

IMAGINE AMENIA

NEWSLETTER

www.imagineamenia.org

SEPTEMBER 2011

Special Edition: ELECTION 2011

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ImagineAmenia's Annual General Meeting and Why You Should Be There

On September 25th, 2011, ImagineAmenia will hold its 8th Annual General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Fish and Game Club on Route 22, Amenia. All candidates running for positions in Amenia have been invited to attend this meeting. It may well be the only opportunity you will have to meet and greet ALL candidates running for all positions in Amenia before Election Day (see page 7), which will be held on November 8th. This will be an opportunity for the candidates, in an informal setting, to answer questions and set the record straight on why they have chosen to run for office.

Those candidates running for the Town Board are featured in this newsletter. All of the candidates responded to our request to answer a few questions for this issue.

I must say this – I am in total admiration of those citizens of Amenia who are willing to take on the job of serving our town. It is not an easy job. But when you look at the wonderful quality of life we have here and the miracle that we have managed to keep what most towns in Dutchess County have already lost, we can be proud that those who came before us made good decisions to protect what we have. Hats off to those who voiced their opinions when they saw things that were not right for the town, and applauded when they saw decisions based on the good of all people.

The truth is, those elected to office cannot do it by themselves. Everyone who lives here needs to participate in being vigilant and knowledgeable about what is going on. Now it is time for us to once again put into office those we believe will measure up to moving Amenia forward in a moral and productive manner to benefit all who live here.

Amenia is a small town and as in all small towns, our lives are closely linked together. When tragedy strikes a family it affects us all but we see how everyone comes together to help each other. I think that elections in a small town are very different from national elections in the sense that decisions made by our town leaders affects every one of us in a personal way. We need to be active in electing those leaders who are capable and who are willing to give up the precious time from families to do the job. In small towns, we need to come together to elect those candidates, regardless of political party affiliations, who are best qualified to do the job.

ImagineAmenia is a bipartisan organization, however, we come together as one group working to keep our committed goal, and that is to work for a balanced community; to support and elect responsible local candidates for an open government who will listen to the people and act on behalf of all Amenia citizens, and help keep the public informed on critical issues facing our town.

The first step coming up is the Republican Primary on September 13th. Then on November 8th will be the day each and every one of us must honor our American right to vote for those people who will represent us in this town where we have chosen to spend our lives. Much is at stake here. Developers are eyeing us with plans that could change our lives forever. The Recession the entire country has faced since 2008 has held developers at a standstill but they are still out there. I know that you, as I do, would want to hand down to our children and grandchildren the lovely way of life that we have here. But you must vote to ensure that.

Betty Rooney
Acting President

AN UPDATE: Town and Planning Board Activities

by Charlotte Murphy

Since the previous newsletter, there have been some positive developments. A **new bridge**, which will replace the bridge at Allen Sand and Gravel that was destroyed in the heavy rains last winter, resulting in major flooding in Wassaic, will soon be finished according to the new owner, Roxbury Sand and Gravel.

The Town is still exploring ways to rehabilitate the auditorium at **Town Hall**. It was recently visited by a person interested in using it who took photos. It would be ideal to find a tenant who could contribute some labor and materials for repairs.

The Town received a **Community Block Grant award** of \$134,300 for major work on Willow Lane, a long overdue project. At the September 8 Town Board meeting there will be a discussion of plans for the 2012 CBG grant. Ideas put forth include equipping Town Hall for a Refuge Center during emergencies, a new Town garage, and handicapped accessibility for the auditorium. Come to the meeting with your ideas.

In old **Amenia landfill** news, engineers

are fine tuning design plans to present to the DEC, and hope for approval by summer's end and out to bid by fall. A grant for one million dollars has been received. Interest payments on our loans for this project will start next year.

The new **Ethics Law booklet** is complete and has been received by the Town Board members, who will decide soon when to distribute it to all employees and volunteer committee and board members.

