

TOWN OF

**NORTH**



**CASTLE**

Established 1736

January 2010

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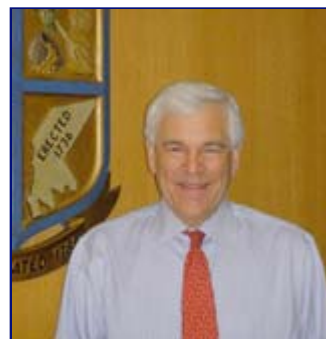
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**On the Town with Supervisor William R. Weaver**

Dear Neighbors,

I am enthusiastic about working with our new Town Board, and I am confident that working as a team we will accomplish many good things for our North Castle community. I am honored that you gave me your vote and your confidence to lead our Town for the next two years. Thank you.



North Castle will face some serious financial challenges during 2010. We have adopted a budget with some very deep cuts in spending. The first step to be taken by your new Town Board is to search for ways to control costs, while exploring ways to increase revenues. It is a mistake in planning to focus on only cutting costs or only increasing revenues. Both must be pursued on a parallel course.

Keeping the Town's portion of our property taxes low is key to balancing our community with younger couples, families and older residents and business interests.

With the help of our excellent Town employees, my administration will focus on serving you better. Early in 2010 the new Board will conduct a salary survey and manpower study to ensure that our departments are adequately staffed to serve you.

North Castle government is a service business. Please work with the Town Board and me in a positive manner. Give us your advice and constructive suggestions for improving Town government services and for continuing to make our community friendly and balanced. The time for anger and blaming each other for current economic struggles is behind us. It is time to work towards changing the future; we cannot change the past. It is time to join together as neighbors.

My office is open to you. Call me at 273-3001 if you have helpful ideas about how we can work together to improve our Town and continue to build our community.

Sincerely,

William R. Weaver

**Reese Berman Reflects on Her Accomplishments During Her Years as Supervisor**



In this, my last newsletter article, I will focus on my accomplishments during my years as Supervisor from 2006 – 2009 and conclude with a brief review of the challenges facing the incoming Supervisor and Town Board.

I ran for Town Board in 2001 and for Supervisor in 2005 and 2007 on a consistent platform of three main issues:

Controlled sustainable development to protect the environment and promote open space

- Improved communication between local government and the public, and
- Transparent government.

I consider innovations and improvements in these areas to be among my most significant accomplishments.

The new Supervisor and Town Board will have many challenges. The most pressing will be to balance the budget with declining revenues and increasing expenses while continuing to provide the Town with needed services.

Sustainable development must continue to be encouraged and include more affordable housing, housing for senior residents, and more diverse housing choices.

Sewer capacity for downtown Armonk must be increased in order to provide for necessary growth. The development of significant commercial projects that will have major impact on downtown Armonk, such as Armonk Square and a new supermarket, should be encouraged and monitored to assure that they can be sustained by the area's infrastructure.

Finally, priority should be given to filling the newly created position of Town Administrator. The services of a qualified Administrator are necessary to assure the most efficient and effective government for North Castle.

Thank you to the residents of North Castle for electing me to serve you, to my current Town Board for their collaborative spirit, and to the employees of our Town for their hard work. I wish the Supervisor elect, Bill Weaver, and the new Town Board much success in the upcoming years.

### **Controlled, Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection, Open Space Protection**

In 2006, at the end of my first year as Supervisor and after months of public hearings, the Town Board passed sweeping new land use regulations covering floor area ratio, impervious surfaces, floating senior zones, environmental subtractions, steep slopes, maximum building height, minimum contiguous buildable areas, increased wetland buffers when near a steep slope, and several rezonings. Many of these laws are considered models of good legislation throughout Westchester for controlling house size and protecting the environment. With the passage of this legislation, the Town Board voted to end the two and a half year Moratorium on residential sub-divisions. In the continuing years, we have implemented land use legislation which has direct positive impacts on the environment.

My additional efforts on behalf of environmental protection are closely aligned with climate change and sustainable development. As the Co-Chair of the Westchester County Global Warming Task Force, I have spent considerable time learning about these issues.

The Town has conducted an inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions, conducted an energy audit in our municipal buildings, purchased flexible fuel and hybrid vehicles, joined ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, and appointed both a North Castle Global Warming Task Force and a North Castle Recycling Committee to educate our community on more sustainable behaviors. The residents, businesses and schools in North Castle have made great progress in increasing recycling and reducing trash.

