

Letter to the editor April 2014:

A recent letter to the editor in this paper referred to Kittery as “a bypassed village” and suggested that the proposed 5,000 seat performance venue would have helped put Kittery on the map as “an exciting destination.” But Kittery doesn’t need to become more of a destination. It is already a place of value: a community.

Vibrant and verdant, Kittery is rooted in the local. This is an identity the town is cultivating with its new community center, thriving local businesses, and locally promoted art scene. In Kittery there is a strong sense of place that is rich in scenic, historic, ecological, and recreational value—natural and local. Kittery doesn’t need something imposed on it from the outside to make it worth visiting.

Anyone who frequents Kittery’s popular “Gourmet Alley” along Rte. 1 or its excellent, well-patronized restaurants in the Foreside knows that to bypass Kittery is to miss out on top quality food and dining. These businesses and other places where Kittery and non-Kittery residents gather—The Dance Hall, Buoy, The Star Theater, Kittery Art Association—have been locally conceived and tended.

Kittery is creating its own sustaining vision. It is one that makes this a town increasingly interesting to visit, but more important, great to live in. It’s a different kind of investment, which reflects the values of community and considers what it means to thrive. And it isn’t hard to see right now that Kittery is certainly thriving.

Letter of the editor October 2019:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Karen [REDACTED] being elected to the Kittery School Committee. It is hard for me to think of a better qualified candidate, both personally and professionally.

Karen’s firsthand knowledge and investment in the Kittery schools comes from being the parent of two sons who started at the Mitchell School in kindergarten and graduated from Traip Academy last year. As an active and wonderfully approachable member of our community, Karen’s supportiveness is one of her hallmarks. She has demonstrated her commitment to the Kittery Schools in numerous, positive ways: serving on the Parent Advisory Group for Competency Based Learning, coaching Odyssey of the Mind, being a co-advisor for Traip’s Civil Rights Team, and working the concession stand at school plays. Serving on the School Committee would be only the latest way Karen would roll up her sleeves for the benefit of our schools.

Smart, energetic, and informed, Karen has the added advantage of her extensive experience as an educator. Along with her master's degrees in education and social work, Karen has worked inside the classroom, at the state level, and most recently by facilitating effective teaching. Her stated priorities are grounded in all these relevant experiences.

It is one thing to theorize about what the Kittery schools need. It is another to be a parent and educator who has an appreciation of what the Kittery Schools have to offer and a realistic awareness of how they could be strengthened. This is why we need Karen on the School Committee and why she is well positioned to be effective from day one.