

Catalina Makes False Claims

To the Editor:

Soon, the people of Peekskill and I will have the opportunity to vote for a new Mayor and three new Council Members. As November 7th approaches, these are some of the things I've been thinking about.

I served on the City Council for two years before and two years after Conservative / Republican Mayor Frank Catalina became Mayor. He did not become Mayor when we were in a recession, when people were losing their homes and jobs across our country. He was elected after the recovery and did not have to manage a city in dire straits. And no one man single-handedly transforms a local economy.

He claims to have kept taxes low, but actually helped the Republican candidate, Robert Sullivan sue the City of Peekskill. The suit was over a procedural matter but the ultimate outcome was that it raised taxes to almost 6% - which was Mayor Catalina and Robert Sullivan's goal.

Frank claims that during the 4 years before he took office only a Walgreens was built. There was much

more. Multi-million dollar projects included the Holiday Inn Express, expansion of White Plains Linen, Nutley Heating and Cooling, and River Pointe apartments. This development also included the restoration of the Kurzhal Building, 21 North Division St (Quiet Man Pub and Art Lofts), and the 2nd and 3rd floors of several other downtown buildings into artist live/work spaces.

He also claims he brought businesses, such as Westchester Tools Company to Peekskill. In reality, he did not even vote for it. Frank recused himself because he was the attorney for the seller and gained financially from the transaction. Why does he try to take credit for other people's hard work and investment?

We need to look to new people, with fresh new ideas to keep making Peekskill stronger with smart growth and investment. On November 7th, please vote Row A - Democrats all the way. Andre Rainey as our new Mayor. Vanessa Agudelo, Ramon Fernandez and Colin Smith as our new Council members.

Sincerely,

DARREN RIGGER