

Inside the Chamber

Ellenville - Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 227 * Ellenville, NY 12428 * 845-647-4620

A few weeks ago, you may have read (in both the Times-Herald Record and the Kingston Freeman) news regarding the *Valley Mall* in Napanoch. In fact, the Freeman had a front-page picture of what the mall could look like in two to three years (*see article in this issue*).

Local lawyer Joseph Tso and others have invested \$3 million to purchase the *Napanoch Mall* and partner in an effort to revitalize the retail space. Their goal is to nearly double the present space, attract nationally-known retailers, add a motel, restaurants, a senior citizen housing complex, and a cinema. They hope to announce an agreement with one or two nationally-recognized retailers within the next month. The developers have told me that they would also like the current tenants to stay on.

Our community has received this as welcome news. Shopping for our families could get a little easier. Employment opportunities, and increasing the tax base at the same time, is always good news. Increased retail traffic for our existing stores and eateries always is a help to local commerce.

If this project is carefully planned, it has the obvious potential to impact the retail and commercial environment of the Town of Wawarsing positively for years to come. I ask that the planners and developers carefully analyze our existing businesses, and fill their mall with retailers who do not duplicate what we have, but complement what we have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark R. Craft

Retiring Chamber President

P.S.

The list of the new *EWCoC Board Members* and Officers for 2004 will be published in the February issue, after installation at the January 6th Board meeting.

It is time to renew or join! EWCoC membership runs from January to December! To be listed in the 2004 *EWCoC Member Brochure* and *Wawarsing.Net Member List* in March, please fill out the renewal form members have been sent, or the form at right, and return to the **Chamber NO LATER THAN FEB. 15th!!!**

Chamber Health Insurance Options

Affordable health insurance coverage is just one of the many benefits of membership in the *Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce*. For prior *Chamber* members, the month of January is the open enrollment period. This is the time when existing *Chamber* members can purchase one of the health coverage options offered, or change existing coverage. New members of the *Chamber* do not have to wait until January to take advantage of this benefit... they can enroll in the health coverage when joining the *Chamber* for the first time.

Currently, we offer coverage through two different HMOs... MVP Health and GHI. Both companies offer coverage for doctor visits, hospital stays, and prescription drug coverage.

For more information on this membership benefit, please call the *Chamber* office at 647-4620. 

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Membership Application/Renewal

Business Name: _____

Contact Person, or Individual Membership Name:

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Brief Description of Business: _____

Membership Fee Structure, Annual Dues

All Business Memberships: \$50, January – December

Personal Memberships (no business affiliation): \$25

Not-for-Profit Memberships: \$25

New Membership Renewal

Large Business Small Business

Non-Profit Personal

Please return this form to the Chamber with a check.

Not-for-Profits must include tax-exemption certificate.

Membership is for Calendar Year (Jan – Dec only).

Please check committees that best reflect your interests and on which you'd be willing to serve:

Membership Holiday Decorations Brochures
Publicity/Public Relations Blueberry Harvest Fest
Finance New Business Advisory Tourism
Business District Beautification Wawarsing.Net

Other Interests/Talents: _____

(Must be received by Feb. 15 to be included in brochure and March Wawarsing.Net)

Hints for Success

Did you know that your body language accounts for 55% of your message? Your posture, gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions can greatly influence how people receive what you say. You should not only observe your own body language, but also ask for feedback from others. Improve your weak areas. You will find that people will respond to you in a more positive manner and will remember what you said longer. 