

# Bertram Doesn't Agree With Direction Board Has Taken

BY MATT MCALLISTER

HAMMOND - Republican Hammond Town Supervisor candidate Ron W. Bertram, though respectful of incumbent Democrat Janie G. Hollister, says he doesn't agree with the direction she is taking the town board in.

"I can't put her down for what she's done," Mr. Bertram said Sunday. "I respect all the years she's put in. What I don't agree with is the direction the town board has taken with the wind law issue."

Mr. Bertram will also appear on the Independent line under the "Party for Change."

While concerned about

many issues with the wind law, Mr. Bertram says the reasoning behind his candidacy is not isolated to that one issue.

"I've been in Hammond for a long time," he said, "And I can foresee my retirement here. This is about giving back to my community."

The contractor says he sees Hammond becoming a retirement town.

"I'm in the business of building homes for people. Year round homes - more and more so for retiring folks. People see Hammond for it's natural beauty. Just look at the resources we have here.

"I want to make sure that whatever we do fits into that

picture," he said.

Other than the wind law issue, according to Mr. Bertram, "the number one thing I'm hearing concern from people about is taxation.

"Other communities are looking at consolidating services," he continued. "I think Hammond needs to as well - not only between the village and the school, but also with other townships. The highway department, for instance, could look into sharing equipment to save money."

While Mr. Bertram agrees with Mrs. Hollister, in that

**See Bertram, Page 14**

## THE JOURNAL

SECOND SECTION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

PAGE 9

### Bertram

Continued From Page 9

Hammond is at a disadvantage with the counties current 50/50 split (tax revenues based on 50 percent assessment, 50 percent population), he says, "It's not exactly fair, but that's the way it is."

He says that he doesn't expect the current format to change.

"As a result, we need to look at an economic stimulus in our area. We have to go look for resources to bring in revenue," he said. "The direction we must take should include the river and the lake. I don't know exactly what that direction is, but funding is there and guidance is available," Mr. Bertram said, pointing to the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development as one possible source for that guidance.

He also took a moment to

revisit the wind law issue.

"As a person in business for years, nobody can tell me the benefits that we will definitely get from the wind industry.

"There is a company that is signing leases and looking into the possibilities of a project. I want to know how much money we'll be receiving, and when. I'd like to see their plan.

"The present town board seems to be tailoring the wind law to the desires of the wind company, but say they've had no contact.

"Before signing anything, I'd have to sit down at the table with the company and see what exactly it is they have to offer," Mr. Bertram said.

"Perhaps the town board feels they've answered all of the questions people have raised to the best of their ability," he continued, "But I, and others, don't feel we've received adequate answers.

"Maybe it is because they don't have the information, which says to me that the company needs to be contacted and talked with to get the answers."

One thing that has come out of the wind law issue, according to Mr. Bertram, is a greater awareness of the Hammond public about their need to get out this November and vote.

"I think this issue has really opened people's eyes. Our country is founded on electing our officials.

"This brings the importance of electing qualified candidates to light," he continued. "People are realizing that good government is based on electing good candidates. Look at all the opposed races in Hammond - they're not all about the wind issue.

"I feel that's the way it should be for every election."