

Down the Road

Horse Show Facility Proposed

(This is an edited version of a proposal presented to the Wawarsing Town Board April 17th. For additional information, or if you have any questions, contact Dawn Clayton at quickclayton@yahoo.com.)

The Town of Wawarsing Town Board has been presented with a formal proposal to create a multi-event/horse show facility at **Lippman Park** in the hamlet of Wawarsing, New York. The proposed facility was designed primarily to accommodate horse shows, but offers the room and flexibility to host a large variety of events. The driving motivation behind this proposal is to create a permanent home for the *Harvest Festival Horse Show* created by the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce**. The *Harvest Festival Horse Show* has not only attracted attention of local horse enthusiasts, but also generated revenue for a donation to the *Ellenville Regional Hospital* and a Scholarship Program. As many of you know, the *Horse Shows in the Sun* (or *HITS*) program is in the process of developing a state-of-the-art horse show facility in Saugerties, New York, and will not be returning to the Ellenville area next year. Without the proper facility, the *Harvest Festival Horse Show* will have to be moved to an appropriate facility or eliminated. Facilities are available in Grahamsville, New Paltz, Woodstock, Monticello, Montgomery, Newburgh, and Port Jervis, but nothing in this area.

The proposal highlights the important fact that all of the above listed towns offer horse show facilities, yet there is nothing comparable here in the Town of Wawarsing. The proposal also highlights the fact that this facility is truly multi-purpose, allowing a large variety of events. Craft fairs, horse shows, dog shows, tractor/machinery shows, barbecues, barndances, specialty events, and re-enactments are only examples of events that can be offered by creating the proper facilities. With proper management, funds can be generated to cover expenses, create an income for additional improvements, and create jobs in this area.

The main facility proposal includes a 200 x 300-foot main arena, a second 150 x 200-foot arena, a secretary/announcers' booth, bleachers for spectators, shade trees, a kitchen/utility area, bathrooms with showers, a large covered pavilion, access to water and electric, and a public address system. The proposal offers a suggested break-down into phases for development, and also includes areas for camper hook-ups and stabling facilities for overnight or weekend events.

The proposal includes information regarding creating revenue for both the Town of Wawarsing and local organizations like the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce**, job creations and descriptions, and background information from other facilities. Information, economic impact, and attendance statistics from the *Horse Shows in the Sun* (*HITS*), a 2002 class listing from the New York State Fair International Horse Show, and promotional material for facility rentals from facilities in other states was also included as examples of multi-purpose facilities, their uses, and rental fees.

The creation of a multi-event/horse show facility can only highlight the Town of Wawarsing and the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce**. The benefits of creating a central and publicly-owned facility for large gatherings will strengthen community spirit and growth. 🌱

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