Protection of open space and the environment are closely related. North Castle and Mt. Kisco purchased the 30 acre DuBos property, now called Byram Lake Preserve, in Armonk this year to preserve it as open space and protect Byram Lake, which is Mt. Kisco's water supply. We also purchased three small parcels in Quarry Heights

<b>2010 Town Officials</b>	
Supervisor:	<b>William R. Weaver</b>
Town Council:	<b>Rebecca Kittredge Michael Schiliro John Cronin Diane Roth</b>
Town Clerk:	<b>Anne Curran</b>
Receiver of Taxes:	<b>Patricia A. Colombo</b>

adjacent to a small park to preserve as open space and sold a two-acre parcel to an adjacent property owner with an agreement that the property would never be developed.

## Communications & Transparent Government

The first televised Town Board meeting occurred in January, 2002 when I took my seat on the Town Board. In 2006, my first year as Supervisor, I kept a campaign promise to televise Planning Board meetings.

The Town Board appointed the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) during my administration. The CAC took the lead in negotiating ten-year cable television agreements with Verizon and Cablevision, providing for both competitive options for the residents and better television coverage. The CAC also negotiated several municipal interconnection points for live broadcasting: Town Hall, Hergenhan Recreation Center, North Castle Library and North White Plains Community Center.

Throughout my administration, there have been continuing improvements and updates to the Town website to make it easier to navigate and more appealing. New legislation and Town budgets are posted; e-news is available to anyone who requests it; a new green page has been added. Before year's end, the website will be further enhanced with a larger template, drop-down menus, and easier navigation.

Continuously since my first year as a Councilman I have published an email newsletter from my home that has been available to anyone who wants to subscribe. To date I have sent out 134 regular and special newsletters keeping the public informed on important issues before the Town Board and other newsworthy events.

I have promoted transparency of Town government by increasing the number of Town Board public work sessions and reducing the frequency of executive sessions.

I have collaborated with the Comptroller to develop a more accessible and transparent budget book that includes the goals and accomplishments of all departments.

## Farewell Message from Town Clerk Ann Leber

Dear Residents of North Castle,

It was with anticipation and regret that I announced my decision to retire and therefore resign from the position of Town Clerk effective December 16, 2009.

It's difficult to leave a job I've loved for almost 30 years, to say good bye to co-workers with whom I spend more time each day than I do with my family, to give up the pleasure of greeting and serving our residents each day. But I realized that I want to spend more time with my family and friends, to enjoy life at a more leisurely pace, to relish what Stephen and I have worked so hard to create, to travel and explore new interests.

I'd like to thank this and previous town boards for working so closely with me. The relationship between the board and the town clerk in North Castle is unique and productive. I'd also like to express my appreciation to the department heads and staff with whom I have worked so collegially. Most of all I'd like to recognize the staff in my office -- Anne Curran, Barbara Pesquera and Amelia DeFeo. They have been invaluable and treasured co-workers and friends without whose generosity and support, my job would have been impossible. I owe them a debt of gratitude I can never repay. I know they will continue to do a wonderful job in the months and years to come and will enable the office to run smoothly under new leadership.

The Town Board has appointed Deputy Town Clerk Anne Curran to succeed me as Town Clerk through December 31, 2010. Anne will then stand for election next November to complete the last year of my term, and then again in November 2011 for her own four year term. Anne's knowledge and experience make her uniquely qualified to fill the position and provide a seamless transition. She will meet the challenges ahead with her usual confidence, grace and dignity.

Of course, I will be available to Anne and the next town board during the transition period and afterwards. I am happy to share the knowledge and history I have accumulated over 30 years.



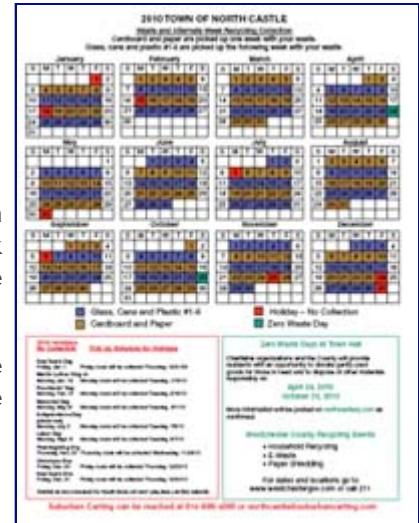
Thank you to all the residents of North Castle for the confidence you placed in me and for allowing me to serve as your town clerk for eight years. I am satisfied that I set high standards, fulfilled my goals and performed my job professionally and with no regard for political affiliation.

