TOWN OF CORTLANDT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR
TOWN HALL
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CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. 10567

LINDA D. PUGLISI
TOWN SUPERVISOR

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Swearing-In Ceremony
(January 5, 2014)

~ Linda D. Puglisi, Supervisor

Congratulations to our elected officials being sworn in today: Seth Freach, Debra Costello, JoAnn Dyckman, Gerald Klein, Mary Breining. I am very excited to work with all of them, as well as with Richard Becker, Francis Farrell and Daniel McCarthy.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as Cortlandt's Town Supervisor. I am grateful to the wonderful people in our community who have placed their trust in me over the past twenty-two years and now for this next term to be the Supervisor of our local government.

I promise to continue to work as hard as I can and to dedicate myself to our Cortlandt community, to maintain our lovely Town as not just a place, but as a Home for all of our residents and families.

Whenever I travel in our region I am always happy and have a sense of contentment when I return home to Cortlandt. I hope you feel the same way as well. It is a peaceful, beautiful and friendly community. We are fortunate to be situated on the majestic banks of the Hudson River and nestled between the hills of the Highlands and the valleys of the Croton Gorge.

I am pleased to tell you that during this twenty-two year administration we have preserved over 3,000 additional acres of land to add to our open space inventory. We have preserved our environment, ecology and bio-diversity including saving a 100 year old lake from being drained last year – the Furnace Dock Lake. We've closed outdated mines and have done everything possible to maintain the quality and integrity of our residential neighborhoods.

At the same time we have encouraged and supported our local shops and businesses. Last year we had a month long effort of Shop Cortlandt. This year we will emphasize, once again, an entire month of **Shop and Do Business** in Cortlandt; however every day is a Cortlandt Day! **Shop Local.**

We also have embraced our Veterans and will always fight to save and increase their services. We will not allow downsizing at the V.A. in the hamlet of

Montrose located in our Town. It has been located here for over sixty years and will remain. Our veterans fought for us and now we must fight for them.

Also, we have increased many services and programs for our seniors and for our youth, including a new Youth Center.

One of the most important services that I am very proud of is being part of initiating our 911 system and ALS/paramedic emergency service back in the mid 1990's. All of our emergency service providers most of them are volunteers are the backbone of our community and we thank all of these dedicated men and women.

Preserving our history, supporting our cultural endeavors, enhancing the beauty and identity of Cortlandt and the successes of our local economy are all very important to us and we will continue our efforts to assist them.

As I have said many times before our priority at all times has been to keep our town spending and taxes as low as possible in order to assist our citizens. I am very proud of our team's record. Here are the facts: Over twenty-two years our town tax increase record is 1% in **total**; we never have had a deficit and always have had a surplus, every year!

It can be done; we have worked hard to accomplish this good tax record and will always do the same in the future. This fiscal record not only helps our residents, but our business owners, as well. We are the original tax cap government!

In summary, Cortlandt is a very special place to live; the community where we raise our children and where we give them the environment to grow and flourish. What could be more important? Our seniors can stay here after they retire because of our low town taxes and due to our many senior services and also, for the affordable senior housing of which we've supported throughout the years. Our young people can start their adult lives in Cortlandt and raise their families here, as well.

Thank you once again to my family. I am very proud of all of them. I thank my parents. My late Father and my mother always taught me to give back to your community. I have tried my best to live up to that advice and will continue to do so with your support. We have more to do and it's going to be a great year.

Thank you to my colleagues on the Town Board, to our department heads and to all of our employees and thank you to our Cortlandt community.

Linda D. Pugliesi

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