

Questionnaires Not
Returned:
Maria Jones, D-Ward 5;
Paul Whitford, D-Ward 6;
George Spitale, D-At Large.

Jamestown City Council

Ward 1– Brent Sheldon, Republican and Conservative parties

vs.

Tara Hall

Democratic and Independent Taxpayers parties

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Brent P. Sheldon

Endorsements: Republican and Conservative

Age: 53

Family: Wife Nancy of 19 years

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Chautauqua County Public Health Sanitarian- 26 years

Education: B.S. Biology and Education, SUNY at Fredonia, 1982, Graduate
Studies in Recombinat Genen Technology and Education, SUNY at Fredonia

Civic Involvement: Jamestown Strategic Planning & Partnership Commission,
Jamestown Housin Task Force, Jamestown Property Rehabilitation &
Conservation Board of Appeals, Jamestown Human Right s Commission,
Jamestown Reapportionment Commission, Jamestown City Republican
Committee Chairman

Elected Offices Held: College Ward 1 Councilman- 1993-1995

Why did you choose to run for office?

Our current Councilman decided not to run again.

I believe that I have the experience and fortitude as a former Ward 1 Councilman and a record of cutting Jamestown taxes and reducing the size and cost of City government when I was a Councilman. I will be able to make the hard decisions in cutting spending and lowering our property taxes when I am elected again.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

I would like to reduce Jamestown City taxes and cut the size of City government to prevent more jobs and residents from leaving our city.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

A city ward councilperson represents the people and taxpayers of their ward and responds to their questions and problems in a timely manner. They should have listed telephone number so they are accessible and I have had the same phone number for 27 years.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

While I have not had a chance to review the mayor's 2014 budget yet, I believe that our property taxes are too high and the taxpayers can not take another tax increase as proposed by the mayor. I will review the budget and present possible spending cuts to lower the taxes. I know that the mayor has not been able to reach terms with any of the city's unions and that occurs it will have a major impact on the budget.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

Yes, Jamestown has the oldest housing stock in the country and very few homes have been built in the last 20 years. There are areas where homes can be built but the property taxes must 1st be lowered and then deferred on new homes to encourage construction. There are also a large number of absentee landlords and substandard rental properties. The Housing Committee must be reactivated to address these issues and I would make sure that happens.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Drug crimes and drug related crimes such as burglary is a concern for residents of all 6 wards in Jamestown. My neighbors and are forming a neighborhood watch to report suspicious activity to the police and look out for each other. Residents must not be afraid to pick up the phone and report crime. Drug houses must be shut down and owners of the property must be held accountable.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

I don't believe any services are underfunded at this time. When the labor contracts are settled, there may be under funding at that time when they have to pay for any increased benefits.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

I feel the city should have a senior citizens and an Hispanic advisory committee as those are the 2 populations that continue to grow in Jamestown. Citizens can then actively work on issues with the mayor, city council and representatives of various departments.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

Regionalization and more shared services are necessary to make city government more efficient and cut costs to the taxpayers. City workers should also be rewarded with suggesting ways to cut costs and becoming more efficient.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Tara Hall

Endorsements: Democrat, Independent Taxpayers

Age: 39

Family: Mother of two sons, Gus (11) and Gage (9)

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Jamestown Public Schools; Grade 5 teacher 1998-present

Education: 1992 JHS Graduate, 1994 JCC Graduate A.S. in Science, 1996 SUNY Fredonia B.S. in Education, 2001 SUNY Fredonia M.S. in Education.

Civic Involvement: Interview Committee JPS Superintendent Search, Local Action Project Committee, District Liaison Committee, Jamestown Teachers' Association Vice President.

Elected Offices Held: Chautauqua County Legislator 2002-2006

Why did you choose to run for office?

I am fortunate enough to have fond memories of growing up in a community where everyone knew your neighbor; children played outside all day, and we didn't have to lock our doors at night. My brother and I rode our Big Wheels up and down the sidewalk, and took our daily walks to Pearson's Market to buy penny candy. I remember when going Christmas shopping meant a day of shopping at Bigelow's Department store with my mom and grandmother, afterwards going back to the High Rise (where my grandparents lived) for cardamom sweet rolls and coffee. I would sometimes accompany my grandfather on his walk to the downtown Vikings when it was his turn to run the manual elevator for the evening.