I don't know how I'll handle not scheduling my life around the twice monthly town board meetings, but I'm ready to give it a try.

Warmest regards,

Ann

## Town of North Castle 2010 Waste & Recycling Schedule



The 2010 Suburban Carting schedule for waste and recycling collection has a new look. With a larger page size, you will find the calendar for alternate week recycling collection is easy to read and the pick up schedule for the nine holidays in 2010 is clear and concise.

Schedules have been mailed to all residents and additional hard copies are available at the Town Clerk's office (273-3321) or they can be accessed via the website at [http://www.northcastleny.com/site/life\\_services.php](http://www.northcastleny.com/site/life_services.php)

## Library Improvements

### North Castle Public Library—Serving the Community with help from the Friends

To borrow a lyric from the Beatles, the North Castle Public Library certainly does get by "with a little help from our Friends. "When North Castle Public Library's (NCPL) Board of Trustees developed a strategic plan in 2005 to ensure that Library facilities and services were meeting the needs of a growing school and town population, the Friends were enthusiastic supporters. Significant progress has been made in all strategic areas thanks to the strong teamwork of the Library Trustees, the Library Director and staff and with the support of the Friends of the North Castle Public Library, Inc.



#### Facilities Improvement

Thanks to memorial funds designated for NCPL and investments made by the Friends, the Magazine Room was renovated to accommodate a broad range of programs for 60 patrons. Doors and new video and projection equipment were added so the room could be used for films and audio/video presentations as well as the popular free Sunday afternoon concerts.

#### New Programming Emphasis

The Library Trustees hired a consulting Program Director to expand and promote a new list of programs for the library. Now entering its fourth year, the programming initiative has experienced tremendous growth in both the number and variety of programs (as shown below), and in the number of people attending programs.

Programs for adults, children and teens are held year round at the library, and every month the senior book club meets at the Hergenhan Recreation Center. The First Tuesday's Book Club hosted Pulitzer Prize winning author Elizabeth Strout this year, and Sunday Afternoon concerts have featured bossa nova and jazz combos, folk musicians and classical trios of the highest caliber. Attendance is often standing room only for signature concerts in Whippoorwill Hall featuring jazz great Charlie Lagond, who puts together unforgettable shows on Arts Weekend and at the end of June

To help keep the community informed, a weekly program email newsletter has reached more than 2,700 addresses in North Castle every week. Residents can also sign up for the newsletter at [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org). In the

Library, colorful posters fill the street side windows by Whippoorwill Hall and digital displays and bulletin boards display program flyers. Infomercials and slides promoting the Library programs appear on NCTV our North Castle cable channels. Pod casts are now recorded of popular programs, and in January 2010, the 13 part series on Dante's Inferno will be available for download

### Technology, Media and Collections

Since the introduction of wireless internet, new computers and software for children and teens have been installed in both Armonk and the North White Plains branch.

The Steve Geffen Fund continues to support enhancements to the Sports, Current Events and Curriculum collections. In 2009, cultural and concert programs were established in tribute to Doris Sydney, long time Friend of the Library. New Media has been added to the collection including downloadable audios and playaways (pre-loaded audio).

In these trying economic times, Town budgets have tightened and put pressure on the NCPL budget. But, as the attendance numbers demonstrate, the library has grown in importance to the community in large part due to the tremendous success of our programming. NCPL will continue to grow the spirit of teamwork between the Trustees, the library staff and the Friends while evolving to meet the future needs of the community.

## Website Improvements

Visit [northcastleny.com](http://northcastleny.com) and you will notice numerous improvements as we continue to expand content and streamline navigation throughout the site. Here are a few new features we hope you will enjoy:

- Expanded page format
- Home Page redesigned
- What's New headlines with the dates topics are posted
- More information available under Quick Links
- Expanded menus on the header and footer
- Search feature on footer

The Conservation and Environment area of the site is a work in progress. It will debut soon and include information from the former Green Page and much more.



## Have you subscribed to E-News Updates?

Click on Sign Up for E-News Updates on the HOME PAGE so that you can receive timely information on some or all of the following categories:

- Town Board News
- Planning Board News
- Public Safety Announcements
- Conservation and Environment (formerly Going Green)

While we look forward to keeping you informed, there will be an option to unsubscribe or change your areas of interest in each E-News Update that you receive. Please visit [northcastleny.com](http://northcastleny.com) often and send suggestions and comments to [communications@northcastleny.com](mailto:communications@northcastleny.com).