

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My administration has implemented efficiencies within our own government and initiated the sharing of services with our local municipalities, before Albany started calling for it.

I will be delivering Putnam County's 2019 Budget on October 3. Even after that budget, Putnam County will continue to have the lowest portion of any tax bill of any county in New York State. Kent has the highest tax rate of any town in Putnam. Should the Kent voters be kept guessing until after the election as to what my opponent has in store for them in 2019?

I am honored to be the Putnam County Executive and proud of what we have accomplished in the past seven years and hope that together we can continue to move Putnam County in a positive direction.

I ask that on Thursday, September 13, Conservative Party voters go to the polls and cast your vote for me to be their candidate Putnam County Executive.

MaryEllen Odell
PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Conservative for Fleming

To the Editor:

I have lived in Putnam County for 28 years. I'm a lifelong member of the Conservative Party. I'm writing in Maureen Fleming for Putnam County Executive in our Primary on Thursday, Sept. 13, and I want to encourage my fellow Conservative Party member to do the same thing. Here's why.

Over the years, I've watched as Putnam Republicans have overrun our party, pushing their candidates on us as if we were nothing but a branch of their party. We're not. I'm tired of them working behind the scenes with our party leadership, then telling us who we should back. We should be able to choose the candidates that we think represent us. Since MaryEllen Odell took

office in 2011, she has twisted our party values, our goals, and our choices into ones that best suit her needs and her party's needs. She talks big on issues she can't influence as county executive, like abortion and gun rights, to distract us from her rampant spending.

We know that one of the major Conservative platform planks is fiscal conservatism. MaryEllen Odell knows nothing about being a fiscal conservative. She borrows and spends with impunity, and wastes our tax dollars. Her record, time and time again, proves that.

MaryEllen Odell has continued to prioritize her needs over the taxpayers' needs. She's appointed her friends, supporters and their relatives to county jobs. She's given herself and her staff raise after raise. She has grossly overspent, and borrowed to support her spending habit. Putnam County residents are footing the bill. We can't afford four more years of MaryEllen Odell.

On Thursday, Sept. 13th, our party can choose our own candidate for ourselves. I'm choosing Maureen Fleming because I live in Kent and she has never raised my town taxes. Maureen has integrity, good intentions, and a record of slashing unnecessary spending.

It is time to drain the local swamp! Please join me in writing in Maureen Fleming on primary day.

Paul Roncallo
TOWN OF KENT

AG Should Get Back to Basics

Dear Editor:

This Thursday, Sept. 13th, there are Democrat and Reform Party Primary Elections for NYS Attorney General. When voting Thursday and in November, please remember what the responsibilities of this office are and what they are not. For 16 1/2 years I worked for the NYS Attorney General

Office, for Robert Abrams (D), G. Oliver Koppell (D), Dennis Vacco (R), and Eliot Spitzer (D). Back then, the AG's Office fulfilled its obligations to the People of the State of New York. In addition to defending state agencies that are sued, we fought for New Yorkers against elder fraud, consumer fraud and price gouging, enforced the Lemon Law, Antitrust Laws and protected consumers from bad businesses, including nursing homes and charities, and assisted in landlord/tenant disputes. These are just some of the responsibilities of the NYS Attorney General.

When I worked there, the Attorney General made sure that the prices of snow shovels and snow blowers didn't go up during a snow storm, or that the prices of air conditioners didn't go up in heat waves, that the price of generators or hotels didn't rise during power outages and we would even subpoena the rack prices of gasoline from Memorial Day to Labor Day to make sure the gas stations weren't price gouging in the summer, and the rack prices of oil from Labor Day to Memorial Day to make sure the oil companies weren't gouging in the winter time.

