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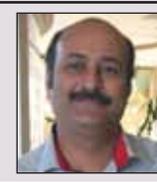
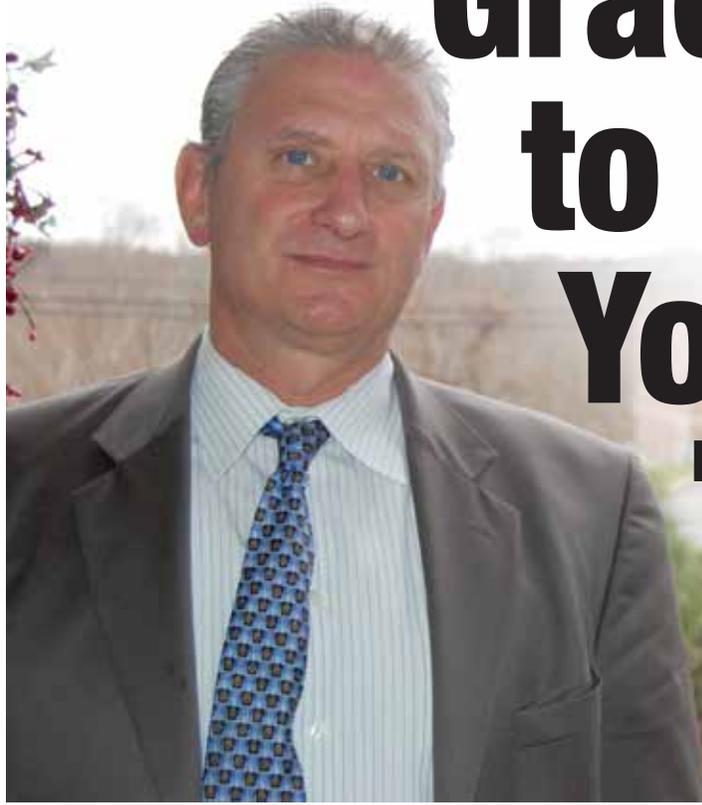
Vol. V No. LII

Westchester's Most Influential Weekly

Thursday, December 29, 2011 \$1.00

Grace Ready to Govern Yorktown

By ABBY LUBY, Pg. 20



Cairo Exit
Page 6



MIT Study
Page 8



Economic Crisis
Page 8



Death at Bear Mountain Bridge
Page 9



Moving a Medical Practice
Page 13



Sports Scene
Page 14



Spaced Out
Page 15



Winners Are Sinners in Too Many Cases
Page 26

2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012 • 2012

Happy New Year

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GOVERNMENT

Alexander Asserts Hayworth Move on Payroll Tax Creates Uncertainty for Working Families During Holiday Season

Hayworth's Vote Will Cost 19th District Over \$200 Million in Taxes

After Congresswoman Nan Hayworth (R, NY-19) voted against the bipartisan Senate payroll tax cut extension, which would have provided relief to working class families in New York, Mayor Matt Alexander issued the following statement to *The Westchester Guardian*:

"Tea Party Republicans like Nan Hayworth worship corporate profits and do everything they can to alarm the public about 'creating uncertainty' for businesses with regulations. But when given the chance to help working families and middle class taxpayers in her own district, Hayworth merely created more uncertainty. It's hypocritical."

The Senate's proposed payroll tax cut would provide about \$1,000 of relief for the typical worker making \$50,000 per year.

Alexander, the Mayor of the Village of Wappingers Falls, is challenging Hayworth in the 19th District to represent the mid-Hudson Valley in Congress. The payroll tax cut extension had vast bipartisan support and was seemed



likely to pass until Republican Speaker John Boehner reversed course over the weekend under pressure from the Tea Party wing of his party. Hayworth supported Boehner's move to quash the deal. Republican Senator Scott Brown called failure to vote for the payroll tax cut "irresponsible," "wrong," and "jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of Americans." [1] Nearly all Republicans in the Senate voted to prevent 160 million working

Americans from receiving a tax increase January 1st. [2] Hayworth's fellow Hudson Valley Republican, State Senator Greg Ball, specifically blasted Hayworth, saying "Ensuring that blue-collar families can rely on a tax cut in a time when many families are feeling the ravages of a hemorrhaging economy is the right thing to do regardless of how the politics play out in the next election." [3]

The December 20, 2011, edition of *The Wall Street Journal* blasted House Republicans for not acting on the payroll tax cut, calling their move a "fiasco" [4] Today, the office of New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released analysis on what the failure of the tax cut extension will mean for New Yorkers. Extrapolating from that report, Hayworth's and the Republican's opposition to the extension will mean an additional \$200 million in taxes for residents of the 19th District. [5]

[1] http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/post/afternoon-fix-brown-calls-house-gop-plan-irresponsible-and-wrong/2011/12/19/gIQAuQYB5O_blog.html

[2] <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/dec/17/nation/la-na-congress-payroll-tax-20111218>

[3] <http://www.capitaltonight.com/2011/12/ball-pass-the-payroll-tax-cut/>

[4] <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204791104577110573867064702.html>

[5] <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/dec11/122211.htm>

Grace Ready to Govern Yorktown



By **ABBY LUBY**

YORKTOWN, NY -- In just about one week, Yorktown Supervisor-elect Michael Grace will take the helm and formally become town supervisor. Grace spoke to *The Westchester Guardian* last week about changes he'd like to see in his upcoming tenure.

