

October 1, 2019

There is No Planet B

Scientists have been telling us climate change was coming, and that it wouldn't be pretty, for over a decade. We already see the undeniable effects we were warned about: increasingly extreme weather causing unprecedented flooding, drought, and wildfires. We have procrastinated for so long that saving the world from the disastrous effects of climate change now requires aggressive action. Youth engage global leaders at the United Nations Summit to act on climate solutions. Members of Congress promote the Green New Deal to solve the climate crisis.

Locally, the Peekskill Common Council has for several years been taking positive action by increasing the energy efficiency of our street and parking garage lighting and using renewable sources to power some city activities. More recently they passed a Climate Emergency Declaration, formalizing a broad policy of energy efficiency and use of renewables.

I went to the Climate Action demonstration at Senator Schumer's Peekskill office on Friday September 20. It was encouraging to see young and old agree that the time for action is now. The youth want to have

a future, and it's up to us older folks to help make that future while there's still time. At the senator's office songs were sung, a student asked that we make this a better place for him and for the human race, and speakers cited examples of climate change caused crises, urging us to read up on this overwhelmingly important issue and take action because this is a real and present danger to us all.

If our climate was a bank we would have saved it already! If we don't save our planet, who will?

**Linda Wildman,
Peekskill**

October 8, 2019

Accomplishments, Achievements and Actions

Peekskill Democrats have an awesome slate. The names to remember are Andre Rainey, Kathie Talbot, Vivian Cyndi McKenzie and Patricia Riley. Each is up for re-election. These officials are experienced, and worked tirelessly and effectively to give you a government you can count on.

For two years Mayor Rainey and the Council have given the residents a balanced budget under the tax cap. In 2019 Peekskill received its highest credit rating since 2013, Moody's Aa3 (high-quality), reflecting the city's healthy and improved financial position driven by solid management and conservative budgeting.

The Mayor and Council offset the tax burden on property owners by aggressively seeking out State and Federal grants. The city met with success and was awarded grants for infrastructure upgrades and other improvements. Some are the Hollowbrook Pump Station to ensure water quality, rehabilitating three failing sewer pump stations at Louisa Street and Charles Point, identifying illegal hook-ups in the city's sewer lines, and installing LED lights in the Nelson Ave. garage.

The City hired an engineering firm to prepare bid specifications to demolish and replace a 97-year-old drinking water storage tank, implemented an annual "leak detection" service to identify underground water leaks that could become water main breaks, and replaced old computers and software that operate the water treatment plant.

The City was awarded monies for streetscape improvements on Division, Main and South Streets, paving improvements on Hampton Oaks, upgrades to Lepore Park, and a grant to assist small businesses.

Don't forget, please VOTE at Peekskill City Hall during Early Voting between Oct. 26 to Nov. 3 or at regular polling locations on Election Day, Nov. 5. Re-elect Mayor Andre Rainey, Councilwomen Kathie Talbot, Vivian Cyndi McKenzie and Patricia Riley.

Marianna Stout, Peekskill

October 15, 2019

DEMOCRATS HAVE KEPT PROMISES IN PEEKSKILL

Pete Seeger, (R.I.P.), first sounded the call and it's needed more today than perhaps ever before. I truly believe in "People before Party" but that was back when you could pick and choose between a range of policies that each side supported and left you with some candidates from one side of the bench and others from across the aisle.

That was before one party, co-opted by a narcissistic and totally ill-equipped President, suddenly betrayed values you might have considered important, like protection of our environment, preservation of national parks and wildlife, infrastructure development, responsible fiscal budgeting, respect for rule of law and advocacy of free trade. ...all past Republican values that have been turned into a joke and trashed by this present Administration.

So before you cast your vote in local elections this year, please take a moment to review which party now advocates for these values including programs for our less fortunate; support for working class families, single Moms and union workers,

a higher minimum wage, assistance to small business owners, affordable education for your kids, clean air and water, conversion from fossil fuels to clean energy and protections for our wildlife and national parks.

At one time, you might have been bi-partisan, split your vote and selected candidates supportive of these issues from either Party. Today, that option is off the table as only one Party continues to represent your interests.....only one party is committed on a National, State, County and City level to protect your children and grandchildren going forward.

I urge you to join me on Nov. 5th in voting across the board for the local and County Democratic slate that will guarantee progress in all these areas – Council Legislator Colin Smith, Mayor Andre Rainey, Deputy Mayor Kathleen Talbot, Council persons Vivian McKenzie, Patricia Riley.

Promises Made....Promises Kept!

Jay Forbes, Peekskill

October 15, 2019

Vote for Progress in Peekskill, Vote for the Democrats

Andre Rainey, Kathie Talbot, Vivian Cyndi McKenzie and Patricia Riley are running for re-election. These experienced city leaders have a strong, consistent record of success. They are committed to progress, positioned for prosperity and invested in you, the people of our vibrant and diverse community.

Since 2008 the Democratic majority on Peekskill's Common Council has worked to ensure our city's affordability, diversity and financial stability. By taking the long view, they have successfully positioned Peekskill to prosper, and Peekskill is growing:

- Current construction of a residential/commercial building on Park and Broad
- Current construction of senior apartments on Crompond Road
- Completed revitalization of the Welcher Ave. Blue Mountain Shopping Plaza
- Completed planning and soon to break ground for mixed income units on Main St.

- Opened Gateway Townhomes on Main St.
- Opened The Lofts apartments and retail stores on Main St.
- Hi-tech Bantham Tools relocating to Peekskill.

We are also expanding at the riverfront: A new section of the River Trailway will open next month, the engineering plans to restore and expand Fleischman's pier have been completed and the City has applied for a \$2 million grant to pay for the work. Have you walked the Trailway? Taken your children to the playground? Attended a summer concert? Gone to some of the seasonal festivals? Enjoyed river front dining or ice cream? Visited the Factoria for family food and fun? If you see this as progress for Peekskill, vote to continue it by giving the Democratic candidates another term.

Early voting is available from Oct 26-Nov 3 at Peekskill City Hall. On Election Day, November 5, vote to re-elect Mayor Andre Rainey, Councilwomen Kathie Talbot, Vivian Cyndi McKenzie and Patricia Riley.

YAO LAWRENCE CUNNINGHAM
Peekskill Resident of 22 years

October 29, 2019

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 watch the meeting videos on the city website, (click City Manager Update.) Attend the Oct. 30 planning meeting for the \$10 million dollar grant for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). NYS consultants have oversight, projects will be prioritized by the committee and you by March 2020. Come to learn and participate - 10 million dollars and 10 million ideas.

On November 5, vote for the Democratic 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 all of us. Learn more at WWW.PEEKSKILLPROGRESS.COM.

Early voting has already started and to learn more call 1-888-OUR VOTE or visit www.peakskilldems.com.

Carla Rae Johnson, Resident of Peekskill for 28 years

October 29, 2019

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**

October 29, 2019

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 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, 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.peekskilledems.com

John Mucciolo

October 29, 2019

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

New and newly painted
pedestrian crosswalks

Outdated computers replaced

Police Chief Halmy and 3 new
police officers

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**