It is NOT the job of the NYS Attorney General to attack and undermine the President of the United States, or any other duly elected official, and it is NOT the job of the Attorney General to send attorneys paid by New York State taxpayers to the sites of day laborers to provide free legal advice, nor is it their job to distribute guidelines for communities to create Sanctuary Cities that violate federal and state law and refuse to cooperate with other law enforcement officials. Never once in the 16 1/2 years that I worked there did any of the above-named AG's involve themselves in national politics or defy federal law. Instead, together we partnered with national organizations and the Office of the President to protect consumers. I was

PERSPECTIVE

Colin Kaepernick, John Carlos and the Legacy of Being on the Right Side of History

I've had some private conversations with old acquaintances who are angry about Nike's Colin Kaepernick ads. It seems willful to not understand that civil protest is a right, and that the form/protest in question (taking a knee during the anthem) is about police killings of unarmed black people – not the flag, not the military. It seems determinedly

by
PETER M. LUPOFF

willful to ignore this fact and conflate the intent.

But to do so is comforting. The problems in our country, every place on the planet, are relentless. The American mythology we were taught as children isn't real, it's an objective, one still and always out of reach – like the math principal of asymptotes, at best we can improve but never achieve fully. It isn't easy to accept that at 50, 60, 70 years old or more, that things have not really improved much for people of color, and that in your lifetime, the American mythology rings false, or imperfect – that we all presided over glacial improvement.

So when we have our downtime, put on the tube, watch

The Game – the illusion in the perfection of a winner and loser, playing hard, playing fair, amidst the martial grandeur of the Anthem, massive flag and other pomp and circumstance, can be satisfying. So even now, in my armchair, in my home, I must be brought into the real world, to hear of unfairness?

Democracy is messy, worse yet when freedoms are not dispensed equally. It is our patriotic duty, no, opportunity, to seek perfection. If change has been glacial until now, we can still move ahead, as slow or as fast as time and wisdom allows.

But the black athlete taking the knee has it easy, their life is set, they're prima donnas. Easy would be taking your paycheck, shutting up and playing the game, taking endorsements, hoping for the best. Does it not strike you as heroic, if when, for the first time, you taste success and have visibility, you choose to put all that at risk (before we get to the additional hatred and physical risk) for some larger cause? Do you recall, or know of John Carlos and Tommie Smith at the 1968 Olympics? Your parents or grandparents probably lost their minds about that. They were vilified in that time and remembered as heroes today.

You might question the cal-

culus of Nike in running these ads. This is not the point here. Take the unpleasant moment to see the world through the lens of my lovely, nerdy 11-year old bi-racial child. We shuttle back and forth between here (Putnam Valley) and Brooklyn. Cold Spring and Brooklyn Heights, where he goes to school, might both be bucolic places, but my son, when walking to school for the first time without parents, gets stopped by a cop and asked where he's going.

Yeah, our soldiers are heroes, we love America, and we want the police to stop killing unarmed black people. These are not mutually exclusive concepts.

The answer is not redefine the message because it's easier to accept. You can be heroic in your grace, to acknowledge our imperfections and commit to improving upon them.

Colin Kaepernick's initial actions were civil, protected, and if they caused you anxiety, successful. Your decision to punish him/others for your anxieties, to willfully conflate the message, is on the wrong side of history.

It isn't right or left, it's right or wrong. Do you know the difference?

Peter M. Lupoff and his family have a home in Putnam Valley.

appalled when I called the office of Eric Schneiderman (D) and the telephone recording started with "Press 1 if you would like to file a complaint against President-elect (later President) Donald Trump". That is a blatant misuse of the office and taxpayers pay for that office and the salaries

of everyone who works there.

I watched the Democrat NYS Attorney General debate and all four candidates were very clear that they intend to continue the work of disgraced Eric Schneiderman (D), attacking and attempting to impeach the President. This November we must take back and restore

integrity to the Office of the NYS Attorney General and make sure they fight for us as law-abiding, taxpaying, legal citizens of New York State, instead of wasting our money and abusing their powers.

Cindy M. Trimble
COLD SPRING

MaryEllen Odell

for PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Integrity. Leadership. Experience

LOWEST

STAYED

REDUCED

SECURED

TACKLED

SUPPORTED

HONORED

PROTECTED

CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRIMARY

VOTE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARYELLEN ODELL