and so testified before the Board of Estimate.
- WHERE WAS DE SAPIO when the battle to keep the roadway out of

The "WHERE WAS DE SAPIO?" list could continue, but the examples above are enough to give Village voters an indication of the blatant absenteeism of De Sapiro, the Phantom Leader. NOWHERE IN MANHATTAN DO DISTRICT LEADERS DISREGARD THEIR COMMUNITY OBLIGATIONS AS DE SAPIO AND HIS FEMALE CO-LEADER DO!



Joseph Papin

"Why Do They Insist on Calling Me a Boss?"

Reform, Anyone?

By William H. Honan
Former Editor of *The Villager*

I am convinced that the government of the City of New York—along with the governments of Muscat and Oman—is one of the last surviving strongholds of feudalism in the world today. We have a Mayor whose hands are tied by a City Charter that easily could have been written in the 13th Century and whose authority is blatantly usurped by five borough barons, not the least aggressive of whom is Carmine G. De Sapiro.

What encourages me to speak out at this time is that I think that New York City and Greenwich Village can take from its political Dark Age and take their places among the modern democracies of the world if only the voters will pull the levers for Wagner and Charter Reform in the City—and for Lanigan and Greitzer in the Village.

Sweeping Array of Reforms

Thursday, September 7, we will have the chance to repudiate the chief of the borough politicians, Mr. De Sapiro, in his own home district, Greenwich Village, and throughout the city. Rarely have such a sweeping array of reforms been offered to any group of voters. New York City can do in one election year what it took the Western World seven centuries to accomplish.

VID ELECTION EVE PARADE and RALLY

★
Sept. 6—7:00 p.m.
★

Parade Begins: 350 W. 12 St.

Washington Square Park was on? BIDDING HIS TIME!—His early statements were on both sides of the fence, but when community opinion jelled, he reluctantly got on the bandwagon. Since the Primary two years ago, he has been silent on the park problem until just recently. He has also kept mum about the proposed Abingdon Square Park enlargement. VID took an early stand on closing the park to traffic and rerouting buses. We work for this goal at all times, not just when the polls are open.

ADA HAILS VID

By Lawrence R. Maxwell,
Chairman, Village ADA

Why does ADA consider this primary so important?

It's always risky to presume to interpret other peoples' motives, but there's no question as to the facts. Village ADA is involved in this campaign to a degree unequalled since the first Stevenson race in '52.

Most ADA members are Democrats, but we are proud of our non-partisanship as an organization—of the fact that we have backed numerous Liberals and occasional Republicans. This has made us involved in Primary fights, and particularly about taking sides in a fight for party office. We are not a part of any party, and we have not wanted our role to be misunderstood.

What has changed? I can speak, of course, only for myself, but I think that two new factors have been introduced. First, a growing awareness, within the ranks of ADA, that the key decisions are often made on Primary Day, and that to stand aside from this fight is to leave the decision-making to others. The other contributing factor, I venture to suggest, has come from within VID. With its growth and maturity there has come a clarification of purpose which makes it unmistakably clear that VID has the will and the ability to survive; that it fights not for patronage or power but for the soul of the Democratic Party; and that its defeat of De Sapiro will not only encourage reform Democrats everywhere to challenge the old-line bosses in the name of common decency, but will have significant substantive implications for the choice of candidates for public office and the drafting, enactment, and enforcement of legislation.

Sullivan Not For Reform

One thing all Primary election campaigns have plenty of is confusion. This summer, the Village has had even more than its share because the race for the District Leadership has become a three-way one, for the first time.

There is just one minor point at which two of the three contesting groups come together; the shared determination of both the VID candidates and Patrick "Joe" Sullivan to oust De Sapiro from the leadership.

But from there on the differences are sweeping and complete.

To Sullivan, the personal fight against De Sapiro is the whole fight. He has said as much. A long-time De Sapiro Tammany associate, he makes no pretense to a reform program for our party, our city or our community; he has no quarrel with present patronage tactics; he doesn't like the present boss, but he would replace him with a new one.

To VID, the fight against De Sapiro is just the beginning. It is part of VID's four-year campaign to re-structure the city-wide party; to make it, at last, responsive to the wishes of its members, not just its bosses, to obtain for our community badly needed low- and middle-income housing, schools, parks, police protection, curbing of the narcotics traffic.

There are two ways to vote AGAINST De Sapiro on September 7; but there's only one way to vote FOR replacing him with leadership dedicated to genuine meaningful reform of our party and our city—by voting for James Lanigan and Carol Greitzer, candidates of the Village Independent Democrats.

