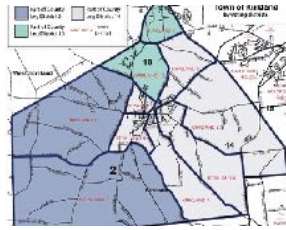


Vote!

Absentee, Early,
or Election Day

Info on Page 4



Local
Candidates:
Pages 2-4



Racial and climate justice protest

THE KIRKLAND DEMOCRAT

Newsletter of the Town of Kirkland Democratic Committee

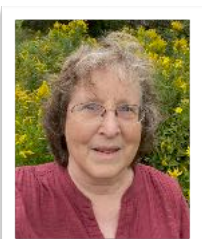


Gathering on the Green, September 18, 2021

Thoughts from the Chair - Welcome to our 2021 Newsletter

Extreme weather events are finally convincing people of the reality and danger of the climate crisis, and Biden's infrastructure bills are including real responses to the crisis, while the American Rescue Plan is helping most Americans. The percentage of people vaccinated keeps growing, if not fast enough. And the bills to safeguard democracy, if they can get through the Senate, will stand against the anti-democracy actions in a number of states. We have two fine candidates for judgeships in Anthony Brindisi and Karen Stanislaus, and we welcome Governor Hochul!

We need to support and re-elect our local Democratic incumbents, and elect more Democrats to local office wherever possible, both to make our local officials more progressive and to build the bench for future higher office. Vote!



Kathy Collett

Our Democratic Candidates

Anthony Brindisi is running for **New York State Supreme Court Justice in the 5th Judicial District**, which covers all of Oneida County. He wants to use his experience as a civil litigator and lawmaker to continue to serve the people of our community in the role of Justice of the Supreme Court.

For the past ten years, Anthony has served this community on the local, state and national levels; he has written laws on both the state and federal levels and practiced as an attorney in both state and federal courts. He is uniquely qualified to apply the law to court cases, rule on matters of law and facilitate negotiations between opposing counsel and their litigants.

As a Representative, he listened to those he represented courteously and patiently, worked with other Representatives and forged compromises to solve problems, receiving numerous awards and honors for his ability to do so. As an attorney, Anthony practiced law for over fifteen years, mostly in the Supreme Court, giving him the background to act as an impartial decision-maker. His broad range of experience and practical, hands-on engagement has given Anthony a unique understanding of both the attorneys' and Court's role in successfully resolving legal issues that may come before him as a Supreme Court Justice. <https://brindisiforjudge.com>

Karen J. Stanislaus is running for the position of **Oneida County Family Court Judge**. Karen's 21 years of family law experience thoroughly qualifies her for the position. She worked as Principal Court Attorney to the Hon. James R. Griffith, then the Oneida County Family Court Judge. She says "Judge Griffith has been a mentor and taught me so much about Family Court and the first Civil Family Treatment Court in Utica/Rome." She was appointed in 2018 as Court Attorney Referee for the Fifth Judicial District in the Onondaga County Family Court where she oversaw the civil domestic violence court. Prior to working with Judge Griffith, Karen had been an associate attorney with Felt Evans, LLP in Clinton, where she specialized in family and matrimonial law.

Karen has received numerous awards and honors for her work, including the Peacemaker Law Guardian of the Year award and the YWCA Salute to Outstanding Women award. She is active in the community, serving as a member of the New Hartford Zoning Board of Appeals and as a trustee at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Utica. <https://karenforfamilycourt.com>

Chad Davis, Oneida County Legislator, District 14: When COVID-19 arrived, the efforts of County leadership and many teams of professionals, county employees, volunteers and essential workers (amid much sorrow and pain) continued, serving and coordinating for all in need at the local level. The Board of Legislators' hard decisions during this time included cuts of over 8 million dollars to the 2020 County Budget, without compromising essential services.

Projects that the County has been involved in that I have fully supported include the Nexus Center in downtown Utica; new Wynn Hospital;



Anthony Brindisi



Karen Stanislaus



Chad Davis

Wolfspeed (Cree), in the Town of Marcy; and the open innovation campus at Griffiss International Airport in Rome.

Finally, with all of the rain that we have had, I wanted to add that the county's 'Flood Mitigation Grant Program' (that was created in 2017) remains an on-going program for stream-bank stabilization, floodplain restoration and infrastructure rightsizing and repairs.



Bob Meelan, Kirkland Town Supervisor: I am proud to say we are starting our 75th year of a family business, started by my parents in 1946, that my wife and I took over in 1982. Along with running the business I spent 35 years as a volunteer fireman and now a life member of the Clark Mills fire department, and many years coaching youth sports, including baseball and hockey. In town government, I served 1994-1997 on town planning board, 1998-2008 as town councilman, and 2008 until now as town supervisor. I have always enjoyed serving our community in one capacity or another, to give back to the great community we live in.

Garry Colarusso, Kirkland Town

Council:

Elections will be upon us very soon. This will be my third term as one of your Town Councilmen. In addition, I have served as Deputy Town Supervisor for the past two years.

