

**Election 2019:  
Profiles, Letters,  
Endorsements  
Inside**



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**Somers Girls, Boys Advance  
on Pitch...**



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Sports**

# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER & Examiner

Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

**FREE**

October 29 - November 4, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 514

## Cortlandt Father, Son Receive Kidney Transplants

BY RICK PEZZULLO

A father and son both in desperate need of kidney transplants received a new lease of life this summer.

The Cancro family of Cortlandt first went public with their household crisis in January in The Northern Westchester Examiner. James Cancro, 53, a retired Fairview firefighter in the Town of Greenburgh, where he served for more than 26 years, suffered kidney failure more than two years ago and had to stop working. He had been on dialysis since, going three days a week for about five hours each session—a routine that sapped his energy.

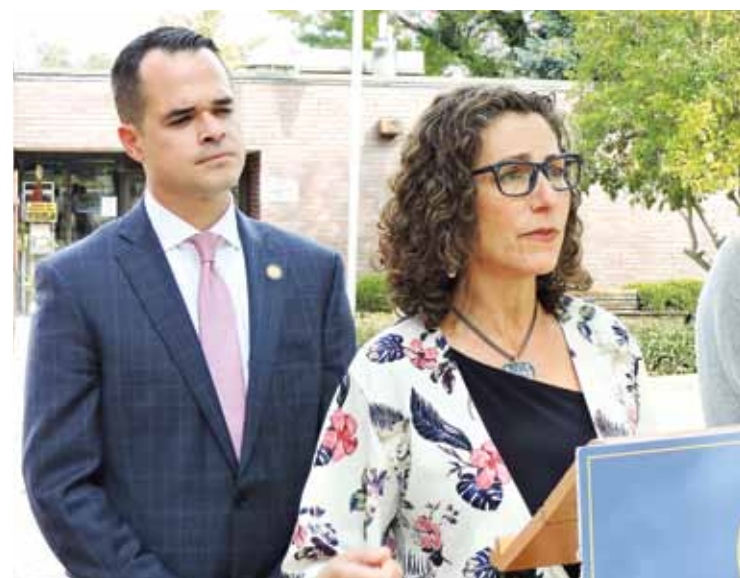
At the same time, James Jr., 20, a Wal-

*Continued on page 3*



James Cancro, and his donor, Lisa Fitzgerald; James Jr., and his donor, Lynn

## Early Voting Gets Underway in Local Communities



Senator David Carlucci and Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg promoted early voting last week

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Early voting kicked off Saturday with four of the 16 designated polling sites in the county being in northern Westchester.

Ossining, Peekskill, Somers and Yorktown all welcomed eligible voters eager to go to the polls prior to Election Day, November 5.

On Friday, State Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester), Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, and Uber joined forces outside the Ossining Community Center to get out the word about the importance of increasing voter turnout in New York State.

"It was imperative to me to support Early Voting legislation because we know New York needed to knock down barriers to vote," Carlucci said. "Early Voting

is quick and convenient for busy New Yorkers."

Uber announced their "Ride to the Polls" initiative which will offer New Yorkers \$10 off their ride if they are heading to a polling location. All riders have to do is enter promo code, "NYSVotes2019" in their app.

"We are excited to hear about Uber's promotion," said Levenberg, who is running unopposed this year. "Not only can this make it easier to help people get to the polls during early voting at the Ossining Community Center starting this Saturday and running through November 3rd, but it's also another way for our residents to experience an alternative mobility solution to that of owning their own car. Thanks, Uber and thank you Senator Carlucci and

New York State for making the democratic process easier."

In Peekskill, City Hall was chosen for early voting. In Somers, the historic Townhouse was selected, while in Yorktown, residents can go to the Jefferson Village Community Center, at 3480 Hill Boulevard. Cortlandt and Croton residents can vote early at Peekskill City Hall.

The dates and times for early voting are the same at all polling places: Tuesday, October 29: Noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, October 30: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, October 31: Noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, November 1: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, November 2: Noon to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, November 3: Noon to 5 p.m.

On Election Day, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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## Breast Cancer Screening

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#### **Q: Why is it important to have routine screening mammograms?**

**A:** Early detection with a screening mammogram can catch cancer years before it becomes discernible by touch. It is important to catch cancer earlier, because the size of the tumor and its stage influence treatment and prognosis.

#### **Q: During what ages should I have annual mammograms?**

**A:** Starting at age 40, this screening tool saves the most lives. There is no defined upper age limit to stop mammography. The incidence of breast cancer increases with age: 30 percent of invasive breast cancers occur in women over the age of 70. We recommend that annual screenings continue as long as the patient is in otherwise good health and willing to undertake additional testing if an abnormality is detected.

#### **Q: How do I benefit from advanced breast cancer screening technologies?**

**A:** The latest mammogram screening technology is the **3-D mammogram** (digital mammogram with tomosynthesis), which lets us see through tissue and find more cancers than does a standard digital

mammogram. Another newer technology is the **supplemental screening ultrasound** for dense breasts, which helps us evaluate dense breast tissue and masses seen on the mammogram by letting us distinguish between solid and cystic tissue. The **breast MRI** can be used to screen women at high risk for breast cancer due to genetic factors, family history or previous high-risk findings, or used as an additional tool to look for further abnormalities in women recently diagnosed with cancer. Advanced imaging technologies are offered at Northern Westchester Hospital's women's imaging sites in Mt. Kisco and Yorktown.

#### **Q: Should women with dense breast tissue receive special screenings?**

**A:** About 40 to 50 percent of women have dense breast tissue. There are two components of breast tissue: fatty tissue and fibroglandular tissue. Fibroglandular tissue appears white on a standard mammogram, as do tumors, so tumors can be obscured. If you have dense breasts, ask about supplemental screening with a breast ultrasound. This technology increases detection by a rate of approximately four cancers per 1,000 screenings over that achieved by a standard mammogram.

# Cortlandt Father, Son Receive Kidney Transplants

Continued from page 1

ter Panas High School graduate and Eagle Scout, had 23% kidney function and was declining drastically. There is a genetic kidney disease in the family called focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, commonly known as FSGS. It's a leading cause of kidney failure in adults.

"We were getting the word out every which way," said Lisa Cranco of the family's efforts to help her husband and son. "Nobody really realized how bad it was until the story ran."

Other media outlets picked up the Cranco family's crisis, inspiring about a dozen people to step forward and get tested as possible donors. One of those individuals was Lisa Fitzgerald, 58, a resident of Mohegan Lake and a co-worker of Lisa Cranco at Tom Thumb Preschool.

"I felt like I was put on this planet to help people," said Fitzgerald, who in the past was a surrogate for her sister's three children. "It caused me so much pain to see them suffering. I'm very grateful that I was able to do this. If I could do it again to save someone else's life I would."

Fitzgerald turned out to be a match for James Sr. and the operation took place July 1 at Westchester Medical Center.

"I came through swimmingly. I couldn't believe how uneventful it was," Fitzgerald said. "I'm proud to have done it."

One month later, on August 1, James

Jr. received a kidney from Lynn Ryan, 53, of Ardsley, the wife of a firefighter from Fairview Fire Department where James Sr. worked.

"I wanted him to get back to life and be a 20-year-old again," Ryan said. "I felt lucky I could do it."

There are more than 150,000 people in the United States living full and active lives with transplanted kidneys

"These two women saved the lives of my son and husband and gave my entire family back the life we used to have. There are no gifts of appreciation that would even come close and a million thank yous would never be enough for Lisa and Lynn," Lisa Cranco

said. "They are both truly amazing and we are so grateful to have them in our lives and part of our family now."

The family had suffered a rollercoaster of emotions in September 2018 when a kidney became available for James Sr. and an operation took place at Westchester Medical Center. However, there were complications and an infection developed and the transplanted kidney had to be removed after two days.

"A kidney transplant is a treatment, it's not a cure," Lisa Cranco said. "Every three months is a milestone. After a year, not that you're free and clear, you're more on your way."

Lisa Cranco said the family was recently able to enjoy a fall day for the first time in several years by going pumpkin picking at an area farm. They and their donors are also planning to attend a National Kidney Foundation Walk November 10 in New York City.

She noted James Jr. has changed his career path and now wants to pursue something in the hospital field.

Once a person's kidney function drops to 20%, they become eligible to be placed on the federally-run United Network Organ Sharing (UNOS) program, which has a wait time in New York State for an organ match of five to seven years.

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# Retro Fitness Suddenly Closes Doors at Cortlandt Location

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The Retro Fitness gym on Route 6 in Cortlandt suddenly closed its doors Saturday, leaving members perplexed and about 50 workers unemployed.

Retro Fitness General Manager Jennifer

Crowell-Evans alerted members Saturday night by email about the closure.

"Attention members: Please note that effective immediately, this Retro Fitness location has permanently closed. Your membership will be automatically canceled with no further charges against your ac-

count. We appreciate your support over the years," Crowell-Evans stated.

The announcement was also made on Facebook: "Dear Valued Members, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the permanent closing of Retro Fitness - Cortlandt Manor at 3006 Main Street, Cortlandt, NY 10567 effective Saturday 10/26/19. Your patronage has been greatly appreciated over the years. We wish you the best of luck in your continued journey to good health!"

Chris Spell, a Retro Fitness member for the last two years who used the facility to set a Guinness Book of World Record for

the highest standing jump on July 28, said he wasn't surprised when informed about the news.

"It was clear that the Cortlandt Manor (gym) was struggling for a while now. I wouldn't say it was all because of Level Fitness, but more because of poor decisions and mismanagement," he said.

Another member, Mike Crovetto of Cortlandt, said he was disappointed his workout facility, located near Kohl's, was out of business.

"I'm sad to see this place leave. They were conveniently close to my house," he said. "Now I'm on the hunt for a new gym."



## McDonald's Reopens in Mohegan Lake

Local officials joined restaurant management in cutting a ribbon to celebrate the recent opening of the refurbished McDonald's in the Cortlandt Town Center.

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## Endorsements

# *Gilbert Has Earned Second Term in Yorktown over Capable Slater; Diana and Lachterman Also Should Return to Board*

There's an old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That can certainly apply in the Town of Yorktown supervisor race where incumbent Ilan Gilbert is seeking a second two-year term against Matt Slater, former chief of staff for State Senator Terrence Murphy, who has waged an aggressive campaign in his first bid for elected office.

Two years ago, residents put their trust in Gilbert, a former town justice, that he would be able to soothe the waters, so to speak, from six contentious years under the guidance of Michael Grace, who often put Yorktown in the headlines for the wrong reasons. And Gilbert has delivered.

Gilbert isn't flashy and doesn't crave the spotlight as his predecessor did. His approach is, as he described it, "more measured," and the calming influence he has had at Town Hall and during meetings cannot be overstated.

Has he had some missteps? Certainly. Most recently, Gilbert and the rest of his Democratic team's ill-advised decision to skip

a Yorktown Chamber of Commerce sponsored debate unnecessarily angered some business leaders and residents in the town. But is that a sufficient reason for voters to turn their back on Gilbert? Hardly.

Gilbert has addressed many behind the scenes issues that were ignored by the previous administration and has kept the town on solid financial footing. He inherited many of the empty storefronts that he gets criticized for and has done what he can to brand and market the town by creating an Economic and Business Revitalization Committee comprised of a diverse group who are looking at innovative ways to attract new merchants.

Elected officials cannot be held accountable for a decision made by a corporation, such as Kmart, to file for bankruptcy, or Washington Prime Group, to scrap plans to expand the Jefferson Valley Mall for internal reasons.

Slater, a Yorktown High School graduate and lifelong resident, has made an impressive case for his candidacy.

Polished beyond his young years, Slater

has specific plans to hit the ground running if elected and likely wouldn't encounter much of a learning curve.

However, his main criticism of Gilbert that "the town is not going in the right direction" and "I think the town is really searching for its soul again" falls flat.

Yorktown hasn't moved backwards in any noticeable way. Residents aren't hightailing out of town in droves. Yorktown has remained a very desirable community to raise a family, as Slater is doing, and is experiencing many of the same issues surrounding municipalities face in terms of the cost of living in Westchester County.

Slater has a lot of upside and ambition and has all the makeup to be a successful public servant. Gilbert has already shown he can get the job done, first as a town justice, and now as supervisor, and he has earned a second term to continue leading Yorktown forward.

### Town Board

The same adage can be used in the Town

Board race where councilmen Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman are vying for second four-year terms.

Diana and Lachterman are in the minority on the five-member board and at times have acted as if they still haven't gotten over Gilbert defeating Grace two years ago. As Gilbert put it, he extended an olive branch and they hit him over the head with it.

Despite the differences, the Town Board has primarily functioned well as constituted and Diana and Lachterman have been dedicated to many different sectors in the town that shouldn't be overlooked. Petty politics aside, they are proven commodities.

The same can't be said of Democrats Sheralyn Goodman and Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg, both first-time candidates who have noteworthy credentials but haven't stood out during the campaign. Like Gilbert, they were no-shows at the Chamber of Commerce debate, a forum they could have used to differentiate themselves from Diana and Lachterman.

# *Vesce Best Equipped to Lead Peekskill to Greater Heights*

There's no denying that the City of Peekskill is on the rise in many ways. No longer is there a stigma attached as it has become a very desirable place to work, live and play.

Mayor Andre Rainey and the current Common Council have taken credit for the city's resurgence, but in reality the transformation began during the previous administration, where a welcoming mat was laid out for investors and developers and the city's finances rapidly improved.

As a councilman with former Mayor Frank Catalina, Vincent "Boo" Vesce played an integral part in changing the mindset at City Hall and lending his managerial and operational expertise. He was well respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and, thus, was effective in debating issues and gaining consensus.

After a two-year hiatus, Vesce is now looking to return to City Hall, this time in the mayoral role, and voters are strongly encouraged to hand him the reins on Election Day.

Unlike his father, who served two terms as mayor, Vesce is a businessman first, not

a politician, and that would benefit the council greatly, which currently has no one with Vesce's skillset. He is level-headed and fair and comes from a pedigree of integrity and hard work.

Rainey has certainly exceeded expectations from his time on the council, where his focus was mainly issues with local youth. To his credit, he has never lost sight of helping young people and bringing a Boys & Girls Club to the city, as he is negotiating to accomplish, would be an asset to Peekskill.

He has also excelled as a spokesman and cheerleader for Peekskill and has had a much easier time advancing his agenda than his predecessor since the six other councilmembers are of the same mindset and party affiliation.

One major issue that Rainey and city officials mishandled was the controversial planned relocation of the Jan Peek homeless shelter to Washington Street, which currently is on the shelf. Rainey erred in signing a petition supporting CCHOP's move since he would have had to vote on a required rezoning

to make the address change happen. His leadership was also subpar in taking control of an often-frenzied atmosphere at City Hall during the heated debate on the shelter, and he failed to disclose the alternative location CCHOP was considering when frequently asked.