VID NEWS

Published monthly by

THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

224 West Fourth Street, New York

Tel. CH 3-6555

Editor: Ray Bentley. Staff: Bob Engle, Bobbi De Joia, Ted Blake, Helen Adelman

★ DEFAT DE SAPIO ★
ELECT LANIGAN AND GREITZER
DISTRICT LEADERS
PRIMARY DAY, THURS., SEPT. 7
★ POLLS OPEN 3-10 P.M. ★

Vote for Reform Tuesday, Nov. 7
Note for
Wagner, Screvane, Beame, Dudley,
Rosenberg and Muncy!

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 Permit No. 12018

VID NEWS
 224 W. Fourth Street
 New York 14, N. Y.

VID Holiday Cards

Send greetings to your friends and comfort to our creditors. Because of the great success of our holiday cards last year, VID has designed a new one depicting freedom of folksinging in Washington Square Park and another striking card with non-political partridges. The Beatnik Santa comes in traditional red suit and the partridges will be imprinted on colored paper.

The price list and coupon appear at the lower left. Fill in the coupon and mail your check payable to THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS, 224 West 4th Street, New York 14. You may pick up your cards at headquarters or enclose 25¢ for mailing.



Jingle bells jingle bells jingle all the way...

Price List

1 card 15¢; 7--\$1.00; 15--\$2.00; 25--\$3.00;
 50--\$5.25; 100--\$9.95.

Imprinted cards: One-line imprint of names on cards is available at \$2.50 for the first 100 and \$1.50 for each additional 100. Orders should be received no later than Nov. 30. Orders for imprinted cards: Nov. 15.

Enclosed is \$_____ contribution to cover the cost of _____ cards, or _____ cards with the following imprinted on them.

Name: _____

Address: _____



VID news



122 VOLUME 1 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1961

The Mayoral Election:

VID Members Endorse Reform Slate



Mayor Wagner Paul Screvane (left) Abe Beame (right).

Vote to Support Wagner, Screvane Beame and Dudley

The Village Independent Democrats voted to support the Democratic Reform slate: Robert F. Wagner for Mayor; Paul Screvane for President of the City Council; Abraham Beame for Controller; and Edward Dudley for Manhattan Borough President.

In giving its endorsement to Mayor Wagner and his running mates, the club pointed to several factors in the Mayor's favor:

- ▶ His early defiance of De Sapio in supporting Edward Dudley for Borough President.
- ▶ His complete break with all the Bosses when he insisted on Screvane and Beame as his running mates.
- ▶ His espousal of the Reform Program in the primary election triumph in September. His successful fight to bring Charter Reform proposals to the voters.
- ▶ His support of VID positions on the most crucial Village problems: stopping the Verazano Street "road to nowhere"; closing Washington Square Park to traffic; opposing the West Village Renewal Project.

VID's District Leader Jim Lanigan said, "The election of Wagner provides the only hope of completing the reform of the Party throughout the City."

"Those people who are searching for a new face in City Hall and are therefore tempted to vote for Lefkowitz miss the whole point of the

(Continued on page 2)

VID Urges Yes Vote On Charter Reform

During the primary election campaign, VID urged passage of Charter Reform proposals calling for a stronger, responsible Mayor; a City Council with adequate legislative power, properly expanded to use power wisely and responsibly; elimination of the Board of Estimate and Borough Presidents; reduction of the Controller's power and functions; a streamlining of budgetary procedures; and upgrading of local level planning.

Opposing these recommendations were the Party Bosses and hacks who have always opposed reform of any sort -- who have lived on patronage, encouraged waste, and permitted corruption under the present system.

A commission appointed by Mayor Wagner and headed by John

T. Cahill succeeded in bringing Charter Reform proposals to the voters over the strong objections of the Party Bosses who took court action to stop Charter Reform -- and lost.

What Charter Reform Will Do

VID's membership supports the Cahill Commission's proposals and urges voters to vote "Yes" for Charter Reform at the polls. Although the Cahill Commission proposals do not go as far as VID had hoped, they are a step in the right direction. In brief, they call for:

- ▶ A stronger Mayor: giving him greater executive powers and the right to appoint two Deputy Mayors.
- ▶ A stronger City Council: making it the sole legislative body. In addition to two City Councilmen from each State Senatorial District there will be two from each borough,

(Continued on page 2)

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VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Ed Gold	President
James Lanigan	State Committee
Sarah Schoenkopf	
James Lanigan	District Leaders
Carol Greitzer	

Staff: Ray Bentley, Editor; Bobbi de Joia, Helen Adelman, Ted Blake.

VID SUPPORTS REFORM SLATE
(Continued from page 1)

election. A new face will not change the political system which has corrupted this City. It is the system which must be changed.

