**RICHARD S. ABBATE**

For Yorktown Town Justice

**EXPERIENCE * INTEGRITY**

**DEDICATION * HONESTY**

- 22 Years of Experience in Federal, State and Local Courts.
- Does NOT accept endorsements in order to remain 100% fair and impartial.
- Richard is the right choice for JUDGE!

[Website](http://www.abbateforjustice.com)

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**ELECT ILAN GILBERT**

YORKTOWN COUNCILMAN

Former Yorktown Town Justice • A Proven Record of Community Leadership

I promise to work tirelessly for ALL YORKTOWN RESIDENTS TO:

- Keep taxes down • Promote smart economic growth
- Protect our environment and open spaces
- End partisan nonsense

**AN INDEPENDENT VOICE OF HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**

*Let’s get along, so we can put Yorktown first.*

---

**Elect DIANA L. QUAST**

Yorktown Town Clerk

VOTE ROW A ON NOVEMBER 3

✔ Experienced - Yorktown Deputy Town Clerk for the past 12 years
✔ Qualified - Served as Acting Town Clerk in 2007
✔ Ready for the Job - Smooth transition from Deputy to Town Clerk with no learning curve

*Endorsed by Town Clerk Alice Roker, CSEA Southern Region, Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL CIO*

[Website](http://www.Diana4townclerk.com)

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*Paid for by Friends of Richard S. Abbate*

*Paid for by Friends of Ilan Gilbert*

*Paid for by Friends of Diana Quast*
Dear Yorktown Voter,

In their determination to get me off the Town Board, my opponents will most likely be calling me dishonest, a liar, unethical and an obstructionist. I’ve even been labeled a Peeping Tom and likened to a Nazi era brown shirt. And, my critics will probably also accuse me of invading your personal privacy.

Sadly, language like this has become par for the course in today’s negative political environment — and why so few highly qualified residents are interested in running for local office.

But I have faith in your ability to distinguish fact from fiction and recognize lies and hyperbole when you see them. I trust your ability to read between the lines and see the self-serving motivation of my critics.

After 45 years of involvement in Yorktown town government as your former Supervisor, current Councilwoman, community advocate, and commentator on town affairs, I stand by my record of accomplishments, honesty, and above all, my commitment to you, the residents of Yorktown.

I would be honored to continue serving as your Councilwoman for the next four years. On November 3rd, I hope you’ll give me that opportunity.

Sincerely,
Councilwoman Susan Siegel

P.S. You can vote for me on either Row A or Row F.

www.SusanForYorktown.com

Paid for by Friends of Susan Siegel
Yorktown Town Board

Four Run for Two Seats in Yorktown Town Board Race

By Rick Pezzullo

Two incumbent councilpersons with less than one year each under their belt, a former town justice and the president of the Yorktown Lions Club make up the field of candidates running for two available seats on the Yorktown Town Board in the November 3 election.

It is the second time in a year the Councilwoman Susan Siegel and Councilman Thomas Diana have squared off. Siegel, a former supervisor who was ousted by current Supervisor Michael Grace in 2011 in a three-way race after one term in office, defeated Diana in a special election to fill the final 13 months of former Councilman Dave Paganelli’s term after Paganelli was elected highway superintendent.

In March, Diana, a retired police officer, prevailed in another special election to serve the last nine months of former Councilman Nick Bianco’s unexpired term.

“I haven’t been shy to ask questions or seek more information. Some people don’t appreciate my active participation, but I’m a fully engaged councilwoman,” Siegel said. “You will not only have a councilwoman who seeks the truth, but tells the truth. Yorktown doesn’t need passive councilmen who will rubberstamp decisions.”

“I ran on a mission of moving Yorktown forward and I’ve helped to do just that,” Diana said. “I have proven to be responsive and committed to doing the work of the people and doing it efficiently. I have accomplished much and I have only just begun.”

Siegel is running on the Democratic and Independence lines with Ilan Gilbert, who served five years as a Yorktown judge. He also served on the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals and was co-chair of the Yorktown Conservation Board.

“I believe I’m the only person who has been a public servant the entire 33 years of my career,” Gilbert said. “Let’s get along and put Yorktown first. Let us not seek the Republican answer. Let us not seek the Democratic answer. Let us seek the right answer. I’m tired of rhetoric. I want to work together.”

Ed Lachterman, who is running with Diana on the Republican, Conservative and Reform Party lines, works in the hospitality industry and is serving his second term as president of the Lions Club. He is also a team leader for the Yorktown Community Emergency Response Team.

“My commitment to our town has never been stronger,” Lachterman said. “I have a love for my community. I feel it is the time to focus my vision on the leadership of this town. Leadership is not easy. You must be able to see beyond your own objectives for the betterment of the electorate.” Each Town Board seat carries a four-year term and an annual salary of $18,085.

Highway Garage/Downtown Revitalization

Siegel, a former League of Women Voters president who provides a blog summary of every Town Board and Planning Board meeting, said she is not opposed to Grace’s plan to relocate the town’s highway garage in hopes of revitalizing downtown Yorktown, but has questioned the cost and timing of the project.

“I am opposed to it at this point in time when we have other priorities and until we have a real plan,” she said.

Diana, who has owned and operated a full service fuel and heating oil delivery company for the last 14 years, wholeheartedly supports the concept of Depot Square on Front Street and moving the highway garage and Parks and Recreation operations to Greenwood Street.