I share with you my childhood memories because I now have children of my own, whom I want to feel safe and loved in a community as I did growing up in Jamestown. Being a teacher in Jamestown, I see the day-to-day struggles families face, and it saddens me, that we, as a community, encounter greater challenges than one could ever imagine. As your City Councilwoman, I will do all that I can to return Jamestown to a place where generations of families can raise their children in safe and caring neighborhoods, and our citizens have the opportunity to live in and work in an economically prosperous community.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

What would you like to accomplish during your term if elected?

- Lowering the property tax burden for homeowners
- Job Development and establish continuing education/training programs for workforce development
- Address Housing/Neighborhood Issues
- Improve Public Safety

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

- Establish legal policies for the city
- Representative of neighborhood/community
- Be an advocate for families and citizens of our city
- Create honest/timely budgets

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

- **Most important budget/fiscal issue:** Property tax burden for homeowners
- **Lowering costs:** Work with fellow Council Members and Mayor to demand the State to reduce mandates which restrict local control of government; Streamline and consolidate the delivery of services within current city operations and municipal partners; Control Health Care costs for active employees and retirees.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

Address issues with rental properties, vacant buildings and provide more resources for demolition of condemned properties; Encourage property owners and organizations to participate in neighborhood revitalization projects (Jamestown Renaissance Corp, Northside Pride, Grow Jamestown).

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Is it a concern? Yes.
Suggestions: Involve schools, churches, non-profits, and families to work together in being proactive in preventing crime. Promote and improve the availability of mental health services. Structure our community in ways that discourage crime.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Yes. Road Maintenance/Repair. Public Safety. Code enforcement.
Ways to pay for services: Attract businesses in order to reduce the tax burden on homeowners. Pursue grants from various sources. Promote and strengthen tourism. Cut spending for non-essential services. Demand from State to reduce unfunded mandates. Insist that greater local control be returned to government; ensuring that local dollars can be kept in local community.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

Address public safety concerns specifically impacting minorities and senior citizens. More presence in solving neighborhood issues. Respond in a timely manner to constituent needs. Encourage community/neighborhood involvement in working together. Bring together community groups, churches, non-profits in order to streamline services offered to citizens

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

Work together to find solutions. Stay away from party-line squabbling. Improve ways of communicating and gathering input from residents.

Jamestown City Council

Ward 2 – Anthony J. Dolce
Republican, Conservative and Independence parties
Running Unopposed

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Anthony J. Dolce

Endorsements: Republican, Conservative, Independence

Age: 51.

Family: Wife-Anne, Daughter-Amelia 15, Son-Christian 12.

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Teacher- Jamestown High School-Government/Economics, U.S. History 25 years. Coach- Jamestown high School Baseball and Camp; Cross Country, adviser of student government.

Education: Masters Degree in Education, from S.U.N.Y. Fredonia.

Civic Involvement: Active member Holy Apostles Parish -Cantor and choir member.

Elected Offices Held: Held:Councilman at-Large, 1993-1999, Councilman Ward 2, 2000-2013.

Why did you choose to run for office?

I ran for public office in 1993 to get involved with our local government and to make a difference in our community. As a teacher of Government/Economics I have a background, passion and interest in Government.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

Over my terms on Council I have been involved with the consolidation and downsizing of City Government. We have completely updated our City Charter. I have supported efforts which have resulted in the Regionalization of many City Services with the county and other surrounding communities. I have also supported other initiatives such as the Urban Design plan and the neighborhood revitalization.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

The duties of a City Council person are twofold. A councilperson must work with other elected officials on big issue such budgets, policy, and city wide initiatives. On a smaller scale a councilperson must represent the needs and concerns of their respective constituents. answering phone calls, emails, letters and being responsive to the individual needs and concerns of the residents in their wards and the city.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

The biggest fiscal issue facing our City is that we are approaching our constitutional tax limit. we are currently at 92% Even with a reduction of 20% of our workforce and the consolidation of several services we are struggling to keep taxes down. The loss of State aid, The raising costs of retirement, salaries and benefits as well as a struggling local economy and stagnant tax base are the fiscal challenges which face the Council and the City. We must continue to look for ways to consolidate city services, encourage development and lobby our state representatives for a change in the funding we receive and the obligations that the city is responsible for in the ever increasing costs of mandates

