

# Village Views

by Jeffrey Kaplan, Mayor, Village of Ellenville

## Welcome; Thanks; Please!

On January 1, 2004, the current Town administration will be replaced by a new one, duly elected by the voting public in November. This transfer of power will take place with little fanfare and, for most of us, with little if any change in our day-to-day lives. While we take this event for granted, it is truly a phenomenon of living in a democratic society, for which we must all be grateful. The Village looks forward to working with the new administration in the Town in a continuing effort to save our taxpayers money by consolidating services wherever possible.

However, we would all be remiss to allow Gus Hull and Richard Craft to leave office without thanking them for their many years of unselfish service on behalf of our community. We can only hope that their example of serving the public by seeking elective office will influence others to follow in their path for the betterment of our community. I personally look forward to working with both Gus and Dr. Craft in future projects to make our community a better place to live.

Happy New Year to all!

At a recent meeting of the *Shawangunk Country Club*, in which I serve as a member of the board of directors, we discussed various ways to market the *Country Club* and concluded that the *Chamber*, Village, and Town, together with the *Country Club*, could all be served by marketing the businesses and services available in our area to new residents.

Over the last several years, the *Country Club* has experienced a marked drop off in the number of new family memberships. As such, as our membership gets older and we have not found new family members to take their place. If this trend continues, there is little doubt that the club will have to close its doors, which we believe would be a loss to the entire community.

With an increased interest in real estate throughout the Hudson Valley, we believe that an appropriate marketing campaign welcoming new property owners to the area could be beneficial for the services offered by the Town, Village, as well as local businesses, as part of the *Chamber of Commerce*, and the *Shawangunk Country Club*. A welcoming packet forwarded to all new property owners would be beneficial to our local businesses and a potential source of new members for both the *Chamber of Commerce* and the *Shawangunk Country Club*. This welcoming package could also be distributed to local brokers for people who might be considering purchasing a home or business in our area.

If you would be interested in exploring an effort sponsored by the Town, Village, *Chamber of Commerce*, and *Country Club*, please feel free to contact me so that a meeting can be scheduled for this purpose.

Your anticipated cooperation in helping to market the Wawarsing/Ellenville area is greatly appreciated. 

November 25, 2003

Attention: Brenda Parks  
Time-Warner Cable  
1 Cablevision Center 2nd Floor - Suite 2  
Ferndale, New York 12734

Dear Ms. Parks:

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, following Time-Warner's unilateral decision to eliminate the FM signal to its Wawarsing and Ellenville customers, many Time-Warner customers, both residential and business, were in a quandary as to why many of their favorite FM radio stations were no longer available to them. Several of the customers spent most of the morning attempting to repair their radios only to learn there was nothing wrong with their radio, but that their cable company had decided to terminate service. As I am sure you are aware, the Wawarsing/Ellenville area is in the valley and without cable service to enhance FM reception, there are few if any FM radio stations available to residents and businesses.

At the meeting you attended at the Village of Ellenville's request, you had noted that only 300 of approximately 180,000 subscribers use the FM service. What you failed to mention was that simply by connecting a cable line to an FM radio in the Wawarsing/Ellenville area, Time-Warner customers were able to greatly enhance their FM reception until November 19<sup>th</sup>, when this service was eliminated.

Many of the phone calls I received believed that Time-Warner's decision was not simply a means to create additional broad-band space to offer three new cable channels to its Wawarsing/Ellenville customers, but, instead, was a means to force people to sign up for the digital music TV channels, by eliminating FM radio as an option.

On behalf of the Village of Ellenville, and many of your dedicated subscribers in the Wawarsing/Ellenville area, I would respectfully request Time-Warner reconsider its decision to eliminate FM reception. At the same time, I would ask those listeners who used the cable service to increase their FM reception to contact Time-Warner and request the service be reactivated.

Finally, I would strongly recommend those listeners who object to the unilateral decision of Time-Warner to, in effect, encourage its listeners to sign up for the Time-Warner digital music channels, to refrain from doing so until Time-Warner has considered its decision to terminate FM service.

Your kind consideration is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
Jeffrey Kaplan

If you have any comments about any of these issues, or would like to add your personal or business support:

Contact: Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan  
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81 N. Main Street  
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Rental Equipment ~ U-Haul  
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