I have lived in Sharon Springs for 49 years. However I grew up In Montgomery Couunty living in Marshville with my family.

I still know many people in the Mohawk Valley. One of the people I know and have great respect for is Jeff Smith who is a candidate for Montgomery County Sheriff in this fall's election.

I served as Schoharie County Sheriff from 2010 until 2018. During some of this time Jeff was the Montgomery County Undersheriff. Jeff and I spoke many times about what was going on regarding police work in both counties. A few times I called on Jeff for some advice. He always was willing to help and provided the answers I needed.

What really stood out about Jeff's input and desire to help occurred after the flood of August 28, 2011. The flood caused great damage to the Schoharie Valley including destroying the county jail.

Jeff was in contact with me on a regular basis offering help and ideas to get the jail up and running. However things did not work out and Schoharie still has no jail. But this was not Jeff's fault as he had no control over the funding. .

After Jeff left the Sheriff's Officeand became the Director of Montgomery County Emergency Management Office we remained in contact. On occassion I would respond to incidents that occurred in Montgomery County and again observed how well Jeff handled every situation.

I continued to have great respect for Jeff's desire and ability to handle serious problems in a very professional manner.

He has been a volunteer firefighter in Fort Plain where he also served as Fire Chief.

Jeff Smith has gained experience in all phrases of emergency and police operations which have prepared him well to be an outstanding County Sheriff.