

# Town Topics

by Richard Craft, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing

## THE BIG BANG!

I don't know about you, but I like nothing better than a big parade. Apart from Christmas, which has its own unique charm and purpose, I don't know of another holiday that brings out any more heartfelt feelings of goodwill than does the Fourth of July. The "4<sup>th</sup>" brings out a pride in our country, which, in spite of some negative points, is still the best country there is in this entire world.

Thanks to a hard working July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee, which functions all year round, the town has been in a celebrating mode for some time. It started several weeks ago with a patriotic concert at the **Ellenville School**, performed by our friends in the Pine Bush Community Band.

July 4<sup>th</sup> dawned bright, sunny, and hot as the parade began on **Yankee Place**, down **Canal Street**, up **Center** and down **Canal**, past the reviewing stand at **Liberty Square** and back to **Maple Avenue**. By my watch, the parade took 1½ hours and it was a real treat.

Our special announcer for the day was Bob Mangels, formerly of *WELV*, now the proud owner of his own radio station in the southern-tier region of New York. My favorite float was entered by the *Shawangunk Garden Club* and featured a large evergreen tree festooned with yellow ribbons and, of course, lots of flowers. There was the very subdued *Leurenkill Fire Company* (don't call them, they'll call you), bands, trucks, fire companies, and all manner of public organizations. It was a great parade.

Much more could be said about the parade, but it is the BIG BANG I want to concentrate on. At 9:30 PM, a salvo rang across our valley that literally lifted you off your seat. Rather than have a fireworks display with puny 3"-5" shells exploding a hundred feet off the ground, we went with 8"-12" shells that rocketed hundreds of feet in the air and could be clearly seen from Ellenville to Napanoch. Anyone sitting along **Rte. 209** had a ringside seat. The finale was spectacular in red, white, and blue, and left us all standing and clapping.


I'll let you in on a little secret. While last year's show was good, this year's was even better. You want to know why? Because we increased our budget for just the fireworks to \$9000. I'm hoping that next year will take it up another notch. After all, it's only once a year, and we all deserve one BIG BANG!

I can't wait!

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