“Depot Square is a vision. It’s going to create jobs,” he said. “I want to make Yorktown a place people drive to, not a place to drive through.”

Gilbert said he is not convinced the project will not be built at no cost to taxpayers as Grace has maintained. “You can’t falsify numbers on grants,” he said. “I envision the building being difficult to rent out.”

Lachterman is fully on board with the concept, saying, “We have a prime piece of property, Why should the town not be able to get revenue from it? It’s just good business. It’s something we need to do to jumpstart the Heights area.”

Expanding Commercial Tax Base

Siegel said when she was supervisor the Town Board adopted a Comprehensive Plan that kept zoning in place for the Costco Wholesale Club on Route 202 that is nearing final approval with the Planning Board.

“Zoning is a key tool. The town has to boost economic development,” she said.

Diana supports a business revitalization plan unveiled by the Republican ticket during the campaign to streamline approvals, attract and retain business investment and make leases more affordable.

“About 85% of taxes rest on the shoulders of taxpayers,” Diana said. “We need to revitalize and streamline the process.”

Gilbert said he would like to see a supermarket on Route 202 in the area of BJ’s Wholesale Club.

“You can’t maintain services without tax revenues coming in,” Gilbert said. “I don’t know why the Democrats are being accused of being anti-business. I’m upset as anyone of seeing vacant stores. I don’t see a true vision.”

Lachterman backs the Republican strategy, saying, “For years Yorktown had a red x over it. Don’t come here. Supervisor Grace has taken great lengths to make Yorktown more pro-business. We have to have people that want to come to Yorktown.”

Vision for Town

Siegel said the biggest challenge facing Yorktown is taking care of the town’s infrastructure and quality of life issues.

“This is a high priority,” Siegel said of maintaining roads, buildings and water lines. “We have to do all of this and live within the tax cap.”

Diana, a third generation town resident, said his vision is to continue moving Yorktown forward.

“You have to be pro-business. You have to create jobs. You have to lower taxes,” Diana said. “I know what it takes to get this town moving.”

Gilbert said he would strive to have the Town Board work in a collaborative manner, saying, “There is a problem with the Democratic/Republican divide in this town and it’s hurting the town. Everyone wants to make Yorktown a destination location. We need to do it responsibly.”

Lachterman said he was a “dynamic person” who could bring people together.

“I would like to fill the town with a feeling of pride,” he said. “There’s an anti-business culture that has been in this town. It’s time to end that. It’s time to cut red tape.”
Yorktown Supervisor

Patel Confident in Abilities to Lead as Yorktown Supervisor

By Rick Pezzullo

Y
orktown Councilman Vishnu Patel had a very successful career as a scientist for I.B.M., with one of his inventions helping create the famous Watson computer, a complex system that processes information more like a human than a machine.

Patel, who has served six years on the Town Board, is confident his knowledge and expertise will translate well to the supervisor’s seat as he looks to replace current Supervisor Michael Grace on November 3.

“I bring to the Town Board the independent perspective of a scientist. Many of the issues we deal with are complex. As a scientist, I analyze all possibilities to make intelligent, cost-effective decisions,” Patel said. “For more than 40 years, I have worked to make our special town even better.

As a councilman, I have worked to allocate resources wisely, save money for taxpayers, protect the environment, and make it easier for businesses to locate and thrive here. I am running for supervisor because I can’t stand by and let our town bumble along from one bad decision to the next. I have a mission to help people who are in need. I don’t need to get the glory.”

Patel, whose son and daughter both graduated from West Point Military Academy, said when he first was elected the bi-partisan board worked together under Supervisor Susan Siegel, but after Siegel was defeated by Grace “bi-partisan decision making that processes information more like a human than a machine.

A Republican whose law offices are directly across the street from Town Hall, Grace is a land use attorney who has continued to practice full-time while also being a full-time supervisor, which carries an annual salary of $121,327.

“I believe I am very skilled at both tasks,” Grace said. “I look at my role as supervisor to be a facilitator, not a ring leader. We’ve done great things here and we will continue to do great things.”

While he respects the community service his opponent, Councilman Patel vowed to be a full-time supervisor and work for $1 a year, donating the $121,327 salary the position carries back to the town. He currently donates a large portion of his $18,085 councilman salary to charity.

“I believe that a supervisor who is paid a full-time salary should work full-time. Supervisor Grace feels it’s okay to work part-time for a full-time salary and spend much of his time practicing law,” Patel said. “As supervisor, I will not make decisions based on what my political party told me to do or who contributed to my campaign. This is government of the people, by the people, for the people. We are their servants. We are not the king.”

Grace’s plans to relocate the town’s highway garage from Front Street to Greenwood Street to make room for a mixed-use building called Depot Square in an effort to revitalize the downtown Heights area has triggered much debate and a petition, supported by Patel, that seeks a permissive referendum on the project.

Patel believes it’s a mistake to undertake a projected $4.8 million project when roadways, bridges, and town buildings are in need of critical repairs.

“I believe that we need to fix our roads, drainage and bridges, not spend millions on a new highway garage we don’t need,” he said. “I also believe that it is misguided for Supervisor Grace to propose a new office building on Front Street when our existing business area is full of vacant stores and offices. We need to set priorities and stick to them. Consolidating the Highway Department with the Parks and Recreation Department is probably a good idea, but not worth the investment at a moment when Yorktown has more important needs.”

