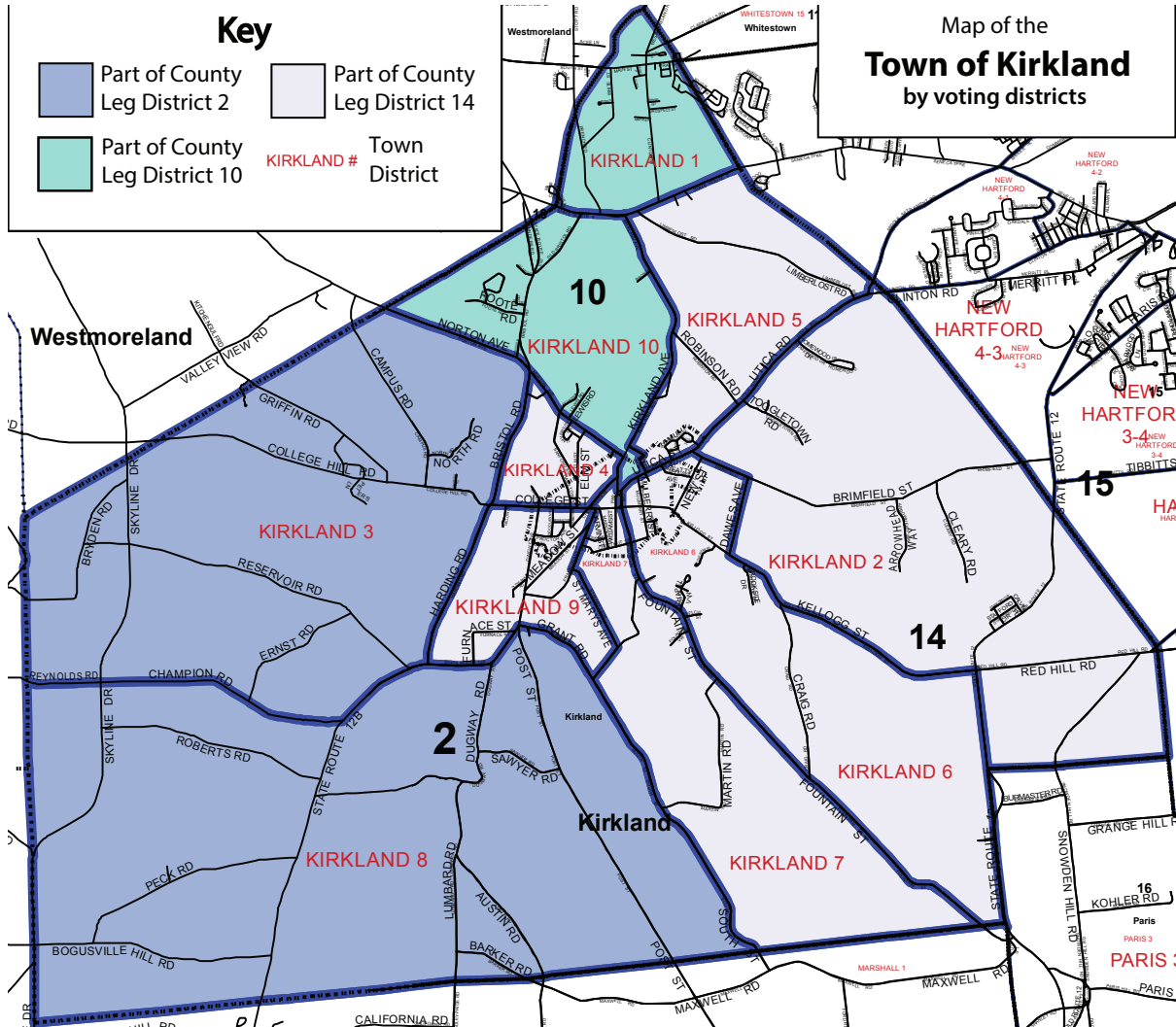




The Kirkland Democrat

KirklandDemocrats.org // facebook.com/KirklandDemocraticCommittee

Vol. 6, Issue 1 ★ August 2017



For a closer look at district maps, visit our [Facebook page](#).

Calendar //

- ★ **Thursdays, 10:00-2:00 p.m. weekly Voter Registration table** at the Clinton Farmer's Market
- ★ **Saturday, September 16: Gathering on the Green, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** on the Clinton Village Green; local candidates give speeches and mingle with voters (with voter registration, music, free food, information)
- ★ **Tuesday, November 7, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Election Day**
- ★ Committee Meetings for 2017-2018, scheduled at the Kirkland Town Library, 7 p.m.: August 30, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13.

GET ENGAGED! MAKE A DIFFERENCE! VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 2017!

Thoughts from the Chair //

Since Bill Thickstun became Chair of the Oneida County Democratic Committee last year, I agreed to be Chair of the Kirkland Democratic Committee, just in time for the wild election and post-election months.