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

I believe that the housing needs in the city have been going through a transition over the past several years. With a declining population and changing demographics the city has had to adapt to the ever increasing issues associated with higher percentage of rental units. Senior Housing as well as low to moderate units are more in demand than before. The private sector and foundations have stepped up to handle some of these needs. The Wellman building and other downtown units which were identified in the urban design plan have been a big success in meeting the demands for downtown housing needs. However, we must continue to promote policies which will protect and our residential neighborhoods and encourage home ownership which is the vital to our tax base.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Drug crime and crimes in general are a concern of all our residents in the city. We are seeing these actions occurring in all areas of our city. We must continue to be proactive and vigilant in an attempt to deal with the issue of drugs and crime in our community. The establishment of neighborhood watch groups and other citizen involvement and action working closely with elected officials and the Police Department is needed to address this problem.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Many of our City Departments are underfunded, We would love to be able to hire more Police to deal with Drugs and crime. We certainly could use more housing inspectors to deal with housing and neighborhood issues. however, the reality is we lack the resources to add manpower at this time. The city Government has lost over 20% of it's workforce in the past two decades. We have had to learn to do more with less. It would be very difficult to raise the revenue needed or cut from other departments to address these issues.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

The city has seen a dramatic change in demographics over the past several years. The Strategic planning commission has identified the need to reach out and begin to include members of minority groups to come to the table and begin to identify specific needs they might have in the City. As mentioned ,before housing, employment, language barriers and educational opportunities are all areas that need further attention.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

While I feel that the City Government works very well, there is always room for improvement. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with some great people from both parties on City Council. Unlike the partisan gridlock and bickering at the State and Federal level our local government has tried to work together and make decisions which are in the best interests of our city. We must continue to be responsive to our constituents and work together to meet the demanding challenges that we face as a community.

Jamestown City Council

Ward 3 – Tamara M. Dickey, Republican and Conservative parties

vs.

Regina Brackman, Democratic party

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Tamara M Dickey

Endorsements: Republican and Conservative

Age: 53

Family: The youngest child born to Herman L & Belle Macklin of Rocky Mount, NC. Married to Clyde W. Dickey, a Cummins Engine Retiree. Have 2 adult children and 2 granddaughters.

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career): Retired Corporate VP - remain a "Leaders For Today Revenue Management Consultant" - North East Region. Over 25 years in Vice President or Director roles for both domestic and global firms including Hospital Corporation of America, Reimbursement Consultants, Inc., Duke University Health System, WCA Hospital, St. James Mercy Hospital/Catholic Health East Corporate, Firstsource Global Solutions BPO, and Apollo - ED Information Services, Inc.

Education: B.S. Degree in Economics

Civic Involvement: Tamara has been very much involved in Jamestown Community Outreach efforts including 2004 WCA Financial Counseling/Patient Friendly Billing Awareness Programs, Jamestown Juneteenth, Love School Food Drive, Partners 4 Prevention, Joint Neighborhood Project Board, Chautauqua Striders Mentoring Advisory, 2012 Ward 3 Back to School Bash, Current supporter of COI-Fatherhood Program, 2010 - 2012 Jamestown March 4 Jesus Coordinator and 2010 - 2013 supporter of The Community Gospelfest held within The WARD 3 - Jamestown, NY community. Tamara is a 30 year national member of the prestigious Greek Sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho and was elected as the Grand Basileus (president) for "NU Chapter of North Carolina in 1983"

Elected Offices Held: 2012 HFMA Follmer Outstanding Achievement Award: 2007 to 2009 Board Member for WNY Healthcare Financial Management Association

Why did you choose to run for office?

Over the past 10 years, I have seen WARD 3 "neglected by the current Democratic Leaders for several years". As with my Corporate Career, I will offer my TEAM Management Style, Intellect and Dedicated Energy to Help Move Jamestown from Good 2 Great. God wants to use me to assure that WARD 3 does not settle. If WARD 3 always do what its always done, WARD 3 will always get what WARD 3 has always gotten. I have the professional experience and education to Speak-up and Speak-out on behalf of WARD 3 residents and their concerns!