The **Trail to the Train** project has not yet gone to contract but has received a \$100,000 member item grant from State Senator Greg Ball, who made the presentation on Maxon Mills' porch in Wassaic recently.

The Town has hired **CT Male engineers** to prepare pre-design work for the NY-SERDA Grant. Hopefully this will translate into more energy efficiency in the building and new air-conditioning.

County Representative Mike Kelsey announced that the Town will now have to resume paying for the **costs of elections**.

The 2010 cost was \$9378. Some towns are disputing their bills so this amount may change.

Nina Peek presented the Board with pictures taken at **Roxbury Sand and Gravel** of a huge pile of garbage which has been there for a long time. Even though DEC may have permitted its presence, the Town Zoning Law does not. Hopefully this condition can be remedied soon.

In **Planning Board news**, Maplebrook School has received approval to construct a new Dining Hall. A new business on East Main Street, Grandpa Joe's Game Room (Joseph DeLango), is now up and running. An affordable housing project on Old Route 22 in Amenia is still on the agenda. Roxbury Sand and Gravel is seeking approval to store bags of Gro-Max (shrink wrapped and on pallets) on their site to await pickups in the spring for deliveries.

Why don't you come to some of these meetings to see how our government works? The Town Board meets the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays, and the Planning Board the 1st and 4th Thursdays at 7 PM.

**ImagineAmenia
Annual General Meeting**
Sunday, September 25
1:00 pm
at the Amenia Fish & Game Club
Route 22 South, Amenia

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Not yet a member of ImagineAmenia?
You are welcome to join at the door,
though membership is not required for
attendance.

President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Election of Board Members

Meet The Candidates
We will be inviting all Town candidates
for their comments.

Refreshments will be served.

September Community Calendar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | 4:00 PM
ImagineAmenia Adopt A Highway Clean-up Day 1 • Area to be cleaned up: Route 22 South, from Roxbury (formerly Allen) Sand & Gravel to Deep Hollow Road. **Volunteers Needed!**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 | 4:00 PM
ImagineAmenia Adopt A Highway Clean-up Day 2 • Area to be cleaned up: Route 343, from Sears to Crop Production. **Volunteers Needed!**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | Noon-9:00 pm
Primary Day. Republicans vote for their candidate of choice for Supervisor (Bill Flood or Victoria Perotti) and other positions in the upcoming General Elections

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 7:00 pm
Senator Ball will attend the Town Board Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 10:00 am-3:00 pm
10th Anniversary Schoolhouse Picnic, Community Day & Lions Walkathon
This year's theme: A Salute to Local Farmers
More info: MMoore1776@aol.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 10:00 AM
Walking Tour of Wassaic
\$5.00 Adults/Children under 13 Free
Proceeds going to Gridley Chapel to paint exterior
For more information, contact Vicki Doyle at:
ameniadoyle@gmail.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
ImagineAmenia Annual General Meeting
1:00 pm. At the Amenia Fish & Game Club,
Route 22, Amenia. Meet the Candidates

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Annual Call To Peace Festival
at the World Peace Sanctuary, Wassaic

AMENIA FARMERS MARKET
Every Friday in the Town Hall Parking Lot
3pm - 7pm

Websites for more information:
www.IndianRockSchool.org
www.AmeniaFarmersMarket.com
www.ImagineAmenia.org
www.AmeniaNY.gov

OP ED: What are the priorities for Amenia? | by Andy Durbridge

If you read the opening headline on the home page of the town web site it reads: "Amenia — A beautiful place to live, visit and do business!"

If you take a look at the vision set out in the Comprehensive Plan for Amenia, it can be argued that both statements generally agree and promote similar values. I suggest that by using these well considered thoughts as a guide, constructed by many thoughtful residents, we should be able to steer our town successfully.

We have to acknowledge that we live in a less than booming economy right now, but that must not become the excuse for stagnation and gloom. Out of many despondent times in history came some great successes. The Great Depression bloomed many initiatives, so while other communities might sit around and wait for a changing tide, Amenia can seize this moment in time to steal a lead on the future. That's called optimism!