Overall, Rainey has done a commendable job as mayor, but Vesce has the resume, personality and know-how to do a great job and take Peekskill to the next level.

### Common Council Race

Every level of government should have checks and balances, and the Common Council could benefit from a shakeup.

Of the six candidates in the race for three seats, the one standout who should not be overlooked by voters is Lauren Brady. Brady is the type of candidate every municipality would be lucky to have. She's young, community-oriented, personable and a proven commodity. She and her sister started a non-profit organization that has brought attention to a little-known disorder that they have bravely championed. She also has been a firecracker

in her role with the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce and is well-versed on the needs and wants of local businesses. Her potential as an elected official is endless.

One of Brady's running mates, Luis Segarra, was unsuccessful two years ago running for the council but he did not let that discourage him, which is a plus for voters. Segarra would complement Vesce nicely and he has privately shown in the community that he is compassionate and has his ears to the ground to residents in need.

Of the three incumbent councilwomen running, Patricia Riley has shown the most independence and always treats residents with respect. She has proven to be a good listener and has a good-natured approach that is contagious.

Councilwoman Kathleen Talbot should be applauded for her environmental awareness with climate change and keeping tabs on the Indian Point nuclear power plants, while Vivian McKenzie has been consistent with her strong convictions. Newcomer Marion Mahon has not stood out in what is a capable field.

## Letters to the Editor

# *Slater Will Breathe New Life Into Yorktown*

### To the Editor:

I attended the debate hosted by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce on October 23rd. Supervisor candidate Matt Slater was incredibly impressive and proved to be the dynamic leader our community needs. He was articulate, engaging and focused on his vision and plans for Yorktown despite his opponent's absence. For those who weren't there or haven't seen the video

here are three things Matt Slater wants to tackle: making Yorktown more affordable, improving our local environment and modernizing how our town government operates. This isn't just talk, Matt Slater has a concrete plan to address each of these and more. He recognizes the need to nurture a thriving business community to offset the crushing tax burden on homeowners. He has been endorsed by the New York

League of Conservation Voters because of his accomplishments while working in the state legislature and for his commitment to making Yorktown a certified climate smart community. Finally, Matt wants to modernize local government to make it easier for homeowners and businesses to use. He's right. In 2019, it's ridiculous that we can't even get our town pool passes online! For anyone who attended the debate,

or watches the video online, you will have no doubt that you are watching the future Supervisor of Yorktown. Matt Slater will breathe new life, and renewed confidence, that Yorktown's best days are ahead of us. I can't wait to vote for him and hope all of my neighbors do the same.

Regards,

**THOMAS J. HUBER**  
Yorktown



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## Endorsements

# Catalina, Gashi, Borgia Best Choices for County Board Seats

The region is losing two longtime representatives on the Westchester County Board of Legislators with the retirements of Michael Kaplowitz and John Testa, who combined have 32 years of experience fighting for constituents in the northern end of the county, which often is overlooked with funding and services.

Replacing them will be a challenge, but District 1, where Testa serves in Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown, shouldn't miss a beat if voters elect Frank Catalina.

Catalina, a well-established attorney in Peekskill for the last 38 years, served four years as mayor from 2014 to 2017 and helped set the tone for all the praise the city has been receiving. He demonstrated he could work effectively on a bi-partisan council where he was in the minority, as he would be if elected to the Democratic-controlled Board of Legislators.

Catalina is articulate and won't shy away

from a debate. He will certainly make his presence felt in White Plains.

On the other hand, his opponent, Colin Smith, has served the last two years on the Peekskill Common Council and has not stood out in any way, choosing instead to blend in with the Democratic majority.

Smith, also a lawyer, has good intentions and worked well on the Peekskill Board of Education for six years, but Catalina is clearly the better choice to excel on the county level.

In District 4, which covers Yorktown, New Castle and parts of Somers, Vedat Gashi, an attorney, gets the nod over another attorney, former Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace.

Gashi is personable and appears capable of getting up to speed quickly on issues. His common sense approach will serve him well at the county level. Meanwhile, Grace said he has no problem shortchanging in-

frastructure needs and depleting reserves. His opposition to the Immigrant Protection Act, which basically only prevents the county from using its law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws, is also puzzling.

In District 9, Ossining, Croton-on-Hudson and parts of Cortlandt, Peekskill and Briarcliff Manor have been well-served by Legislator Catherine Borgia for the last eight years.

Borgia hit her stride as Majority Leader on the board for several years and is currently chairperson of the board's Budget & Appropriations Committee. She is a tireless worker and dedicated representative.

Republican Robert Outhouse is looking to oust Borgia for the second time but has not presented enough convincing arguments to demonstrate he would represent the district better than the incumbent.

## Letters to the Editor

# Peekskill Needs Vesce and His Team

### To the Editor:

I was shocked when I read the Examiner last week where the Mayor of Peekskill, Andre Rainey, said he is "on call 24 hours a day," has "brought more transparency to meetings," and "we create and promote respect." I am not sure how he could make those claims when the last year has been littered with the Mayor and Council concealing information, lying to the public, and disrespecting residents. As a Peekskill Democrat, I find this unacceptable.

The Mayor actually said at a council meeting "I will not have any more meetings with anybody unless its here on Monday nights at a council meeting." At every City Council meeting, citizens have to wait through a 2 hour meeting to address the Mayor during the public comment section because our Mayor will not respond to concerns via email, phone, and other communication methods DESPITE his claims to be available 24/7. Just this past week, I was one of those citizens because I could not get a response about pedestrian

and child safety concerns on Washington St. The Mayor has created a reputation for false promises and being unavailable to the public. Him saying otherwise at a political debate is complete fabrication to gain votes.

I believe Peekskill residents deserve elected officials that will get the easy stuff done - respond to citizen concerns, pick up the phone, answer emails, be honest, and treat others with respect. Instead, this mayor has either blatantly lied, or manipulated the truth over and over again — the claim that he is available to the public is just another example.

Residents were let down at Dunbar Heights when the Mayor promised basic heating and cooking for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's last year. We were lied to when we were told the Paramount was "under renovations", but the shut down was due to financial troubles. We were constantly misled when the Mayor wanted to put a homeless shelter on Washington St surrounded by homes and in front of 2 school bus stops. He neglected

to tell us his close political friends were behind the plan who he also appointed to city boards that would approve the homeless shelter. To make matters worse, Rainey's campaign promise In 2017 was "I won't ever become a politician that manipulates and lies to the people of the community, to the seniors or the voters. I believe a single lie can destroy an entire reputation of integrity."

Peekskill has an opportunity to vote on November 5th (early voting starting October 26th). Mayor Rainey's opponent, Vincent Vesce, was a councilman for 4 years and has already committed for the first time to have Mayoral office hours and proved during his time on council that he's responsive, honest, and respectful. He has also put together a bi-partisan team with a strategic plan to begin implementing on day 1. Peekskill deserves better, Peekskill needs the Vesce team and elected officials we can trust.

**LINDSEY FITZGERALD**  
Democrat & Peekskill Resident

# Thanks for Confidence from Voters

### Dear Neighbors:

You elected me and a new Democratic majority to the Village of Croton Board of Trustees to a two-year term in November 2017. That means I will be on the ballot this November. We have accomplished quite a few things over the last two years, these include:

1. Back to back budgets with tax levy growth of less than ½ %.
2. The addition of our first electric

vehicle to the Village fleet and installation of electric charging stations at the train station and municipal building.

3. The addition of a bilingual park ranger, a bilingual police officer and female police officer to our Village team to better serve a diverse public.

I truly appreciate the confidence you have placed in me and the opportunity to serve you—it has truly been an honor to serve as the Mayor of my hometown. I will

continue to do my best to serve the residents of the Village.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th—if you would like to vote early you can cast a ballot at Peekskill City Hall—more information of early voting can be found at VoteEarlyNY.org.

**BRIAN PUGH**  
Croton Mayor



## Letters to the Editor

### *Two Realities: Which One Is True?*

#### To the Editor:

If you follow national politics, you know we live in a world with two realities. On any given day, depending on which cable news program you watch, you see two totally different versions of the very same events.

In many ways, it's no different in Yorktown, just on a smaller scale with letters to the editor, campaign mailers and social media ads presenting two very different realities of what's happening in Yorktown.

It's one thing for candidates to make promises: I'll keep taxes down. I'll protect your quality of life, etc., etc. We're used to

that. But it's different, very different, when candidates knowingly and deliberately distort the truth. Sadly, that's what's been happening in this campaign.

A recent Republican mailer accuses Supervisor Gilbert of increasing our property taxes. An astounding statement as the supervisor has only one vote on a five member Town Board — and the two Republican councilmen on the Town Board, Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman, also voted to raise our property taxes.

The same mailer also accuses the Supervisor Gilbert of "squeezing" taxpayers

when he "bought himself a taxpayer-funded car." Shocking. Except for the fact that town supervisors, along with highway superintendents and department heads, have traditionally had town cars at their disposal in lieu of getting reimbursed for mileage when they use their own car when on town business. That's why, over the years, elected officials from both parties have voted to purchase these vehicles.

I'm a registered Democrat but in local elections I've always voted for the best candidate, regardless of party affiliation. Many readers may remember that in 2009 I ran as

a Republican for town supervisor because I didn't think the Democratic candidate was qualified. The town's well-being took precedence over partisan politics.

I don't necessarily agree with everything Supervisor Gilbert has done in his short tenure as supervisor. But I respect him for his honesty and integrity. That's more than I can say for his Republican opponent and his Republican colleagues on the Town Board. Issues change, but honesty and integrity are constants.

SUSAN SIEGEL

### *Gilbert Has Worked to Make Yorktown a Better Place*

#### To the Editor:

Supervisor Lanny Gilbert has done so much already for the Town of Yorktown. And I read that Yorktown Town Supervisor Gilbert has had discussions with Spectra Energy, resulting in donations to great causes here in Yorktown.

In response to discussions between Supervisor Gilbert and Spectra Energy,

the Yorktown Teen Center has received a \$2,500 donation, and the Alliance for Safe Kids has received a \$2,500 donation.

Previously discussions between Supervisor Gilbert and Spectra Energy resulted in a donation of \$5,000 to the Alliance for Safe Kids.

Spectra Energy has now finished their work in town. Due to Lanny Gilbert's in-

tervention, they have donated funding to local organizations that help the youth of our town.

And let's not forget that Supervisor Gilbert had negotiated with Spectra Energy, when that company was not going to meet the deadline of completion of the pipeline project. Lanny Gilbert convinced Spectra Energy to make payments of \$350,000 a

month to the Town of Yorktown until completion of the project. Some of this money has gone for much needed infrastructure projects in Yorktown.

Bravo Lanny Gilbert, for working so hard to help make Yorktown a better place.

Sincerely,

ANDREA BLACK JEFFRIES

### *Slater Can Make Yorktown a Better Place*

#### To the Editor:

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." ~Abraham Lincoln

I can think of no greater quote to describe my husband, Matt Slater, Candidate for Yorktown Supervisor.

When Matt came to me to ask what I thought about him running for Supervisor, I must admit, newly pregnant and tired, I was hesitant. I asked him if I could sleep

on it. I stayed in bed for 15 minutes and then came out. "Do it" was all I said. Being pregnant, with our second baby wasn't a deterrent but a motivation because this is our town, this is where we have chosen to raise our children, we are invested, and something has to change.

We have a vested interest in the future of this community. We now have two amazing children we are raising here, Charlie, 4 and Elizabeth, just 8 weeks. Matt is doing this for them, he is doing this for all

the children of Yorktown; for all of our residents, because, while I said this was a family decision, Yorktown IS OUR FAMILY. He knows there is a lot of work that needs to be done, but he has never shied away from that, in fact, it motivates him. There is so much we love about this community but so much more we see that can make it an even better place. Matt knows that and with his leadership our best days will be ahead of us. Our family is so proud of his willingness to serve and lead Yorktown. We are

proud of the campaign he has run focused on Yorktown's future for our families, seniors and businesses. And harkening back to President Lincoln's quote above: We know that Matt will make everyone proud to call Yorktown home.

Sincerely,

KELLIE SLATER  
Yorktown

### *Connecting the Dots with Slater in Yorktown*

#### To the Editor:

For weeks now I've been reading that Matt Slater cares about Yorktown; well so does all other supervisor and town board candidates—both democrat & republican. I've read that Matt Slater has a vision, but so do all other candidates. And all have been published in the promotional materials.

I've also read that Matt Slater has a list of accomplishments, but the list is very short. He claims credit for a total of three accomplishments jointly with ex-Senator Murphy. We don't know his past work history, except that he was chief of staff for senator Murphy who was voted out of office.

Finally, I recently read that Supervisor

Gilbert is trying to claim credit for the new Caremount building. That building, along with the empty spaces it created in 3 existing buildings, belongs to ex-supervisor Grace....with whom Matt Slater is aligned. The Caremount building is located on parcels of land that ex Supervisor Grace and ex-Senator Murphy owned but sold to the developer of the building. So let's see, Murphy & Grace were either directly or indirectly part of the approval process for the Caremount building, Murphy and Grace owned & sold the land that the building was built on creating vacant space in 3 other buildings and Matt Slater is their Man.

SAM ROSENFELD  
Yorktown

### *Democrats Boycotting Debates Was an Insult to Residents in Yorktown*

#### To the Editor:

I was present at the two scheduled political debates held at the Yorktown Stage in Yorktown on Monday, October 21st and Wednesday, October 23rd.

The comments made by the Republican candidates vying for the positions of Westchester County Legislator (2), Yorktown Justice, Yorktown Supervisor, Yorktown Councilmember (2) and Yorktown Clerk were informative and civil. The moderators, one republican and one democrat asked focused and neutral questions of the candidates for Legislator, Supervisor and Councilmember.

Due to the impartiality required of judges, no questions were asked of the candi-

date for Town Justice. No questions were directed to the candidate for Town Clerk.

The Democratic Party candidates declined to appear at either of the debates and therefore did not make any comments or answer any questions. The Yorktown Democratic Party chose to boycott the debates. In my opinion the policy of the Yorktown Democratic Party to boycott the debates was an insult to every voting person in Yorktown. Actually the failure to appear at the debates was an insult to every resident of Yorktown and to the news media which covers Yorktown.