As a councilman, Patel said he Grace Feels His Accomplishments Speak for Themselves

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Deputy Clerk, Supervisor’s Secretary Look to Replace Roker

By Rick Pezzullo

When Yorktown Town Clerk Alice Roker surprisingly announced in May she would not be seeking reelection to the post she has held for a quarter of a century, she strongly endorsed longtime Deputy Clerk Diana Quast to be her successor.

Roker, a lifelong Democrat, went as far to say that she hoped the Republican Committee would not nominate a candidate to challenge Quast, but she didn’t get her wish as Mary Capoccia, confidential secretary to Supervisor Michael Grace, threw her hat in the ring and received the GOP nod for the $81,479 position, which carries a four-year term.

“For the past 25 years, Yorktown Town Clerk Alice Roker has provided each resident with the highest level of courteous service and compassion regardless of one’s political affiliation,” Quast stated. “I plan on continuing this approach and will be motivated by challenges that utilize my skills, 29 years of managerial experience and 16 years as Deputy Town Clerk to provide more online service, accept credit cards and digitize town records. I’m happy to be working in a town I grew up in.”

Prior to joining Yorktown’s workforce in 2003, Quast, who wants to create a mobile Town Clerk’s Office to serve seniors, worked as Deputy Town Clerk in New Castle for five years. She served as Acting Town Clerk in 2007 when Roker was tapped to be supervisor to temporarily fill a vacancy.

Capoccia, who has worked for Grace his entire four years in the town’s highest seat, was employed for more than a decade at McGraw-Hill Publishing Company and as a legal assistant in the law firm of Albert Capellini for 10 years before working for Yorktown.

“I am running because I believe in moving Yorktown forward,” she said. “The most compelling issue facing the Town Clerk’s Office is to conveniently, expeditiously and efficiently provide constituent services in a time of fiscal constraint. My approach to doing so is to take full advantage of current technologies including the digitizing of town records, including archived records, allowing permit and licensing applications via the Internet and adopting flex hours for in person services.”

Quast will appear on the November 3 ballot on the Democratic line, while Capoccia has secured the Republican, Conservative, Independence and Reform Party lines.

Yorktown Town Justice Race

Raniolo vs Abbate

By Rick Pezzullo

Incumbent Yorktown Town Justice Gary Raniolo is trying to fend off the challenge of Richard Abbate to earn a second four-year term. Raniolo, a former assistant district attorney, was elected in 2011 and will appear on the Republican, Conservative, Independence, Green and Reform Party lines.

“I treat everyone who comes before me with dignity and respect,” Raniolo said. “When you leave my court you not only know what I ruled but why I ruled the way I did.”

Abbate, a practicing attorney for 22 years, serves Pro Bono as a Court Appointed Guardian for an incapacitated person and has three sons who achieved the honor of Eagle Scout.

“I have the integrity, empathy and ability to be a great judge,” said Abbate, who will only appear on the Democratic line. “I have the time and energy to give back to the community.”

The town justice position carries an annual salary of $28,935.
Ilan Gilbert and Mike Kaplowitz Share a Common Goal Of Serving Their Community In A Bi-Partisan Manner For The Common Good.

“I have known Ilan Gilbert for years and endorse him as a man of great character. Ilan was a fine judge and will make an excellent councilman. He understands that working in a bipartisan manner with colleagues of all parties makes for orderly and productive and cost effective decision making that puts citizens first. I urge all Yorktown residents, to put party affiliation aside, and vote for the most qualified candidate for Town Council, Ilan Gilbert.”

-Michael Kaplowitz

Vote November 3rd!
Ilan Gilbert For Yorktown Councilman

Paid for by Friends of Ilan Gilbert
Voting Majority at Stake in Peekskill Common Council Race

By Rick Pezzullo

Three seats and control of the Peekskill Common Council are up for grabs in the November 3 election.

Currently, four Democrats hold the edge on the seven-member Council, which is led by Republican Mayor Frank Catalina, who is up for reelection as well next week. One of the Democrats, Darren Rigger, is not running again.

On the Democratic “Positively Peekskill” team, councilwomen Vivian McKenzie and Kathleen Talbot are looking to return to the Council, while Andre “Noodle” Rainey is running for the first time.

Meanwhile, Catalina is going to the polls with a diverse team. Brendon Fitzgerald is a registered Democrat, Tina Fischer is not affiliated with any party and Herbert Reyes is registered with the Independence Party.

Each seat carries a four-year term and an $8,500 salary.

McKenzie, who owns Kathleen’s Tea Room in downtown Peekskill, made history two years ago as the first African-American woman to be elected to the Council.

“I’m passionate about Peekskill,” McKenzie said at a forum. “It’s not about politicians. We all need to be involved. Don’t leave it up to me. Don’t leave it up to the mayor. We need to have an atmosphere in the city that is positive.”

Talbot, who owned a corporate communications business for 25 years, is running for a second four-year term.

“I’m committed to service and advocacy and I’m interested in responsible development, the environment and quality of life for citizens across the board,” Talbot said.

Rainey is a musician and president of NOO Moves Entertainment, which he founded in 2010. He is also program director for a privately funded arts program at the Kiley Youth Center in Peekskill.

“It’s not just saying you love your city. It’s doing things for your city,” he said. “What’s in my heart is doing good for this city.”

Fitzgerald comes from a family with a 100-year history in Peekskill. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and took part in two missions. He has worked for the last eight years as a project manager for Con Edison.

