

Town Topics

by Richard Craft, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing

Special Citizens, Special People

Once every year, the *Ellenville Noonday Club* honors its *Citizen of the Year*. For the past thirty years, a local citizen or organization is given that designation for service to their community. It is a most coveted prize and signifies the heartfelt thanks of an entire community for an unsung job or position that has improved our quality of life. The only non-eligible candidates are current elected officials.

The Town of Wawarsing and the Village of Ellenville are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of eligible candidates and the potential list shows no sign of dwindling.

Review with me if you will the list of past honorees:

We started in 1962 and honored Jean Craft for her work with the Girl Scouts. Today Jean is holding two full time jobs and still contributing much to her community. In addition there are quite a number who have passed on, but of those who are still active in community affairs there are: Robert Berger, Paul Craft, Dave Swinden, Earl & Karen Thornton, Rubin Cohen, Helen Winer, Ernie Bollin, Bob Mangels (since moved, but here in spirit), Bill Collier Sr., Rhoda and Irwin Stern (Irwin has passed away but Rhoda still comes up summers), Robert Kuhlmann, Philip Coombe Jr., Joan Glusker Beck, Louis Resnick and Ed Jacobs, both generous benefactors to our community, must be mentioned even though both have passed away.

The organizations honored include the Fire Companies in the Town, the *Ellenville First Aid & Rescue Squad*, the *Shawangunk Garden Club*, the *Ellenville Central*

School Music Department, the *Ellenville Community Hospital Auxiliary*, the Ellenville-area hotels, *Imperial Schrade*, Manfred Schroeder and *VAW*, the *Ellenville Public Library*, and the local *Lions Club* and *Elks Lodge*.

The contributions of each of these honorees tell a lot about the character of our town.

Each in their own way has brightened the corner where they live and work, and the entire community has been the beneficiary. These are true "citizens of every year," and each year we are reminded of their contribution. These are the people worth listening to.

We are a blessed community. Thanks also goes to those of you who labor tirelessly in your own way to make our town a better place in which to live, work, and play. Perhaps, someday, each of you will be so honored. In the meantime, why not join us on **September 16th** at the *Hudson Valley Resort Hotel* as we recognize the *Shadowland Summer Equity Theater* as the *2002 Citizen of the Year*. Tickets may be obtained by calling Fran Wolfe at **647-9059** or Town Hall at **647-6570**. The cost of \$35 per person includes an open bar, which begins at **5:30 PM**, and dinner is at **6:30 PM**. See you there!

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