

# Village Views

by Elliott Auerbach, Village Manager, Ellenville

On Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at the *Ellenville Public Library and Museum*, Reverend Julius Collins will be this year's honored recipient of the *Joseph Y. Resnick Community Service Award*. Congressman Resnick defined community service through both his public and private endeavors, and played an important role in defining the area in the twentieth century.

The U.S. Army's loss was Ellenville's gain when Master Sergeant Julius Collins heard the call to preach in 1989, and this community, along with the Congregation at *Shiloh Baptist Church*, is sure glad he answered.

The Reverend's journey to Ellenville began in the Texas panhandle town of Santa Anna, and traversed Ohio, Kansas, and New Jersey, with detours in Korea and Germany before he arrived here a decade ago. Pastor Collins, his wife Vernice, and his three daughters were a twenty-two-year military family who called Highland Falls and West Point home until he preached his first sermon at Shiloh in 1992.

Upon his arrival, Reverend Collins, who had a background in television and sound production, rolled up his sleeves and became immersed in his new hometown. He has served as a member of the *Ellenville Central School Board* for the past nine years and remains an active founding member of the *African-American Men's Association*. In his spare time, Pastor Collins sits on the board of the *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, is president of the *Ellenville-Wawarsing Clergy Association*, is a member of the *Ellenville Noonday Club*, the *Ulster County Community Action Board*, the *Sullivan-Wawarsing Rural Economic Area Partnership*, the *Ellenville Local Development Corporation* and actively participates in his Church's community soup kitchen every Wednesday.

Julius Collins has graced our community for ten years and continues to nurture it with his daily commitment to see it flourish. He deservedly reflects the spirit of the *Joseph Y. Resnick Community Service Award*. 



Village officials lead the way at the June 9<sup>th</sup> walk along Warren St., starting at Church St. From left to right: Trustees Earthia Nixon & Erma Gil, Housing Inspector Nordeen Pickell, Village Manager Elliott Auerbach, Mayor Jeff Kaplan, Lt. Mike Doria, Town Historian John Unverzagt, Trustee RuthAnn Gunter, Chief Phil Mattracion, Trustee Ray Younger, Reporter William Doster, and Village Building Code Enforcement Officer Brian Schug.

## Neighborhood Walks Progress

A series of *Neighborhood Walks* have begun, allowing Village officials and residents a chance to take stock of the condition and appearance of several selected streets in Ellenville, focussing on buildings that may need structural or cosmetic work to meet code requirements or to simply cease being as much of a public detraction.

The first walk, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, covering the east half of **Warren Street**, was instructive in several ways. Town Historian John Unverzagt pointed out that this street was older than **Maple Avenue**, with houses dating back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, including a hotel frequented by D & H canawlers. A mix now of single-family homes and multiple rentals, a key finding was that owner-occupied rentals were more likely to be well-maintained and attractive than those owned by absentee landlords.

Code Enforcement Officer Brian Schug explained how various code violations were dependent on, for example, how long a rental unit has been vacant or prior use history. Possible changes or updates to the village's zoning code may come out of the first-hand experience the Village Board gains from these visits.

The community walks will take place on the second and fourth Monday of every month (weather permitting) at **5:00 PM**. The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- July 14, 2003 – **Center Street**, west from Main to White Street.
- July 28, 2003 – **Elm Street**, east from Market to Siegel Drive.
- August 11, 2003 – **Lincoln Street**, east.
- August 18, 2003 – **Canal Street**, west from Yankee to Main Street. 

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