The November election was highly contentious and Grace, who ran as a Republican, narrowly won the seat from incumbent Susan Siegel and Democrat Don Peters. Since the election, Grace, a former town attorney, has been working with a 12-member transition team in his Yorktown law office directly across from town hall.

One of the many unresolved issues is how the town will revamp its purchasing procedures, heavily criticized in last August's state comptroller's audit of Yorktown. Grace said the town's response to the state comptroller's suggestions wasn't aggressive enough.

"We should have defended our practice of procurement and not blindly follow the suggestions of the comptroller. But we also have to examine what is the most efficient way to provide services."

Town departments needing to purchase items are required to get at least three competitive bids for purchase approval. Grace contends the process is frustrating and beleaguered with paperwork and eats up valuable time of town employees.

"If we have a vehicle in the central garage that needs brake pads and it sits unused for three days while we go through a laborious process for bids, that's three days that a town employee just sits there. It burns up man hours."

Yorktown is also considering hiring a full

time town manager that would oversee all town departments, an idea favored by Grace over having a Department of Public Works.

"I don't see the wisdom in having a DPW," said Grace. "We have several different districts, like the water district, the sewer district – and each district has its own tax base. A town manager could allocate labor and avoid duplication of services. Why not pool our personnel to provide services to all the districts?"

Another issue yet to be dealt with is the election or appointment of the Highway Superintendent. Grace said the issue would best be put to a public referendum.

"There are pros and cons to each approach. I don't feel strongly one way or the other, so it should be decided by Yorktown residents."

Grace was big on revitalization and economic development during his campaign, driven by what he said was the plight of the private property owner facing constant tax hikes.

"I am very pro-private property rights. Private property ownership is an American ideal that is dead. When I'm paying thousands of dollars in property tax, it's just like a lease with the government that allows me to be there. I find it offensive and morally wrong."

Bringing more businesses to Yorktown is a way to spare residents from escalating property taxes, said Grace.

"Development can have a positive impact on keeping down taxes while increasing the circulation of money in our local economy. It doesn't have to be new development, it can be re-development."

Grace cited the corridor of Route 202 between the Taconic and Lexington Avenue

Continued on page 21



Yorktown Supervisor-elect Michael Grace, Photo by and courtesy of Abby Luby.

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GOVERNMENT

Grace Ready to Govern Yorktown

Continued from page 20

and how residents living on the south side of 202 have been plagued with flooded homes from the terrain's high water table. If the forest on the north side of 202 was developed Grace said, "It would give us an opportunity to address the infrastructure and improve the drainage. We can't just float another \$10 million bond."

Encouraging business development would help create a more economically vibrant image

of Yorktown. "The economy in Yorktown is a dead spot," said Grace. "Everyone jumps past the town to go to the Cortlandt Town Center or to Somers."

Currently, Yorktown is considering several commercial developments such as Costco, which is being proposed on Route 202 and the Taconic at an old hotel site, just up the road from competitor BJ's. Other projects planned along the heavily wooded area close to the Sylvan Glen hiking trails off Route 202 is State Land Corp, a 100-acre mixed use development of which 35

acres would be for commercial use, including a big box retailer.

Despite being pro-development, Grace said he was also an environmentalist.

"You have to take a grand view of things and look at development but also care about environmental issues," he said.

But his position on wooing incoming new business and development has been scrutinized by a new activist group called Yorktown Smart Growth, who opposes the Costco project, claiming the mega store would create massive

traffic jams on the small, two-lane road.

Grace said he was glad the group organized to have an alternative voice.

"I believe everyone just wants to be heard and wants to be part of what we're doing. I plan to make transparency part of the process."

Abby Luby is a Westchester based, freelance journalist who writes local news, about environmental issues, art, entertainment and food. Her debut novel, "Nuclear Romance" was published last month. Visit the book's website, <http://nuclearromance.wordpress.com/>

MAYOR MARVIN'S COLUMN GOVERNMENT

... for All the People in the Village Who Make It Special



By **MARY C. MARVIN**

As I sit at my desk planning on writing a column to recap the Village's accomplishments and shortfalls in 2011, I have a sense I should be doing quite the opposite especially at this time of year. Instead of talking about unanticipated fund balances and contract negotiations, it seems more appropriate to take a breath; take stock, and be thankful and grateful for all the people that make our Village such a

special place to live.

The staff at Village Hall is easily number one on the bountiful list. Due to the economic downturn, coupled with the need to keep Village taxes down, we have trimmed Village staffing by over 15% since I have been Mayor. We are operating with a smaller police force and public works crew than we have in decades and many of the administrative positions in Village Hall have disappeared or morphed into

part-time. This is especially significant at a time when Villagers are justifiably requiring more and more services for their tax dollars.

Despite this, our staff remains professional, positive, fun loving and come to work with the best interest of the Village first and foremost on their minds and for that I am most grateful. And thankfully, they make a career with us. In our Public Works department, Sergio Papetti and his uncle, Luigi Mignardi, have given 60 years of service to

the Village from just one family.

My fellow Trustees come in a close second on my grateful list. I am so fortunate to have colleagues who are true public servants who literally spend agonizing hours deliberating over even the smallest spending. Knowing that they are merely stewards of your money, they take their responsibilities so very seriously. They are also quite fun and make meetings a pleasure and thanks to my association with them through government, I am now blessed to call them my friends.

You often hear about the behavior of former electeds when new folks enter

Continued on page 22

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