

Town Topics

by Richard Craft, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing

The Berries Did It!

For years, the *Chamber of Commerce* has been trying to find their zone when it comes to street fairs. I think they hit a home run this year when blueberries were added to the menu.

The day began with a very successful blueberry pancake breakfast hosted by the *Pioneer Engine Company*. Clusters of blue balloons dotted our main streets. One-hundred-twenty-five blueberry pies were shipped in from the City and, at \$2 per slice, they were gone by mid-afternoon.

All you had to do was walk down **Canal Street** and note the increased number of vendors over last year. This had to indicate that they knew they were at a winner. The attendance was much higher than last year and once again the *Chamber* is to be commended for selecting a time of year before the street fair season. From my perspective, business was brisk and everyone had a good time. It is my humble opinion that the berries made the difference... the berries did it.

During the blueberry pie judging contest, a major municipal agreement was made between the village and the town. Both Mayor Kaplan and yours truly have decreed that these food contests should be more frequent. To that end, we have appointed ourselves as a permanent committee of two (*photo, above right*), with another judge added from the general population. Since Herb Kaplan did such a good job finishing up what his son didn't eat, it was also determined that he would serve as an alternate judge in the event the additional member didn't show up.

A short list of food contests could include: a southern-fried-chicken contest, the best-decadent-chocolate-cake bake-off, the return-of-the-borscht-belt contest, an apple-pie-roundtable (with us sitting at the round table), the ideal meatball (one of my continual quests), etc. The only provision we make is that all contest offerings remain the sole property of the judges for as long as the food lasts. Appropriate prizes such as a gilded measuring cup or even a hearty handclasp from all the judges are being considered.

After making these monumental political decisions we sat down to test the seven pies and, after much deliberation (over mouthfuls of blueberries), the winner was selected. This year's winner was Esther Pomerantz, whose offering was not only a delightful mixture of substance, proper tartness, and sweetness, but also was a work of crusty art.

Both Mayor Kaplan and I agree that the selection of the third judge could become a political issue come each November election. Input is expected from as far away as Albany, or even Washington. That being the case, little official action is expected any time soon and the entire process may have to be scrapped. Hey, you can't blame two guys for trying.

In all seriousness, my hat is off to the *Chamber of Commerce* for a job well done. My special thanks goes to John Adams who doled out all those delicious pie slices. I also say thanks to all the vendors and all the *Chamber* volunteers who labored all day under a hot sun. Your efforts were rewarded in a most successful event. Can you top it next year?

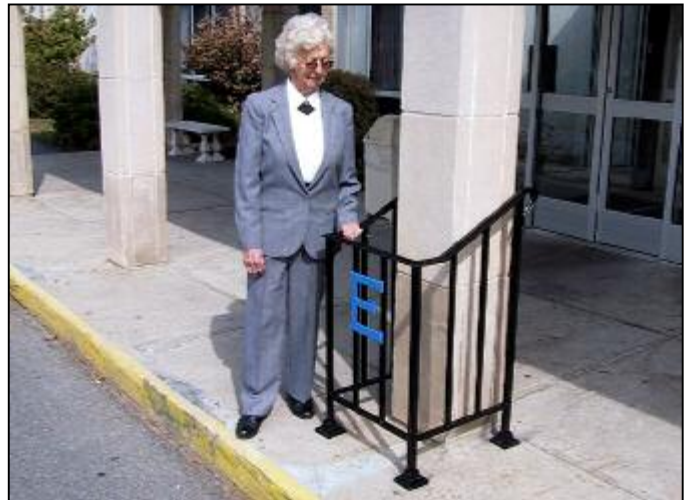
I bet you can and I can't wait... right Jeff?



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A Step Up for the Hospital

As a volunteer working at the front desk in our Hospital, Adaline Loucks noticed patients and others having a problem with the curb that steps up to the entrance of the Hospital. Taking matters into her own capable hands, and with much research, Adaline purchased the new handrail pictured below. Kudos for Adaline (who, by the way, has given almost 5000 hours as a volunteer at the Hospital).



FROM THE
Ellenville Regional Hospital
AUXILIARY

TO ALL THE MERCHANTS WHO DONATED
PRIZES AND WHO HELPED MAKE OUR
ANNUAL LUNCHEON SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS:
THANK YOU!