JAY KOPSTEIN  
Yorktown Heights



## Letters to the Editor

### *Quast Deserves to be Reelected in Yorktown*

Dear Yorktown Voters,

To many of you, the identity of our Town Clerk is not familiar to you. You just know how smoothly things operate in this office. The reason we can readily get a marriage license, have a ceremony, get our handicapped stickers, dog licenses, fishing permits, vendor permits, and many other things that make it so pleasant to live in Yorktown, is

largely due to Ms. Diana Quast, our Town Clerk.

Diana Quast is a Paul Harris Fellowship recipient. She wrote the grant application and pushed for the creation of our Yorktown Special Needs recreation area at Granite Knolls, she is a past president and member of the Rotary Club. Diana has served as Deputy Town Clerk for years

before taking office as Town Clerk. Diana holds degrees in Town Administration and has devoted her time and effort to Yorktown, sometimes with very little recognition for the work she has done! Always unassuming, Diana serves us with no desire to seek our applause or accolades but completes her work for Yorktown graciously, with knowledge and dedication. No one

deserves to be re-elected more than Diana Quast. I might add, she has been an effective Town Clerk under both Republican and Democratic Town Supervisors, so no matter what your party affiliation, she deserves your vote, Yorktown!

Thank you for your consideration!

**KATHIE OFFNER**

### *Mayor Rainey and Team are Rebuilding Peekskill*

To the Editor:

Mayor Rainey, and Common Council members Talbot, McKenzie and Riley are rebuilding Peekskill for the 21st Century. Their success has been enlisting the people of our city in this movement.

Have you looked around Peekskill lately? From increasing market rates and mixed income housing to the number and diversity of industries and jobs. From addressing climate change, to extending the riverfront trailways, and increasing parklands. From attracting young families and visitors to vibrant, walkable downtown to

improving riverfront districts.

Solid management is working. From a positive working relationship with our City Manager and City Planner, to partnering with our highly qualified city staff. From reducing our debt burden and expanding our tax base, to a new city budget with a 1.07% tax increase under the cap. From State and Federal grants for infrastructure upgrades to improving streetscapes. From more policemen, firemen, and a new Central Firehouse to being the 21st safest city in NYS.

On Park Street, across from La Placita,

read the mural "What Matters." People matter. Experience and leadership matter. To see what is meant by this: engage by attending council meetings or watching meeting videos on the city website, (click on City Manager Update.) Attend the Oct. 30 planning meeting on the \$10 million dollar grant for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). NYS consultants have oversight, projects will be prioritized by the committee and the community by March 2020. Come to learn and participate - 10 million dollars and 10 million ideas.

On November 5, vote for the Demo-

cratic slate, Row A, because Mayor Rainey, Deputy Mayor Kathie Talbot, Councilwomen Vivian McKenzie and Patricia Riley have shown that in the long run, hard work and playing the long game is best for us all. Learn more at [WWW.PEEKSKILL-PROGRESS.COM](http://WWW.PEEKSKILL-PROGRESS.COM).

Early voting has already started and to learn more call 1-888-OUR VOTE or visit [www.peekskilldems.com](http://www.peekskilldems.com).

**CARLA RAE JOHNSON**

**Resident of Peekskill for 28 years**

### *Summit Hill Project in Yorktown Sounds Like a Done Deal*

To the Editor:

A beautiful Sunday at the Yorktown Street Fair was hijacked by the intrusion of the Summit Hill developers, Diversified Properties, who set up camp as a vendor so Yorktown residents could be given pens, proposals and propaganda about how 150 rental units would benefit the Town. It ap-

peared there was no doubt in their mind that they will get the Town Board rezoning approval that the taxpayers can't afford, the neighboring owners don't want and ALL of Yorktown homeowners will be burdened with the tax increase. Why else would they state "they would be breaking ground in the Fall of 2020." Do they know something

we don't?? Sounds like a "done deal." Vendors and contractors have already been approached for estimates for future work on the project! This is in stark contradiction to what Diana Quast, Town Clerk, stated at the Town Board meeting on July 16, 2019 that the developers had put their application "on hold."

According to the Yorktown News, April 18, 2019, regarding trying to secure an access road for this development to go forward, besides rezoning that has not been approved to date, "Town Supervisor Ilan Gilbert said he is willing to assist in these discussions to make this connection. Mr. Steinmentz (attorney for the developers) said his client would be 'delighted' to make it happen."

As stated in the Yorktown News, April 5, 2018, "Alice Roker said this development would give the hamlet the 'shot in the arm that it desperately needs.'" Councilwoman Roker, that arm is reaching into the Yorktown taxpayers' wallets. What are the tax savings to the developers? This would actually mean higher taxes to Yorktown residents due to a tax abatement that more than likely would be granted. Tax abatements, subsidized by Yorktown taxpayers, could last for 5, 10, 15 years or longer relieving the developers of that financial burden and passing that burden on to the Yorktown taxpayers. AGAIN!

**LOUISE DEMARCO**

**BRIAN SILLIK**

**JEANNE TROIANO**

### *Yorktown Dems Not Debating A Slap in the Face to Voters*

To the Editor:

I have been trying to get the Yorktown Democrats to at least debate the issues. Yes, I mostly vote Republican, but I am a very fair person of common sense. I was doing this as a citizen. When I moved to Yorktown, I loved the small-town debates including the lawn signs and local paper. Well I went to both "debates" sponsored by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce and it is sad that Mr. Gashi had time to attend the New Castle debate on Wednesday, Oct. 23 but could not find the time to debate in his own town, Yorktown's County Debate on Monday, Oct 21. On Wednesday, Oct 23, people running to be re-elected in Yorktown Town Hall attended the New Castle Debate as spectators and DID NOT attend the debate they were invited to participate in tonight at The Yorktown Stage. Is that right? What a slap in the face of the Yorktown Voters. This is puzzling and disappointing. Who is wielding the big stick in

the Yorktown Democrat Party keeping everyone away? Everyone on the Democrat slate apparently agreed not to debate at the YCC Debate, even the new candidates that are unknowns.

BTW: The questions were very fair. There were no personal attacks on the Democrats by anyone on stage. No one blamed Mr. Gilbert for the K-Mart closing or the empty storefronts. The only thing mentioned at the beginning by both moderators and candidates was disappointment that the other side did not show up to justify their claims about the Republicans and to explain their vision. As you have heard, to succeed in something, 80% is about just showing up and it was sad that anyone that came out looking to hear from Democrats did not even get to see their candidates in a debate forum. Regardless of your party, it is not right and is a shame.

**STEPHEN SCHAEFER**  
**Yorktown**

### *Fugaro-Norton Deserves Vote for Cortlandt Town Justice*

To the Editor:

I have known Maritza Fugaro-Norton for almost 20 years. I first met her when she was attending law school and am proud to have seen her numerous achievements over the years. Maritza is very much a go-getter and determined to pursue her aspiration which is to become Cortlandt Town Justice. She has worked hard over the years and has created her own career path which has led her to this point. In addition to her strong work ethic, Maritza is compassionate, personable, energetic and good-tempered. Maritza is a spouse, mother of three young children, full

time attorney, volunteer and she does all this with grace and composure. She is an incredible role model for the young women in our community.

If elected, Maritza would be the first Latina justice in Cortlandt. As a Hispanic woman myself, I would be extremely proud to have our Hispanic community so well represented. Maritza Fugaro-Norton is the change Cortlandt needs and deserves your vote for Cortlandt Town Justice.

Sincerely,

**MARTHA TABOADA**  
**Cortlandt**



## Letters to the Editor

### Vote Yes on PV Library Referendum

#### To the Editor:

In November Putnam Valley will vote on the PV Library referendum. Why should taxpayers be asked to do this? Because Public libraries like the PV library play an essential role in providing safe, accessible, and 100% free educational resource centers for every member in the community.

Since January, the number of visits to the library has reached approximately 25,000. The reasons behind these visits are varied and diverse: the director of the senior center who picks up items for the seniors' book club; seniors who utilize the library's e-book and e-audiobook collection via Library-provided Kindles; residents tak-

ing advantage of Tech Help hours; young patrons who attend library programs like Babytime that help meet a critical need for early literacy education.

As the school library services have been diminished (only the High School has both a library and state certified librarian; the Elementary School has a library room, no staff; the Middle School has no library), the PV library staff have collaborated with teachers by fostering students' research and language learning, information literacy, technology and art education, and providing digital resources such as e-audiobooks for struggling readers, saving tax money by centralizing services. Children's library

programs create learning for kids and connections for parents. The "Universal Class" offers continuing education credits for anyone with a library card.

With sustainable funding, the Putnam Valley Library will be able to fulfill its long-range goals including: meeting patrons' demands for expanded access to information and resources; providing free access to 24/7 resources including online courses and streaming video; expanding technology and STEM offerings; improving book, media, and digital collections; improving the library's accessibility and services for all members of the community.

Throughout all the community con-

versations the library hosted this spring, three main themes emerged: connection, communication, and accessibility. Putnam Valley residents want more access to information, to places, and to other people. With the passage of the 414, the Putnam Valley Library will be able to fulfill its goals and meet residents' ever-growing needs, and perhaps most importantly in a town as spread out as ours, remain a center of crucial community connection.

So on Election Day, flip over the ballot and VOTE YES on Prop 1!

**LESLIE MARTIN**

### Protect Your Freedom and Independence as Property Owners

#### To the Editor:

We do not need the creation of a new sewer district to save Lake Lincolndale and Shenorock. This is a false choice. The town has other options and funds to dredge the lakes and restore the eco balance. Instead, the Board went ahead and spent our taxpayer money on Sewer Studies and Engineering reports in which they selectively chose what information to include and exclude. All of this was done without first polling us regarding "our interests". Then, they even hired a PR/Marketing Firm for \$13K to promote their agenda, UNFAIR!

The Town Board wants to create The District without an Impact Study which would tell homeowners exactly how the sewer connection would impact their property. Once the sewer district is approved, they will be digging up our roads and properties for years. Your property rights could be compromised with easements, and you will be "subjugated" to The District's regulations. They will be altering the face of our land in "unimaginable" ways, as we helplessly stand by and watch. It will be too late to stop them, and the changes will be permanent. We are opening Pandora's Box.

The new sewer district is not free and "es-

timated" costs do not reflect "actual" costs. Data provided by the Town Board has revealed many errors and flaws. No one knows exactly how much it will cost.

- You will pay to add Water Backup & Service Line coverage to your insurance policy (if you can), just in case the sewer system backs up into your house.

- You may need to pay to have your house "RE-PIPED" in order for wastewater to flow in the direction of the sewer connection. VERY EXPENSIVE PLUMBING.

- Grinder pumps may have to be installed on your property if you sit below street level. Pumps last approx. 10 yrs.

- You are responsible to repair & maintain the piping from your house to the sewer main.

Collectively, we become "financially responsible" for the infrastructure of the entire new sewer district, as well as a pipeline that runs all the way to Peekskill where the sewage plant exists, a long distance. We will have no control over the costs of maintenance & repairs, and just like a "Time Share" you cannot get out of it. The financing of the sewer district is not secured, and the Board is depending on grant money to contain the costs. Ridgefield, CT did too, but when they did not

get their grant money, their prices spiked 60%!

There's a lot of confusion and contradictions over how much things cost, and who pays for what. So, what exactly are the terms and conditions of the Somers Sewer District? They are not definitive. We are basically being "coerced" into a contractual agreement without knowing the precise terms and conditions; especially the financing. We might as well give them a blank check!! The Board Members can walk away from The District, but we are stuck with the tab and the irreversible changes. Unfortunately, some people may not be able to afford to stay in their homes...

Friends and neighbors, the new sewer district is a "radical" proposal being pushed on us by people who think they know what is better for us than we do. The Town Board even tried to "bypass" our RIGHT TO VOTE

on this project. What was that all about? This is a critical moment in time for us...We must protect our freedom and independence as property owners. Please consider that just maybe the "price" of a new sewer district is much too high...

We are all blessed to live in this little piece of paradise. We choose to be here because of the beauty and natural surroundings. It would be a big mistake not to preserve the integrity of our land, and our right to control what happens to it. After Peach Lake adopted a sewer system, a mini building boom ensued. But residents in other local towns wisely rejected sewers. Ironically, it is our septic systems & wells that protect our neighborhoods from over-development. This is a badly flawed plan. Please take the time to reflect upon all that you will be giving away.

**MARION MURTHA,**  
Somers

### Gilbert Failed Residents by Refusing to Debate

#### To the Editor:

Supervisor Gilbert's refusal to appear at the debate hosted by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce is not only disappointing but, displays bewildering behavior for a supposed leader, as well. Why, for example, was he in the audience at the New Castle League of Women Voters debate when he should have been on stage in Yorktown? Is he thinking about running in New Castle? Whatever his reasoning, for the time being, Mr. Gilbert is the Supervisor of Yorktown and has an obligation to appear at a public forum specific to Yorktown and answer questions from his constituents and share his views to them. This is what he signed up for and what is expected of him as our supervisor. Instead, he hides in New Castle.

Debates are like interviews, and we have all been on interviews. I have also

conducted many interviews and I can tell you that I have never given a job to someone who failed to show up for the interview. And, that is exactly what Supervisor Gilbert did - he failed to show up; he failed to defend his record; and, he failed to vie for the job.

Mr. Gilbert has raised taxes, increased spending and left more than a million dollars in state grants on the table. Instead of putting our parks and recreation programs online he purchased a new car for himself. He knows that his record is indefensible and that is the real reason he hid in New Castle rather than face the people he is supposed to represent. Supervisor Gilbert does not deserve a job he won't even interview for. On Tuesday, please show him the door.

**DAVID DENAPOLI**  
Yorktown

### Gender Should Not Be Deciding Factor in Yorktown Election

#### To the Editor:

I am sitting here looking at a piece of campaign literature telling me we should "...make history together by electing more women to the Yorktown Town Board." "We made history as a nation. Now let's do it as a community." That is not what elections are about. Elections should not be a contest on who can have the most women on the Town

Board, but what are your qualifications & what are you going to do for the residents of Yorktown. It would have been helpful if these women, along with the rest of their slate, had agreed to the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce Debate. We could then vote based on knowing what their plans are, not on what their gender is.

**JEAN KLAUS**



## Letters to the Editor

### Peekskill Has a Winning Team in Place

#### To the Editor:

Our United States Senator Chuck Schumer has endorsed Mayor Andre Rainey for Mayor of Peekskill and praised his work with the Common Council by writing: "There isn't a person in New York State who would not be impressed with Mayor Rainey's dynamic leadership and Peekskill's emerging renaissance. He has certainly

earned a second-term."

"The City's finances are in strong shape, there is balanced housing development targeted to residents of all income levels, and Peekskill's reputation as a destination continues to grow. I couldn't be more pleased to endorse him and his entire team for re-election."