Optimism alone will not be enough. To undertake this challenge Amenia needs leadership if it is to lead the way, and electing the best is a good place to begin. We will likely have candidates for town office that have credentials. Educational and business achievements will be listed among the many service organizations that they have given to. But beyond the election resume we need to support candidates with the energy and creativity required to stimulate our town. Some will undoubtedly see the priorities for Amenia as budget management, and seeing through long term endeavors such as closure of the old Amenia landfill. I suggest that these and many other things should be assumed priorities, and absolute important responsibilities within the daily management of our town. But this alone will never make lasting change to Amenia, or grow it into the sort of place we aspire to. That is why we need creative initiatives that will only come from creative leadership, and by that I mean a leadership team. We have long suffered town board division, and at times obstructionists in office. That should no longer be acceptable, and whoever is elected needs to understand they are part of the creative team that is led by a town supervisor with energy, the ability to initiate, and innovate. **That is why the first priority is to elect a team to lead Amenia. Without this beginning, anything else is difficult or impossible to achieve.**

Once elected, a new team to lead Amenia needs to get to work from day one, as there

is no time to waste. I fully understand how much 'official' time gets used up in the municipal daily slog! While I know some accept that, and call it being busy, I am about to suggest...we need to change that dynamic and minimize the time spent on municipal slog! Find ways to streamline meetings and become more effective. Without good time management, our new team will not have enough time to innovate! Without innovation we will not develop or go beyond our current level of stand-still operations. If a new era begins with 'business as usual', it will likely end that way, and another lost opportunity for Amenia! **That is why the second priority is put the team to work, in a new way!**

Lastly, a few collected thoughts:

Amenia has watched as wastewater opportunities flowed beyond reach, and many still believe the hamlets can only grow with a wastewater treatment system. I suggest that no such system is anywhere close to reality, and may only exist on candidates' lists as a rightful wish. Until and unless a wastewater system is a near-term reality we should adopt an interim approach. Other issues within a business/hamlet district can be focused on. Growth and development is possible if we only look. Wassaic hamlet does not have a waste water system yet, but look at the innovation and quality of life improvements stimulated by the enthusiasm and attitudes surrounding the Wassaic Project and all of its spinoffs. That is restoration, preservation, business incubation, and a stimulating environment right before our eyes!

While we all see how our economy has been affected, this has depressed some businesses, but the optimistic view is that other businesses are in high acceleration. Amenia might even consider a tax incentive to promote and attract business, and not make the process difficult for applicants.

We also need a creative approach for the continuing adaptation, and a use plan for the town hall building and site.

Also, this new team has a significant resource — town employees. For too long town employees have not received enough recognition as a valued part of a town team, and they need to be included and involved.

I ask our next elected team to follow some of these suggestions, and make changes. It is time to think outside the box!

I hope we all get to engage the candidates, ask questions, and get the answers needed in order to elect the best team for our town.

This could be the beginning of a bright new era of living, visiting, and doing business in Amenia!

Editor's Note: Andy Durbridge is a member and former President of ImagineAmenia. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the ImagineAmenia Board or its membership. All ImagineAmenia members are invited to submit articles and opinions on topics of interest to the citizens of the town, and are printed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ImagineAmenia sent out the letter below to all candidates for the Town Board. Their responses are printed on the following pages.

Dear (Candidate)

Thank you for offering yourself as candidate for an Amenia Town office. ImagineAmenia congratulates you for your willingness to serve the community. At a time of increasing difficulty for local government, we need all the public spirit we can get.

One of ImagineAmenia's goals is to ensure the highest possible level of public understanding of the issues facing the Town and their potential solution or mitigation.

We are asking each candidate (whether facing a primary on September 13, 2011 or not) to provide written answers to the following three questions. We shall publicize your answers in the widest possible ways, including a report in ImagineAmenia's September NEWSLETTER and in the local press. Be assured you will be quoted with no editorializing on our part.

