

For Immediate Release

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Thank You, People!

JAY, NY, Nov. 6, 2009—The People have spoken and, in a democratic republic such as ours, who can argue with that?

I would like to thank everyone in the Town of Jay who voted for me on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, for Town Councilperson as well as all the residents who did their civic duty and cast *any* vote in the election. Although I fell short of the necessary votes to secure a seat on the town board, I am grateful for the large show of support for my candidacy and support for the ideas and goals I put forth for our town.

Thank-you's are also in order for the many people who helped me along the way, including all the residents who signed my petitions—especially Margaret Trumbull, Joe Durgan, Steven Genter, Johnathan Piestrzynski, and Steven Jaquish—the latter two being responsible for getting me on the Working Families Party line, along with two intrepid notaries public in town; all the folks who put up a lawn sign; volunteers Martha Spear, Susan Willnus, Laura of Minnesota, and Cassandra Smith; My No. 1 Volunteer, Rosamond Lincoln; Terry Young, for the fabulous website he created for my campaign, www.fredbalzac.com; the Working Families Party, including Tom Wood and Dan Fracalossi of Plattsburgh, for their endorsement; the help and encouragement of the Essex County Democratic Committee, Chairperson Sue Montgomery Corey, and especially ECDC Secretary David Mace, without whose invaluable help my candidacy would not

have reached the voters nearly as widely and effectively as it did; and my wife, Kathleen Recchia, and son, Samuel, for their love and support.

Congratulations are in order to Councilmen Archie Depo and Councilwoman Amy Shalton for their hard-won re-election victories resulting from positive campaigns. Both are dedicated public servants who care about our town, and they deserve the support of all town residents, just as they have mine.

As I said in my campaign letter, we are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful community filled with people who care about their neighbors. But times being what they are, we all need to pitch in even more, support our town government and each other, to keep the Town of Jay beautiful and affordable for all.

I have taken note of all the concerns people expressed to me during the campaign—especially those who opened their door to me and spoke freely about their concerns. To those residents whose door I did not knock on, I apologize for not getting there; but I would appreciate hearing from you in the future. Concerns I heard about include: the tax rate in the Town of Jay, particularly compared to neighboring communities; the town budget; the rate and fairness of local property value assessments and the tax levy; supporting local businesses; cleaning up junkyards and any other violations of the local junkyard ordinance; the need for a comprehensive zoning plan and maintaining open space; regulating development, especially for second homes; supporting and promoting our arts centers and artists; building on the current revitalization effort in Au Sable Forks and expanding it to include the entire Town of Jay; granting the Cold Spring Granite Company a permit to crush rock (pro and con); and outdoor wood boilers (pro and con).

Buoyed by the results of the election and your expression of support, I plan to stay involved and will try to do my share. There is much work to be done. In the immortal words of the late Senator Edward Kennedy, bringing his campaign for President to its conclusion at the 1980 Democratic convention, "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die!"

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