

Citizens Of the Year

Judy Gilmartin-Willsey



Photo by Bill Madden

Judy displaying her Frosty support

A vibrant and active presence in town and on Main Street for almost 30 years, Armonk's 2018 Citizen of the Year, Judy Gilmartin-Willsey, could star in her own movie right in her shop window. Judy, and her equally vibrant husband Carter, are the proprietors of Framings, a long-time downtown fixture.

Ever since coming to Armonk, Judy has been involved with its civic life; although residents of White Plains, Judy and Carter ostensibly call Armonk home. Actively supporting the construction of Armonk Square, Judy made a memorable plea before the town's Planning Board. Having co-founded the Armonk Chamber of Commerce (along with Debra La Gravinese and Ed Woodyard) in 2004, the Chamber now gets to honor its own "Ms. Main Street" for her years of dedicated service to the organization and the hamlet of Armonk.

As new parents of daughter Frannie, and recent escapees from Madison Avenue, they decided to open a frame shop similar to that of her parents. "Armonk was the only place that had the right feel for bringing up Frannie in a frame shop." Another key to their success was dedicating themselves

to high-end quality framing, a risk right after Black Monday in 1987, when the conventional wisdom was for a value-based bargain shop. "All of those stores have gone out of business. Quality reigns!" Framings has framed everything from family photos, to signed uniforms, to Caldera and Picassos.

The first Framings store opened on Bedford Road in 1989, moving to a location which is now part of the DeCicco's parking lot, and finally to their strategic corner location on Main Street in 1996. Five years earlier, Judy involved herself with the formation of the Winter Walk, which evolved into Frosty Day in 2008, with the Framings family and staff hosting hot cider and holiday treats in their store every year during the festivities.

Judy became a driving force behind Frosty Day, as a founding board member of the Friends of Frosty Inc., overseeing the eager participation of businesses and merchants in the day's events. Through the years, she has collected historic Frosty items for her Frosty Museum, displayed in the store every winter.

During warmer weather, Judy can be seen pedaling around town on her bicycle. However, she refuses to acknowledge that she is channeling Almira Gulch in *The Wizard of Oz*, since she is too busy saying hi to people and singing a favorite tune or practicing for an upcoming performance with her a capella group, The Grace Notes. She also serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

An active proponent for the Armonk business community, Judy endorses the positive energy that independent retailers bring to the hamlet. As such, she is an enthusiastic town ambassador; her cheerful demeanor and positive outlook on life make her Armonk's own Pollyanna.



Judy in her element

Armonk Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year Golf Outing and Dinner

May 15th, 2018, Whippoorwill Club, Armonk.

Visit armonkchamberofcommerce.com for details