[1] What are the three top issues in descending order of importance (1 being most important) facing the Town of Amenia?

[2] What do you intend to do about each of these issues?

[3] If you are an incumbent, why do you deserve to be re-elected? If a challenger, why does Amenia need a change of leadership?

We look forward to your replies to the questions. Mail a hard copy to PO Box 169, Amenia, NY 12501 or Email to nyrooney@optonline.com. YOUR RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY AUGUST 10th. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR ANSWER TO 500 WORDS OR LESS.

Thank you again.
Sincerely,

Betty Rooney
Acting President, ImagineAmenia

Meet the Candidates for

Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

WILLIAM (BILL) FLOOD Candidate for TOWN SUPERVISOR Republican Line



(1) Fiscal Responsibility

Every American, rich or poor, has had to cut back on spending over the past three years. Why shouldn't we expect the same from our local government? On virtually every line in the budget — from the acquisition of the new Town Hall to our Recreation department — the town has either overspent or used the taxpayers money unwisely. I will make certain that a realistic and responsible budget is set. Next, a solid plan must be put in place for Town Hall: one that addresses both the renovations of the building, with proper bids submitted, and the addition of outside uses that will not only generate income but help promote art, music and dance. The 2% tax cap must be met and the taxpayers — not individual interests — must be thought of first before a penny is spent.

(2) Business & Economic Development in Amenia and Wassaic

One of my top goals as your Supervisor is to take Amenia from a ghost town to a thriving town. We must promote the businesses that have invested in this town while we actively seek new businesses to increase our tax base. Without a healthy business community, Amenia and Wassaic are doomed to be drive-by village centers. I will make it a priority to ensure the Rail Trail exten-

sion to Wassaic is completed. Thanks to already awarded grant monies and the recent \$100,000 commitment from Senator Ball, we are almost there. I will make sure the remaining funds are raised and the project gets done. As Supervisor I will be dedicated to beautifying the town centers of Amenia and Wassaic. One park bench in Fountain Square, although a good start, isn't enough to make the town inviting to visitors and shoppers. I will do everything possible to promote, retain and attract business to our town.

(3) Protect Our Environment

I had the pleasure of serving for over 4 years on the Comprehensive Plan Committee that worked to give Amenia a sound new zoning law. We must make sure that any future development in Amenia is done within the specifications of the Comprehensive Plan and enforced according to the Zoning Law, fairly and equally across the board. I also had the pleasure of serving on Amenia's Wastewater Committee and it is a priority of mine to bring an affordable and environmentally feasible sewer system to the hamlets of Wassaic and Amenia. We must investigate and adopt green alternatives for fuel, electric and building materials if we are to win future

grant money for much-needed projects, from Town Hall renovations to wastewater treatment systems.

Q: Why does Amenia need a change of leadership?

Amenia needs a change of leadership because "business as usual" simply isn't working for us any longer. I believe Amenia can benefit from my years in business. With over 30 years of experience in construction and over 20 years of experience in real estate, I have the knowledge and background to be your chief fiscal officer. I have a vision and a plan to take Amenia from a sleepy community to a thriving one, where all its citizens can be proud of who we are and what we offer, and create the life we want for our children, our grandchildren and generations to come. My service on the Planning Board (10+ years), and the Comprehensive Plan and Wastewater Committees has given me the experience to protect the Amenia we live in and treasure, and the knowledge to bring smart growth that will vitalize the future of our town.

Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

VICTORIA PEROTTI Candidate for TOWN SUPERVISOR Republican Line



(1) Tax Cap – 2% or Rate of Inflation allowable tax levy growth

- Review, restructure, or re-negotiate existing contracts, take a hard look at what we can do without and review how we currently order supplies and other items for cost savings.
- Assess transfer station costs and increase revenue by getting paid for recyclables as well as advertising this service to new and existing residents.
- Pursue shared service opportunities with the County, Webutuck Central School, and towns.
- Inventory all fixed assets and equipment

in order to better plan for replacement.