"Wagner has pledged to carry out the reform program to completion. This program is the only hope for obtaining good government in New York City."

In Paul Screvane and Abraham Beame, Wagner has running mates who are dedicated public servants with long experience and distinguished records. Edward Dudley, former Ambassador to Liberia, is a man of unquestioned ability and integrity who has taken a keen interest in Village problems and deserves a full term as Manhattan Borough President.

In other action VID voted no endorsement in the Councilmanic race between incumbent Stanley Issacs and Richard Zeif, but endorsed Liberals Gustave Rosenberg and Emilio Nunez for the two Supreme Court Judgeships.

**WE'D LIKE TO
WELCOME YOU, TOO.
JOIN US NOW:**

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is _____

(regular membership - \$5.00 -
sustaining membership - \$15.00)

I wish to contribute to VID's good work.

Enclosed is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

home phone _____ business phone _____

The Bosses Pull the Strings For Louie



In departing from the Democratic line to back Rosenberg and Nunez, the club noted that their Democratic opponents Abraham Gellinoff and Nathaniel Helman had won nomination for services rendered to old-line Tammany Bosses. Rosenberg and Nunez were chosen from a list of highly qualified jurists submitted by the New York Bar. This is the first time nominations to the Judiciary have been made on a non-partisan basis.

CHARTER REFORM

(Continued from page 1)

elected borough-wide. VID hopes the Council will get

more power as the duties of the Board of Estimate decrease.

- ▶ Board of Estimate: The Board is retained, but its controls over legislation, budget, and administration are reduced.
- ▶ Controller: The Controller retains most of his present powers, but the Mayor will now estimate the General Fund and the Bureau of Finance will administer excise taxes.
- ▶ Borough Presidents: They are retained, but their jurisdiction over highways, sewers, and sanitation go to City departments under the Mayor.



VILLAGE INDEPENDENT

224 West 4th Street, New York 14, N. Y.



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CHelsea 3-6555

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SARAH SCHOENKOPF
DOUGLAS STONE
JOHN WESTERGAARD

* *ex officio past presidents*

Dear Fellow Democrat:

As you know, the registered Democrats of the First Assembly District South have chosen us and the Village Independent Democrats as the official Party club in this community.

During our primary campaign, we made a number of pledges to Democrats of this area for ourselves and for VID.

We propose to fulfill them, beginning immediately.

We said that the Democratic Party belongs to all Democrats and that all elements in the community must be represented in the Party. In this spirit, we wish to extend an invitation to all of you--whether or not you supported us in the election--to visit our new club headquarters at 224 West 4th Street, talk with us and with VID's officers, and attend our open Executive Committee and Membership meetings.

We also pledged to continue and strengthen VID's community services program. We want to hear Villagers' ideas on community matters that need attention. We urge you to keep us informed of events and problems that concern the community, so we can take appropriate action.

Finally, if you have not already done so, we ask you to consider joining with us in the tremendous rebuilding program that lies ahead. During the campaign we discussed problems relating to our schools, parks and playgrounds, traffic, housing, narcotics, and others. We need the support and strength of all Democrats in the Village to make progress in meeting these problems. Our membership, which has more than doubled since April, is still far short of our goal of a truly representative proportion of the community's 19,000 Democrats.

VID, incidentally, does not believe in "all work and no play." In addition to regular meetings and community work, we hold frequent social events, off-Broadway theatre parties and other activities just for fun. We also sponsor forums of educational and community interest throughout the year.

We look forward to greeting you at VID headquarters.

Sincerely,
James Lanigan
James Lanigan

Carol Greitzer
Carol Greitzer
District Leaders



the VILLAGE Democrat

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VID LAUNCHES BIG REGISTRATION DRIVE

ANY QUESTIONS?

Detailed information on who must register and how is on the reverse of this sheet. If you have any further questions about your own registration status, your polling place or any other registration information, call or visit Village Independent Democrats any week-day between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. at 224 W. 4th St., CHelsea 3-6555.

PARADE OF STARS SET FOR OCT. 16

Orson Bean, Gore Vidal, Comden & Green and Milt Kamen are just a few of the headliners who will entertain friends of the Village Independent Democrats at a special affair on Monday, October 16, at One Sheridan Square.

The event will be dedicated, frankly, to VID's favorite charity: VID. We not only succeeded in electing our candidates for District Leaders and other party offices in the September primary--we also piled up a deficit of \$4,000.

To help pay off this debt--and to assure yourself of a memorable evening--come to One Sheridan Square at 9 p.m. on Monday, October 16. Tickets, at \$7.50, are obtainable from VID, 224 W. 4th St., N.Y. 14.

VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
224 W. 4 St., N. Y. 14, N. Y.

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sustaining membership - \$15.00)

I wish to contribute to VID's good work.
Enclosed is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

home
phone

business
phone

95 COMMITTEEMEN WORK THRU NIGHT

In addition to electing Jim Lanigan and Carol Greitzer as District Leaders of the First Assembly District South in the September primary election, the Village Independent Democrats won 95 out of the Village's 125 seats on the County Committee of the N.Y. County Democratic Party.

Virtually every one of the VID's County Committee delegation was present at the organization meeting on Sept. 27th.

More remarkable, most of them were still on hand when the meeting was adjourned--at 5 a.m. the following day.

The gruelling marathon session had the task of choosing a Committee Chairman and other officers and adopting rules of procedure. What made these seemingly routine matters so difficult was that at this first meeting, since a substantial number of reform delegates were elected to the committee, efforts were being made --as promised in the campaigns of reform clubs--to transfer the N.Y. County Committee from a paper organization to a functioning guardian of the policies and principles of the Democratic Party.

Since it was apparent early that reform delegates present outnumbered "regulars", the latter's strategy was to delay action through parliamentary maneuvers in the hope that the new rules would never come to a vote. Thanks to firm and decisive action by new Chairman Edward F. Cavanaugh, Jr. and to the superior staying power of reform committeemen, the new rules were finally approved at 5 a.m.

ALL POLLS
TO BE OPEN
OCT. 11-14

A massive drive to register an estimated 7,000 eligible voters in the Village has been mounted by the Village Independent Democrats.

The club, designated by last month's primary election results as the official Democratic Party Club in the 1st Assembly District South has undertaken the new campaign as the first official program under its new status.

Target date for the effort is October 11-14, when polling places throughout the city will be open for new registrations in preparation for election day, Nov. 7th. Hours for registration are 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11 through Friday, Oct. 13th; and 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. on Saturday October 14th.

"The Primaries, which overturned many of the boss-ridden regular party organizations through the city, demonstrated how vitally important registration is", said Sarah Schoenkopf, VID Campaign Chairman, who is in charge of the registration drive. "Only those whose registration was current and in the Democratic Party had a voice in those historic decisions.

"Registration now will be equally important," Miss Schoenkopf added. "It will be, of course, the last chance to qualify to vote in the Mayoralty election Nov. 7th. But it will also be the last chance to enroll in the party in order to take part in next year's primary.

1961

NEW YORK CITY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

New Voters

If you have never before voted, you may register to vote in the November 7 election if you are otherwise qualified- which means:

- . You are at least 21 years old as of November 7; and
- . You are a U.S. citizen, either native born or naturalized before August 9, 1961 (if you are naturalized and registering for the first time in New York you must show your naturalization papers or a registered copy at the polls or swear to an affidavit of your naturalization) and
- . You have lived in New York State one year, in New York City four months and in your election district 30 days; and
- . You meet the literacy requirements (see below).

Re-Registering

If you have previously registered in New York, you must re-register if:

- . you have moved from the address at which you were last registered; or you did not vote in either of the last two GENERAL elections.

Party Enrollment

Enrolling in a party when you register does not mean you have to vote for that party's candidates on election day. It entitles you to vote in that party's primary elections, to sign and circulate petitions for that party's candidates, to hold party office, and to run as that party's candidate for public office.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERED BUT NOT ENROLLED IN A PARTY AND WANT TO BECOME ENROLLED, OR WISH TO CHANGE THE PARTY YOU ARE ENROLLED IN, YOU CAN DO SO AT YOUR POLLING PLACE DURING REGISTRATION.

Registration Hours

All polling places will be open for registration from 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM Wednesday October 11 through Friday October 13; also all day Saturday October 14 from 7AM to 10:30 PM.

The polling places for each election district will be the same as they are for general and primary elections. If you do not know the location of your polling place, call VID (Chelsea 3-6555), give your home address, and we will supply this information.

Literacy

All voters registering for the first time in New York State must prove that they can read and write English (this includes those previously qualified to vote in another state). To prove your literacy you must

- . Show your diploma or certificate from an approved eighth grade or higher school in which teaching is in English; or
- . Show a matriculation card or a certified letter of attendance at a college or university; or
- . Swear to an affidavit that you possess the above, at the polling place; or
- . Show certificate of honorable discharge from one of the US armed forces--if you were a New York State resident when you were inducted; or
- . If you are a new military voter, sign the literacy statement on the ballot; or
- . Take a literacy test (This will be administered at a nearby school at the same hours as the registration hours). Those who fail the literacy test may take it again during the registration period.