“Joining the military changed my life in so many ways, all for the better,” he said. “The reason I’m running for the city council is because I care about this community and I care about this city.”

Fischer worked in the Finance Department in Peekskill for 12 years before leaving in 2012 to take a similar position in the Village of Sleepy Hollow.

“I never thought I would run for office of any kind. God had other plans for me,” she said. “I do want to help Frank. I like his vision. I think I can be of assistance to this city. I want to help get this city to where it should be.”

Reyes has a background in finance, operational overview and project management and currently is operations manager for a New York City transportation company. His wife is assistant principal at Peekskill High School.

“I live and breathe Peekskill. I put Peekskill first,” Reyes said in an election interview. “It’s time for me to get involved. I want to be part of the solution instead of sitting around hoping for the best. I would like to see Peekskill bigger and better than it is now. I want people to come here and set up roots here.”

During the campaign, the Democratic team laid out an economic development strategy, calling for a mixed-use Riverfront development plan emphasizing recreation-based business and retail, tax incentives for a major anchor retail destination downtown and a business recruitment strategy capitalizing on millennial interest in the downtown.

“We need to be more pro-active to get businesses,” Talbot said. “We need a combination of big and small. Right now everything is on the upswing in Peekskill.”

“We are starting to see the expansive restaurant scene in the downtown make its way to the Riverfront,” McKenzie said.

“The Riverfront is arguably our greatest asset. It’s taken years of hard work but it has definitely paid off with beautiful parks like Peekskill Landing and the soon to open Southern Trailway. To truly tap into this wonderful area, we need an economic development plan that plays off the River.”

Fitzgerald and Fischer also support a pro-active approach and exploring public/private partnerships.

“I want to bring new energy and new ideas to Peekskill,” Fitzgerald said. “You have to reach out. You can’t just expect everyone to come here.”

“We have to research those companies that we want to come here,” Fischer said. “Something reasonable, something that will fit in our community.”

Catalina Proud of His Record During First Term as Peekskill Mayor

By Rick Pezzullo

When reviewing his first two years as mayor of Peekskill, Frank Catalina didn’t hesitate in giving himself high marks.

"Perception of business: A++; Finances: A++; No studies and no lawsuits: A++; Eight major developments under construction: A++; No layoffs: A++; Decorum at City Hall, no disturbances: A+," Catalina ticked off in his law office on Brown Street. "I think we're entitled to pat ourselves on the back."

Catalina, 58, a lifelong resident of Peekskill, ousted Democrat Mary Foster in 2013 but was left one seat short of winning the election. He said he worked for five mayors and a few handfuls of city managers. He certainly didn't see eye to eye with former City Manager Anthony Ruggiero, but emphasized he is very pleased with the work of Acting City Manager Richard Leins.

"The new city manager works with me instead of plotting against me," Catalina remarked. "I'm very happy with the way he works and the way he treats me. He's a collaborative guy. He's mild mannered, very calm."

When he ran for office, Catalina maintained the city was on the verge of financially hemorrhaging after the city experienced a 34% increase over two years after being rocked by a two-fisted punch of escalating pension costs and a difficult economy. Under Catalina’s watch, the city’s deficit has decreased from $18 million to $600,000.

"We had to turn those finances around. There’s no question we have turned the city in the right direction," he said. "A city has to grow by two to four percent each year. Our city shrunk seven years in a row. There's nobody that can argue with the positive changes we have made. It looks like we’re on track to deliver the first balanced budget in eight years."

Catalina stressed his administration has stimulated smart growth in the city with eight major development projects pending. "Those projects are real and they will stabilize the taxes," he said.

To further encourage additional development on the waterfront, Catalina continued on page 15

Martin Running to Make a Difference in Peekskill

By Rick Pezzullo

Ken Martin, the Democratic candidate for Peekskill mayor, studied political science at Siena College, but during his 18 years in Peekskill he has never sought political office—which he will do this year.

A high school American History teacher in Harlem and a resident of Simpson Place, Martin is vying to oust first-term incumbent Mayor Frank Catalina and put the interests of residents ahead of the agenda of elected officials.

"I couldn't be more motivated to make a difference," Martin said at a candidate’s forum. "I have always been a public servant. What I have never been is a politician. I want to be that person in the middle that brings all the players together and moves Peekskill forward. I believe in my heart that we’re ready to do that.”

An active member of his neighborhood association, Martin lobbied against a developer who violated the city’s Zoning Code to build a three-story condominium complex. He also helped organize efforts to oppose the establishment of a charter school in Peekskill.

If elected Martin has vowed to put in place an infrastructure plan to address deteriorating water mains, roadways, and sidewalks. He supports riverfront development comprising mixed-use retail focusing on water-related recreation and businesses that appeal to teens, young adults, and millennials. He also wants to transform the downtown into a hub that offers start-ups, freelancers, and multi-media companies a place to grow their businesses.

"Peekskill has grown tremendously over the course of the last eight years, in large part because a vision existed that helped turn Peekskill back into the destination it once was," Martin said. "While the restaurant and nightlife scene are booming, we need Peekskill to boom at all hours of the day. Our economic development plan will achieve just that."
Town Clerk Alice Roker has been a staple in the Town Hall for the past 25 years. Thank you Town Clerk Alice Roker for giving this community leadership, guidance and pride.

