

Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers'
Address at Democratic Caucus in Oxford, CT

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The key word for November is RE-ELECT. We're not the challengers or the outsiders, we're the incumbents and we deserve to be back for two more years!

Our record is one to be proud of; one to share with all of you who have worked to help make progress happen in Oxford. All of you who volunteer your time without complaint; all of you who help keep taxes low in Oxford; who push for the best education for our kids; who think ahead of the curve in planning & zoning and supported extending sewers and water for industrial & commercial growth, I thank you. To all of you who publicize our positions through Letters to the Editor, I congratulate you. In all of the ways that sometimes go unnoticed by some, please know they are always noticed and appreciated by me.

We're a team to be reckoned with and we'll continue to be so. When you selected Dave and I to lead your efforts in 2007, you put your faith in us to do what we believed was right and good for **everyone** in the Town of Oxford. We've worked tirelessly, through the worst economic downturn, through unfounded political issues, through the game-playing and negativism of the opposition and we've never lost sight of WHY we have chosen this path and this place to be.

Of course our goal remains to make our hometown of Oxford a better place to live.

When I hear someone in town tell me that after spending their lives in Oxford, they were ready to move out if the Palmer/Haversat administration got back into office, I realized how difficult and gloomy things had become in this town. We don't want to go back there.....we'll work together to not go back there!

You know how far we've come and what we've accomplished over two years. Given two more years, we'll continue to run Oxford like a business. I've been heard to say, more than once—we can't control the weather or the economy, but we can control the direction of this town. Our direction is clear; our goals are many. We strive to bring commercial growth to Route 67 South and architecturally improve the gateway to Oxford; to provide the much needed services our residents are asking for and to work for realistic growth, not against it; to continue to build an economic balance between residential, commercial and industrial tax bases; to add to our open space; to present fair and honest budgets and to continue to work cooperatively with all boards & commissions. We'll continue to bring the message of Oxford to Hartford and Washington!

We'll remain flexible but firm, and face the good economic conditions or the bad; we'll listen and we'll continue to represent ideas that you bring to us. I recently heard a saying that fits me to a tee! **Keep your feet on the ground and your eyes on God**.....what a perfect way to say, BE REALISTIC AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

With your support and your help, I will, as your full-time First Selectman, continue to always keep my feet on the ground and my eyes on God and on Oxford.

Very truly yours,

Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers
Oxford First Selectman