

“Keeping Ancram the way it is, only better”

Letter from Art Bassin Town Supervisor

Running for his 4th consecutive two-year term

Nominated by both the Democrats and the Republicans



Art introduces the display on Ancram's one room school houses in the new Historic Vestibule, July 2013.

Ed. Note: Candidates provided all profile information in response to a TownNews questionnaire.

HIGHLIGHTS ELECTION '15 SPECIAL EDITION

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This was the goal of the 2010 Comp Plan. We've made a lot of progress.

Strong Financial Management. During the last 6 years, the Town Board has been able to keep town taxes flat while investing in needed improvements *and* maintaining a substantial financial reserve. In 2014, we had an independent audit of the Books - first time ever.

We built a new town garage and salt shed in 2010 and 2011 on the site of the former town garage. Because of careful financial management, we paid off the \$400,000 garage loan in 2014, 6 years ahead of schedule, and still ended the year with about \$630,000 in the bank. Earlier this month, we purchased two new plow trucks.

Community Development. After the Comp Plan was adopted in 2010, we began to put in place the major programs residents wanted. All these

were carried out by volunteers with considerable grant assistance and donations, so at very low cost to the town.

Agricultural Resources. The Agricultural Advisory Council completed work on the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in early 2012. The Town Board adopted it in June 2012.

Natural Resources. The Conservation Advisory Council completed work on the Natural Resources Conservation Plan in 2014. This year we applied for a \$220,000 Culvert Grant and heard last week we won it!.

Heritage Resources. In 2013, the Heritage Resources Committee developed the Heritage Resources Plan and began the process to get parts of Ancram designated an historic district by NYS Office of Historic Preservation.

New Zoning (2014) and Subdivision Regulations (2015). These actions bring the Town's zoning

code into alignment with the Comprehensive Plan and complete a five year process.

Kid's Programs. We can all be proud of the renewed commitment to kids' programs that have been developed around the Ancram swimming pool, Kids' Camp and Playground.

Town Communications. I get a lot of feedback from people about how much they enjoy the Newsletters and Ancramemail. I encourage everyone to get on the email list to keep informed about community activities and events, town and county government issues, lost dogs and cats, weather alerts and bear and cougar sightings.

Are we having fun yet? People ask me why I do this job. I do it because I like to hear what's on your minds and work with volunteers who help to make Ancram and the County a better place. Being Town Supervisor is a lot of fun. Really.

BACKGROUND. Art Bassin, 71, has lived in Ancramdale with his wife Sue since 1978, when they bought Cricket Hill Farm on Snyder Rd. Art went to high school in Exeter, NH and to college at Harvard. After college, Art served two years as an Artillery Officer in the US Army, followed by five more years in the US Army reserves. After military service, Art went to the Harvard Business School, graduating in 1969.

After business school, Art worked for Citibank in NYC and Brussels, Belgium for 14 years in finance, operations, consumer banking and marketing, followed by 9 years at Dime Savings Bank as Chief Banking Officer. In 1992, Art started working with CableSouth, a private equity firm involved in buying and selling radio stations, cable systems and information systems companies. From 1994 to 2001, Art was President and CEO of TV Data Technologies, one of the portfolio companies, in Glens Falls, NY.

Art's service to Ancram began in 2007, when former Supervisor Gerry Simons asked him to be Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Art was elected Supervisor in 2009 and began his term in 2010. The Comp Plan was approved by the Town Board in April 2010.



Monica Cleveland

Age 37, married to Brandon S. Cleveland, two children—daughter Sydney (14), son Ronald (8).

1997 graduate from Pine Plains Central School, Columbia Greene Community College for 2 years.

Business background as a Teller, Salisbury Bank and Trust Company from 1999 to 2001, when I left the job to start a family.

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Registrar.

I am an Incumbent. I have been in this position as Town Clerk and Tax Collector since 2003.

My experience in this position is an important qualification for this job. My job is ever changing and increas-

ingly complex, and it is my responsibility to keep up with those changes.

I have to be knowledgeable in many different areas. These areas have increased yet again as I have been asked to take on the Assessor's Clerk's responsibilities with the retirement of Mary Faith Boice. As a result, I will now be at Town Hall four days a week starting in 2016.