Paid for by Friends of Diana Quast

― TOWN CLERK ALICE ROKER & WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHAIR MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ —— endorse ——

Diana L. Quast for Town Clerk

“One of the reasons that I hired Diana as the Deputy Town Clerk, is that in addition to the experience she had (she was working for another Town Clerk), I wanted a Deputy who wanted my job. Diana has proven she is more than ready to take over the reins.”
- Alice E. Roker, Town Clerk

"Diana has been a fine deputy and will make an excellent Town Clerk given her intelligence, diligence and ability to work with all people.”
- Michael Kaplowitz, Westchester County Legislator

Vote November 3, 2015 Row A
Cortlandt Town Board

Farrell, Becker Vie for Reelection on Cortlandt Town Board

By Rick Pezzullo

With Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi running unopposed for a 13th term and Town Justice Daniel McCarthy also getting a free pass to return to the bench, the only race in town on the November 3 ballot is for two available seats on the Town Board.

Democrat Frank Farrell, who also serves as deputy supervisor, is seeking a sixth four-year term, while Dr. Richard Becker is vying for a third term. Attempting to break up the Democratic board stronghold are two political newcomers on the Republican line, Martin Mastromonaco and Lisa-Marie Birdsall. Each seat carries an annual salary of $22,068.

“The taxpayers of Cortlandt are better off with some political diversity on the Town Board so that the hidden facts can come to light and I can act as a watchdog on the board of the taxpayers,” said Birdsall, who founded Recycled Paws Rescue, a non-profit small dog rescue group, in 2008. “I am running because change is needed in Town Hall.”

“I think the lack of political diversity on the Town Board is a large problem,” said Mastromonaco, a former civil engineer/designer who now works for a high end audio equipment firm in Peekskill. “They are all Democrats with one mindset—getting reelected. We really do need to diversify; to bring new ideas. It would be a revitalizing transformation.”

However, Farrell, owner of Liberty Press in Verplanck, and Becker, VP/Physician Administrator at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, maintained party affiliations do not come into play on the board.

“All the members I have served with have had the town’s best interests at heart, and have always sought to work together,” Farrell said. “The fact many of us have worked together for so long has allowed us to build a relationship based on trust and mutual respect. We can and do disagree, sometimes vigorously, but we try to work toward a solution to problems that we can all accept. I can say every one of the board members I have been privileged to work with has been very financially conservative.”

“The Town Board consists of five distinct personalities, each possessing unique skills and areas of interest. We complement each other well,” Becker said. “The Town Board/government needs to be practical and business-like, not political. We do not deal with issues of guns, abortion, religion, or health care. We deal with services and quality of life. I am proud that our support is bipartisan.”

Town finances are an area where the Republican challengers feel can be improved, despite Cortlandt’s unparalleled record under Puglisi of town taxes barely budging. In fact, Birdsall charged Cortlandt was operating last year with a $3 million deficit and claimed Farrell and Becker voted for tax increases seven years in a row.

“I am running because the Town of Cortlandt is a financial mess and the record of so-called low taxes is untrue,” Birdsall maintained. “The current members on the board seem to always agree with the supervisor. I will provide a fresh look at the town’s finances and spending.”

Farrell stressed Birdsall’s claims were false, saying the town was operating with a healthy surplus in the budget.

“Clearly, it’s something not true. I don’t know if it’s a case of their unwilling to understand or can’t understand,” he said. “I don’t know if they come from a place of not understanding how a budget or how government works.”

“Of the issues the board will face going forward are those that all municipalities will face: maintaining our quality of life, and maintaining our infrastructure, while operating on a limited budget,” Becker said. “As our infrastructure ages, the need for services increases, and the costs of labor and materials rise. We need to watch every penny by being smart and creative. We have a good record of doing this.”

Farrell and Becker said they will likely vote to rezone part of the property across from the Cortlandt Town Center to pave the way for a new shopping center called Cortlandt Crossing.

“I can say I am leaning in favor of it,” Farrell said. “The Route 6, or Cortlandt Boulevard corridor, is the town’s main retail shopping area. The portion of the corridor in question is in need of improvement at certain parcels on both sides. This project will greatly improve one portion of the corridor, and provide the infrastructure and off-site improvements that will allow the improvement of the other portions. The addition of sewer infrastructure, traffic light at Baker Street, intersection realignment, etc., at no cost to the town, is beneficial, in my opinion. Jobs will be created; property and sales taxes to the school district and town; and hopefully varied shopping opportunities, all argue in favor of the project.”

“As of right, the developer can build 90,000 square feet, so the project will happen,” Becker said. “They also have the right and approvals for private homes. By allowing the additional square footage, we eliminate placing these residences in an area that is functionally commercial, and the town receives many benefits, such as sewer connections and traffic improvements. Finally, the new design is substantially smaller than the original proposal. Therefore, since it is going to happen, we might as well choose the best option, which is a smaller project, with no residential units, and with significant town-wide benefits.”

Mastromonaco and Birdsall disagree, pointing the existing traffic congestion along Route 6 in the Mohegan Lake area.

“The Cortlandt Crossing rezoning is an example of what not to do in our town. The traffic on Route 6 heading east towards Yorktown is an abomination,” Mastromonaco said. “There is no way I would approve a rezoning to permit more traffic unless the developer agrees to widen Route 6 and add more lanes heading east. Further, I think the developer in this case is trying to hypnotize the Town Board into thinking that the sewer along Route 6 they offer to build will sanctify and justify the new rezoning. In fact, the developers are the ones that need the sewer, not the town, and they would have to build the sewer for their own development, or any development there, in any case.”