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

If elected, I would like to focus on the majority issue brought to my attention by the great people of WARD 3; Economic Growth. This is on the top of everyone's mind in WARD 3. The People of WARD 3 have said to me that City Hall's Leaders don't really understand that WARD 3's POOR are getting POORER and we must have more job growth in WARD 3 to allow the residents to become gainfully employed. This is Economics-101 for me and I am absolutely ready to address some of my own business contacts (CEO's) from my own roledex to broker more jobs for WARD 3 specifically. Of course, once the deal is brokered, the people of Jamestown must keep our eyes on the Leaders to assure they do everything in their power to close the deal. This is called, holding your leaders accountable to Move Jamestown from Good 2 Great!.I have heard from the residents of WARD 3 that there are Three priority issues which include Economic Growth, Crime Prevention and Youth Opportunities that they would like addressed.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected? - continued

However, if elected, I would like to focus on the majority issue brought to my attention by the great people of WARD 3; Economic Growth. This is on the top of everyone's mind in WARD 3. The People of WARD 3 have said to me that City Hall's Leaders don't really understand that WARD 3's POOR are getting POORER and we must have more job growth in WARD 3 to allow the residents to become gainfully employed. This is Economics-101 for me and I am absolutely ready to address some of my own business contacts (CEO's) from my own roledex to broker more jobs for WARD 3 specifically. Of course, once the deal is brokered, the people of Jamestown must keep our eyes on the Leaders to assure they do everything in their power to close the deal. This is called, holding your leaders accountable to Move Jamestown from Good 2 Great!.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

The city councilperson must listen to the people and represent their ward effectively. Also, they must work as a responsible and accountable leader to assure policies and procedures are developed to better Jamestown residents. This requires business intelligence and excellent relationship management skills. Further, it is necessary to keep the people informed by providing feedback on the "pluses and wishes" as concerns are addressed.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

As an economist, I would study the current budget closely to make defined recommendations. If given the opportunity to serve the WARD 3 residents, I would not feel comfortable addressing the expenses until we have focused on "revenue churning" for Jamestown. This is the most fiscally responsible position I would take at this time. In order to increase revenue, we must increase business relationships in Jamestown. We might also look at the process to smooth out the wrinkles which delay start-up of businesses in Jamestown. The sooner a business can have its Grand Opening, the sooner they generate revenue. If they can generate revenue, the City can receive revenue.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

There are many unmet housing needs within WARD 3. There are also very limited resources to address them on both the City and Property Owner sides. I believe these resources should be appropriately distributed within the needed WARDS instead of the perceived distribution process. Also, it would make sense to beautify the main streets into Jamestown and make them a first priority. We should be trying to attract businesses to Jamestown on a daily basis so why would we put our housing resources in other areas?

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

While I traveled through WARD 3 - shaking hands and speaking with residents; Drug activity is on the rise and there is some concern for many in WARD 3. We have seen JPD and the Southern Tier Drug Task Force perform well. They have done a great job with cleaning up our streets recently. We must continue to rely on WARD 3 residents to help with this process and allow the trained professionals to do their jobs. Jamestown must become better at helping people with their employment situation which could reduce the desire or desperation by some to engage in this, which is again, Economics 101. We certainly could do a better job at listening to all people who live in the communities where this type of activity occurs.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

I believe abandon housing/demolishment budgets are underfunded in all cities including Jamestown, NY. It is imperative that we bring in new businesses to add to the revenue in Jamestown. Many residents including my husband has spoken to me about the Old Jamestown. We must use our compassion, intelligence and influence to grow Jamestown! I believe abandoned housing/demolishment budgets are underfunded in all cities including Jamestown, NY. It is imperative that we bring in new businesses to add to the revenue in Jamestown to address the limited resource concerns. Many residents including my husband has spoken about the Good Old Jamestown. I will continue to offer my compassion, intelligence and influence to grow Jamestown! If given the opportunity to serve, I have significant revenue and expense budget experience for decision/recommendation analyses.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

