

## Smithtown councilwoman announces bid for supervisor

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Standing on the steps at Town Hall yesterday, Smithtown Democratic Councilwoman Patricia Biancaniello formally announced her candidacy for supervisor, and introduced two other candidates who will run on the same ticket for town board seats.

"It is through my interaction with you, the people of Smithtown, that I came to realize that we have grown weary of a town government that has become mired in endless investigations, taxes that are too high and Main Streets that look much as they did 30 years ago, only now 30 years older," she said.

She introduced two Democratic town board candidates: Craig Tortora, a lawyer from Commack, and Mark Mancini, an architect from Smithtown who sits on the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce board.

Mancini said he and other business owners have been frustrated by slow progress on downtown revitalization because of what he called a lack of leadership. "I believe Patricia Biancaniello is going to start that, and I want to be there to support her," he said.

Tortora said struggling small-business owners don't get enough incentives from the town to stay. "Government is about all of us, not just a select few," he said.

Biancaniello said the "lack of transparency in Smithtown is legendary," and she wants meetings to be more open forums for discussion on town matters.

Patrick Vecchio, supervisor for more than 30 years, said he would not comment because he has not yet announced his candidacy for re-election.

Biancaniello pointed across the street to partly demolished buildings on Main Street that were recently taken down in apparent defiance of a stop-work order. "One has only to look across the street to understand that something has gone terribly wrong in Smithtown," she said.