I feel that my time at Salisbury Bank was a great background for tax collecting because I was familiar with handling large sums of money and computer work.

I have learned much through my years in this position, a lot of it as on site training. And, I will continue to evolve and learn every day. That's one of my favorite parts about this office, it is never boring.

I try to be the welcoming face of the Town.

I am proud of the fact that my office through the years has become a place where people can come and find a caring person and a smile. I work for the people of this town and they have been very kind to me through the years. I enjoy catching up with them when they come

**Monica Cleveland
Community Experience**

Current Elder and Clerk of Session/Secretary of the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church

Sunday School teacher and Co-Superintendent of Sunday School for the Ancramdale Church

Member of the Ancram Youth Commission

Member of the Ancram Kids Camp Board

Secretary of the Ancram Republican Committee

Former Girl Scout Leader

to my office to pay their tax bill or get a dog license. And I enjoy helping someone when they may need it most.

I will meet people outside my office hours, if it is more convenient for them. Small gestures like that go a long way, and I hope shows that I am a resident of this town who cares about the people who live here.

Promise for the Future.

My goal is to continue on as I have been doing. I will continue to make my office open to any who have a question or a concern, regardless of whether it has to do with my position or

not. I will continue to be fair and understanding to those who come through my door. And I will continue to give to Ancram my commitment and integrity.

Some thoughts about living in Ancram:

I was born and raised in Ancramdale as many generations of my family before me were. My parents and my grandparents taught me to be respectful of my neighbors, work hard, always to try my best and love and serve my country. I think those things have served me well through life.

I had a great childhood in Ancram. I remember attending church and fire-house functions with my family, taking my swimming lessons in the town pool and attending "play ground" during the summer months.

When I decided to start a family, I knew I wanted them raised here, in this town. My wish is that all the children of Ancram can have the same amazing childhood here as I did.

I hope that I prove an example to those children of what public service is and what they can do with it. The children of today will, one day, be the leaders of tomorrow.

Ancram Kids' Camp. "The camp is very important to me," says Monica. "I have been involved with it since its inception in 2011, both as a member of the Ancram Youth Commission and as a mom, with both my children.

The camp had about 40 participants all summer long, about 40% attending on scholarships provided by local organizations and individual donors. The pool was overflowing (no pun intended) as the Town decided to drop all fees.

Samantha Mason, one of Ancram's college students, was the new Head Camp Counselor, directing the program. "I helped to set up a Camp Board," Monica reports "to help Samantha with any needs that she had and to smooth the counselors' transition to new leadership." Other Board members include Ruth Wittlinger, Colleen Lutz, Adriene Citrin, David & Jen Boice, and Samantha, in addition to Monica. Some fun elements added this year include Birds on Tuesday led by Ann Rader of the CAC, Painting the Snow Plows, and a Kids' Camp Olympics, including the Water-Balloon-on-a-Spoon Race, shown right. "Overwhelmingly successful!", Monica reports.





Jim Miller - R

Age 59, married with 3 adult children, graduate of Pine Plains Schools. As part owner of Millerhurst Farm, Jim has 40+ years of experience operating and repairing equipment and trucks.

Service to Ancram

Jim has been a member of the Ancram Town Board for 7 years, the last 6 as Deputy Supervisor.

During that time, he served on various committees including the Comp Plan, Ag Plan, and Zoning Revisions.

Jim was heavily involved in the Garage Committee which oversaw the design and construction of the Highway Garage in 2010. The following year, he suggested an innovative approach that allowed the conversion of the former Milk Factory into a salt shed, thereby saving the town money and preserving a historical building.

Highway Job Approach

"I believe my time on the Town Board has given me a unique understanding of how the highway department functions through the budgeting process and seeing where the monies are spent by approving

vouchers for payment each month.

"The major priority would be to keep the roads passable and safe year-around.

"If elected, I would emphasize maintenance—of the equipment as well as the roads themselves."



Bob Roche - D

Age 61, married, 3 daughters, a step-son and 3 grandchildren, graduate of Taconic Hills.

Bob grew up working on the family dairy farm. In addition to the general tasks, Bob was always looking for more efficient ways to run the farm, encouraging his dad to put in a pipeline milking system. Early on, Bob worked with Soil and Water Conservation to learn about erosion and topography and the best use of their property.

