

## ***NEW CASTLE DEMOCRATIC SLATE POSITION STATEMENTS/OVERVIEW***

Penelle Paderewski for Town Supervisor  
John Buckley for Town Council  
Michael Wolfensohn for Town Council

### **OVERVIEW**

The New Castle Democratic Slate will improve New Castle, not change it. Residents move here for myriad reasons, but the lifestyle and small town community are at the core of why people come and why they stay. At the same time, the slate is committed to ensuring the vitality of the two hamlets. While there is always a desire to improve, the downtown hamlets are doing well with stores rented and many businesses thriving.

The slate believes in measured and planned growth and finding ways to enhance the tax base, but is committed to finding projects that are the right fit and will not sacrifice quality of life for business development that is not in keeping with what residents have stated they want. Over the past months, the candidates have held several listening tour events and have engaged in a dialogue with residents and merchants alike about what they want for the community. Below are several key areas that the slate is focused on to achieve the goal of improvement. These initiatives represent practical and forward thinking proposals that will make New Castle an even better place to live.

#### **I. ECONOMIC ISSUES AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

To ensure that any planning and development is in keeping with what residents and merchants want, the slate proposes the following to enhance the Chappaqua and Millwood Business Districts:

- The appointment of an advisory **Business District Subcommittee** consisting of merchant representatives, two community members and two Board members who will meet regularly and will report to the Board on a monthly basis at a public work session to ensure that all parties are sharing information and communicating needs and objectives with each other.
- Initiation of **Spring Forward New Castle** in 2014 to include development of a conceptual plan for a town beautification program. The Board will then make decisions on a range of items to include enhanced lighting to encourage

shopping *and* dining in town in the evenings, sidewalk repair and improvement, and addition of recycling cans.

- Launch of a **Taking New Castle to the Streets** program featuring **Night Out New Castle Summer And Holiday Events** – This will include two events in the summer and the other during the holiday season aimed at bringing residents into town to shop and dine, as well as creation of an annual late fall event, the **New Castle Chili Fest**, all of which are aimed at drawing residents to downtown. Some restrictions would be put on traffic flow to enable residents to walk around town freely.
- Explore opportunities to implement a **Shared Services Initiative** with neighboring municipalities to maximize resources and budget where possible.

## II. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION/RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT

Sustainability is important to the slate and to the community. The slate is committed to addressing issues related to advising residents on ways to reduce their carbon footprint as well as providing information and resources for residents that are eco-friendly to protect our children, pets and our natural surroundings.

The slate proposes the following to enhance the active and passive recreation and to improve our environment:

- Advance the **Twin Oaks Project** with purchase of the Twin Oaks Swim Club for year-round town use and as a way to generate income for the town. This will include various activities to determine the feasibility of town-wide use; pursuing bids for bubbles and allowing the company to run a rental program from October to April and cede it back to town use for the summer for camp and other seasonal activities.
- Create a **Cycling New Castle** effort that would include exploring the extension of the town bike path to connect the east and northern portions of the town with the county bike path. We will also encourage use of bikes by placing a rack at the train station to accommodate those who want to use bicycles to/from the station.
- Enable the creation of a **Millwood Reserve** community garden on the site of the Millwood Swim Club and also offer opportunities for use as an educational lab to the Chappaqua Central School District.

- Pursue the **Greening of New Castle** by seeking information and guidance on ways for the town to be as energy efficient as possible as well as pursuing more environmentally safe alternatives to pesticides, cleaning agents, etc.

### III. **PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS:**

The slate is committed to finding ways to work better and more closely with the school boards that are in New Castle, especially the CCSD. As a community that is dedicated to education and a primary reason why residents move here, streamlined communication and a strong partnership between the town and school board is essential.

To accomplish that objective, the slate will work to:

- Establish a **Town/Education Partnership** through a formal committee of two town board members, two CCSD members and two PTA members who meet on a monthly basis.
- Meet with the administrators of the other school districts semi-annually to facilitate communication between neighboring districts.
- Create a **School Bus Project** to study the feasibility of revitalizing school bus usage to make best use of existing resources and to provide families with two working parents better transportation options, particularly for after school activities.

### IV. **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS**

Providing safety and emergency services for all residents as well as preparations for a range of situations from storm preparedness to education on the wildlife that is of concern to residents is a primary responsibility of the Town Board. There are numerous programs and activities that will serve to address these significant issues both pro-actively and in response to emergency situations that arise.

- Enhance the **Code Red New Castle** service to ensure that residents are kept apprised of situations, warnings, etc., regarding emergency situations affecting the community.
- Proactive maintenance of power lines (working with Con Ed), training of local Department of Public Works employees and ensuring maintenance of trees to minimize damage.

- Explore opportunities for sharing resources with neighboring communities, including the purchase, lease and use of large maintenance equipment and emergency vehicles.
- Creation of an annual public meeting (or more if storm conditions dictate) to discuss and review emergency response. The meeting would be chaired by the Town Supervisor and attended by the police chief as well as representatives from key organizations including the three local fire departments, Department of Public Works, volunteer ambulance corps and a representative from the school district. Ideally, the meeting would be held at the town's emergency response location so that residents have a better understanding of the preparations the town undertakes in anticipation of emergency situations.

#### V. **CREATING AN INFORMED COMMUNITY BY ENHANCING RESIDENTS' ACCESS TO THE TOWN'S OPERATIONS**

The slate is committed to enhancing communications on key projects, developments and town operations and will work to ensure that residents have many options to feel connected to town government. This will be accomplished through the creation of new tools and programs to ensure all residents are as involved and updated as they want to be.

- Creation of a dedicated section on the Town website that will include a specific section with information, key votes/deadlines for major projects and activities.
- Maximize and make best use of existing leadership personnel by ensuring that all neighborhood association chair persons are included on any and all information lists and communication.
- Attempt to limit the scheduling of votes/decisions on key projects during summer months and limit responsibilities of the board to administrative tasks.
- Hold at least one meeting on the west side of town annually.
- Provide links on the Town website for residents to report potholes and/or other appropriate items to corresponding state agencies.
- Creation of the **Supervisor's Forum**. Because of the legal constraints on the Board during meetings, as Supervisor Penny Paderewski will informally meet with residents before each Town Board meeting to review questions concerning agenda items. This approach, along with her intention to hold regular open

meetings with the community, will enable her to continue her efforts to improve two-way communications between the Board and residents.

- Develop a “**Town Messenger**” email newsletter (similar to the one that Chappaqua schools use to send monthly updates to families) that would be sent to residents on a monthly basis with updates on activities and town-related developments. For those without email access, particularly seniors, a one page printed handout will also be created and sent with the Senter Street newsletter.
- Examine from top to bottom the various processes that residents and businesses encounter when seeking approvals from the Town board, other town boards and departments. We recognize that certain applications may warrant more streamlined processing and we will undertake a full review of the procedures and the Town Code to determine how we can protect the rights of the applicants, the Town and residents impacted by applications and process these applications more efficiently.
- Create new opportunities for seniors who may not be “online” but who want to stay connected, be heard and share ideas on local issues.