- Investigate a Dirt Road District to consider what roads to include and how to work with legislators to create it since towns do not have Home Rule for this type of district.
- Develop 1 – 3 year Capital Project plans for ongoing repairs/ upgrades for the Amenia Town Hall with all methods of financing such as grants and volunteer hours for revenue producing initiatives.
- Meet with existing staff to hear their ideas for cost-cutting ideas

(2) Economic development for Amenia and Wassaic to increase the tax base

- Work with the Harlem Valley Chamber

of Commerce and the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Economic Development Council created by Governor Cuomo to let local and new businesses know what incentives are available to create jobs.

- Continue to pursue Main Street and other grants to improve lighting and signage to make the Amenia hamlet more business friendly and attractive to shoppers.
- Move the Wassaic Trail to the Train project forward while continuing to apply for grants and work with the County to offset costs.

(Continued on next page)

Amenia Town Supervisor:

VICTORIA PEROTTI
for Supervisor (continued)

(3) Improve Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency to reduce costs

a. Review energy costs for Amenia Town Hall and administer existing NYSERDA grant to insulate the attic and walls in addition to addressing other areas within the dollar amount of the grant

b. Apply for additional \$21,000 incentive available from Existing Facilities at NYSERDA for energy saving HVAC system

c. Address crumbling Water District infrastructure and other equipment requiring replacement by pursuing grants to assess entire area and upgrade where needed to reduce costly repairs.

Q: Why does Amenia need a change of leadership?

The Town of Amenia in this trying economic time needs a leader with a business background and local government experience. I am currently in my 2nd term of office as Councilwoman and have served as Deputy Supervisor since 2010. While serving as Deputy Supervisor I handled emergency roof snow/ice problems, resolved telephone/fax issues saving over \$5000 in termination fees, and replaced defective emergency lights to meet building and fire codes for Certificate of Occupancy at the new Amenia Town Hall. I also negotiated the current employee health insurance plan and saved \$1200 with the addition of a 2nd option. Furthermore, I have an Associates in Business Administration from Dutchess Community College and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Marist College. I also have management experience through 25 years of Healthcare Administration. I am running for Town of Amenia Supervisor to work for more efficient government through proper planning and cost assessments. I want to give back to the community while working with diverse groups using my problem solving skills. It will be an honor and privilege to serve as Town of Amenia Supervisor for the taxpayers of Amenia and Wassaic.

JANET REAGON Candidate for TOWN SUPERVISOR Democratic Line



Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

(1) Protecting the environment, being guided by the Comprehensive Plan and enforcing the 2007 Zoning Law.

The Zoning Law must be enforced to ensure the twin goals of protecting the environment and staying true to the principles of the Comprehensive Plan. Challenges to the zoning law are ongoing. There is a proposal to change the law to allow composting on the former Allen property, which I oppose. The property is in a sensitive area, above the aquifer that serves Wassaic and the rest of the Harlem Valley. Another proposal is to mine gravel on South Amenia Road, for which the area is not zoned. In a recent Town Board meeting, the town attorney stated that the Town Board has the right to tell the applicant that such a use is not permitted and they don't intend to change the zoning. I believe they should do so, to save both the applicant and the town time and money.

(2) Addressing infrastructure needs.

As chair of the Wastewater Committee, I have been trying to bring an affordable sewer system to the hamlet of Amenia, and I will continue to work diligently toward that end. Sewer systems are needed in other parts of town, like Wassaic, and points south, in order for there to be economic development in the hamlets, as the Comprehensive Plan envisions. I have looked at different treatment systems, and I believe that there are creative, affordable solutions for the town to consider besides the Silo Ridge plan.

Finding a place for a new highway garage and the means to pay for it will be

one of my top priorities. The present location is inadequate, and the salt shed is too close to the stream. I will work with landowners, the Town Board, and the Highway Superintendent to find a solution to this long-standing problem.

