

Village Views

by Jeffrey Kaplan, Mayor, Village of Ellenville

Government For The People

There's an old saying that goes, "He who governs least, governs best." Although this saying was meant to advocate a principle of less government, I also believe it can have a totally different meaning.

While I am sensitive to the argument that we have too many layers of government – and that it would be in the Village residents' best interest to dissolve the Village of Ellenville, to save duplication of taxes and services – the size of our rural Village community allows our Village government to focus on the needs of its population in a manner that governments serving larger populations and regions can not. The *Senior Safety Program* instituted by our *Ellenville Police Department* and our *Village Board Neighborhood Walks* are two such programs.

Under the supervision of Paul Craft of the *Ellenville Police Department*, senior citizens residing within the Village can sign up with the Police Department to call the Department on a daily basis. Should they fail to call, they'll receive a personal visit at their residence from Officer Craft or another Ellenville Police Officer to ensure they are all right. This creative approach to ensuring the safety of our Village senior citizens would be impossible to duplicate in a jurisdiction where there are many more senior citizens in a larger geographical area.

Our *Village Board Neighbor Walks*, which started on **Maple Avenue** on Tuesday, May 27th not only gives the Village Board a first-hand view of the conditions of our streets and neighborhoods, but is a means to bring government to the people at a time when many are skeptical of the ability of government to respond to their needs and problems. The program will continue at **5:00 PM** before each regularly-scheduled Board meeting, weather permitting. A list of the scheduled locations of the Neighborhood Walks will be posted at the **Village Hall, Town Hall, Post Office, Ellenville Library**, as well as published in the local newspapers, and included with quarterly water and sewer bills. Please make every effort to join us on these walks so we can discuss your problems and concerns, especially if you are unable to attend our regularly-scheduled Board meetings.

Voter turnout and participation in government continues to decline at an alarming rate. Your Ellenville Village Board is dedicated to attempting new and creative means to ensure our government responds to the needs of our people and helps improve the quality of life for all our Village residents. ✨



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HOURS:

MON-FRI. 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT. 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM