

Inside the Chamber

Ellenville - Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 227 * Ellenville, NY 12428 * 845-647-4620

I was filled with pride attending the recent Ulster County Music Educators Festival. Three of my favorite musicians performed over the three weekends in this year's Festival.

At the Elementary Festival, my daughter played the recorder. My son played the alto sax in the Instrumental Festival. My niece sang in the Choral Festival. There were many other students from Ellenville who also performed with style. Our music faculty, which includes my sister, was integral to the success of this event.

Our neighbor school, Rondout Valley SD, was extremely well represented by both their students and faculty. We have much to be proud of with both these schools' programs representing all and parts of the Town of Wawarsing. The musicians were not only talented, but also demonstrated maturity beyond their years.

Music is just part of what these students are learning. These musicians learn time management. They must juggle their time to include schoolwork, music practice, other school interests and, of course, their friends. Such organizational skills are best learned at an early age. It is not too early for my fourth-grade daughter to be introduced to this idea.

These young people also experience the importance of working together. In sports, it is called teamwork. In music, the various sections of the group must perform their parts well for the entire group to accomplish their task... a great performance.

Interacting with others and interpersonal skills are other valuable experiences learned by our students. Rehearsal time was limited. For these concerts to be as good as they were, the interactions between the musicians were important for success.

When you think about what these young people learn from music festivals, you realize why these events are so important. Time management, hard work, dedication, the ability to work with others and interpersonal skills are all attributes of a strong leader. Our leaders of tomorrow must be developed and encouraged today. Leadership is not an accident; it is not genetic; and it must be taught. While the home is where children encounter their first leaders, the schools are the natural place for the qualities of leadership to be reinforced.

If you are curious about who tomorrow's leaders will be, attend your local school's concerts, ballgames, spaghetti suppers, and dramatic performances. You don't even have to be a parent to appreciate the efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Craft

President

The 2003 Board of Directors of the Chamber:

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Dianne Turner, Vice President, WAGS

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The Chamber is in the final stages of organizing the year's activities. Countless hours are spent in planning our activities.

This is your last chance to enter the *Town of Wawarsing Bicentennial Celebration* logo competition, with a \$100 award for the winning logo. All entries should be mailed to: **Pride Committee, Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 227, Ellenville, NY 12428**, or delivered to the Chamber office at **Berme Road & Canal Street**. Any questions regarding the logo competition may be directed to Mrs. Marion Dumond at 647-7621.

Look for our planters to appear around town as soon as the weather warms in May.

An Open Meeting is still tentatively scheduled for **June 4th**. The exact time of day and location has yet to be determined; look for confirmation in the next issue. The casino would certainly be a major topic of discussion. This event would be open to **Chamber** members and all others.

H.I.T.S. will be back for two shows this year before they leave us for Saugerties. The Kelly family and *H.I.T.S.* have been kind enough to allow us use of the farm and facilities for our past Horse Shows. We are awaiting confirmation of a date from *H.I.T.S.* so that we may finalize our plans for this year's show.

The Chamber's Pride Committee is locking in music groups for July's *Music in the Square*. Monthly meetings planning the *Town of Wawarsing's Bicentennial Celebration* continue. Beginning this year, Christmas ornaments with etched pictures of area churches will be offered. Cragmoor's **Stone Church** and Napanoch's Reformed Church (no longer standing) will be our first ornaments. We are also investigating sources to produce tapestry tote bags with the image of **Liberty Square** on them. Sales of these items will help fund the six-month-long celebration.

Speaking of items for sale, the *Chamber* still has the following quantities of annual commemorative knives available: 2002 (23); 2001 (21); 2000 (11); 1999 (3).

Mark your calendar, **Saturday, August 23rd**, for the joint venture of the *Blueberry Festival and Harvest Festival*. Any local organization interested in hosting a blueberry pancake breakfast the morning of the festival, please contact committee Chairperson Dianne Turner, at WAGS pet store.

Effective organizations have effective workers behind the scenes. Red Roudis, our office secretary for some time, has been an integral part of the *Chamber's* success. We are looking for a person to help Red 10 – 12 hours a week... someone who can type, use a computer, assist in correspondence, and help keep us organized. If interested, send a letter of introduction to the **Chamber Office at PO Box 227, Ellenville, New York 12428**. 



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