I agree with Schumer's assessment of

Peekskill's continuing success under Democratic leadership. Some folks would like you to forget that our city's government has been led by a Democratic majority since 2008. While I have nothing against bipartisanship, our local Republicans haven't shown much progress on that front during all the years I have lived here.

We have a proven, winning team in

place. Why mess with success?

Vote Row A to keep the ball rolling with Rainey, Talbot, Riley and McKenzie. And for a change, let's add a Democrat representing us in the County Legislature, Colin Smith.

**DARREN RIGGER**  
Former Councilman  
for the City of Peekskill

### Peekskill Has a Clear Choice

#### To the Editor:

Since 2008 when the Democrats gained a majority on the city council, Peekskill has become a model city when it comes to sustainability. The current administration launched a citywide energy audit that will reduce carbon emissions by 1,100 tons per year and save taxpayers \$222,736 per year

in energy costs.

The city is now part of Westchester Power, a not-for-profit bulk energy buying consortium, to provide green, lower-cost electricity for city residents.

And in a site that will become as familiar to us all as gas stations now are, we now have two electric vehicle charging stations

for the public to use. This is the future, here for us now.

Mayor Rainey, Deputy Mayor Kathie Talbot, and Councilwomen Vivian McKenzie and Patricia Riley have demonstrated that vision, hard work and planning for the future pays off.

Peekskill is the envy of other Hudson

River cities. Keep progress going by voting for the Democratic slate on November 5.

Early voting has already started. Learn where and when to vote early by calling 1-888-OUR VOTE or visit [www.peekskill-dems.com](http://www.peekskill-dems.com).

**JOHN MUCCIOLO**

## Local Attorneys Support Judge McCarthy for Re-Election

#### To the Editor:

With the General Election fast approaching we, as local attorneys who appear on a regular basis before Judge McCarthy, would strongly recommend to the residents of the Town of Cortlandt that they vote to re-elect Judge McCarthy on November 5th. We are not from any one political party and are not affiliated with any particular political philosophy or ideology. Plainly and simply, we know from personal experience that Judge Dan McCarthy has a proven track record over the last twelve years as a Town Justice for the Town of Cortlandt and we firmly believe that he is the best, most qualified and most experienced candidate for that particular position.

Judge McCarthy is both well-known and well respected in the legal community. We

have always found him to be fair, reasonable, well informed and extremely knowledgeable with regard to the various cases and other matters that he handles on a daily basis. He treats all individuals who come before him with dignity and respect. He possesses the necessary and appropriate judicial temperament to mete out justice fairly and objectively but with compassion and consideration.

The re-election of Dan McCarthy to the position of Cortlandt Town Justice is well deserved and would clearly and unequivocally be in the best interests of the residents of the Town of Cortlandt. Accordingly, we wholeheartedly endorse Judge McCarthy and ask you to vote for him on November 5th regardless of your political affiliation or political philosophy.

**CHARLES J. SCHELD, ESQ.**

**INGRID O'SULLIVAN, ESQ.**  
**FRANK A. CATALINA, ESQ.**  
**ANGELA ZAGREDA, ESQ.**  
**PHILIP HERSH, ESQ.**  
**PATRICIA MORO, ESQ.**  
**JAY SHERMAN, ESQ.**  
**JESSICA HUGEL, ESQ.**  
**ROBERT NACHAMIE, ESQ.**  
**KIM DEMERS, ESQ.**  
**BRUCE BENDISH, ESQ.**  
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**JEFFREY CHARTIER, ESQ.**  
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**ANDREA CATALINA, ESQ.**  
**CRISTINA DASILVA, ESQ.**  
**WILLIAM FLEMING, ESQ.**  
**JAMES TIMKO, ESQ.**  
**ANDREW RUBIN, ESQ.**  
**CARLY LYNCH-MCGUIRE, ESQ.**

**JONATHAN MOSES, ESQ.**  
**SOFIA DEE, ESQ.**  
**GARY RICK, ESQ.**  
**STEPHEN P. DEWEY, ESQ.**  
**GERALD ZUCKERMAN, ESQ.**  
**ROBERT HERSH, ESQ.**  
**ROSEANN KITSON SCHUYLER, ESQ.**  
**JOHN C. SULLIVAN, ESQ.**  
**PETER J. SCHUYLER, ESQ.**  
**DOREEN SULLIVAN, ESQ.**  
**JEFFREY L. HERSH, ESQ.**  
**NANCY J. MARRONE, ESQ.**  
**GLEN MALIA, ESQ.**  
**HOWARD PEARLE, ESQ.**  
**LUKE HILPERT, ESQ.**  
**CHARLES RUBENSTEIN, ESQ.**  
**DAVID GARCIA, ESQ.**  
**MICHAEL GRACE, ESQ.**

## McCarthy Has a Proven Record of Exemplary Service

#### To the Editor:

I received a handwritten post card in the mail from Judge Dan McCarthy's opponent claiming "we need change" in "Cortland" and asking for my support. She didn't say what change or why change is needed (and also misspelled the name of our Town!). I find such vague slogans as generally unpersuasive, and particularly so when no reason is given to change something that is working well.

I have known Judge Dan McCarthy and his family for many years and can personally vouch for his outstanding character,

and the many good things he has done for the people of our community. Dan is dedicated to his job as Town Judge and exhibits a genuine concern and care for the people who appear in court, as well as the impact his decisions have on our Town.

I urge residents in our Town to reject empty calls for change, and re-elect a Judge with a proven record of exemplary service to our community – vote for Judge Dan McCarthy.

**ROBERT KELLEHER**  
Verplanck

## 26 Reasons to Vote Row A on Election Day

#### To the Editor:

A for Awesome Peekskill  
Banham Tools and more commercial growth  
Central Fire House  
Downtown Revitalization Initiative  
Energy conscious  
Fort Hill Park expansion  
Grants galore  
Honeywell Contract energy savings  
Infrastructure improvements  
Judicious fiscal management  
Kiley Center partnership for our youth  
LED lighting energy saving  
Main Street Lofts and more residential expansion  
N New and newly painted pedestrian crosswalks  
Outdated computers replaced  
Police Chief Halmy and 3 new police of-

ficers

Questions answered  
Respect for City Staff and Seniors  
Sewer and Stormwater study  
Transparency an easy-access city website, user-friendly online Council meetings videos  
Upbeat city  
Vibrant downtown  
Waterfront with expanded walks  
X-citing for visitors  
Youth initiatives  
Zillion ideas  
Let's keep our city's progress moving.  
Vote Row A on November 5th for Mayor Rainey, Councilwomen McKenzie, Talbot, and Riley and Colin Smith for County Legislator.

**LINDA WILDMAN**  
Resident of Peekskill





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**Mahopac Public Library**

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Thursday, November 14, 2019 5:30 pm  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11 am

**Town of Patterson Recreation Center**

65 Front Street, Patterson  
Thursday, November 14, 2019 11 am  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10 am  
Monday, December 2, 2019 2 pm

Westchester County

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Friday, November 15, 2019 10 am  
Friday, December 6, 2019 3 pm

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The annual election period for MVP Health Care Medicare Advantage health plans is Oct. 15–Dec. 7, 2019. MVP Health Plan, Inc. is an HMO-POS/PPO/MSA organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MVP Health Plan depends on contract renewal.

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## Election 2019: YORKTOWN SUPERVISOR

# Incumbent Gilbert Looks to Fend Off Challenge from Slater

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert is proud of what he feels he has accomplished in his first term in office and he's hopeful of getting voter approval on November 5 to serve another two years.

"I'm not sitting on my hands. I have a lot of vision," Gilbert said. "I am enthused in what I have accomplished. I hope people perceive me as a calming influence. I believe I'm measured in what I do, and I try to keep the town civil."

Gilbert, 63, a Yorktown resident since 1991, worked as a court attorney/referee for 35 years before retiring in

2017. He served five years as a Yorktown Town Justice and spent 12 years as a member and chairman of the Yorktown Conservation Board.

Challenging Gilbert is Republican Matt Slater, 33, a lifelong Yorktown resident,



Challenger Matt Slater with Supervisor Ilan Gilbert.

former chief of staff for State Senator Terrence Murphy and currently a project administrator for the Westchester County Board of Elections.

idea or a Republican idea. I just don't think there's confidence that if you bring something to Town Hall anything will happen. They need to know they have a partner in government."

**'I do not feel the town is going in the right direction. I think the town is really searching for its soul again.'**

—Matt Slater

Gilbert said he created the Economic & Business Revitalization Committee with a diverse group of members to provide innovative ideas to boost the business community, including a proposal for branding and actively

marketing Yorktown.

"It's certainly not my intention to hold business up," Gilbert stressed. "This is someone (Slater) with no administrative experience or leadership experience who can make claims that are unsubstantiated."

Both candidates support updating the town's Comprehensive Plan, which is 10 years old. Slater opposes the 150-unit rental project being considered in Jefferson Valley, while Gilbert expressed several concerns about it, stressing it was "not a done deal" as some residents have charged.

"For me it's a no-go," Slater remarked. "With a Comp Plan, we need to see if and what rental units make sense."

"It's a project we can't lawfully comment on," Gilbert said. "I agree with many of the concerns. Are the concerns valid? I have seniors telling me they need more (housing) options."

Slater said the Ethics Board needed to be revamped and the Parks and Recreation Commission should be restructured. He said no elected official, such as the current town clerk, or department head should be allowed to be on the commission.

"That's a conflict," he said. "There are issues with the management of our parks. It has nothing to do with our employees."

In addition, within his first 30 days in office, Slater said he would have a Climate Smart Community Task Force in place.

Gilbert said he was successful in getting the town an additional \$4.15 million from Enbridge in conjunction with the gas pipeline that was constructed through Yorktown near Granite Knolls Park. He also directed the town attorney to initiate action against delinquent taxpayers for the first time since 2013, resulting in the collection of approximately \$400,000 to date.

He said he would like to see Yorktown Stage used more often, perhaps by showing movies there.

"I am on the right track in moving Yorktown in the right direction," Gilbert said.

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## Election 2019: YORKTOWN TOWN BOARD

# Incumbent Councilmen Face Challenge from Dem Newcomers

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The race for two available seats on the Yorktown Town Board pits incumbent Republican councilmen Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman against a pair of political newcomers on the Democratic ticket, Sheralyn Goodman and Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg.

Each seat carries a four-year term and an annual stipend of \$19,820.

### TOM DIANA

Diana is a lifelong, third generation town resident and a retired police officer, having worked for Yorktown, Cortlandt and Westchester County. He owns an oil delivery and service business. He was first elected to the Town Board in March 2015 in a special election to fill a vacancy, and then was elected to a full term eight months later.

"The reason I am seeking reelection is that I want to continue to assist the residents of the town," Diana stated. "Some of my top priorities are and will continue to be infrastructure, quality of life, our seniors and veterans. Keeping our taxes at bay and working with all our departments to make sure they have all the tools they need to give our residents the services they have come to expect and deserve."

"A few of the things I am most proud of are starting Yorktown Against Heroin which



TOM DIANA



PATRICIA SULLIVAN-ROTHBERG



SHERALYN GOODMAN



ED LACHTERMAN

I hope educated folks enough to identify the signs of addiction and hopefully steer our kids away," he continued. "Another was getting the hole filled at the Roma Building and making the entrance to our town a lit-

tle more attractive. Last but not least was revitalization of the K9 program at Yorktown PD with the purchase of Dallas, our drug detection dog with money raised by Yorktown Against Heroin. I would like to thank the

folks that elected me and have given me the opportunity to do the things I have done."

### SHERALYN GOODMAN

Goodman is a 25-year resident of Yorktown, a lawyer, a former Assistant District Attorney in Kings County and former deputy commissioner in the Westchester County Department of Probation.

"I have a track record of getting the job done—whether it's as a lawyer fighting for what's right, a working mother, a union organizer, or a law enforcement official. I want to bring that know-how to our Town government to make Yorktown even better," Goodman stated.

"My vision is to promote and share the beauty of Yorktown and make it a place people come to explore. I will work to streamline processes so that small businesses can grow here. I will fight to keep taxes flat so young families can afford to move here and seniors can afford to stay," she continued. "The natural beauty and sense of community brought my family and me to Yorktown 25 years ago. I'm running for Town Council to make sure that more families visit and explore Yorktown, move to Yorktown and stay in Yorktown."

### PATRICIA SULLIVAN-ROTHBERG

*Continued on page 25*

## Get On Deck With George Ondek for a "Howlingly" Good Show! No Tricks, Just Treats!

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**Don't miss  
George's latest edition of  
*Meet The Candidates!***

Yorktown Supervisor  
**Lanny Gilbert**  
and Yorktown Town Council  
candidates **Sheralyn Goodman**  
and **Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg**  
discuss local issues affecting the  
Yorktown community.

Supervisor Ilan "Lanny" Gilbert was elected Yorktown Supervisor two years ago and reviews his administrations efforts to open stores, keep taxes low and protecting the environment.

**Sheralyn Goodman** is a lawyer, union organizer and law enforcement official.

**Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg** is a mother, community volunteer and professional in the documentary film distributor.

**A "Must-See" for Yorktown residents!**

Yorktown Supervisor, **Lanny Gilbert**

Yorktown Town Council Candidates  
**Sheralyn Goodman &  
Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg**

The George Ondek Show can be seen on YouTube by typing in "George Ondek" and the name of the guest, and on Altice/Cablevision Thursdays at 9pm and Saturdays at 10pm, on your local public access channel.



## Election 2019: PEEKSKILL MAYOR

# Vesce Hopeful of Extending Legacy as Rainey Eyes Second Term

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The mayoral race in Peekskill features two candidates who served together for two years as councilmen under former Mayor Frank Catalina.

Andre Rainey, 35, is seeking a second two-year term leading a Common Council that has been dominated by Democrats during his first go-around.

"Peekskill has never been in better shape. We have turned the page from a time when a small group of conservative Republicans thought of Peekskill City Hall as their own personal friends and family club divorced from the reality of who the people of Peekskill are," Rainey remarked. "Peekskill, today is a multicultural, diverse community that is welcoming to everyone: new residents and lifetime residents, the young and the old, black and white, gay and straight, native born and immigrant, and every creed and culture. I am running for reelection on a record of major accomplishment for this city and a vision of Peekskill that is forward looking."

Vincent Vesce, 47, served four



ANDRE RAINEY,

years as a councilman (2013-2017) before choosing not to seek reelection. A life-long city resident, whose family goes back four generations in Peekskill, Vesce is the owner and CEO of V Squared Strategies LLC, a national business development consulting firm specializing in the management and operation of airports and regional transportation systems. Prior to owning his own business, he spent 15 years in the Aviation Department of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, holding management positions at John F. Kennedy International Airport, as well as in the corporate headquarters in New York City.