Completing the Trail to Train extension in Wassaic is another key to economic development, besides providing a safe way for residents of Wassaic to access the Harlem Valley Rail Trail without having to drive to a trailhead. I fully support this effort.

(3) Renovation and maintenance of the Town Hall.

The costs of the building are high, and the need for renovations will continue to strain the town budget. Working with the other members of the Town Board, I intend to develop a plan, and a time-line. We will pursue grants and budget carefully for needed upgrades.

Q: Why does Amenia need a change of leadership?

I am in the unique situation of being both a former incumbent and a challenger for an open seat. I believe that I am the best candidate for the position, due to my experience and ability to find solutions to long-standing problems.

I was able to get the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law passed in 2007, managed two crises, worked with people from other towns, got nearly \$300,000 in grants, and kept town taxes low. I will be Amenia's full-time Supervisor.

**Registered Republicans, please remember to vote in the
Republican Primary on Tuesday, September 13th**

Meet the Candidates for

Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

(1) The budget which we will soon start working on.

The revenues are down (sales tax, mortgage tax, etc.) and now we have 2% tax cap.

I and the other council members have not taken a raise for 2 years. I know that this is more symbolic than a large savings but we felt we had to do it. We will be spending a lot of time reviewing all of the budget items this Fall.

(2) The rail trail to Wassaic has to be finished.

Darlene Reimer and Victoria Perotti are co-chairs of this project. I will do everything that I can to help them finish this project. This project is very important. It will provide a nice bike link between Amenia and Wassaic and Wassaic to the train station. It

Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

(1) The Town Board needs to develop a long-range plan to better utilize the vacant rooms and auditorium, implement energy saving heating and cooling systems, and install insulation to minimize exorbitant annual fuel costs. Greater thought and fiscal care needs to be given to the management of the building and grounds, to rein in escalating operating costs. Prudent improvements should be made to the auditorium and unused classrooms – over time – so they can be rented at market rates that will offset operation and maintenance costs of the building.

(2) The Rail Trail link to Wassaic needs to be completed so that local entrepreneurs, businesses, residents, and visitors will have safe, pedestrian access to the Wassaic train station and points south, or to amenities northward in Amenia, Millerton and beyond. This project has been awarded 3 major grants for the rail trail in the past 3 years. Planners and grant funding agencies recognize the benefits

NORMAN CAYEA Candidate for TOWN BOARD Republican Line



should also help increase tourists travel to Wassaic.

(3) There is a lot of work to finish up in the Town Hall.

The auditorium, when finished, can be used for many functions – public functions, movies, plays, etc. Some of these could be money makers. We need to work on getting more revenue from the available spaces in the Town Hall. We all need to work on getting tenants.

Q: As an incumbent, why do you deserve to be re-elected?

I am an incumbent. I have a good working relationship with the Town Hall staff and board members.

As all council members I serve on a number of committees and worked on different projects. I was the lead person on the installation of the water meters. I worked with the installers and installed some of the radios myself saving the town a considerable amount of money.

The meters have reduced water usage and helps Marco (Water Dept. Operator) locate and repair leaks rapidly.

I'm retired and have time to work on any project when necessary. I've enjoyed my past few years (most of the time) and I'm ready to serve another 4 years if the people want me to.

VICKI DOYLE Candidate for TOWN BOARD Democratic Line



of providing commuters and tourists with easy, carless, access to Wassaic while encouraging businesses to renovate key historical structures into unusual art galleries, studios and tavern

(3) Grant funding should be secured to do a feasibility study for upgrading the highway garage at its current site. A capital reserve fund should be established with some of the remaining funds realized from the sale of the Tri-Wall property so that we can accomplish this upgrade within the next 10-20 years. We need to ensure that Highway Dept.'s trucks and equipment – some of the taxpayers' greatest investments - are properly stored and maintained.

