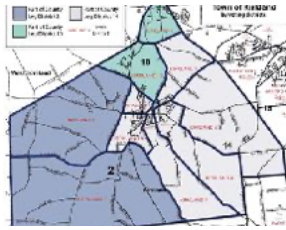


## Vote!

Absentee, Early, or  
on Election Day

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*Freedom to Love & Learn rally*

# THE KIRKLAND DEMOCRAT



*Members of the Kirkland Democratic Committee at the Gathering on the Green, September 23, 2023*

## Election Day November 7! Early voting October 28-November 5!

Early voting: Sat. Oct. 28 through Sun. Nov. 5; weekend hours **9-5**, MWF hours **10-6**, TTh hours **Noon-8**.

Early voting sites (four):

New Hartford Town Hall (formerly Gander Mt store.), 8635 Clinton St., New Hartford

MVCC, Alumni College Center 116, 1101 Sherman Dr., Utica

Whitestown Town Hall, 8539 Clark Mills Rd, Whitesboro

South Rome Senior Center, 112 Ridge St., Rome

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 7**. Polls are open **6 am until 9 pm**.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 28; on Sat. Oct. 28, a voter can register to vote at an early voting site.

Support our local Democratic candidates — especially Crystal Faria, who is our only local candidate with an opponent! When we get out the vote for Democrats, we can make our local officials more progressive and build the bench for future higher office. **Vote!**

## Our Democratic Candidates

**Crystal Faria** is running for **Oneida County Legislator, District 10**, which covers Westmoreland and parts of Kirkland and New Hartford. Crystal was born in CNY and has lived in Clark Mills since 2010. She has been consistently involved in her community, working for many years with the Kirkland Girl Scouts, American Legion and the friends of the KTL. Crystal comes from a military family; her mother, father, husband and son have all served their country. Crystal respects the values and sacrifice of that commitment.

Her work with local non profits has helped to propel her to make the decision to run for OC legislature.

She believes the only way to make change is to go where changes are being made. With your values, voices and votes, Crystal can and will listen, fight, and be accountable to everyone she represents.

**Chad Davis, Oneida County Legislator, District 14:** It is a great time to be part of Oneida County and the Mohawk Valley! Tourism is back, according to a recent Economic Impact of Visitors. The State's report disclosed tourism accounts for over 37,000 related jobs in the region; and Oneida County has exceeded 2019 growth levels by a 30% increase in spending. A key factor in this new growth has been the new Nexus Center, which opened last year. The new sports facility is an impressive tournament destination, hosting local and international events. The success of Nexus has triggered a substantial increase in restaurant and hotel business around the area.

Across the street from Nexus is the new Wynn Hospital, which is getting ready to open. The key piece of this project that the County Board had approved was the building of the \$55 million hospital garage.

The health and well-being of our County is a major concern for the legislators; and our Oneida County Government has partnered with many local agencies such as ICAN (formerly Kids Oneida), Catholic Charities, The Rescue Mission, The Center for Family Life and Recovery, The ARC, UCP, as well as many other nonprofits.

Protecting the citizens of the county is a key priority of the Board. Along that line, work has been on going with the DA's office and NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services as well as other agencies, coordinating programs for the reduction and prevention of reducing violent firearm related offenses. Also, the County works with local schools to provide Resource Officers to ensure our schools are safe. Furthermore,



*Crystal Faria*



*Chad Davis, touring new Wynn Hospital*



funds are provided to local police for Stop DWI patrols.

Essential programs for the elderly, so they can stay in their homes such as Adult Day Care and Meals on Wheels, are approved by the Board regularly.

Projects to mitigate flooding in our area, such as the building of retention ponds and other restorative initiatives with the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District, have been continuing on a regular basis with the assistance of the Oneida County Planning Department.

Economic revitalization has also happened of late throughout the county with the growth of Danfoss, Wolfsped, AIS, Indium Corporation, as well as other companies too numerous to mention here.

Indeed, it is an exciting time to be a part of Oneida County, which is moving upward as it moves onward!



**Bob Meelan, Kirkland Town Supervisor:** Although we recently closed, I am proud of the 75+ years of our 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.

**Dan English, Kirkland Town Justice:** Married to wife Cindy for 43 years & living in Clinton; I have three children - Pamela, Matthew, & Christopher — and four grandchildren - two grandchildren with daughter Pam & Christian - Ava & Alex in CA and two grandchildren with son Christopher & Amy - Oliver & Eloise in NYS.

Most of my career has been in Law Enforcement from 1978 to 2019 when I retired from full time Police work and accepted the Director of Security job for Upstate Cerebral Palsy (now Upstate Caring Partners). During my work for Kirkland Town PD, 1981 to 2019, I achieved the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and in 1994 I was promoted to Chief of Police until I retired.

I prided myself during my career and into my new Security Career on using the "Community Oriented Policing" model to guide my goal for the job & community. I always want to do the work that is best for the community to be safe and have a good quality of life.

I always wanted my officers to be approachable and visible to the public at all times. During my career I always maintained open door policy relations meetings with all community residents, business people, and Town Officials.

I wanted to retire into a career that was doing work to help the disabled population and look out for the staff doing their important work keeping all safe. My work for UCP allows me to assist the organization improve safety measures and allow our clinics & schools to do their important work.