VINCENT VESCE

"I'm not here to be a politician. I'm here to do the work," said Vesce, whose father served as mayor for two terms in the early 1980s. "I think we have a real good opportunity. This will be very telling for the future of the City of Peekskill."

Rainey, Owner and President of NOO Moves Entertainment, which he founded in 2010, said he believes his "core strengths as mayor are in keeping the city's finances in shape, by attracting investors who respect the diversity of this community and see a forward-looking mayor who puts people before politics and who brings a level of energy to this community that is the envy of Westches-

ter."

"By any measure, Peekskill is booming and I want to continue the progress we've made," he continued. "The city's credit rating from Moody's is the highest it's been since 2013; the city's total reserve funds are over \$3.4 million; we continue to keep property taxes under the tax cap; we have secured more than \$3.5 million in funding for infrastructure and the expanded Riverwalk; we have secured \$10 million in economic development funding from Governor Cuomo, \$250,000 in funding to upgrade For Hill Park; to say nothing of the major development projects underway that have brought a mixed-use of housing and retail and increased the tax base."

Vesce maintained Rainey played no role in securing grants since that work is done by city staff. He also staid when he, Catalina and Councilman Joe Torres took office the city was financially hemorrhaging and despite being in the minority, they were able to turn the city's fortunes around. In addition, he stressed a lot of the progress the city has seen over the last two years started under the previous administration.

"He's a likeable guy. He wants to do the right thing. The problem is he has no resume to back it up," Vesce said of Rainey. "He has no professional experience to give him the foundation to effectively govern the city. He has a lot of people fooled. He's an entertainer. He can put on a show."

"I like Vinnie personally, I just don't think he would be a good mayor," Rainey remarked. "I also think he would be a major step backward in changing the culture of politics and patronage in Peekskill. He's the son of a long-time Republican machine politician, and former mayor. He secured the Republican nomination for council from his father who was the Republican Party Chairman. Peekskill, like the rest of the country, is tired of the same old families, with the same old connections running government."

Vesce and his bi-partisan team have put together an 11-point plan that they would introduce if elected that includes increasing code enforcement to address overcrowded and unsafe living conditions and ensure zoning standards were en-

*Continued on page 26*

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<b>TUE / OCT</b> 12PM-8PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">29</span>	<b>WED / OCT</b> 8AM-4PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">30</span>	<b>THU / OCT</b> 12PM-8PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">31</span>
<b>FRI / NOV</b> 8AM-4PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1</span>	<b>SAT / NOV</b> 12PM-5PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2</span>	<b>SUN / NOV</b> 12PM-5PM <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span>

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## Election 2019: PEEKSKILL COMMON COUNCIL

# Three Seats Up for Grabs as Dems Strive to Retain Control

BY RICK PEZZULLO

All seven seats on the Peekskill Common Council are currently filled by Democrats. Three of those seats, carrying four-year terms and an annual stipend of \$8,686, are up for grabs in the November 5 election, along with the two-year term mayoral position.

The Democratic ticket features three incumbent councilwomen, Vivian McKenzie, Patricia Riley and Kathleen Talbot, while the opposing team includes two registered Democrats, Marlon Mahon and Luis Segarra, and a registered Republican, Lauren Brady.

### LAUREN BRADY

Brady is a proud 2003 graduate of Peekskill High School and is employed as Manager of Event for the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce. She and her sister co-founded the not-for-profit "This Is Me Foundation," which was created to raise awareness about alopecia and provide hope to anyone facing adversity. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded 56 local and national



scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

"As a proud citizen of my community for over 30 years, I decided to run for Common Council because I see a unique opportunity to improve the leadership of the city I so love. Peekskill is diverse economically, socially and culturally. I am determined to effect positive change that will benefit all our citizens and improve our environment for business development," Brady said. "I am honored to be part of a diverse, respectful team that I know will work together. Communication will be open and transparent. Our team has the skill sets that will complement our city staff and serve our city's best interests."

### MARLON MAHON

Mahon was born on the island of Grenada and moved to the United States at the age of nine. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High and pursued his childhood dream of becoming a pilot at Jacksonville University. He completed his studies with a degree in Business Management and has 20 years' experience as an IT and corporate management



consultant. He has lived in Peekskill for 19 years.

"A transparent administration will enable a trust-based relationship and partnership with the citizens, businesses and various organizations of Peekskill. It is with this foundation that we will be able to make decisions with civil engagement, mutual understandings, and open dialogue," Mahon said. "I have always been people focused and believe that the greatest strength and asset of any entity is its people. Listen to people, take care of people and in turn the organization will benefit multi-fold – I believe this thinking, focus and engagement can be leveraged with similar results for the City of Peekskill and my neighbors."

### VIVIAN MCKENZIE

McKenzie has been on the council for the last six years. She is a lifelong city resident and owner of Kathleen's Tea Room downtown. She previously worked 25 years as an insurance industry territory sales manager.

"I am invested in the city and want to see it flourish," she said. "I'm a proud Demo-



crat. The object is to get the job done. The council is the most diverse in the city ever. We have kept taxes low. We are an open and welcoming city always."

### PATRICIA RILEY

Riley worked as an educator in the public schools for 32 years and was a union representative for the Lakeland Federation of Teachers for 29 of those years, ensuring that educators were well-represented and treated fairly. She served on the council from 2008-2011. She



was appointed to the council in April 2018 to fill an empty seat created when Andre Rainey was elected mayor and then won an uncontested special election last November for the final year of that unexpired term.

"I am committed to keeping our residents informed and treating each individual with respect," she stated in the League of Women Voters election guide. "Keeping our taxes within the tax cap is a priority for everyone especially our seniors. Continuing to improve our city services is an important way to keep Peekskill moving forward."

*Continued on page 32*

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FOR YORKTOWN SUPERVISOR

## Election 2019: COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS DISTRICT 1

# Peekskill's Catalina, Smith Compete to Replace Retiring Testa

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Two Peekskill attorneys and friends are going head-to-head to replace retiring 10-year Legislator John Testa and represent District 1 on the County Board of Legislators, which includes Cortlandt, Peekskill and Yorktown.

Frank Catalina, 62, who has practiced law in Peekskill for 38 years, served four years as mayor of Peekskill (2014-2017) and will appear on the Republican, Conservative and Independence lines.

"I know first-hand the things on a local level we worked so hard on, often need county level support and often, permission," Catalina said. "With my record as mayor, I will be well-suited to move Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown forward with county support. As mayor, I found that without strong support, many times, Peekskill was not heard or action was delayed until the county acted. I will ensure aggressive representation for my district and northern Westchester, in general where, very often, the county has fallen short."

Colin Smith, 45, a criminal defense attorney, has served the last two years on the

Peekskill Common Council. Prior to that he served six years on the Peekskill Board of Education. He will appear on the Democratic and Working Families lines.

"At the same time as we face the same challenges as the rest of our region, our part of Northern Westchester is also facing some very serious and specific challenges. We pay some of the highest taxes in the nation and, like many places, are facing a shortage of affordable housing. I will work with the both state and local officials to expand affordable solutions for our working families and seniors," Smith said. "The impending shutdown of Indian Point will result in substantial loss of jobs and tax revenue. I will work hard to find solutions to blunt the impact of this loss and provide support for those affected. As a community with a large waterfront - and as a community period - we're also on the frontlines of the climate crisis. I will continue the fight to make our County green by expanding the availability of renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels."

Catalina cited the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan as

the top issue in District 1.

"With the loss of 40-50% of taxes, Buchanan and the Hendrick Hudson School District look to be hardest hit," Catalina said. "The county park at Blue Mountain is, quite frankly, a disgrace and needs to be brought back to its glorious past. There are several pressing issues facing Northern Westchester from roads and infrastructure to the sanitary sewer district, to homelessness to immigrants. We have all the pressing issues that need constant attention."

Smith listed jobs, the economy, the environment and housing as top priorities.

"Whether due to the closure of Indian Point Buchanan or empty store fronts in Peekskill and Yorktown, many in our district are struggling to find work," he said. "I will work with government officials, labor unions and the business community to ensure good-paying jobs for our available first to residents. I will demand our government make health and environmental a safety top priority and I will fight to make sure every available resource is used to blunt the impact of lost tax revenue - particularly in communities like Buchanan, Verplanck and the surrounding areas. Housing is also growing problem in our District. I will work to expand affordable solutions for residents."

Catalina said as mayor he demonstrated he could get things done despite being in

the minority, as he would be if elected to the Board of Legislators, where Democrats hold a commanding edge.

"It's all about convincing a majority to vote my way on an issue that makes sense, is good for Westchester and good for my district," he said. "My two terms as mayor of a city (a minority party mayor) has shown me the political angles lawyers often ignore but it was working WITH the opposing party on great ideal that made those two terms so successful. I think this is the prime difference between me and my opponent. He sees things and talks about the possibilities. I see things and can tell you exactly how we can accomplish them as I have a solid record of achievements I can point to."

Smith said his experience on the Common Council and Board of Education has prepared him well for county service.

"Generally, a lot of the job of county Legislator is about building coalitions and working with other levels of government to coordinate our response to tough challenges like the opioid crisis," Smith said. "We need to fight for our community respectfully and forcefully and work with people of all parties at all levels to get results. The ability to do that part of the job is a key difference between the candidates in this race. I build bridges, my opponent burns them."



Frank Catalina



Colin Smith

### PROVEN EXPERIENCE • INTEGRITY & HONESTY • DEDICATED SERVICE

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 16 Years Judicial Experience, serving as Town Justice and Village Associate Justice, handling all aspects of criminal and civil cases in local courts
- Municipal Attorney, represented local Village and its Planning and Zoning Boards
- Active Service to the Community as Boy Scout Leader, team sponsor and coach
- 33 years practicing law, devoted to working in a general practice law firm and serving as a part-time Justice, including trial and litigation experience in federal and state courts, real estate, estates and wills
- Town Justice, Town of Cortlandt - Currently serving 3rd four (4) year term
- Village Associate Justice, Village of Buchanan
- Acting City Court Judge, City of Peekskill (Temporary Appointment)
- Village Attorney, Village of Buchanan
- The McCarthy Law Firm, P.C., Partner/Owner
- Graham, Campaign & McCarthy, P.C. - Litigation Assoc.
- The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County

#### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Bar Admissions: New York, Federal Courts - US Supreme Court, Eastern District of NY, Southern District of NY
- New York State Magistrate's Association
- Westchester County Magistrate's Association, Board of Directors - 2016 - present; President - 2015
- New York State Bar Association
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association



#### CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- BSA, Assistant Scout Master and Merit Badge Counselor
- The Children's Village, Masquerade Ball Committee Member
- Coach of various youth sports teams
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 67 (Former Member)

#### PERSONAL

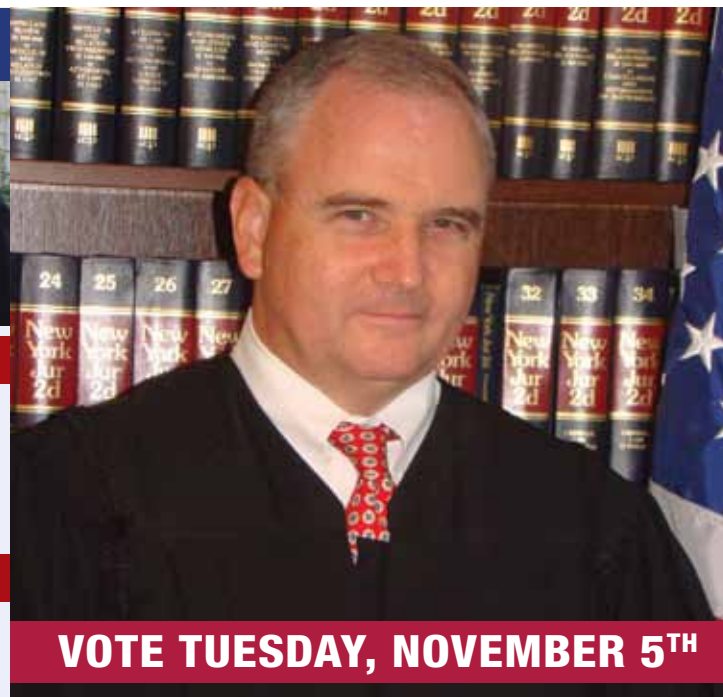
- Lifelong resident of the Town of Cortlandt
- Graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School
- Married to wife Mitra for 30 years, with four children

#### EDUCATION

- Fairfield University, B.A. (History) 1981
- Touro College School of Law, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, J.D. 1985 - Honors: Law Review, 1983-85, Notes & Comments Editor, Law Review, 1984-85

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**McCarthy**  
CORTLANDT TOWN JUSTICE

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**Lauren Brady**

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# Election 2019: WESTCHESTER BOARD OF LEGISLATORS DISTRICT 4

## Yorktown's Gashi, Grace Square Off to Succeed Kaplowitz

BY MARTIN WILBUR

Michael Grace or Vedat Gashi will have big shoes to fill in January. For the first time in 22 years, the District 4 seat on the Board of Legislators is up for grabs with the approaching retirement of County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz.

Grace, a Republican, is a former three-term Yorktown supervisor, while fellow Yorktown resident, Democrat Vedat Gashi, came up short in his first political campaign last year for state Assembly. The district also includes New Castle and portions of Somers.

Grace, 63, who has his own law practice, said he wouldn't have tried for the seat had Kaplowitz decided to run again.

"I think I have a lot to offer on the county level, given all my years of experience in both government and the law. That makes it possible where I can have an impact on the county as well," said Grace, who years earlier served as Yorktown Town Attorney.

Gashi, 41, also an attorney, fled with his family to the United States from what is present-day Kosovo when he was four years old. He found his run for the 94th Assembly District seat last year inspiring and was energized by the political process and how so many people care about the issues and who represents them.

"I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't feel there

was a real job to be done and that it was important," Gashi said. "So, I'm excited to be part of it."

Westchester County remained on the state comptroller's fiscal stress list that was released in September. Grace said the sales tax increase from 7.375 to 8.375 percent was unnecessary, hitting people who can least afford it. He said a \$70 million fund balance is sufficient even if the bond rating falls below AAA because the county should limit borrowing.

He predicted at some point in the future a nine or 10 percent sales tax unless lawmakers control spending. High taxes also negatively impact property values, said Grace.

"It's the governmental culture that is poisonous," Grace said. "The county has surplus but their complaint is they just don't have enough of a surplus, so they like to have a \$140 million of taxpayer money."

Gashi said money had to be found somewhere because not only had the county's reserve funds been depleted because of repeated zero percent tax increases but critical infrastructure, including roads, had been neglected. The AAA bond rating allows for the lowest borrowing

rates when necessary, he said.

