

From "Vote 2009: A Compendium of North Country Races with Profiles of Candidates in the Nov. 3 Contest," Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, NY, Oct. 31, 2009:

JAY

TOWN COUNCIL

**FRED BALZAC**

**Party:** Democratic, Working Families Party and Progressive.

**Age:** 50.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in English from Columbia University.

**Occupation:** Freelance writer, editor.

**Previous government experience:** Former chairman, Essex County Occupancy Tax Committee.

**Civic organizations:** Helped create and launch Town of Jay Web site; [former] board member, Jay Entertainment and Music Society; [former] board member, Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitors' Bureau; member, steering committee of Tahawus Lodge Center at former Mason's building in AuSable Forks.

**Family:** Wife, Kathleen Recchia; and son, Samuel.

**What is the most important issue facing the town, and what would you do to address it?**

"The major concerns facing Jay are the economy and also preserving our environment and the beauty of the town. Those two concerns have to be kept in mind when the town is formulating policy.

"High on my list is certainly keeping taxes down while maintaining services. I believe in a strong local government that is proactive, which to me means thinking outside the box.

"To address these issues, I would help the town launch a buy-local campaign, which would help local business prosper and encourage new local business.

"On the environmental end, I would spark a town-wide conversation on the need for a comprehensive zoning plan and also help the Town of Jay go green by researching, for example, alternative energy systems for town property and state incentives for local homeowners."