

Inside the Chamber

The Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit agency formed on March 13, 1950. The Chamber's board has nine volunteer board members. All serve two-year terms with five members being voted-on in odd years and four members being voted-on in even years. The main purpose of the Chamber is to promote growth and tourism in the Ellenville-Wawarsing area. This year, 2002, the Chamber has been involved in many different events and committee activities, such as:

Holiday Lighting Committee: This is a joint-venture of the *Noonday Club* and the Chamber. This committee is responsible for hanging, storing, and replacing the holiday lights. To date, these lights are hung in Ellenville, Wawarsing, Napanoch, and Kerhonkson. The committee is exploring the possibility of expanding into other parts of our town. They also just held a successful fundraiser to help offset the cost of the replacement lights. The holiday lights will be hung this year on November 30.

Holiday Tree Lighting: As a standing tradition, the Chamber puts a Christmas tree downtown in the Village and has a tree-lighting ceremony, complete with Christmas carols and refreshments.

Banners and Flags: This is another joint-venture project of the *Noonday Club* and the Chamber. This committee is in charge of hanging, storing, and maintaining the different flags and banners hung seasonally throughout Ellenville and Napanoch. There are fundraisers to offset the cost of purchasing new flags. (Have your purchased your commemorative knife yet? Contact the Chamber for more info.)

Planters: These wooden flower boxes are put in front of volunteering Chamber Business Members' storefronts. The boxes are stored and planted by *Country Flowers*. The painting and repair work is done by Chamber Members, *Samaritan Village*, and other volunteers.

Harvest Music Festival: This is an annual street fair and music event, featuring many vendors, musical groups, plus entertainment for the kids. This year, the *Town of Wawarsing* sponsored the event. Next year, 2003, we will be modifying the event and its focus, so stay tuned for the updates.

Harvest Horse Show: This is a growing event located at the *HITS* grounds at **Kelly's Farm** property. It is a jumping and show competition with awards offered in many different categories. The proceeds from this show are put into a scholarship award for students graduating from *Ellenville Central School* for their college career. This past year, we awarded two \$500 recipients, Nadine Brooks and Alvaro Urquia.

Pride Committee: This ever-vigilant group produces "Music in the Square" each year... great LIVE music every Saturday evening in **Liberty Square**, through the month of July. Bring your chair

and sunglasses and enjoy the early evening's FREE entertainment! Refreshments are always available. The committee is also working on the 2006 *Town of Wawarsing 200th Anniversary* celebration. This promises to be a gala series of wonderful events that YOU can help bring to fruition! Contact the Chamber for ways to help out!

Blueberry Festival: This event is organized by organic farmer John Adams, and was sponsored this year by the Chamber. The event showcases blueberries in many different ways... a pie baking/tasting contest, pottery, music, and more. Also featured was a book-signing by local author and Ridge expert Marc B. Fried; his book recalls the era when huckleberry pickers lived and worked up on Shawangunk Ridge.

Weekend Wonder: This was a four-minute segment on TV Channel 4 (WNBC) news about some things people looking for a weekend getaway could do in our town! The Chamber set up the tour to *Ice Caves*, *Sam's Point*, *The Nevele Grande Hotel*, Hang Gliding, and the *Shadowland*. It did our area proud and, if you didn't catch the production live, the Chamber has a copy. (We're also going to try to get this "digitized" and put on our website!)

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program): Volunteers from this organization work in the Chamber office, answering phones and greeting visitors. This past year we had five volunteers – Harriet Bowler, Mable Garritt, Helen Goldsmith, Elaine Rivenburg, and Mary Wolf. We thank these ladies for giving us their valuable time and maintaining our office.

Jet Wave Committee: This is a new committee looking at the economic and business growth of the Village. The committee has just completed its study, and will be forming groups to follow the progress of the study. The Chamber will play an integral part in this process. Stay tuned for updates.

Community AdviseMENT ENYCF: This is a Correctional Facility committee that meets several times a year to talk about what is happening in the facility and the surrounding area. The Chamber has representation in this committee.


Wurtsboro Renaissance Project: The Wurtsboro Board of Trade did a smaller version of the County-Wide Renaissance beautification project. The Chamber President, Immediate Past President, and Past President were judges for this project.

Wawarsing.Net: Our newest Chamber endeavor. This is a FREE magazine, published monthly, with an online version, featuring positive articles, calendar of events, and general "good news" about the community, its businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Membership: Presently, we have 127 business members and four personal members. Membership is \$25 per year for personal and non-profit membership, and \$50 per year for business membership. Through your membership, your Chamber can offer you ↗

excellent health insurance with MVP and GHI/HMO at competitive prices. Along with that, the members are constantly working on positive ways to promote and better the area community, as demonstrated by the above projects. We meet the **first Tuesday** of each month at the **Chamber Office on Berme Road at 7:30 am**. Bring your own coffee and join us!

If you haven't joined us yet, now is the time to consider it. Our membership year is January through December. If you are thinking about placing an ad with us, consider this: members receive a 5% discount on top of multi-run discounts! Therefore, the discount, which we will apply starting with the January issue, if you join in December for 2003, can even pay for your entire membership!

Call Red Roudis, secretary to the Chamber, at **845-647-4620** and she will gladly meet with you or send an application. Or use the application in this magazine on the bottom of the next page, or soon to be posted at our new, revamped Chamber website at: www.EllenvilleWawarsingChamberOfCommerce.com, as well as the online version of this magazine at www.Wawarsing.Net. 

An Application to join the Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce is on the bottom of the next page; please fill it out, detach it, and send it in to renew, or become a new 2003 Member!

Wawarsing Bicentennial

March 14, 2006 will mark the 200th anniversary of the Town of Wawarsing. Plans to commemorate this event with a 6-month-long celebration in 2006 are already underway. The **Town of Wawarsing** has asked the Chamber's **Pride Committee** of the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce** and several citizens to be the lead group to organize the celebration. Work has already begun on a commemorative journal to highlight the history, significant events, collectibles, and landmarks of each of our town's hamlets, in words and pictures. Numerous community festivals and events are planned as well.

The Committee's hope is to keep our past alive and focus on what continues to make our town a great place. Suggestions and ideas on ways to celebrate this important event can be sent in to:

Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce, Att: Dr. Mark Craft, PO Box 227, Ellenville NY 12428, or email to 2006@Wawarsing.Net.

The following quantities of Commemorative Knives are still available for sale; call the Chamber:
1 – 1998 Ellenville US Post Office
5 – 1999 Scoresby Club House
14 – 2000 Elks Lodge
26 – 2001 D&H Ticket Office (Chamber Office) 

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