Along with shoring up the county's reserves and providing the promises percentages to municipalities and schools infrastructure shortcomings must be addressed, Gashi said.

Among the biggest issues facing constituents in each one of the district's towns are sewer hookups. Gashi said county officials must convince New York City DEP and representatives from other levels of government that the projects are critical and need state and federal funds.

"I think there's a benefit for the people of the town but also a benefit for the residents of New York City," Gashi said. "We should be able to get residents greater support."

While Grace agreed more money from Albany and Washington is needed to properly fund projects, more regional solutions should be sought. As supervisor, he welcomed the Somers' communities of Lincolndale and Shenorock into Yorktown's Hallock's Mill Sewer Plant, similar to what New Castle and Mount Kisco are discussing for Riverwoods and Yeshiva, but the plan was blocked.



Michael Grace



Vedat Gashi



**Maritza is honored to have her 2019 candidacy for Cortlandt Town Justice officially endorsed by the following:**

- Westchester Putnam AFL-CIO Central Labor Body
- Lake Mohegan Firefighters IAFF Local 2956 AFL-CIO
- Yonkers Firefighters IAFF Local 628 AFL-CIO
- CWA Local 1103
- Peter Harckham, New York State Senator, 40th Senate District
- George Latimer, Westchester County Executive
- Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats
- New York State Supreme Court Officers Association
- Westchester Hispanic Law Enforcement Association
- Hispanic Democrats of Westchester
- Eleanor's Legacy
- Up2Us
- Democratic Party
- Working Families Party

### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

- 20 years of legal experience and service to the public.
- Former bilingual staff attorney for the Pace Women's Justice Center.
- Private practice appearing in Local, State and Federal Courts.
- 13 years as a Court Attorney in the Westchester County Family Court, one of the busiest courts in Westchester County.

"My commitment to serve the public interest was formed early in my career with an internship at the Bronx Legal Aid Society. Assisting people going through important times in their lives, I knew we were making a difference. As an attorney, a mom and neighbor, to be able to continue this service in the community my family calls home and insure our residents are treated with a fair and unbiased judiciary would be an honor and a privilege."

-Maritza Fugaro-Norton

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**FUGARO-NORTON**  
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# Election 2019: COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS DISTRICT 9

# Incumbent Borgia Faces Challenge Again from Outhouse

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The race for the ninth district seat on the Westchester County Board of Legislators is a rematch from 2017.



Catherine Borgia

Westchester County Police Detective Robert Outhouse.

The ninth district includes Cortlandt, Peekskill, Ossining, Croton-on-Hudson and Briarcliff Manor.

"I am seeking re-election to continue working for the people of the 9th LD and the county," said Borgia. "It has been an honor to work with my colleagues on legislature to serve the health, safety, and welfare of workers, families, children, seniors and all residents in Westchester."

"I am running again because I know I will make a difference for my community on the county level," Outhouse said. "In the two years under this supermajority, we have seen three tax increases, sanctuary county designation with the IPA, and 14 pieces of progressive legislation that do not make Westchester County more affordable, and in fact, makes us less safe."

Borgia, 54, a former Ossining town supervisor, said in the last legislative session she was proud to sponsor and pass with bipartisan support the Earned Sick Leave and Safe Leave Laws.

“Earned

Sick Leave allows workers to accrue up to five days of sick time over the course of a year (paid time in companies five or more employees) so

that they are not forced to choose between their health and a job,”

she explained. “Safe Leave allows paid leave for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking to take time off from work for court dates or other legal matters, or to move away from an abuser.”

She said the county board has reduced the backlog of undone, necessary infrastructure projects and moved away from borrowing for ongoing expenses.

“We have begun to restore the ‘rainy day’ fund balance that was used to balance the budget,” Borgia said. “I am currently working on two projects to benefit Westchester residents. The first is the creation of a program that would allow county businesses to offer discounts or promotions to Westchester county ID card holders. And I continue to prioritize working with the court system to create a Veterans’ Court in Westchester to ensure that our veterans who get into trouble get the resources they need to get back into a better course.”

A lifelong Montrose resident, Outhouse, 55, has been as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in the district for more than 40 years and

served Westchester for 23 years as a detective. He believes in community involvement and will work to encourage volunteerism, neighbors helping neighbors. He and his wife, Angela, have six children.

"I am a strong advocate for public safety and have extensive experience in that area. I have lobbied for legislation in the fire service and been successful. I have great mediation skills and the ability to bring different sides and points of view together to achieve positive resolutions," Outhouse said. "Beyond this I am responsive to people when they contact me. I always return phone calls or emails. If I don't have the answers, I will find them, or point them in the right direction, if it's out of my scope."

Outhouse criticized Borgia for being the sponsor and architect of the Immigration Protection Act, which “I adamantly opposed as it is written. As it is written, it jeopardizes our children’s safety and even our own safety.”

He also contended Borgia was “not representing or advocating

for the needs of this district. She is not advocating for her constituents, some of whom are barely making ends meet. It is crucial that our elected officials respond to constituent's concerns whether electronically or in person, even when the answer is just 'I will look into it and get back to you,' and then get back to them."

Both candidates agreed the looming closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan was the most important issue facing the district.

“Indian Point decommissioning poses an immediate economic concern and a ongoing environmental concerns,” Borgia said. “Working with my colleagues at the local, state, and federal levels, I will continue to advocate for the municipality, school district, and county to make sure we have resources to mitigate both impacts and to keep the long-term safety of Westchester residents in the forefront.”

"In reference to the Indian Point closure, I will advocate for funds and legislation giving

*Continued on page 28*



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## Election 2019: CORTLANDT TOWN JUSTICE

# Cortlandt Town Justice Race Pits McCarthy vs Fugaro-Norton

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The only contested race in the Town of Cortlandt on Election Day is for town justice, as incumbent Dan McCarthy vies for a fourth four-year term against challenger Maritza Fugaro-Norton.

McCarthy, who has lived in Cortlandt since he was five years old, was first elected to the bench in Cortlandt in 2008, succeeding his father, Daniel McCarthy, who served 30 years from 1977 to 2007. He handles a caseload of more than 600 new criminal and civil cases, as well as over 3,000 new traffic matters, each year. On November 5, McCarthy will appear on the Republican, Conservative and Independence lines.

Fugaro-Norton, who has resided in Cortlandt for the last 14 years, has been a Court Attorney in the Westchester County Family Court for the last 12 years. She has secured the Democratic and Working Families lines.

She earned her law degree from Pace University School of Law in 2003 and obtained her undergraduate degree from Manhattan College in 2000. Admitted to practice law in the Second Judicial Department in 2004, her legal career began at the Pace Women's Justice Center where she represented victims of domestic violence and litigated all family law matters on their



DAN MCCARTHY

behalf. Her fluency in Spanish was an asset enabling her to assist clients in which English was their second language. Following the Pace Women's Justice Center, she worked for a private law firm in Yonkers, handling a wide variety of cases including



MARITZA FUGARO-NORTON

Matrimonial and Family Law, Criminal Law, Bankruptcy Law, Personal Injury Litigation and Real Estate transactions.

McCarthy graduated from Hendrick Hudson High School. He received his B.A. in History from Fairfield University

in 1981 and his J.D. in 1985 from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Touro College School of Law, where he graduated with honors as a member of the Law Review. He began his career as a trial attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, where he represented individuals charged with felonies who could not afford to retain counsel.

Prior to being elected in Cortlandt, McCarthy served as Acting Village Justice of Buchanan, handling all aspects of the court calendar for approximately four years. He subsequently served for eight years as the Buchanan Village Attorney, ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

As a private attorney, McCarthy, along with his father, formed The McCarthy Law Firm, PC, further contributing to the already thriving small business community in Cortlandt/Croton. He and his father focused on trials and litigation in federal and state courts, handling cases involving Civil Rights, Defamation, Personal Injury, as well as Estates and Real Estate transactions. His continues to practice law at his office in Croton-on-Hudson.

If elected, Fugaro-Norton would only be the second woman elected town justice in Cortlandt's history. Two years ago, Kimberly Ragazzo paved the way, defeating 28-year incumbent judge Gerald Klein.

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**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business or Public Administration or a closely related field and at least six (6) years of progressively responsible administrative experience in finance, project and construction management or a related field; two (2) of which shall have been in a supervisory capacity.

**NOTE:** A Master's Degree in Business or Public Administration or a closely related field may substitute for one year of administrative experience.

Interested candidates should submit a completed City of Stamford Employment Application and Application Supplement #19-46. Applications can be obtained at

**City of Stamford, Human Resources Division, 9th Floor,  
 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut or at  
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**Michael Grace**  
District 4



**Bob Outhouse**  
District 9

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For more Info :  
[FrankCatalina.com](http://FrankCatalina.com)

Somers, Yorktown,  
New Castle

For more Info:  
[facebook.com/  
MichaelgraceLD4](https://facebook.com/MichaelgraceLD4)

Briarcliff, Croton,  
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For more Info :  
[Outhouse4Westchester.com](http://Outhouse4Westchester.com)

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**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Bachelor's degree in Computer Science; Computer, Civil, Traffic or Transportation Engineering; or a closely related field and three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in the field of traffic engineering, one (1) year of which must have been in computerized traffic signal systems and control. NOTE: A Master's degree in one of the above noted fields may substitute for one (1) year of the general traffic engineering experience. Valid Driver's License.

Interested applicants are advised to submit a fully completed application form along with their resume, listing all related degrees, training and work experience. Incomplete applications or those submitted without a resume will be rejected. Applications of candidates who do not meet the stated position requirements will not be considered. **Position is open until filled.** Applications can be obtained at the:

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 Human Resources Division, 9th Floor  
 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut  
 or at  
[www.stamfordct.gov](http://www.stamfordct.gov)**

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**HELP WANTED • CITY OF STAMFORD, CT**  
**CIVIL ENGINEER**  
**Annual Salary Range: \$97,131 - \$124,584**

**POSITION:** Under the general direction of the City Engineer or designee, performs supervisory and administrative work in inspection and permit issuance as well as performs plan reviews ensuring the compliance of local and state codes, regulations and practice concerning site engineering and site construction development and inspection in connection with the construction of capital, departmental, residential and/or commercial development projects requested of the department; does related work as required.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related field and seven (7) years of progressively responsible engineering experience in the field of site engineering, construction, and inspection.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** At time of application, possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license and possession of a valid Connecticut Professional Engineer's license. **Applicants must attach a copy of their license to the application.**

**SCOPE OF EXAMINATION:** Qualified applicants will be evaluated, scored and ranked on their level and quality of related experience, education and training documented on the application and application supplement. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Interested candidates should submit a completed Employment Application and Application Supplement "19-40". Please note: only properly completed and submitted applications will be considered. Applications of candidates who do not meet the stated position requirements will not be considered.

**Position is open until filled.** Application and application supplement can be obtained at the

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## Obituaries

### Jerome Thaler

Jerome S. Thaler, formerly of Yorktown, died October 19 in Yonkers after a brief illness. He was 89.

He was born January 10, 1930 in New York City. He earned a B.S. and an M.S. at Columbia University and a Doctor of Optometry degree



JEROME S. THALER

at the Massachusetts College of Optometry. He was a U.S. Army veteran, who served in Alaska during the Korean conflict from 1954 to 1956. He opened his own optometry practice in Peekskill in 1959 and had a practice in Mahopac for nearly 40 years. He served as Chief of Optometry at the V.A. Hospital in Montrose from 1981

to 1992. He continued to practice into his 80s.

Dr. Thaler was a prominent climate historian of the Hudson Valley, maintaining a National Weather Service station at his home in Yorktown for 50 years. He authored a number of books on the subject, including *The Westchester Weather Book*, *Weather History* and *Climate Guide to the Lower Hudson Valley and Hudson Valley Warming*. His writings appeared in *Hudson Valley Magazine*, *The New York Times* and many local newspapers. He received several awards for his service and

contributions to the climatology of the Hudson Valley. He was an ardent amateur geologist, naturalist and astronomer, who traveled widely and loved music and the theater, especially the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. He was also an avid swimmer and outdoorsman.

He is survived by his son Daniel (Susan), daughter Naomi (Barry) Volain and son Jonathan (Helen); stepdaughter Rebecca Schram Zafrany and stepson Mordechai Schram; grandchildren Rebecca Thaler Heineman, Diane Ruby Thaler, Noah Volain, Mark Volain, Maximus Thaler, Anna Volain Jones and great-grandson Jude Heineman; and by Eleanor Arnold, his loving partner of 22 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Clara (nee Hirsch), his first wife Diane (nee Perin) and his brother, Allan (Susan).

### Frederick Beck, Jr.

Frederick William Beck, Jr. died suddenly October 21. He was 48.

He was born January 1, 1971 to Frederick and Dolores Beck. He was a lifelong resident of Peekskill and Cortlandt. He graduated from Walter Panas High School. He received a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in Chemical Engineering. He then went on to earn a Master's degree in Environmental Pathology from New York Medical College. He later earned his Professional Engineer License.

He was employed as an Associate Engi-

neer for the Westchester County Department of Health. He is survived by his parents, his sister Kristina and his nephew Jacob, and nieces Emmy and Lily. They were the light of his life.

### Maureen Lawter

Maureen Lawter (née O'Connell), a resident of Peekskill, died October 20 at the New York State Veterans' Home after suffering with dementia for several years. She was 92.

She was born March 5, 1927 in Flatbush, Brooklyn. She graduated with honors from the Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School in Brooklyn. After high school she entered the Fashion Institute of Technology, to learn millinery, in the first few years of the school's founding. She worked at Macy's and Saks Fifth Avenue as a competitive shopper. Seeking a challenge, she entered a course of nurses' training and moved from there to enlist in the United States Navy in January of 1951 to continue training as a nurse and as an air traffic controller.

She met and married James Lawter in December 1951. She was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1952 to devote her time to being a wife and mother. As a Navy wife she raised five children in Florida, Virginia, Maryland, California, New York, Washington State and the Philippines. She worked at Peekskill City Court, Standard Brands, for the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, and Vera Fashion

Design, among other jobs. At the time of her retirement in the early 90s she went to work as a resident assistant at Cor Mariea in NYC, a shelter for homeless women operated by the Good Shepherd Sisters. She was also a lay associate for the Good Shepherd Sisters in NYC and the Peekskill Franciscan Sisters.

In addition to her accomplishments as a mother and charity worker, she was an amateur actress, talented seamstress, artist, poet, cook, baker, cake decorator, crafter, and needle-crafter. She was the member of two choirs at Graymoor in Garrison and traveled to Jamaica, the Netherlands, Germany and many parts of the U.S.