Kirkland continues its run of Democratic majorities in state and national elections; we still need to press forward with our work here, but also to spread our progressive values to the county and region. We are thrilled that energized, grassroots activist groups have emerged to partner with us in these efforts. The County Committee is also energized; Bill reports that “we’ve appointed 88 new members to the county committee this year and held a successful fundraiser in April with NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli as our main speaker.” Normally there would have been just a few new committee members in an off-year like this one.

The constant barrage of actions of the current administration in Washington, which endanger the health, welfare, and rights of the most vulnerable of our neighbors, may threaten to paralyze us, but we must continue to act. Turning the government around will be a long hard slog, but we are doing it the right way, starting at the local level and working up. The Kirkland Democratic Committee is full for the first time ever, but we can always use volunteers!

It is important to define our party not only as against the current administration, but in the promotion of our ideals and progressive values.* Never forget that **we**, not some consultants in DC, are the Democratic Party. At the same time, we all must realize that governing requires compromise; don’t let conflicting priorities (and some idea of the perfect) keep us from unifying to elect great candidates.

You are always welcome to come to our meetings, but if you would like to become more active politically, check out the calendar of events at cnycia.org/events/, follow the new local activism Facebook page www.facebook.com/IndivisibleMV, or ask to receive the informative and inspiring emails from Sarah Reeske (sarah.reeske@gmail.com) or Jen DeWeerth (jendeweerth@gmail.com).

Email me if you have questions!

Kathy Collett
katherine.collett@icloud.com

*See the Committee’s mission and values at www.kirklanddemocrats.org/mission.php



General Election on November 7, 2017 //

Polls open at 6 a.m., close at 9 p.m. // Look up your polling place online at <http://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us>

// Democratic County Candidates

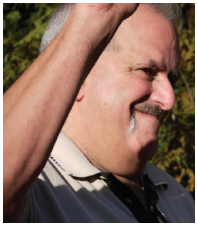


// County Legislator Chad Davis, Oneida County District 14

Chad Davis, who represents the Village of Clinton and large portions of the Towns of Kirkland and New Hartford, will be running for re-election this fall. When asked about a piece of legislation that he was proud to be a part of recently, without hesitation he said: “It was the fast action taken by the County Board to provide \$2.75 million for flood relief efforts after the July 1, 2017 storm that severely impacted hundreds of families, homes and public infrastructure in Clinton, Kirkland and New Hartford as well as many other towns and villages within the County of Oneida.”

“Climate Change is real and it is happening in the here and now,” said Davis. “Government funds have to be used prudently and preemptively to better guard against these re-occurring disastrous events.” Davis explained that the County will use \$2 million for flood mitigation projects, \$500,000 for clean-up work and \$250,000 will be for homeowner assistance. While some State of New York assistance came to the Mohawk Valley, more is sought. Meanwhile, red tape and fact-gathering information - needed for FEMA aid - has prevented timely assistance from the federal government. Davis added, “Flood abatement projects at the County level of government will, inevitably and inexorably, be ongoing in light of the frequency of these terrible events.”

// Democratic Town Candidates



// Town Supervisor Bob Meelan

A life long resident of the Town of Kirkland, Bob has been the proud owner of a family-owned business in our community since 1946, which his wife Frances took over in 1986. This year marks his 20th year of serving the residents of Kirkland. He spent four years on the Town Planning Board, six years as Town Councilman, and the last 10 years as Town Supervisor.

Bob takes pride in providing great services we all enjoy, doing this with a very minimal tax increase over his term as Supervisor. “It couldn’t be done,” Meelan said, “without putting together a great team of department heads, employees, and town board members. I look forward to continuing to serve you as Supervisor and providing you with all the services we deserve.”



// Town Councilman Garry Colarusso

Our Town Board has been involved with the day to day operations regarding budgeting, labor agreements, funding streams, zoning changes, road repair and most recently flood mitigation. Garry is pleased to have been involved with property protection planning and new strict zoning regulations that exclude natural gas exploration and the storage of the harmful chemicals associated with that industry. One of our next Town and Village projects is the proposed solar field. He has really enjoyed his part in our government; it has been fulfilling and a labor of love. He leaves us with this quote from Dr. King: “We may have all come on different ships, but we are in the same boat now.” Garry thanks you for your support, and looks forward to serving our community for the next four years.



// Town Justice Jay G. Williams III

Jay G. Williams III has served as Town Justice for the last eight years and has handled thousands of cases in that capacity. He is an attorney with over 30 years of experience. He currently serves on the Oneida County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, the Board of Directors of Community Wellness Partners, the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, and Clinton Dollars for Scholars, and has been the pastor of the Augusta Presbyterian Church since 2001. He previously served on the Town Council and as a director of the Oneida County Bar Association. He and his wife Kim reside on Kirkland Ave.