The minority community members that I have spoken to within WARD 3 have advised me that representation is weak in Jamestown and really could be improved. Minorities must be afforded the opportunity to become gainfully employed, remain employed, operate businesses and stop being an immediate target for the police and some employers in Jamestown. Through my outreach efforts, I have attended an array of minority events that our current City Leaders of Ward 3 have not participated in. The minorities feel their is not enough dialogue with the existing leadership. Communication with the many minority nationalities within WARD 3 could certainly be enhanced and could breakdown significant barriers. Regarding the Senior Citizens, it was brought to my attention that the CARTS transportation system has been wonderful. However, many seniors really need and want to be safe when they travel to the stores within WARD 3. A Senior Citizen Outreach Event with city youth participation could help with bridging the senior citizen/youth communication gaps in WARD 3; and allow the seniors to share their wisdom with a lot of youth who really need it. I would work with both the city and Chautauqua opportunity leaders to see how we can partner within WARD 3 to address this and bond the two groups together for a Good 2 Great education session.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

Many in Jamestown along with the city government of Jamestown leaders have made everything political. When sidewalks and services are addressed because of an Election Year and people are referred to and categorized by their political party in Jamestown, we have a problem. When ideas and concerns are outlined as a Democratic or Republican issue, you know we have gone too far. Jamestown must invest in the infrastructure but also listen to all of the people of Jamestown. The leaders must stop politicizing every issue and work together as a TEAM. When this happens, WARD 3 and Jamestown At large will see the results of a UNITED- Jamestown, NY. Then we can work on decreasing cost and increasing cash flow and revenue churning.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Regina L. Brackman

Endorsements: Democratic Party

Age: 51

Family: Daughter of Sherdena Brackman

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Truck-Lite Co. LLC

Education: Attended and Graduated from Jamestown Public Schools.
Attended Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa

Civic Involvement: YWCA Board Member, Member of the Jamestown Juneteenth Planning Committee, Member of Blackwell Chapel A.M.E Zion Church where I serve as President of Trustee Board and Chair Person of our Women's Ministry.

Elected Offices Held: None.

Why did you choose to run for office?

I was born and raised in Jamestown and have lived in the Third Ward my entire life. Being a member of the City Council will allow me to give back to the community by strengthening communication and working to address any concerns.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

If elected, I will work for the residents of the Third Ward toward lowering taxes, by working closely with the city to establish a means to tax relief as well as the manner in which property values and taxes are regularly assessed. I would work to resolve housing and neighborhood issues such as absentee landlords and residents who are not living within city codes as well as improving public safety issues and support job development within the city. As a resident of the City, the actions and decisions made by of the council will affect me just as they will affects the majority of the residents of the city and I will work hard to reduce that impact.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

The job of a city council member is to serve the residents of the city, to be an advocate and voice for those residents in our ward. I believe the duties of a city council person also include working to establish a fair budget and to ensure city departments operate within the established budget parameters.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

State mandates have a considerable impact on the city budget. Working with fellow council members to lessen those mandates and by encouraging the community to support the elimination of State mandates to local government will allow the city to lower cost and reduce taxes. I also believe by consolidating delivery of services with our municipal partners and within our city operations we could lower cost and reduce taxes.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

Yes. Walking through the ward and meeting the residents allowed me to better understand some existing concerns regarding vacant buildings not being attended to by the owners, most of which should be demolished. Several residents pointed out evidence of excessive garbage and clutter on neighboring properties as well as residents who do not maintain their property. I also observed several properties with incomplete renovation projects. There is also a huge concern with the bedbug epidemic that is present in the city. I would work with those residents along with organization such as, Northside Pride or the Jamestown Renaissance Corp to help improve these conditions.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

This is a problem recognized by a large portion of the city residents and we all have to take part in addressing this issue. We need to involve our schools, our churches and the residents in efforts to help eliminate this problem. Increasing the number of neighborhood watch groups would help to deter drug activity and traffic within our community.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Yes. Public Safety is an area that is under funded; in particular the Fire Department, which has been operating with the reduction of open stations and limited staffing. The Fire Department is the first respondent to all emergencies and at times has experienced difficulty responding in a timely manner. Road maintenance, Department of Public Works, would be another area of concern. Several residents on Broadhead St. inquired when roadwork would be completed in their neighborhood. However, increased funding to these services would need to be balanced with the taxes residents pay to fund these services.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

There has to be a greater presence from the members of the city council to help solve neighborhood issues and provide resolution to concerns in a timely manner. We have to address the public safety concern impacting the minority and senior community of the city and stay on top of those concerns and complaints until the issues are resolved.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

The city and community must work hand in hand to become a united front. The city should seek input from the residents in establishing a solution to their concerns. It comes down to serving the community, it is not about me or any perceived prestige of being part of the city government.