Owner/Operator - Wild Acres Custom Farming.

1980–97. Bob managed both the day-to-day operations and the finances, including bidding, purchasing, and payroll for the six employees. Wild Acres dealt with many customers in Ancram and surrounding areas.

Bob developed administrative skills, an eye for detail, and how to be resourceful and creative.

During this time, he also partnered in the family Standardbred race horse business—purchasing, training, racing, and keeping records.

16 years in Heavy Equipment Repair, 1997–2013

In two stints with Pine Plains Ford Tractor totaling 11 years, Bob performed maintenance and repair for backhoes, bulldozers, skid steers, tractors and farm equipment.

Service Manager – Stanton Equipment. 2000–05

Bob managed six employees- five mechanics and a truck driver- to carry out both warranty and non-warranty work. He was responsible for reviewing the work needed and scheduling it through the shop, determining what work came under warranty and submitting those warranties to John Deere. For non-warranty repairs, Bob developed quotes to customers and then managed the repairs keeping to the quote.

During this period, Bob has had continuing education through John Deere and New Holland.

Manager – Wesarg Custom Farming.

Since 2013, Bob is back in the custom farming business, managing 2-4 employees, depending on time of year. Bob runs all aspects of this business with over 100 customers, doing not only crop work but also building roads and managing snow removal.

Community Service

Bob serves Ancram on the Zoning Revisions Committee and Planning Board. Since 2006, he has been a certified Respite Provider for the developmentally disabled.

Wittlinger & Wilcox for Town Judge

2 positions, vote for 2

Both are unopposed

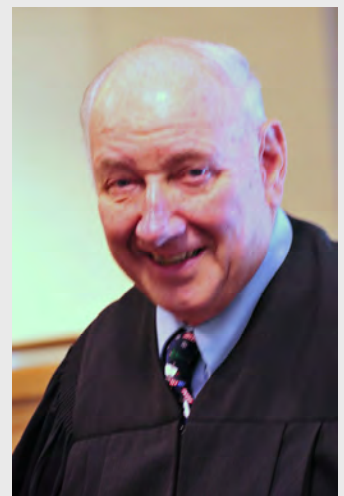
Both nominated by Democrats and Republicans

The Job:

Court held every Wednesday at Town Hall, 6 p.m.

On call for Arraignments any time of day

NY State requires considerable training, although a legal degree is not required



George Wittlinger-R

Served 16 yrs, seeks 5th term



Robert Wilcox - D

Served 8 yrs, seeks 3rd term

**Town of
Ancram**
1416 County Route 7
Ancram NY 12502



Sept 2015 TownNews

Special Edition

Got some news?
Want to join Ancramemail?
Contact Art Bassin
Town Supervisor
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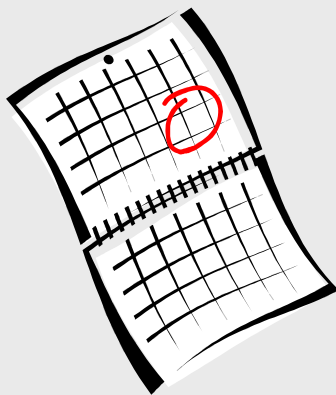
Go to the town website for
more information about
what's going on around
town:
www.townofancram.org



KEY DATES

- Oct 1 **SIGNS** - Candidates' signs begin to be placed around town.
- Oct 9 **VOTER REGISTRATION** - last date for application to be submitted in-person or postmarked.
- Oct 27 **APPLYING FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT** - last postmark date to apply for an Absentee Ballot.
- Nov 2 **VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT** - Last day to have Ballot postmarked or to bring the Ballot in person to
- Nov 3 **ELECTION DAY**— Tuesday.
- Nov 15 **SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT**— Sun, 5-7pm, **The Pond**. Recognizing the Zoning Revisions Committee's service to the town. All volunteers working on Town Boards, Committees or Councils are invited. Buffet and cash bar. Details to follow.

Election '15



MEET THE CANDIDATES

SUN OCT 25, SUN NOV 1 - TOWN HALL 1-2 PM

Everyone is invited to attend and hear what our candidates have to say! Background provided in this special *AncramTownNews*. Bring your questions and ideas. Moderator, Art Bassin. Refreshments.