

# Molinaro Best Choice For County Executive

With no disrespect to Dan French, Marc Molinaro is an easy pick to be Dutchess County's next executive. If public service was a university, Molinaro would have his master's degree and be working on his doctoral dissertation.

He began his career as the youngest mayor in the nation, serving 12 years in that position in Tivoli. He then spent six years in the county Legislature before being elected to the Assembly in 2006.

During that time, he has demonstrated an ability to get things done without the hard edge of partisanship. That's an appealing characteristic in a political leader in these increasingly fractious times.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo recognized this trait and asked Molinaro to join his transition team and continues to seek his advice on fiscal matters.

Current county executive, Bill Steinhaus, has done an excellent job on many levels and leaves the county in a strong financial condition. Molinaro's track record indicates he will follow a similar path of fiscal conservatism while working with Democrats in the minority.

French has been an impressive and ambitious supervisor of Beekman the last two years, but that's the rub. French simply doesn't have the experience to take the helm during such difficult economic times, nor does he have the relationships in Albany so necessary to make an effective case for Dutchess County.

We hope Dan French continues to stay involved at some level, but for Dutchess County in 2011, it's Marc Molinaro.