// Receiver of Taxes Sarah McCullough

Sarah McCullough is seeking her third term as Receiver of Taxes. She has accomplished her job with professionalism, care, and an open and welcoming manner. She has also initiated evening collection hours, and electronic mailing of bills and receipts when requested. The continued efficient, reliable collection and deposit of Kirkland’s tax payments will continue to be in good hands with Sarah!



// Amy M. Smith, Candidate for Town of Kirkland Clerk

Amy M. Smith has lived and worked in Clinton for more than three decades. “I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve my neighbors, friends and the businesses of our community,” she stated. Amy came to the area to attend Kirkland College and is a graduate of Hamilton College. She was a trustee for the Village of Clinton until this spring when she stepped aside to pursue the position of Kirkland Town Clerk. Amy has served on the Kirkland Town Library Board and the St. Mary’s Elementary School of Clinton Advisory Board. She is employed by First Source Credit Union and has thirty years of experience in the finance industry including business service, customer service and marketing. Amy and her husband, Mark, who owns Don’s Rok, have raised two sons, Alex and Max, both of whom graduated from the Clinton Central School system.

// Constitutional Convention Ballot Measure

The question of a NY State Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot this November. This question occurs every 20 years. Labor unions and organizations supporting the environment, civil rights, and bipartisan good governance recommend voting no. Information about why can be found at NYAgainstCorruption.com.

Kirkland Democratic Activism //

We meet monthly, and in 2017 have seen a big increase in the number of visitors as people search for avenues for political activism.

Each winter/spring we hold open-to-the-public events on government, civic, environmental, and other topics:

- ★ Spring 2016: Talk by District Attorney Scott McNamara and Patrick Johnson about NYS Raise the Age legislation
- ★ Spring 2017: Earth Day film, “Before the Flood”, and March for Science to the Village Green

Seeking to strengthen the Democratic Party locally we have:

- ★ Spring 2016: Held a Kick-Off Party for the Congressional election year
- ★ Summer 2016: Petitioned to qualify Democratic candidates for the ballot
- ★ Summer 2016: Had weekly voter registration table at Clinton Farmer’s Market
- ★ Summer/Fall 2016: Adopt-A-Highway cleanup
- ★ Summer/Fall 2016: Held Gathering On The Green, a political rally where candidates mingle with and address area constituents
- ★ Fall 2016: Hosted political calling parties
- ★ Fall 2016: Had town-wide Get-Out-the-Vote activities
- ★ Spring 2017: Adopt-A-Highway cleanup

Working to Resist President Trump’s actions and stand up for Progressive Democratic policies we participated in:

- ★ Winter 2017: The Women’s March in Washington, D.C., Utica, and Seneca Falls
- ★ Winter 2017: The Utica Rally for Refugees
- ★ Spring 2017: The Utica March for Science
- ★ Winter/Spring 2017: Weekly Friday protests in front of Rep. Tenney’s office building

Committee Members //

Kathy Collett, District 8
Chair
Barbara Britt-Hysell, District 9
Vice Chair
Sam Pellman, District 5
Secretary
Shirley Knop, District 10
Treasurer

Garry Colarusso, District 1
Sarah McCullough, District 1
Maria Pavelock, District 2
Chris Willemsen, District 2
Darby O’Brien, District 3
Mary O’Neill, District 3
Kyle Burnham, District 4
Chad Davis, District 4
Mona Perrotti, District 5
Bill Thickstun, District 6
Paul Dunn, District 6
Sandy Scofield, District 7
Jessica Reynolds-Amuso, District 7
Doreen Markson, District 8
Germaine Gogel, District 9
Noreen Devlin, District 10

Local Grassroots Action Groups //

// CNY Citizens in Action

cnycia.org

John Furman: cnycitizenaction@gmail.com

Labor, Economic issues and the working poor, close to the Working Families Party

// Democratic Action Network

Ted Tottey: ttottey@hotmail.com

Phone banking, Campaigns, Issue Advocacy, Canvassing, Voter Registration

// Forward Mohawk Valley (private Facebook group)

Joelle Taylor: jptaylor54@gmail.com

Support, Networking, Events

// Indivisible Mohawk Valley

indivisiblemv.com, facebook.com/IndivisibleMV

Sarah Reeske: sarah.reeske@gmail.com

Resist Trump administration, Work for accountable & accessible member of Congress, Canvassing, Voter registration, Campaigns

// Rise Up Mohawk Valley

Ken Mazlen: fkm@sunyit.edu

Social and environmental issues, Campaigns

// Oneida County Democratic Women’s Club

Barbara Klein: jnbklein@aol.com

Get Out the Vote, Encouraging women to run for office

Check the calendar at cnycia.org/events regularly for events posted by all groups!