“The rezoning can only occur if the traffic condition can be improved,” continued on page 15
Two familiar faces in the Ossining community are squaring off to fill the supervisor seat being vacated by Susanne Donnelly. Dana Levenberg, who currently works as Chief of Staff for State Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D/Ossining), is heading the Democratic ticket, which also includes Karen D’Attore and Elizabeth Feldman. They will also appear on the Independence, Working Families and Women’s Equality Party lines.

“I found out that our sitting supervisor decided not to run for reelection, and I was excited about serving this community in a new role, one which offers a new set of opportunities to improve the quality of life for our residents, and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to make Ossining a premier place to live, work and play,” Levenberg said about her decision to seek the $65,769 position. “What better time than now?”

John Perillo, a former Village of Ossining mayor and trustee, is looking to return to local government on the Conservative and Reform Party lines with running mates Michael Milner and Aaron Spring. They were knocked off the Republican line after the Democrats successfully challenged signatures on their nominating petitions.

“What I bring to the supervisor position is experience, knowledge, history and a vision for the future of the Town of Ossining,” Perillo said. “I have been in business for 46 years and so I bring along a great deal of business know-how. I am well-versed in municipal law and Municipal Administration. I have prepared and reviewed budgets; I have negotiated contracts with the Police Department and CSEA Union and builders like Cappelli and Ginsburg. I am knowledgeable in interpreting engineering and architectural blueprints and drawings and most importantly I am proficient in conducting meetings. Most of all I am a uniter, not a divider, when it comes to serving the public.”

Levenberg, 50, who has lived in Ossining since 1996, feels her nine years on the Ossining Board of Education, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals in the past. Levenberg and Perillo differ on the town-wide reassessment of more than 10,000 properties. Calling it fair taxation, Levenberg stated she would work towards “completing reassessment of properties for transparency and fairness in taxation and valuation.”

Perillo said one of the main reasons he was running for office again was town-wide reassessment, which he explained would have “a financial impact” placed upon all residential property owners and commercial properties, including condominiums and co-ops. “Our team will not implement this,” he stressed.

Both candidates were on the same page in their satisfaction of the current police services in town.

“I was opposed to the Town of Ossining merging with the County Police. This was a four-year contract that originally started at $10.5 million and ended up costing $11.5 million,” Perillo said. “I’m glad to see that we are now one Ossining Police Department, town and village, with a four-year contract of about $7.5 million.”

“Our police have a wonderful relationship with our communities and schools and have recently instituted some new forms of communication with the people of Ossining so we can have an even better understanding and appreciation of the force and all the good work they have done and are doing,” Levenberg said.

Ossining mayor and trustee, is looking to return to local government on the Conservative and Reform Party lines with running mates Michael Milner and Aaron Spring. They were knocked off the Republican line after the Democrats successfully challenged signatures on their nominating petitions.

“What I bring to the supervisor position is experience, knowledge, history and a vision for the future of the Town of Ossining,” Perillo said. “I have been in business for 46 years and so I bring along a great deal of business know-how. I am well-versed in municipal law and Municipal Administration. I have prepared and reviewed budgets; I have negotiated contracts with the Police Department and CSEA Union and builders like Cappelli and Ginsburg. I am knowledgeable in interpreting engineering and architectural blueprints and drawings and most importantly I am proficient in conducting meetings. Most of all I am a uniter, not a divider, when it comes to serving the public.”

Levenberg, 50, who has lived in Ossining since 1996, feels her nine years on the Ossining Board of Education, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals in the past. Levenberg and Perillo differ on the town-wide reassessment of more than 10,000 properties. Calling it fair taxation, Levenberg stated she would work towards “completing reassessment of properties for transparency and fairness in taxation and valuation.”

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Croton Incumbents Takes On Croton United Slate for Three Seats

By Rick Pezzullo

Three incumbent Democrats on the Village of Croton Board of Trustees are seeking reelection on November 3 in a race against a Croton United slate that includes a former mayor.

Mayor Leo Wiegman is running for a fourth two-year term. He is being challenged by former Mayor Greg Schmidt, who served four years in the village’s top seat prior to Wiegman taking over. Both candidates were trustees for six years before they were elected mayor.

“We have a great track record,” Wiegman said. “Fiscal balance is the most important issue we face. We cannot let the tax cap break our good habit of continuing to invest wisely in the public infrastructure—both bricks and mortar and well-equipped personnel—to maintain long term health, safety and welfare.”

“I’m concerned about the issues facing Croton,” said Schmidt, a chiropractor and president of the Croton Rotary Club, who has stated during his administration tax rate increases decreased each year from the prior year. “I’m running because I have the experience and dedication.”

Running with Wiegman are trustees Andrew Levitt and Maria Slippen.

“Our Village Board has an impressive record of controlling taxes while maintaining the services our residents deserve and taking positive steps to put Croton on the best footing going forward,” Levitt said. “We accomplish this through a collaborative approach that draws on the ideas and expertise of the Board, the Village staff, and our volunteers.”

“I believe that things in Croton are very good. We have expenses (taxes) under control, we are maintaining infrastructure in a responsible and proactive manner and we are working to preserve the natural beauty of our village,” Slippen stated.