Q: As an incumbent, why do you deserve to be re-elected?

I enjoy securing grant funds each year for Amenia's free after-school dance program,

and was very pleased to have secured the \$100,000 rail trail grant in from Senator Greg Ball's office in July.

I enjoy also enjoy working with volunteers to make our hamlets cleaner and more attractive.

Finally, I want to continue promoting the wonderful assets of our hamlet centers: great history, stunning beauty, accessibility to the train and rail trail, excellent bed-and-breakfasts, farmer's market, wonderful restaurants, antique shops, unparalleled scenic vistas, with eclectic mix of friendly residents. It has been a great privilege to help businesses, volunteers and veterans bring our civic pride to an all time high.

the Amenia Town Board:

Q: What are the top three issues facing the Town of Amenia and what do you intend to do about each of these issues?

[1] The ongoing renovation and rehabilitation of Town Hall

The Town Board has only recently selected a consultant to provide pre-design services for previously identified essential building upgrades. The overall progress for any action has been very slow, and there does not seem to be a desire from the current administration to plan for the significant costs to improve and maintain this building. The Town Board must move forward in implementing improvements and regular maintenance of the building based on realistic cost estimates. If elected, I will work to develop a facilities plan that confronts the significant cost of operating and maintaining Town Hall and make sure that these improvements are realized.

[2] The continued remediation of the Old Amenia Land Fill and its future use

The Town is still moving forward on remediating the Old Amenia Land Fill. The current post remediation plan for the Old Amenia Land Fill is to create a Town Park with walk-

ing trails. There is still a significant amount of work to be done by the Town Board before the project is completed. If elected, I will work to ensure the remediation project receives proper oversight and that the Town is provided with a beautifully designed park. I will also take steps to ensure that this type of contamination does not occur anywhere else in Town.

[3] The potential for future sewer service in Amenia, Wassaic and other densely settled areas in Town.

While the hamlet of Amenia receives much of the attention when it comes to sewer service in Town, Wassaic and other areas of Town would also greatly benefit from such service. To date, the proposals for sewer service in Amenia have been cost prohibitive. If elected, I will work towards identifying more affordable sewer options that will provide Amenia and Wassaic with the potential to add more commercial businesses and encourage greater housing options for Town residents.

CJ HOSS **Candidate for TOWN BOARD** **Democratic Line**



Q: Why does Amenia need a change of leadership?

Because there are several Democratic and Republican candidates for Town Board and Supervisor, the voters have the opportunity to significantly influence the Town's future. I know I offer a new perspective to the Town Board, and one that has been lacking for some time. I have lived in Amenia for most of my life and made the choice to move back after graduate school, despite the lack of jobs and housing opportunities. I know the issues facing our community, because I have lived them. My professional credentials – as a practicing planner – equip me with the skills required to tackle the practical and administrative tasks required of Town Board members. I can accomplish these tasks because I have experience doing so. I know that my unique skill set and personal perspective make me the best choice for Town Councilperson.

ELECTIONS 101: AMENIA'S 2011 ELECTIONS

The Amenia Town Board has five members, including the Supervisor.

The current Supervisor is Wayne Euvrard. The other four Board members are: Vicki Doyle, Victoria Perotti, Norman Cayea and Darlene Riemer.

The Supervisor's term of office is for two years. The other Board members serve for four years. All are re-electable (no term limits).

In 2011, the seats currently held by Wayne Euvrard, Vicki Doyle, and Norman Cayea are up for election. The current supervisor, Wayne Euvrard, is not running for re-election.

On **Tuesday, September 13** the Republican party will have Primary Elections to determine who will represent their party in the General Elections since there are more candidates running than seats available.

On **Tuesday, November 8** we will have General Elections for Supervisor, two (2) Town Board seats, Town Justice, Assessor and Town Clerk.

Who's Running in 2011? (and on which Party Lines?)