These last years have been incredibly busy. One issue is increased local flooding. We are considering remedies that include hydraulic modeling for proposed projects. I serve as liaison to the Town Highway Department and have been involved with our Police Department's efforts to address the NYS Police Reform Act. After much planning and community involvement, Kirkland has completed their report, submitted on time and currently under state review. And I serve on Kirkland's Climate Smart Communities committee to reduce greenhouse gas and give people opportunities to keep Kirkland green.

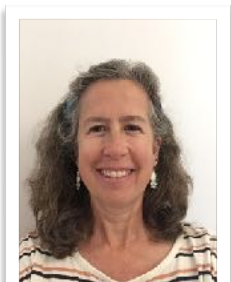
The next four years will be an exciting time in Kirkland; I look forward to being part of it as your Councilman.



Jay G. Williams III, Kirkland Town Justice, is a life long Clintonian. He graduated from CCS in 1979, Hamilton College in 1983 and Albany Law School in 1986. He has been a practicing attorney in Utica and Clinton since 1987. Jay was first elected Town Justice in 2011 and has handled 100s of cases in this capacity. He resides on Kirkland Ave with his wife Kim.

He presently is Vice President of the Community Wellness Partners board. He also serves on the board of the Clinton Dollars for Scholars Chapter, the Oneida County Office for the Aging Advisory Council and the Cherry Valley Carriage Driving Association. He has been the Pastor of the Augusta Presbyterian Church since 2001 and was previously a Town Council person.

Sarah McCullough is seeking re-election as **Receiver of Taxes**. Sarah has brought a keen interest to her job and enjoys making the tax collection process as smooth and pleasant as possible. She looks forward to another term when she can meet more community members and make improvements to best serve the town.





Jon Scott is seeking re-election as **Kirkland Superintendent of Highways**, a position which he fills admirably and with indefatigable energy. The last few years he has focused increasingly on local flood mitigation tactics.

New York State 2021 Legislative Recap

The NYS legislative session ended in June and will likely not resume again until January of next year. Kirkland's representative in the 117th Assembly district is Ken Blankenbush (R), and our state senator in the 53rd Senate district is Rachel May (D), of whom we Kirkland Democrats are huge fans.

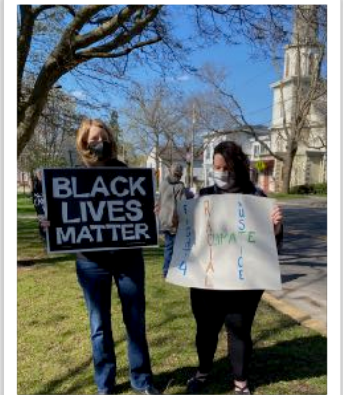
Accomplishments: Election reforms, including online absentee ballot applications, extended early voting hours, extra funding for election technology and security, and "No excuse" absentee voting constitutional amendment on November's ballot. Increase in school Foundation Aid funding and in statewide pre-K support. Environmental legislation, including clean water infrastructure, Environmental Protection Fund renewal, zero-emission cars by 2035, removing lead from school water, "Clean air and water" constitutional amendment on November's ballot, and Environmental Bond Act for 2022 vote. A number of these bills are currently on Governor Hochul's desk for her decision.

With the UN's IPCC report on climate change described as "Code Red for humanity," the number of unpassed bills that would more actively counter the climate crisis certainly suggests an area for activism in the coming year's legislative session.

Alan Cole

Black Lives Matter Protests on the Green

The Kirkland Democratic Committee have continued holding BLM protests, in conjunction with Indivisible Mohawk Valley. These protests are now on the second Friday of each month, 4pm to 5pm. We have also added climate justice to our racial justice focus.



Gathering on the Green

The Kirkland Democrats held the 2021 Gathering on the Green on Saturday, September 18, a beautiful fall day. Candidates on the ballot in Kirkland spoke about their campaigns, and we also heard from special guest, State Senator Rachel May, and Monk Rowe with the Hamilton College Saxophone Ensemble.

Election Day November 2! Early voting October 23-31!

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, at your regular voting site. Polls open 6am-9pm.

EARLY VOTING: Saturday Oct. 23rd through Sunday Oct. 31st daily & weekends, 10:00am to 3:00pm on weekends, 10:00am to 6:00pm on weekdays (*New Hartford site open until 8:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday)

Early voting at ANY of three locations in Oneida County, NY:

1. New Hartford Town Hall, 8635 Clinton St., New Hartford, NY
2. MVCC/Jorgensen Center, 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY
3. South Rome Senior Center, 112 Ridge St., Rome, NY

Turn your ballot over to vote on the five propositions! (We endorse all five.) You can find more info on voting at <https://www.ocgovboe.net> or call the Oneida County Board of Elections at 315-798-5765.

If you would like to volunteer with the Kirkland Dems on Get-Out-The-Vote activities, please contact kirklanddemocrats@gmail.com.