I have continued to maintain a good working relationship with the neighboring Town & Villages, County, and State Officials. This includes the Oneida County DA's Office and Public Defender's Office which I worked closely with over my career in law enforcement. I feel these contacts and associates will aid me as the next Kirkland Town Justice.



I was approached by the Kirkland Democratic Party to run as the current Town Justice Paul Heintz is retiring. I worked with Paul Heintz from his time as Village Justice to present Town Justice & feel his service was invaluable.

I bring over 40 years of law enforcement experience of interpreting & applying the law to my work. I feel that the law enforcement experience and my strong knowledge of our Kirkland - Clinton community can serve me well as the next Kirkland Town Justice. I am honored to be asked to serve my community again.

I served on several committees over my career to benefit the Kirkland community: Oneida County Alternative to Incarcerations Committee; 911 Users/ Management Committee; Oneida County Law Enforcement Coalition - past Chairman; Oneida County Traffic Safety Committee - past Vice Chairman; NYS Police Chiefs Association - lifetime member; International Associations of Chiefs of Police; most recently Vice President of the Central Oneida County Ambulance Corps - past three years as a Board member.



**Melanie O'Neil, Town Councilor:** I am honored to be running for a second term for Town Council. I have lived in the Clinton Community most of my life. I am a Clinton Central School graduate. I feel very grateful to be raising my daughter Stephanie in our wonderful Community that I grew up in. We enjoy the many businesses and various activities our Community has to offer!!

I am a Preschool, Teacher Assistant at the Clinton United Methodist Church Preschool and Nursery School and I am also a Board Member for the Program. I enjoy helping prepare our little ones for Elementary School. They always bring a smile to my face each day!!

I have enjoyed serving on the Town Council. I have learned so much and I enjoy being an active part in our Community.

I look forward to the future of our Town and Village. With the DRI Award our Village and Town received, I am excited to see progress move forward! So many great ideas!!

I am excited to watch our Community grow and develop with the help of the DRI Award and our Local Businesses, public and private in our Community. It will all help make our Town and Village even more inviting than it already is!!

**Rick Maxam, Town Councilor:** I'm a 40-year resident of the Town of Kirkland and have lived in the Village of Clinton for the past 25 years. I'm married to my wife Erica, and we have two daughters in college, Avery and Taylor. I work full time as the General Manager of All Seasons Textile Company located in Clinton. All Seasons is a family-owned textile company that prides itself on quality products and award-winning customer service. Also, I serve as the President of the Odyssey Soccer Club and part owner of the Odyssey Development Academy. Odyssey focuses on providing individual soccer training, recreational games, and competitive games to kids throughout Oneida County with no long-term commitments. I'm running for Kirkland Town Council to help provide fresh ideas and honest insight on issues that directly impact our town and the great families that reside here in Kirkland. My years spent with many Oneida County families volunteering with youth sports coupled with my business experience are attributes that I will use to help our wonderful town thrive in the years ahead.



## 2023 Gathering on the Green, other events

Continuing our long-standing tradition, we held our annual Gathering on the Green on Saturday, Sept. 23, to introduce the 2023 Democratic candidates.



*Gathering photo by Alan Cole*

contest

in our NY-22 district: Professor Clemmie Harris and Dewitt Town Councilor Sarah Klee Hood.

Attendees and passersby on the Village Green enjoyed music by the Jazz trio of Monk Rowe, John Hutson, and Tom McGrath as they greeted the first day of fall.

On October 7 a “Freedom to Learn and Love” rally, organized by Indivisible Mohawk Valley and co-sponsored by our Committee, met on the Village Green to protest the meeting of a right-wing organization across the street. In spite of the damp and chilly weather, an enthusiastic group from the region, including lots of kids, rallied in support of our schools, our teachers, our libraries, and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community to live their lives in freedom.

## Community News

New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) goal is to help transform downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers. Clinton-Kirkland was selected by Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) through a competitive application process to receive a \$10 million grant.

The Clinton-Kirkland DRI award is intended to kickstart economic investment that sustains and enhances our downtown businesses and nonprofits on historic Park Row, around our Village Green, and in new spaces reaching into the Town of Kirkland. The proposals focus on wellness, inviting public places in a fully walkable Town and Village with modern amenities. Clinton and Kirkland will enhance our position as a centerpiece of the Mohawk Valley, set in nature, connected with trails, resilient, tranquil, and beautiful.

Some 40 initial proposals were submitted, and the Local Planning Committee (LPC) reviewed each proposal and requested revisions which are currently in process anticipating local selection in late October. The LPC will then forward their choices to officials at the Office of the Secretary of State for final selection and approval in the first half of 2024. Governor Kathy Hochul will announce and present the awards in Clinton next June.

Speakers included Crystal Faria, running for the Oneida County Legislature, District 10, and Chad Davis, seeking reelection in District 14. Melanie O’Neil is running for reelection to the Kirkland Town Council, and Dan English is seeking the position of Kirkland Town Justice. Although not able to be present, Bob Meelan and Richard Maxam will also be on this year’s ballot, for Kirkland Supervisor and Town Council member.

Attendees also had a chance to meet two of the potential candidates for next year’s Congressional



*Freedom to Love & Learn rally; photo by Gabriel Bit-Babik, originally for the Monitor*