Jamestown City Council

Ward 4 – Marie Carrubba, Democratic Independence and Working Families parties

vs.

Richard L. Elardo, Republican and Conservative parties

Name As It Will Appear On The Ballot: Richard L. Elardo

Endorsements: Republican and Conservative

Age: 29

Family: 2 dogs

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Manager of Lido's Crescent Inn

Education: 2002 graduate of Jamestown High School

Civic Involvement: Volunteer with the Salvation Army and active supporter of WCA's Got Pink campaign for the fight against breast cancer

Elected Offices Held: None

Why did you choose to run for office?

I feel too many times officials run unopposed and forget why they are in the office and who put them there. Politics often get in the way of good sound decision making. I wanna bring common sense and power back to the people.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

We live in a technological age, I can pay every bill I have from my cellphone and I'd like to bring the city into that age. We should be able to pay taxes, apply/pay for permits/licences all through the city's website.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

The short answer is to balance the budget and oversee the operations of the city. The real answer is to represent the tax payers of the city helping them maintain a safe environment for themselves and their families and a economical way of life.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

A very important issue is the rising cost of employees salaries and their health care. What we need is to increase the tax base of the city without raising taxes. I feel theres too many instances of tax exemption or untaxable properties in the city.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

I don't feel there's unmet housing needs, there's plenty of vacancies we just need people to fill them. The real problem is absentee landlords who don't live in the area and maintain their properties. In many cases they end up derelict, and hurt the property values of homes around them.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

The drug problem is a concern for everyone no matter what ward we live in. The police dept is doing a great job but I think the community needs to get involved. I'd like to see more neighborhood watches and community involvement in finding drug locations and eliminating them.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what would you cut to pay for them?

I'm strongly against the shut down and rotation of fire stations in the city, I feel it creates a very real and dangerous situation for the people in our community. There has to be a way to change this, if elected I will definitely look into it.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

If elected I'm willing to meet with them, discuss what problems they have, and work to correct those problems anyway I can.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

Be more sociable/accessible and interactive with the taxpayers, its unbelievable how many people have no clue who their councilperson is. If elected I don't want one single person in Ward 4 to answer that question with an "I don't know" , I want them to say 'Rick Elardo, he lives on Newland ave'

Name as it appears on the ballot: Marie T. Carrubba

Endorsements: Democratic, Independence, and Working Families

Age: 56

Family: Husband, Doug, married 30 years; sons, Dan and Joe

Current Employment: Southwestern Independent Living Center, Inc.

Education: J.D. SUNY at Buffalo Law School, B. A. SUNY at Buffalo

Civic Involvement: I am a member and Eucharistic Minister of Holy Apostles Parish. I serve on the following boards: Jamestown Community College, Workforce Investment Board, Community Services Board, The Resource Center, TRC Foundation, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., and Jamestown Human Rights Commission. I volunteer as a mediator for the Center for Resolution and Justice, Halloween Fun Fest, St. John's Church spaghetti and fish fry dinners, and the Italian Festival, and volunteered in the past as a member of the James Prendergast Library Book Sale Setup, Jamestown City Charter Commission, Jamestown Labor Day Festival, Roseland Accessible Playground Committee, Jamestown Safe Streets, and Team Mother for Babe Ruth Baseball

Why did you choose to run for office?

I decided to run for office to utilize my knowledge and experience and to be of continued service to the community. I have a passion for problem solving and helping people.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

I want to address housing and public safety issues as these are concerns that have already been brought to my attention by 4th Ward residents.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

I serve as an advocate to get the issues of residents brought before the City Council. As a member of the Council, we serve as the legislative body and set policy and pass the budget.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

Dealing with unfunded state mandates and addressing the escalating costs of healthcare, retirement pension contributions, and the property tax cap are the most important budget issues.

In order to lower costs, the city needs to streamline service delivery which could include partnering with neighboring municipalities as well as utilizing new technology. Recent budget meeting discussions also included better utilization of equipment buy back programs which could save the city a great deal of money in equipment maintenance and repairs.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

Yes. Through my work at Southwestern Independent Living Center and serving as the Chairperson of the Long Term Care Council, I have learned that it can be very difficult for older residents to age in place due to the shortage of accessible homes which are no longer adapted to their physical needs. While the city has some limited funds available to construct ramps, this problem could best be addressed in collaboration with other community organizations, such as the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation, and Northside Pride, as well as other faith based organizations. This might also work to prevent the decline of neighborhoods due to the loss of owner occupied housing.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Yes. While enforcement has increased as evidenced by the number of recent arrests, drug crimes will remain an ongoing issue as long as there is a market and people continue to buy illegal drugs. The only way to resolve this is to address it through education in our schools, churches, and neighborhoods as it has to be a community wide effort to eradicate it.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Yes, street maintenance and repairs. When I was appointed to the City Council in March, the most frequent calls I received had to deal with the condition of city streets and particularly Third Street between Hall and Hallock which I then passed on to city officials who made it a priority to get NYS Department of Transportation to repair it.

Economic development needs to be a high priority to generate new revenue. A new statewide initiatives such as Startup NY which is designed to attract new businesses to locate in areas surrounding community colleges may prove to be a great opportunity to expand employment and generate additional revenue for the city.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

As council members, we all need to make an effort to get into the neighborhoods and listen to their concerns. The dialogue needs to be ongoing so that residents are confident that their concerns are taken seriously and dealt with in a prompt manner.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

I believe that we all need to work together to find the best solutions and that includes the involvement and input of all our residents.

Jamestown City Council

At Large (Vote for 3)

Greg Rabb,

Democratic, Independence, Working Families parties

Kim Ecklund, Conservative and Independence Parties

George Spitale (Did Not Respond)

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Gregory P Rabb

Endorsements: Democratic, Independence, Working Families parties, Stonewall Democrats of WNY, Empire State Pride Agenda, Victory Fund

Age: 61

Family: Single with my two cats: Boots and Junius

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Professor JCC

Education: JD SUNY Buffalo, MUP University of IL, BA Canisius College

Civic Involvement: Member of the Board of Directors for the BPU and the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation/Former Chair of the city planning commission/former member of the county planning board/Current Public Co-chair of the Jamestown Strategic Planning and Partnership Commission

Elected Offices Held: President and Councilman at Large, Jamestown City Council

Why did you choose to run for office?

I decided to run for re-election to continue my work on improving our city not only downtown but especially in our neighborhoods. Jamestown is a great place to live and work and I hope to continue to make it even better through my work on implementation of the downtown and neighborhood revitalization plans. We have made much progress in my 6 years in office and I look forward to another two years of working together with our Mayor and the other council members.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected?

I want to continue improving the downtown and neighborhoods with an emphasis on growing our tax base through encouraging investment in existing and new businesses as well as by our homeowners. I would like to increase the percentage of houses in our city occupied by homeowners while still providing rental opportunities for those residents who want and need such an option.

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

A city councilman is elected to make decisions both with respect to the budget and local laws that will allow for our city to grow while providing city services as efficiently as possible. The job of a city councilperson is to represent the people of the city in all his/her deliberations in meetings at city hall. A city councilperson should be visible attending neighborhood and community functions so he/she is seen and is accessible to the community through phone, email, and personal contact. A councilperson should also be pro-active identifying concerns that he/she sees has about the community.

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

We need to work with the state to remove unfunded mandates and we need to grow our tax base. Only then can we reduce our expenditures while simultaneously increasing our revenues.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

Sadly, we have some housing that must be torn down as our current supply exceeds our demand. Looking at the greater Jamestown area housing market as a whole there should be a moratorium of new housing developments in the area unless matched by a decrease in supply. We need to expand downtown housing opportunities with the re-use of existing buildings and upper floors. We also need to restore the many beautiful older homes in Jamestown by helping renters to become owners.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Substance use is a serious problem destroying lives of the users and putting public safety workers in harms way. We need to reduce the demand through better education and drug treatment programs while expanding economic development opportunities. Only through a comprehensive approach involving families, schools, and churches can we solve the drug problem. Our police department is doing an excellent job but they need our help through resident involvement through activities such as neighborhood watch groups.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