Having been of 100% Irish decent she was registered as an Irish citizen in the Foreign Births Entry Book in 1995. She will be remembered as a loving mother, devoted Catholic and a generous and cheerful soul.

She is survived by her children, James Lawter (Eddie Holmes) of Vancouver, BC, Canada, Mary Eileen Lawter of Worcester, MA, John Lawter of NY, NY, David Lawter (Eileen Burns) of Peekskill, NY and one granddaughter Katie Lawter of Atlanta, GA. She was predeceased by her daughter Cathy (1957), brothers Charles, Philip (Rita) and Arthur (Dolores) O'Connell and her former husband James Lawter. She was also predeceased by her parents Charles and Isabel (Reddy) O'Connell of Peekskill. She is survived by her sister-in-law Laura Lee O'Connell and many nieces and nephews.

## Election 2019

# Incumbent Councilmen Face Challenge from Dem Newcomers

*Continued from page 15*

Sullivan-Rothberg is a 15-year Yorktown resident who has worked 25 years in documentary film and television production/distribution. She noted she is "dedicated to environmental stewardship."

"Since moving to Yorktown 15 years ago, I have immersed myself in town activities through the PTA, Boy Scouts, and as an advocate for arts in education. It's the natural next step for me to be of service to Yorktown as a member of the Town Council," Sullivan-Rothberg stated.

"Building community is what I

do, it's what I love, and it's in my DNA. Yorktown has so many assets—historic sites, beautiful parks and trails, excellent schools—and a wealth of talent right here within the community. I want to build on those assets and work together to help Supervisor Gilbert implement his new economic plan," she continued. "I envision a vibrant town that embraces green initiatives, has thriving businesses, and is an attractive place to raise families and stay for retirement. As an active resident and young parent, I believe that adding my insights will only broaden the knowledge and outlook of the board."

### ED LACHTERMAN

Lachterman is a small business owner with a 38-year career in the hospitality industry. He has been an active volunteer for almost a decade with the Yorktown Lions and has lived in Yorktown almost 30 years. He is also a founding member and officer in the Yorktown Sons of the American Legion and Yorktown Against Heroin. He is seeking a second four-year term.

"I hope to remain on the Council so that I can continue to work for the people of Yorktown. Yorktown is a great community and needs leadership that understands the needs of the town and our citi-

zens. My life experiences are very diverse, and I feel that my point of view offers our town a proven leader that understands the issues we face as a town," he stated.

"I am most proud of being able to start Yorktown's very own Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony. Being able to have Survivors share their stories with us is the first step in defeating hate," he continued. "I am also very proud of the 485 B Tax Exemption that works with landlords trying to upgrade their existing properties to help grow Yorktown's commercial tax base. If I were to pick a third, I would say my work as the Senior Advisory

Board Liaison and my work with the Veterans at the Country House not only make me proud, but is personally rewarding as well."

"My top priority has always been to keep Yorktown affordable and to do this with a balance of Progress and Preservation, as it says on our town seal. We have a great family community that has some unbelievable age diversity. Without proper vision to guide us in business opportunities, while keeping a firm stance on not changing the character of our community, all of this will disappear," he added.

# SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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# Happenings

The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at [nrentz@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nrentz@theexaminernews.com).

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30

**Bingo Wednesdays:** Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914-739-0500 or [www.firsthebrew.org](http://www.firsthebrew.org).

**Live Performances:** Live ticketed performances are being held at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Tribute, theatrical, cabaret, independent and famous acts perform. Info: 914-455-4272.

## THURSDAY, OCT. 31

**Yorktown Jewish Center Courses:** Several courses have been scheduled for the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The Talmud class is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. The Rabbi's class will be held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://www.yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Women's Torah And Tea:** The Chabad Jewish Women's Circle invites you to join together for inspiring discussions, camaraderie, and hot tea. The feminine Spiritual-tea on Oct. 31 and Nov. 7 at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information and to register visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com), e-mail: [Hadassah@ChabadYorktown.com](mailto:Hadassah@ChabadYorktown.com) or call 914-962-1111.

**Acting Classes:** Four All Theater Company will be conducting acting classes every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Class size is limited. Info: 914-737-1212.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 1

**Somers Library Programs:** Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at the Somers Library. Dual Art Exhibit at the Somers Library: Paintings by Marion Cumins & Photographs by DuAnne Simon will be held throughout November during regular library hours. M&M Productions Presents: "A Full House" on Nov. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. M&M is offering a collection of one-act comedies with a twist for fall. No registration required; first come, first seated. Info: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

**Service and Dinner:** Hebrew Congregation of Somers will hold at Shabbat service and dinner at 6:30 p.m. A Shabbat service followed by a potluck dinner. The service will be led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis and Hebrew School Director Jill Liflander. Info: 914-907-6165 or [dianekarsch@gmail.com](mailto:dianekarsch@gmail.com).

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 8 p.m. And Sabbath services on most Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324

**Temple Beth Am Services:** A Friday night Shabbat services will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Am. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or email him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net).

## SATURDAY, NOV. 2

**Putnam Valley Shabbat Service:** Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, call 845-528-2305.

**Bagels and Bible:** The program will be held at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth Am. All are invited to study the Bible with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Bagels and coffee are provided for all wishing to explore how the Bible is a mirror into our lives. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at [RabbiW@optonline.net](mailto:RabbiW@optonline.net).

**Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services:** Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush luncheon follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information, visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com).

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring and Market Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry,

and eggs, breads, baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit [DowntoEarthMarkets.com](http://DowntoEarthMarkets.com).

**U-Boat Assault:** U-Boat Assault on America: Why the US was Unprepared for War in the Atlantic, a seminar with Author Ken Brown will be held at 11 a.m. at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library

185 Kings Ferry Rd., Montrose. Refreshments and welcome at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at 914-737-7878 Ext. 0, or e-mail [NMHS@seahistory.org](mailto:NMHS@seahistory.org). The program is being presented by the National Maritime Historical Society.

**Path Toward Wellness:** Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered from noon-1:30 p.m. at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley on the following Saturdays in November: 11/2, 11/9, 11/16 and 11/23. It is open to women living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to attend, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Jazz Masters Series:** Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT) continues its Jazz Masters music series with the Willie Martinez Latin Jazz Quartet. Martinez performing at 7:30 and 9 p.m. at WCT, 23 Water Street in Ossining. \$20 Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4425960>.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 3

**Pancake Breakfast:** The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009 will hold a pancake breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at American Legion Post #1009, 235 Veterans Rd. Yorktown. The cost is \$8 and a 50/50 raffle will be held at 10:30 a.m. The pancake breakfasts are held on th

## Election 2019: PEEKSKILL MAYOR

# Vesce Hopeful of Extending Legacy as Rainey Eyes Second Term

*Continued from page 16*

forced; repealing the Real Estate Transfer Tax on single-family homes; eliminating redundant garbage pick-up fees at condominium, multi-family and commercial buildings; brining back free Saturday morning trash and recycling drop-offs for residents; opening City Hall on Saturdays once a month; instituting an online Citizen Resume & Application Bank; and prioritizing maintenance and restoration of parks, monuments, public sidewalks and streets

"And most importantly I will make City Hall a place that works for the Citizens of Peekskill again by reorganizing and re-energizing a city workforce that has been plagued with political over-reach and interference," Vesce said.

Addressing morale at City Hall, Rainey responded. "Crime is down, our parks are cleaner, long neglected infrastructure is being repaired, and City Hall and its staff are being recognized on a daily basis for the amazing work being done. With any new administra-

tion, there is turn over. You can't do the same things over and over again and expect different results. There is a reason Peekskill has become the envy of Westchester in the last two years: it's because we are taking a new approach to how we do business. We are bringing more people in, we are being much more innovative, we are upgrading our technology, and we are making Peekskill an all-around more-friendly, green, welcoming city."

Rainey said he did not regret signing a petition that supported CCHOP's planned move of northern Westchester's only homeless shelter to Washington Street, despite the fact the Common Council would have had to vote on a rezoning resolution if it hadn't been scrapped.

"I believe it is the fundamental obligation of a community to take care of the least amongst us and I will never apologize for seeking solutions to homelessness, which is a crisis everywhere, and for working to ensure any homeless resident of Peekskill has a safe place to

sleep at night," Rainey stated. "I regret how too many politicians and their supporters have attempted to malign, insult, and denigrate these people instead of working collaboratively with the rest of us to ensure our homeless residents and veterans have a place to sleep at night."

Vesce said it was wrong for Rainey to take a public position on the issue. He acknowledged the need for a homeless shelter but questioned why it had to be located in Peekskill.

"I think it was handled very poorly. The city got way too involved in this from the beginning," Vesce said. "The city should not be in the real estate business. He (Rainey) doesn't understand how that could affect property values because he doesn't own a home."

Rainey said the city's goal was to bring the Paramount Theatre to a new level "and not allow a small group of politically connected people run it like a private club."

"That didn't work in the past, it won't work in the future," Rainey said. "The city is invest-

ing in upgrading one of the major challenges of the theatre, it's HV/AC system and also ensuring it's much more energy efficient so the cost of climate control will be substantially reduced for the next operator. Now we are going out to bid to find an operator and whoever that is, needs to ensure that the programming puts people in the seats and out and about in our downtown both before and after shows."

Vesce said he would like to see the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID) get involved in helping to subsidize the Paramount.

"The business community that benefits from it should help sustain it to a degree," Vesce said, noting the theater needed \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually from some source to keep it afloat. "I think it's an important part of the restaurant and service sector of the city. The theater might be open right now instead of closed due to a lack of leadership on the part of our current administration."



# The Necessary but Overlooked Importance of Doorknobs

As a realtor who has shown many homes in my 17 years in the business, I've opened a lot of doors and clutched a lot of doorknobs.

Except for those dastardly swinging doors which I never liked and think are one of the world's most dangerous inventions, every door needs something to grab on to in order to be opened and closed. It's that round or oval device that you rarely think about, even though you wrap your hand around it 100 times or more a day.

But especially after I read recently that there are about two million germs per square inch attached to the average doorknob and the experience of showing a buyer client too many houses during flu season, I became aware of every doorknob I touched and really started to scrub my hands down many times during the day.

Readers of this column know that I'm a movie buff and much of what I learned about home life started from make-believe home life in old movies. One of these was a Judy Garland film called "Presenting Lily Mars," which was an adaptation of a Booth Tarkington novel by the same name. It was a silly enough storyline with a subplot

that really galled me involving Garland's younger brother who had a strange hobby of collecting doorknobs that he would steal from people's homes.

Where was the moral compass of that Midwestern family, I thought, in dismissing the criminal behavior of that rascal as something cute, especially since it involved stealing an essential item in providing access and egress around the house?

The doorknob is an ingenious little device actually. The traditional knob itself has a bolt or spindle running through it that sits just above a cylinder, to which the spindle is connected. Turning the knob pulls the cylinder in the direction of the turn. The end of the cylinder is a latch that protrudes into a space that is carved out of the doorframe and prevents the door from being opened if the knob is not turned.

The mechanism is a little more complex than I'm describing here, but I'll leave further understanding to the technicians among us.

Interestingly, America didn't produce doorknobs or any hardware at all until after the American Revolution because of England's stranglehold on manufacturing and restrictive trade practices. The

colonies were permitted only to supply the motherland with the raw materials needed to produce the finished manufactured products that would be sold back to us, including doorlatches, doorknobs and all other hardware used in this country.

After the Revolution, America's ingenuity came into play and its agrarian society was soon to be balanced with rising industrialization. The first major invention influencing the production of doorknobs in America was the invention of the glass pressing machine, patented in 1826. It permitted the first truly decorative and mass-produced pressed glass doorknob made in America.

By Victorian times, the popularity of glass doorknobs was overtaken by the use of metals – iron, brass and bronze. But in 1917, during World War I, glass became wildly popular once more since all metals were allocated for the manufacture of planes and other wartime materials. Glass knobs remained popular through World War II, but by the 1950s, preference reverted back to metals.

Today, the choices are all but limitless in the styles and shapes of knobs and levers, as well as finishes to suit every décor. There's satin nickel, aged bronze, bright brass, antique brass, bright chrome, brushed chrome, antique pewter, distressed nickel, matte black, oil-rubbed bronze and satin stainless steel.

And how's this for a look into the future? The doorknob may disappear altogether. In Vancouver, businesses and

residents must now install only lever-style door handles on new buildings. While all existing homes, offices and businesses will be grandfathered, all new construction will require levers instead of doorknobs to accommodate those with physical disabilities who find doorknobs difficult to manipulate.

I am reminded of a personal story that relates to the fact that my wife Margaret's native language is Lithuanian. Within that ancient language are some quaint expressions that don't translate very well into English, but Margaret still unconsciously uses some of them on occasion.

For instance, if one were expecting to visit a friend but found no one home, the Lithuanian expression would be that you were able only to "kiss the doorknob."

Considering that there are two million germs per square inch attached to the average doorknob, that might be considered germ warfare.

*Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



By Bill Primavera

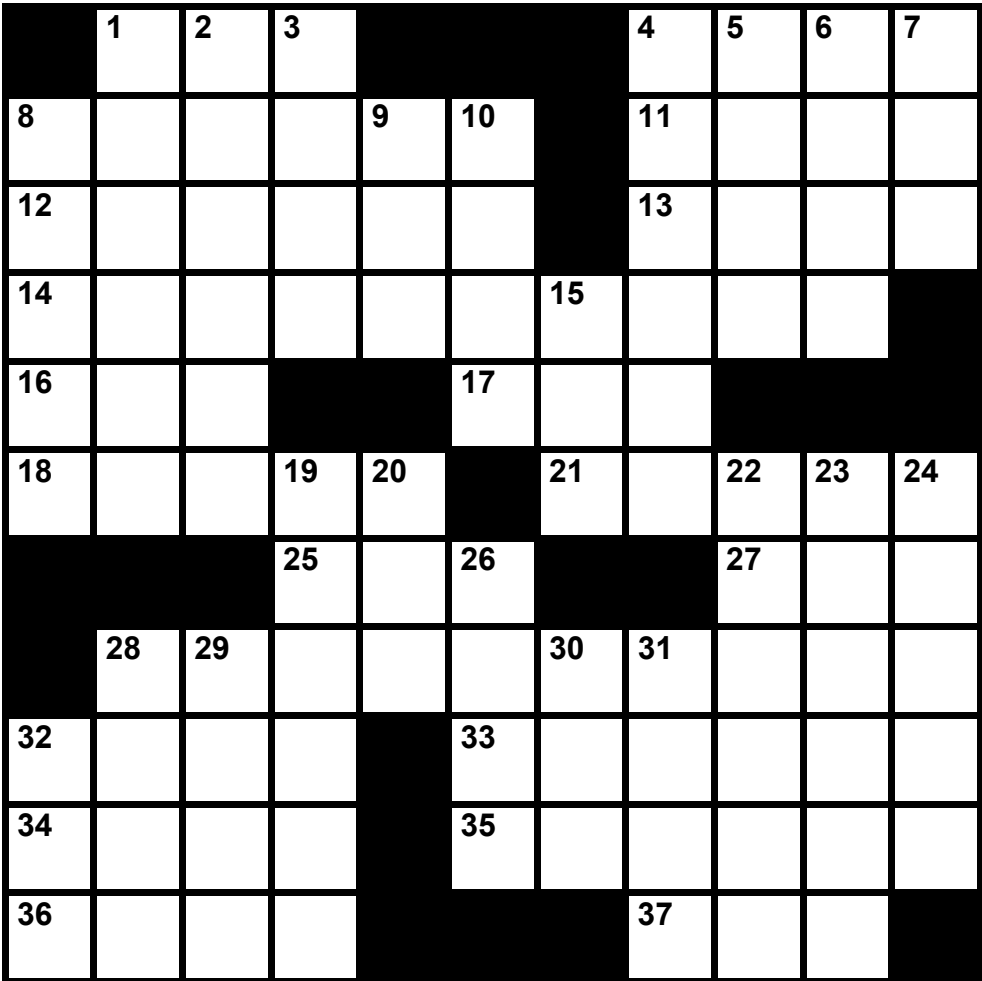
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1. "Rocky Balboa" studio
- 4. Med. care providers
- 8. As in this document
- 11. Listeners
- 12. Demagogue
- 13. Opposite of aweather
- 14. Children's party center at the JV Mall
- 16. Compass heading, abbr.
- 17. Granola bit
- 18. College rooms
- 21. Lake Volta locale
- 25. Negative Chinese principle
- 27. \_\_\_ favor (please, in Spanish)
- 28. Nonconformist
- 32. Roller coaster feature
- 33. Chinese martial art
- 34. Katie's baby
- 35. Podiatric concern
- 36. Letters at Camp Lejeune
- 37. Ballad's end?

### DOWN

- 1. Sheep breed
- 2. Cow, for one
- 3. City on the Moselle
- 4. Patient's concern
- 5. Drone, e.g.
- 6. Mine's output
- 7. Pilot's hdg.
- 8. Crossed one's fingers
- 9. \_\_\_ fault
- 10. Pasta grains
- 15. Veer suddenly
- 19. Short-sighted
- 20. Transgression
- 22. Geronimo, e.g.
- 23. Between-meal nibbler
- 24. Briarcliff memory care facility
- 26. "\_\_\_ chance"
- 28. Markers
- 29. Base of a crocus stem
- 30. Employee perk, sometimes
- 31. Pet parasites
- 32. Home of the Fighting Tigers



(Solution for puzzle on page 23)

	1	2	3			4	5	6	7
	M	G	M			H	M	O	S
8	H	E	R	E	9	T	10	O	
							11	E	A
12	O	R	A	T	O	R		13	A
								L	E
14	P	I	Z	Z	A	Z	15	Z	L
								E	S
16	E	N	E			17	O	A	T
18	D	O	R	19	M	20	S		
							21	G	H
								22	A
								23	N
								24	A
				25	Y	I	26	N	
								27	P
								O	R
	28	I	29	C	O	N	O	30	C
								31	L
									A
32	L	O	O	P			33	T	A
								I	C
34	S	U	R	I			35	A	R
								C	H
								E	S
36	U	S	M	C				37	E
								E	R

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# Election 2019:

## Incumbent Borgia Faces Challenge Again from Outhouse

*Continued from page 21*

authority to the local decommissioning committee CAP to monitor every aspect regarding public safety to our first responders and community members,” Outhouse said. “I will advocate that the jobs supplied by Entergy to the County, OEM, etc., need to be maintained as long as we have nuclear waste on that site. I will advocate for proper use and oversight of the decommissioning fund; and hold the Federal Government responsible for taking care of their nuclear waste in our backyard. I will advocate disclosure to community members and first responders on the types of incidents that could occur during decommissioning and how to deal with them. We need a plan. We need to maintain the County Emergency Evacuation Plan in full force. I plan to be a fierce leader and strong advocate for our community’s safety, something that has been absent for two years.”



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## LEGALS

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held at **Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday November 4, 2019** for the purpose of considering the following applications: **Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING** The following public hearings have been scheduled for November 4, 2019 at 6:00PM (or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York, 10579. All interested parties are invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of the application

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continued from previous page

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materials and plans may be inspected during normal business hours at the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. Gjonaj, Chris- White Rock Road (TM#73.-2-30.1/File2019-0203) The subject property is comprised of +/- 3.9 acres and is located on White Rock Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence, driveway, septic system and well. **DECISION 2. Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12& 7.11/File2019-0199)** The subject property consist of +/- 10.3 acres of land and is located on Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing soil remediation of contaminated Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps. Properties. The remedial design project includes re-grading the unstable slopes and construction of a clean soil cover over the top of the contaminated fill. **SKETCH 3. Filho Residence, - 135 Bell Hollow Road (TM# 51.-1-4/File: 2019-0190)** The subject property consists of + 19.2 acres of land and is located on 135 Bell Hollow Road and within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a swimming pool, terrace and outdoor kitchen. A Site Development Plan, Major Grading and Wetland Permit is required. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3.** Approve Minutes of October 21, 2019

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Putnam Valley has received a wetlands application from the following applicant: **WT 22/19 Rodman Patton 77 south Highland Road TM# 61.-2-25 WT23/19 Noah Levy**

280 West Shore Drive TM# 62.6-1-3  
WT24/19 Charles Hunter 381 Peekskill  
Hollow Road TM# 73.-1-66

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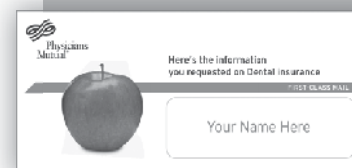
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A portrait of Colin Smith, a man with grey hair, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and yellow patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a scenic background of a lake and mountains.

# Colin Smith



For Westchester County Legislator

## Moving Westchester Forward Together!

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**Democrat Colin Smith** will fight for Northern Westchester! After growing up in Peekskill, Colin worked his way through night school to become an attorney, serving in the Bronx District Attorney’s office before becoming a Peekskill School Board Member and City Councilman. Colin will stand up for us on the issues that matter most.

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- ✓ **FIGHT FOR NORTHERN WESTCHESTER’S FAIR SHARE** of infrastructure investment to improve our local roads, bridges, sewer systems and parks.
- ✓ **CREATE MORE AFFORDABLE SOLUTIONS** to help working families find decent housing and allow our senior citizens to age in place.
- ✓ **COMBAT THE OPIOID CRISIS** afflicting our communities by expanding the County’s role in education, prevention and treatment programs.

# Election 2019: PEEKSKILL COMMON COUNCIL

## Three Seats Up for Grabs as Dems Strive to Retain Control

Continued from page 17

### LUIS SEGARRA

Segarra ran unsuccessfully for a council seat in 2017. He has lived in Peekskill for 25 years and is Co-owner and CFO of The Crescent Companies, which he founded in Peekskill in 2001. Since its inception the company has grown to be one of the foremost consulting



firms in New York overseeing contract issues in the construction industry related to Minority & Women Owned Business Programs (MWBE), Affirmative Action, Civil Rights, Integrity Monitoring and Prevailing Wage Contract Compliance.

"I am a firm believer that everyone should be afforded the most basic needs without it being a burden on them or their way of living. That Community involvement in all issues should be first and foremost," he said. "That with great fiscal responsibility and management this city

is destined for greatness, fairness, opportunity for all, and prosperity. That every voice is the echo of positive change, and must be heard. I believe that all Peekskill Residents regardless of Race, Gender, Nationality, or Preferences are the only special interest in this city that matter."

### KATHLEEN TALBOT

Talbot has been a councilwoman for eight years under three administrations and is currently deputy mayor. A lifelong city resident, she owned and operated a

corporate communications business for many years and is a licensed clinical social worker.



"I believe I am making a solid contribution to our city," Talbot said. "Peekskill is a hot item right now. You just have to look around and see the growth in Peekskill. I want to continue to do the work, especially in the green area."

## New Tenant to Revitalize Croton-Harmon Station House

MTA Metro-North Railroad today announced that a new tenant will renovate and reinvigorate an underutilized 321-square foot space inside the former ticket office at the Croton-Harmon station. A health food retail business, Pure-DC, has assumed the license for the space and will sell a variety of juices, smoothies, acai bowls, energy bars and vegan pastries. The station currently has a coffee stand located within the overpass, that sells a variety of drinks, sandwiches and snacks, and Pure-DC will bring more dining options to hungry customers on the go.

Metro-North anticipates that Pure-DC will open in early 2020, and will operate six days a week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The space was formally occupied by Emtee Cleaners, which has relocated to the north section of the station building.

As part of the license agreement, Pure-DC will clean and restore all exposed brick walls, install new tile flooring and replace the entrance door frame and moldings. PureDC will also install a new three-compartment sink and a ductless HVAC rooftop condenser.

"Every week, about 14,500 customers use the Croton-Harmon station, generating over 28,000 rides," said Catherine Rinaldi, President of Metro-North Railroad. "I'm delighted that we'll soon be able to offer these customers another spot to stop and grab a snack at the station. Pure-DC will help make the Croton-Harmon station a more inviting place for customers and enhance their daily commute."

After soliciting proposals for this portion of the station building, the MTA Board voted to approve a license to PureDC. The MTA's criteria for selecting the tenant includes financial strength, management expertise, the business plan, track record of the proposer, compensation offered and the improvements proposed for the site. The selection process requires the completion of an extensive application.

The MTA Real Estate Department leases retail spaces throughout its service area. Retail opportunities in the MTA system range from full-service restaurants, to newsstands and cafés. The Real Estate Department also leases and licenses parking lots and industrial spaces within its territory.

**VOTE** ON TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 5



Councilman Ed Lachterman with daughter Keri & wife Carol

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**LACHTERMAN**  
**& DIANA**

FOR YORKTOWN TOWN COUNCIL



Councilman Tom Diana with wife Donna

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- ✓ Create a business friendly environment that works with projects to enhance our community
- ✓ Keep creating and attracting new events to make Yorktown a Destination
- ✓ Keep working on repairing and replacing our aging infrastructure

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# Westchester Extends Contract with Wheelabrator for 10 Years

Furthering Westchester County's mission to uphold its status as a regional leader in environmental management, the Department of Environmental Facilities has entered into a 10-year contract extension with Wheelabrator Westchester L.P. Wheelabrator, the operator of the Charles Point Waste-to-Energy Facility that provides environmentally-safe disposal of waste in Westchester, has agreed to financial concessions that will result in an estimated savings of over \$17.2 million for the county. Additionally, the county negotiated for the ability to divert up to 62,500 tons of waste annually from municipal solid waste sent to

Wheelabrator's Facility in Peekskill.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "This 10-year contract extension will enable Westchester County to pursue a residential food scrap recycling program, which will help protect our county for future generations, create cost savings and allow for waste reduction. Since 2003, Westchester County has been able to reduce the amount of waste it delivers to the Wheelabrator facility by over 25 percent, which translates to millions of dollars in savings each year to Westchester County residents."

Commissioner of the Department of En-

vironmental Facilities Vincent Kopicki said: "The county has been partners with Wheelabrator for more than 30 years and we look forward to continuing that relationship. They have proven to be excellent stewards of the Waste-to-Energy Facility and our partnership ensures that the county's residential waste is not landfilled but used to create clean energy."

Pursuant to the contract with Wheelabrator, the county, on behalf of the Refuse Disposal District, delivers the Refuse Disposal District's residential trash to the Charles Point Waste-to-Energy Facility. The facility processes up to 2,250 tons of house-

hold and commercial waste every day. The waste is transferred to utility-type boilers that recover thermal energy in the form of high-pressure steam. The steam-powered turbines generate 63,000 kilowatts of electricity an hour, enough to power approximately 67,000 homes. Additional steam not required for electricity generation is marketed to a nearby commercial customer, White Plains Linen, for use as a clean, reliable and renewable energy source.

The Refuse Disposal District is comprised of 36 of the county's 43 municipalities. The 36 district municipalities include 90 percent of the county's population.

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**Panas, Lakeland Music Students Honored**

Eleven Walter Panas and Lakeland high school music students has been accepted into the prestigious 2019 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area All-State music ensembles. NYSSMA divides New York State into 15 zones. The district's zone is 11, which makes up all of Westchester County. Zone 11 is typically one of the more competitive zones throughout the state. Students who are selected for Area All-State are among the top musicians of their zone; our 11 selected students are highly talented individuals who will perform a concert at SUNY Purchase at 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 7. District students Selected for Area All-State include: Glenn Griffin - Mixed Chorus – WPHS; Lior Shaham - Mixed Chorus – WPHS; Lily Milkis - String Orchestra – WPHS; Sophie Sax - String Orchestra- WPHS; Kyle Pearce - Band – LHS; Vaishali Miriyagalla - Band – WPHS; Remi Rivard - Treble Chorus – LHS; Paige Martinez - Treble Chorus – WPHS; Karalyn Murray - Treble Chorus – WPHS; Emely Ramos - Treble Chorus – WPHS; and Kayley Strang - Treble Chorus – WPHS.

**VOTE NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

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**FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURT JUDGE**



**Robert Prisco**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Westchester County Assistant District Attorney for 32 years
- Chief of Local Criminal Courts and Grand Jury Division
- Chief of Major Case Bureau
- Deputy Chief of Homicide Bureau
- Tried to verdict: murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, assault and weapons possession cases.
- Violent Felony Coordinator
- Mental Health Court Coordinator
- Member of Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- Member of the Raise the Age Committee

**EDUCATION:**

- Albany Law School, Juris Doctor, 1986
- Villanova University, B.A. Economics, 1983

**BAR ADMISSIONS:**

- New York State
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of NY

**ENDORSED BY:**

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- Westchester County Conservative Party
- Westchester County Independence Party
- Westchester County Working Families Party
- Serving America Movement (SAM) Party
- Affiliated Police Association of Westchester, Inc.
- Westchester County Detectives Association
- Yonkers Captains, Lieutenants & Sergeants Association
- Yonkers PBA
- Westchester Hispanic Law Enforcement Association (WHLEA)
- Westchester County DA Investigators PBA
- Westchester Corrections Superior Officers Association
- Westchester Corrections Officers Benevolent Association
- Westchester Probation Officers Association
- IAFF Local 628, Yonkers Firefighters Union
- Yonkers Uniformed Fire Officers Association
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