Rounding out the Croton United team are Robert Anderson, a former elementary school and BOCES special needs teacher, and Ken Walsh, an operations management professional who coaches Little League and CYO basketball.

“We believe that the purpose of village government is to deliver a high level of services to all of the citizens of the village in the most efficient and economic manner possible,” Anderson said. “We believe that village funds are your money, not that of the village board, and that all spending decisions must be made with that in mind.”

Wiegman, Levitt and Slippen will appear on the Democratic, Independence and Working Families lines. The Croton United slate will appear on their own line. The mayor in Croton is paid $5,000 annually, while trustees receive $3,000 per year.
Putnam Valley Supervisor

Oliverio, Annabi Fight for Putnam Valley Supervisor Seat

By David Propper

Sam Oliverio (Democrat)

After a failed bid for county executive last year, former legislator Sam Oliverio is back, running for supervisor because he thinks the town has neglected many things over the past few years and the result has been troublesome.

“I feel the governance of the town, the supervision of the town is really not been on par with where it should be,” Oliverio said.

Oliverio cited a pond at Lake Peekskill that is finally being cleaned out in an election year, Spur Beach still isn’t open, the business district has too many vacant store fronts and the unsafe condition of the Taconic overpass has yet to be solved. Finally, possibly breaking the tax cap for the second straight year is unacceptable, he stated.

Oliverio said he believes quality of life entities in the town like the library, ambulance, fire department are all “under attack” pointing the finger at his opponent for trying to take necessary funding from all of those places.

“Go with experience, go with somebody that knows the town, knows the people and knows the issues,” Oliverio said. “It’s time to stop lecturing people and it’s time to get things done.” In order to control the budget, Oliverio had numerous points. He would strip health benefits of every elected official and possibly reduce elected officials’ salaries. He would raise violation fines like excess junk cars on land and raise building permits. Finally, he would hold the line on any new town vehicles for now after the town bonded for trucks last year.

Oliverio also discussed shared services and purchasing between the school and the town, guaranteeing a close relationship between the two that would save money since he has worked as an assistant principal at the high school for decades.

As an 18-year legislator, Oliverio said he brought in the sheriff substation and senior center in town. Additionally, he said the county did major road improvement on his watch and also fought to preserve Peekskill Hollow Road when it was being threatened. He worked with the county on many other endeavors, all while collaborating with a Republican-majority legislature. Oliverio states he isn’t tied to the political party that wants to “take control of the county of Putnam.”

He vowed to be an independent thinker and get things done. “I’m a person of my word, I’m a hard-worker and I don’t talk nonsense,” he said. “The bottom line is I have experience, I have governmental knowledge and I have a great work ethic and I will never let my town down.”

Jackie Annabi (Republican)

As a councilwoman in the town for two terms, Jackie Annabi is running on her record of “getting things done.” Regardless of political party and on a board with differing opinions, Annabi has been able to work with everyone to address issues.

“I want to fix problems,” said Annabi, a Republican.

Annabi listed numerous achievements and initiatives: She started an oil cooperative with 11 different oil companies that results in discount oil prices for residents, and worked with the county to get the town NY Alert, which is a type of emergency communication. She’s working “closer than anyone has been in 20 years” with the state and county on business development in town like getting grants for municipal water into Oregon Corners without burdening town taxpayers.

“We’re going to be able to revitalize Oregon Corners the way is used to be,” she said. Other issues Annabi has been fighting for is holding the Putnam Valley Library fiscally accountable, especially when the library board of trustees tried to pass a Chapter 414 that would let voters decide on an increased library budget, a move that resulted in some dissent from residents, including Annabi. She said the town must stay on top of the fire department and ambulance corp. because while residents need these services, it has to be done frugally.

Currently, Annabi is in another battle to get the budget under the state tax cap. Last year, she was the only councilmember to vote against going over the tax cap and vowed to do the same this year if it came to that. After getting the preliminary budget, she was able to work with departments across the board to get it around a little more than two percent.

“I am not done,” she said. “I am not willing to go over this tax cap.”

Annabi wants to work with the school district for shared services and purchasing like consolidating paper and water delivery from the same vendor. Other shared services should also be explored ranging from department to department, and to the town sharing with the county and state.

Going into this election Annabi firmly believes residents don’t want to hear excuses, but they want to see results.

“I want to win this election by telling the truth and telling people what they need to hear, rather than win by lying and making promises, I know I can’t keep,” Annabi said. “Because after Election Day, I still have to face myself, my neighbors, our seniors, our veterans and every other Putnam Valley resident.”
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Birdsall said. “Further, neighboring property owners must be heard.”

During his time as a councilman, Farrell said he spearheaded the pavilion at Steamboat Dock in Verplanck, the treatment of Lake Meahagh to reduce weed growth and preserve the lake, the building of the Youth Center in Crugers and the installation of a boat launch dock at the Hudson River. He also founded the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association.

“I have served on the Cortlandt Town Board for 20 years and I’m still loving it,” he said. “During that time the Town Board has worked on many projects designed to efficiently provide a high level of service while maintaining a low rate of tax increase.”

Becker said he was most proud of creating the Cortlandt Home Oil Program, which allows citizens to purchase home heating oil at discounted prices, and efforts to control over-development and maintain Cortlandt’s semi-rural character.

“I am proud of our record,” Becker said. “We have numerous accomplishments, centered on improving the quality of life in town. We have maintained our infrastructure, consolidated staff, and kept our taxes low.”