Our work force after many reductions in force efforts by the Mayor supported by the council is stretched as thin as possible while working harder than ever to maintain our streets and parks as well as providing for our public safety. We have some equipment needs which are not being met even with an aggressive program of grant applications. In the long run other than attempting to seek more efficiencies the only solution is to grow our tax base so we have more revenue to pay for the services the taxpayers want and expect. We have an excellent work force doing their best to provide public services. They deserve our appreciation and support so that they can continue to do their work.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

The US is changing and the future belongs to communities which embrace diversity which includes race, gender, language, religion, and sexual orientation. Only by making it clear to all that Jamestown welcomes anyone who cares about our city and is willing to work to improve it will we be successful. Our seniors deserve our respect and help through our individual efforts as well as through organized efforts such as through churches and community groups. They built this fine community and deserve our gratitude and a well earned rest. We honor our seniors by continue to improve the community they built for us to enjoy.

How could city government improve the way it does its job?

Councilpersons should return calls and other messages as quickly as possible meeting in person with constituents when ever possible. Councilperson should visit neighbors, neighborhood events, and local businesses so they know what is going on and they know what needs their attention and improvement. City councilpersons are part time officials who sometimes must put in full time hours to improve our city.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Kimberly A. Ecklund

Endorsements: Republican, Conservative, Independence

Age: 45

Family: Husband Keith Ecklund

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Bush Industries, Inc.

Education: Graduated from Jamestown Community College and SUNY College at Fredonia

Civic Involvement: Babe Ruth World Series Board of Directors, Mentor through Chautauqua Striders, Former President of Neighborhood Watch Coalition, Former Board Member and Officer on the WCD Boys and Girls Club of Jamestown

Elected Offices Held: City Council At Large

Questions Unanswered:

Why did you choose to run for office?

What would you like to accomplish during your term if elected?

How would you describe the duties of a city councilperson?

What do you believe is the most important budget/fiscal issue facing the city? What ideas do you have for lowering the city's costs and reducing taxes?

The most difficult issues facing the City of Jamestown is the unfunded mandates and additional burdens placed on municipalities from the State and Federal Government. There are many other concerns for the city budget but with no relief in items such as NYS Retirement, contractual items and such it is going to be a difficult budget for 2014 and further. No stone should be left unturned for the budget process and cost savings initiatives.

Do you think there are unmet housing needs in Jamestown? If so, what are they and how would you address them?

There are many housing issues in the city but I am not sure if "unmet" is really a term I would use to describe them. We have a high number of rental properties in the city and unfortunately in today's economy it is becoming harder for people to keep and maintain their homes. There should always be a balance between enforcement and education. Educating new tenants/homeowners on rules and laws is a necessary step. The partnerships with the JRC and the Foundations have been a great step to the future of Jamestown and the neighborhood and housing concerns.

Jamestown has seen a steady increase in drug crimes over its recent history. Is it a concern for most residents of your ward and do you have suggestions for how the city can decrease its problem?

Drugs and crime are a concern for any resident. The decline in the economy, the availability of the drugs, the addiction and such all create a vicious cycle for the community and law enforcement. There are many contributing factors for the increase in crime/drugs in today's times. I would like to thank the residents for being aware of things and reporting them and in addition to the JPD for the tireless efforts to address these issues.

Are there any city services that you believe are underfunded? If so, how would you raise revenue or what services would you cut to pay for them?

There has to be a balance. Raising revenues on our residents through fees/etc. is no different in some ways than raising taxes. The big picture needs to be examined for the impact. If it were as simple as cutting one service to increase another I am sure it would have been done by now. Times are tough all the way around and some people want their taxes cut but don't want to decrease services. For instance the balance has to be made between fighting quality of life issues (drug and crime prevention/arrests) but cutting the Police Department services. This is a very deep question and not an across the board answer.

How can the city better work with and for its minority and senior citizen community?

Communication is vital to any improvement in the deliverance of services. Partnerships with other city agencies/departments that will help to provide services and address the concerns of these groups is vital. For instance if the Sr. Citizens are concerned about safety then a meeting with the JPD/Fire Dept and Neighborhood Watch leaders will help educate and inform. Bringing the right players to the table is the first step in improvement.

How could city government improve the way it does its job? If this is referring to elected city government then the best answer is to listen to the constituents, help them address their concerns, speak for the people and represent them to the best of ones ability. The minute one loses sight of this there is failure.