

# Inside the Chamber

Ellenville - Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce  
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Morgan and Dr. Mark Craft, holding Issue #1 of *Wawarsing.Net* at the 2002 Noonday Club Senior Dinner.

As I end my term as *Chamber* president, I am proud to look back on the *Chamber's* accomplishments of the past year. Community service is often challenging, but the rewards are indeed worth the effort. I would like to recap the past year's events the *Chamber* was involved in.

In a partnership with the *Noonday Club*, the *Ellenville - Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce* is responsible for the festive seasonal holiday lights & banners and, this year, American flags hung throughout our town. Fundraisers and donations, as well as many volunteers, were needed make this project successful.

At the urging of Town of Wawarsing Supervisor Dr. Richard Craft, we held a town meeting with the casino issue as our topic. Representatives from the Modoc Indian Tribe, as well as representatives from local, county, and state government were invited to speak. A question & answer period with the audience followed. If this issue progresses, we will follow up with more meetings to keep the public informed. We also sent out a questionnaire regarding topics discussed at the meeting to all *Chamber* members. The results of this questionnaire were published in the July issue of *Wawarsing.Net*

In a joint effort with *The Press* and the Village of Ellenville, the *Chamber* helped host the "Famous 50s Northeast Nationals" parade in downtown Ellenville. The parade of classic cars and music by the "PoniTails" echoed throughout the valley.

Each year, free concerts every Saturday evening in July at *Liberty Square*, known as *Music in the Square*, have become increasingly popular. They are scheduled to give concertgoers ample time to attend the *Shadowland* plays after the concert.

The *Blueberry Harvest Festival* was a resounding success. This celebration promises to give our community the type of identity we deserve. The committee assures me next year's event will be even bigger and better.

**The 2003 Board of Directors of the Chamber:**  
Dr. Mark Craft, *President*, Craft Chiropractic  
Dianne Turner, *Vice President*, WAGS  
Karen Berger, *Secretary*, Berger & Solomon  
Robin Anderson, *Treasurer*, Country Flowers  
Gary Clearwater, B & H Garage  
Dwight Coombe, Sprague & Killeen  
Barbara Hoff, Top Shelf Jewelry  
Karen Osterhoudt, Osterhoudt Excavating  
Mary Sheeley, H & R Block

Our social mixer on November 12<sup>th</sup> was a hit! The crowd of over 40 attendees was a mix of both members and non-members. Thanks to the *Elks Club* for hosting this event. (see photo, opposite page, top)

The *Chamber* wishes to thank the following member-businesses for their donations to the November Mixer:

- ◆ Robin Anderson, *Country Flowers*
- ◆ James Dolaway, *James' General Store*
- ◆ Peter Kosciolk, *Ukrainian American Youth Association Camp*
- ◆ Mary F Sheeley, *H&R Block*
- ◆ Kathy Clearwater, *Lighthouse Deli*
- ◆ John Constable, *Constable's Custodial Service*

Our most ambitious endeavor this past year has been this monthly publication, *Wawarsing.Net*. Since the first issue hit the streets in December of 2002, the interest in this publication has grown every month. This project takes a lot of work and energy from a few people. I believe our content is first-rate, and has helped the *Chamber* communicate with area residents

I must thank the outgoing *Chamber Board* for their unconditional support and words of encouragement this past year. Every organization faces tough decisions, and this board is no different. Without their support we could not have accomplished what we have.

The *Chamber* by-laws require a board member to step down for a year after six consecutive years of service. It is my time to step down, but not step away. I will remain active in the *Chamber* events and, if needed, would be glad to serve again on the Board.

The *Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce* is a great organization full of fine people with a common goal to make life and business better in our community through positive action. Come join us!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Mark R. Craft*

President

Rental Equipment ~ U-Haul  
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