FOR SUPERVISOR:

- Janet M. Reagan (Dem.)
 - Victoria Perotti (Rep.)
 - William (Bill) Flood (Rep.)
- Sept. 13
Primary

FOR ASSESSOR:

- Ron Gazzoli (Dem)
 - Brad Rebillard (Rep)
 - Larry Moore (Rep)
- Sept. 13
Primary

FOR TOWN BOARD MEMBER:

- Norman R. Cayea (Rep.)
- CJ Hoss (Dem.)
- Vicki A. Doyle (Dem.)

FOR TOWN CLERK:

- Maureen Bonds (Rep)

FOR TOWN JUSTICE:

- Norman Moore (Rep)

Because the Republican party has two candidates for the same position, there will be a Primary Election for both Supervisor and Assessor. Only registered Republicans may vote in the Republican Party primary. Non-party and independent registrants may not vote in primaries.

If you are a registered Republican Party voter in Amenia, it is very important that you come out to cast your vote in this year's primary elections on September 13th. That election will determine who will be on the 2011 ballot in the GOP slot for the position of Supervisor and Assessor.

OP ED: Roxbury Sand and Gravel | by David Reagon

Roxbury Sand and Gravel is located on what was formerly the Allen Sand and Gravel property on Old Route 22 (CR 81). Roxbury closed on the property early this spring and has two plans for it besides mining sand and gravel. First, they have a proposal before the Planning Board to store several hundred pallets of bagged compost on a section of the property. Their second proposal, which is only in the earliest stage, is to produce compost on the site from raw materials that they will truck in from Canada.

Presently, Roxbury claims to be producing "topsoil" by mixing sand with compost that they bring in. There are large piles of compost on the site now, as well as piles of manure, stumps, asphalt and a large pile of solid waste from which they are slowly separating the dirt. It is this pile of solid waste that is of primary concern as it is part of a continuing operation that existed when Mr. Allen owned the property. This "soil-making" process has been a matter of controversy for at least three years. For background material about this issue, go to wassaicwater.blogspot.com.

Ordinarily, composting is thought of as a "green" activity. Certainly, when it is con-

ducted on a small scale, it is. However, it is currently illegal to process or store compost and most particularly solid waste on the site. It is illegal for good reason.

The Roxbury site is located directly over what is designated in the Town Zoning Law and the Comprehensive Plan as a "Primary Valley Bottom Aquifer"—a very important groundwater and drinking water source for the Town and particularly the Hamlet of Wassaic. The risk of contaminating this precious water supply is too great to allow this activity. Furthermore, the Town code prohibits solid waste activities anywhere in the Town unless the Town runs the site, as in the case of the transfer station. A composting operation is defined in the Town Zoning Law as a "solid waste operation" and therefore should not be allowed on this sensitive site, or anywhere else in the Town.

When the Comprehensive Plan and the underlying zoning were adopted by the Town, great care was taken to insure the quality and quantity of the critically important groundwater supply. This is manifested in the language of both documents and is based on solid science.

The present operation on the Roxbury site is a violation of the Town Zoning Law that has not been addressed by the Town Board. This must be remedied without delay. The only way Roxbury could legally compost on this site in the future would be to apply to the Town Board for a zoning text amendment, so they are initiating procedures to do just that. Only the Town Board has the legal authority to amend the Zoning Law, but they have no legal obligation to make this change. Indeed, the Town Board can simply say "no" to the application citing the justification of protecting the Town's Primary Valley Bottom Aquifer. Just saying "no" would end the process; no application would be reviewed; no time or money spent by either the applicant or the Town. This is the approach the Town Board should take. Let's make sure it happens.

Editor's Note: David Reagon is a member of ImagineAmenia. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the ImagineAmenia Board or its membership.

All ImagineAmenia members are invited to submit articles and opinions on topics of interest to the citizens of the town, and are printed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

NOBODY WILL EVER DEPRIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE EXCEPT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES — AND THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD DO THIS IS BY NOT VOTING.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

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