Mastromonaco, who has lived in Cortlandt for eight years, said he has been observing how the town operates, particularly on development issues, since 1986.

“My engineering experience working on many projects in the town gives me a high skill set and understanding of the town that no board member has ever had before being elected,” he said. “Also, it is frustrating for me to see the town making questionable land purchases and wonder who is guiding the board in their decisions. From my career experience, I can help sift good purchases from bad ones.”

Birdsall maintained current town officials had no vision and she would advocate cutting the salaries of part-time elected official and the supervisor, who earns $135,592.

“Why do the Cortlandt Town Board members receive health benefits and double the pay of neighboring towns?” she said. “I am honest. I will tell the truth to the public. The current administration hides the truth from the voters and has deceived them.”

Catalina Proud of His Record During First Term as Peekskill Mayor

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feels the city should explore the construction of a 300-500-space parking garage across the street from Homestyle Desserts on Water Street. “There’s a big demand for parking,” he said, noting the garage would be a public/private partnership. “You will see an explosion of growth down there. We build it and they will come.”

“Water Street and Railroad Avenue look exactly the same as when I was in high school,” he added. “I think some people on the Council want it to stay that way.”

One issue that Catalina wants to tackle head-on during his next term is Peekskill’s lease with Red House Entertainment, operators of Paramount Hudson Valley, which the mayor contended was shortchanging the city.

“Just to have it there and have the light on is not a satisfactory return on that investment,” Catalina said. “It’s a beautiful edifice. It’s something that should be making money for the city. I have no axe to grind with them. My client is the taxpayer.”

While conceding the shows scheduled at the Paramount have been drawing increased interest, Catalina said Peekskill doesn’t receive a penny from any of the “rental shows,” which he described as one of the “gaping holes in the lease.” He also lamented the fact that Red House officials have refused to meet with him.

“I’ll definitely get money out of them on way or the other. If it’s a $10 tax per ticket then we’ll do that,” he said. “I like them. I go to shows there. I pay for my ticket. Sit down with me and tell me where I’m wrong.”

Catalina said he doesn’t aspire to be a long-term mayor based on the professional and personal time commitments the position demands, but for the time being, he’s continue to strive to make a positive difference.

“I just want to work for Peekskill and go back to practicing law,” he said.

Patel Confident in Abilities to Lead as Yorktown Supervisor

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supported acquisition of Granite Knolls for a park, fought to clean-up the former Holland Sporting Club in Mohegan Lake, supported zoning for the Costco Wholesale Club, created a computer center for senior citizens, helped preserve open space from development and recruited youth and scouting groups for community plantings and clean-ups.

“As a volunteer, I taught children in our schools about new technologies and encouraged them to consider careers in the sciences where jobs are growing,” Patel said. “Yorktown is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Making the town more attractive to business is an important priority, but in the process of revitalization we must protect our special quality of life, our environment and the charm, history and beauty of our neighborhoods and business districts. I will continue positive things I have been doing since 2010.”

Grace’s Accomplishments Speak for Themselves

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take commercial development authority out of the hands of the independent Planning Board, a proposal that fell flat.

However, another one of his ideas that has paid dividends for the town was rewriting new garbage contract specifications that resulted in a new carter in town and $800,000 in savings, a cost savings measures that led to two consecutive town tax decreases.

“The most challenging issue facing Yorktown, as in every town, is keeping taxes low while delivering the municipal services my community expects and deserves,” he said. “So far, during my tenure as supervisor, we have been successful in actually reducing the tax burden, adding to the town’s budget surplus and maintaining services.”
There are issues on which Supervisor Grace and I agree. We agree that it is important for Yorktown to maintain a strong police force, expand drug prevention programs for teens, make it easier for businesses to get permits and maintain quality recreation programs for residents of all ages. But there are also very important issues on which we disagree.

1. Does Yorktown need an expensive new highway garage and a new “downtown” district along Front Street?  
I believe that we need to fix our roads, drainage and bridges, not spend millions on something we don’t need. I also believe that it is misguided for Supervisor Grace to propose a new office building on Front Street when our existing business area is full of vacant stores and offices.

2. Should we repair our bridges when they need it, or wait to rebuild them at great expense after they collapse?  
Because Supervisor Grace tried to save money by not maintaining bridges, three of them deteriorated until they collapsed. I would make repairs as needed.

3. Should our rainy day funds be saved for future emergencies, or used to make up for overspending?  
Rainy day funds assure that a town can meet emergencies or fill gaps when the economy is bad and tax revenues decrease. I believe it is wrong for Supervisor Grace to dip into these funds to fill holes in his budget.

4. Should a Supervisor who is paid a full time salary work full time?  
We pay our supervisor $121,327 per year. Supervisor Grace feels it’s O.K. to work part time for a full time salary and spend much of his time practicing law. As Supervisor, I will work full time for a one dollar a year salary, cut my councilman’s salary by 10% and give the rest to our town.

5. Should we continue to put aside money to preserve open space?  
Supervisor Grace opposes continuing the special open space fund that’s used to acquire and preserve key parcels of open space. I disagree. Protecting our fragile environment is one of the best investments we can make.

This Tuesday, November 3rd, you will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates who best represent your beliefs. No matter which ones you prefer, I urge you to vote. Democracy works best when we are all involved.”

Regards,

Vishnu

No matter which candidate for Supervisor you prefer, please remember to vote this Tuesday, November 3rd.