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Deadline for all articles, ads, and calendar items is the 20th of each month for the next month's issue. Special note: Columnist Roberta Smith would like to do a feature article on our local houses of worship. If you're an active member of a church or synagogue, or a clergyman, please email her at scrabblebuff@hotmail.com If you could use a quantity of any past issues, contact the Editor.

We want to thank the following Distribution Locations for agreeing to carry *Wawarsing.Net* —

- Ellenville:** 1) *Canal Street: Berme Rd. to Ann:* Chamber Office, Thornton Hardware, Canal Lodge Adult Care, Ellenville Lumber, Top Shelf Jewelry, JM Originals, NuDesign Furniture, Time-Warner Cable, McCarthy Agency, Village Cleaners, Carolion Mane Cut, Curves, The Eye Studio, Boob Tube, Aroma Thyme Bistro.
- 2) *Canal Street: Ann to Liberty:* Hidden Treasures, La Bella Pizza, Dollar World, Stedner Printing, Wags, Ellenville Post Office.
- 3) *Canal Street: Liberty to Main:* B&G General Store, Matthews Tailor, Ed & Al's Barber Shop, Liquor Store, State Farm, Fort Lox Bagels, Sprague & Killeen, Lighthouse Deli, Matthews Pharmacy, Ellenville Florist, Town Hall.
- 4) *Canal Street: Main to Ulster:* M&T Bank, Loucks Funeral, Ellenville Village Hall, Provident Bank, Fleet Bank, Stewart's (Ellenville), LadyKathryn's, Ellenville Library, Dr. Paul Lonstein, Wilson's Market.
- 5) *Center Street: Getty Mart,* H&R Block, Cohen's Bakery, Napa, Dominick's.
- 6) *South Main Street:* Ellenville Medical Group, Johnny's Super Service, Dollar General, Burger King, Berger & Solomon, Stoeckeler Realty, Collier Motor Car Co., Lonstein Chiropractic, Shanghai Red, Mobil Mart.
- 7) *Cragsmoor:* Cragsmoor Library, Cragsmoor Post Office.
- 8) *Rte. 209 to Spring Glen:* Richard's (SCC), Nevele Grande, Gold Mtn., Spring Glen Grocery, Spring Glen Post Office, County Line Restaurant.
- 9) *North Main: Spring to Beckley:* Ellenville Dodge, Euro Deli, McDonalds, RiteAid, Kalter Kaplan, Arthur Lukoff, Ellenville Beverage, Craft Chiropractic, Diana's, Hair Encounter, Lucille Hand, Ellenville Ceramic Tile, Pizza Hut, Ace.
- 10) *Rte. 209 to Napanoch:* B. Petroleum, B & H Garage, Route 209 Diner, Ellenville Auto Parts, Ellenville Hospital, Family Practice Center, China House, Spin City, Creative Clippers, Il Paradiso.
- 11) *Napanoch: Peters Market, James' General Store,* Guzman's Bakery, Brother John's, Napanoch Post Office, Chinese No. 1, VIP Video, Rické Len's.
- 12) *Wawarsing to Kerhonkson:* Wawarsing PO, Citgo Xtra Mart (Wawarsing), Dr. John Lichtenstein, Exxon (44-55), STS Tire, M & M Variety, Stewart's (Kerhonkson), Swim King, Mountain View Diner, Kerhonkson PO.
- 13) *Also:* Ellenville School, Ulster County Tourist Information Office (Kingston), Ramada Inn (Kingston), Summitville PO, Mamakating Methodist.

***Locations in bold are "anchor locations" in the zone

Don't see your location listed here? Call or email to be added to our route!

From the Editor

"Don't it always seem to go... you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." — Joni Mitchell

As documented in last month's issue, the *Ellenville Regional Hospital* was facing imminent and irrevocable disaster if an immediate source of bridge financing didn't come to the rescue. Community members rallied, and descended on Kingston to beseech the County Legislature to find some way – any way – to come up with the cash, or other aid, to keep the Hospital afloat, at least until June, when it's assumed the new Critical Care status would kick in, allowing for greater and more consistent income.

The Legislature, though mostly sympathetic to the pleas, had some fair questions, and rightly so. Didn't the Hospital, already having declared bankruptcy twice in the past few years, present a significant financial risk? Wouldn't a cash infusion, or loan, or guarantee of a loan, or sending various services to Ellenville, be just sending good money after bad? Was there a business plan in place that suggested the Hospital was making serious efforts to staunch the flow of red ink? Nonetheless, bipartisan energy was mustered, and a local law to allow the Legislature to act was quickly drafted, discussed, and passed.

The *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, to its credit, has made impressive gains in belt-tightening. Projected losses for this year are lower than last year, and it seems a handle on costs has been firmly grasped. A sizable Federal grant that came through early in March will keep the doors open a bit longer. The financially-strapped parent Westchester Hospital is now willing to sell (for \$1) the Hospital and land to the County, or, more specifically, a non-profit subsidiary set up for that purpose; the County doesn't want to get into the hospital business, and it's likely that Kingston Hospital will take on the management functions. How much local input and control will accrue in the new order of things remains to be seen.

So, the Hospital, and our community, may have dodged this bullet... for now. Merely the thought of losing this resource was enough to marshal the troops and stir up united concern. However, while we were focussed on this particular potential critical loss, at least two other local "fixtures" fell through the cracks, unnoticed.

The long-standing tradition of lunches at Ellenville's *Methodist Church* the first Friday of each month ended early this year, as there were no younger volunteers willing to take over for the "regulars" who were increasingly overburdened by the responsibility. Then, the *Ellenville Lions Club*, which had seen diminishing membership over the past five years, had only half the required minimum of 10 dues-paying members to maintain separate existence; the only way to survive at all was merger with the, ironically, larger Kerhonkson chapter. The Ellenville Lionesses, alone, could keep an Ellenville name, but with various restrictions, if the proposed plans go ahead.

Both these developments come as a bit of a shock – it seemed the Methodist lunches and the Lions were *always* here, and always would be. Why didn't we all know they were in critical need of new blood? Is it too late to do anything? Would a flurry of calls, *now*, offering to join or help either group reverse the grim verdicts? Are there other local "fixtures" in similar dire straits? If *Wawarsing.Net* can help, please contact us – *NOW* – before it becomes too late!



Cover: Ellenville Public Library, 1897. Chartered in 1893, the Library moved to this building at 179 Canal Street, the former Weinberger home, where it remained until 1912 (see article, page 15). The building no longer stands. (The sculpture at the Ellenville Hospital on the March cover was crafted by Ernest Shaw in 1985, as inscribed at its base.)

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