

Inside the Chamber

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

I was working in the *Chamber* office on Sunday when a visitor from Freehold, NJ, stopped in. She had come by to purchase some of the Bicentennial ornaments and we talked for a little bit. She told me that she has been visiting our area for years and lately noticed a big change in the Village. I braced myself, thinking "Here it comes" and expecting to hear about the way it used to be.

To my delightful surprise, her comment was that Ellenville is definitely on the rise and that it was wonderful to see. She particularly noticed how clean it appears and asked me what had brought about this change.

After I got over my initial shock, we talked about the many properties that are in varying stages of renovation and the improvements being made. It seems that every neighborhood throughout our community has at least one property formerly an eyesore now being restored and improved, whether by new owners or current owners.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the business district. Just look around you and notice the former "in-need-of's" that have been transformed, or are being transformed, into usable, attractive properties. Several notable cases-in-point come to mind, each using a different approach, and yet each accomplishing the same goal.

First, *Ellenville Lumber* on **Canal Street** (left). Amazing what a change of color and some freshening up can produce. The property is attractive and welcoming.



Second, *Lady Kathryn's Beauty Salon*, also on **Canal Street** (right) but at the opposite end. While this is obviously still a work in progress (note new siding and windows up front, while insulation and old siding are still uncovered, right), the welcome changes are visible to even the most casual observer. The property is looking good and I can't wait to see the finished product.



Third, the former *WELV* building of **North Main Street** (below). This property had been long neglected and was looking very much the worse for wear. New owners (*Yankee Barn Development*) meant new life for this structure and it is now showing all signs to be one of the



premier locations in the Village.

(It's also nice to see the former *Van Wagner's Store* on **Canal Street** in full use now. *Canal Lodge Adult Care* has occupied the lower portion and *Family of Ellenville* has recently

The 2004 Board of Directors of the Chamber:

Mary F. Sheeley, EA, H&R Block	President
Bill Tochtermann, Cohen's Bakery	Vice President
Karen Berger, Berger & Solomon	Secretary
Robin Anderson, Country Flowers	Treasurer
Dwight Coombe, Sprague & Killeen	
Barbara Hoff, Top Shelf Jewelry	
Peter Kosciolk, Ukrainian American Youth Assn.	
Allan Loucks, Loucks Funeral Home	
Mary Ellen Rury, Canal Lodge Adult Care	

"It is the purpose of the Chamber to promote economic development, tourism, community betterment, legislative action, and an interest in public affairs, with programs designed to make the community a better place in which to live and make a living." (Chamber Bylaws, Article II-1)

completed the move to the upper end from their former location at **Church Street**.)



Finally (if we missed your property this go-round, we are sorry for the oversight, or space constraints, but let us know, and we'll continue to feature such improvements

in our "Scene Around Town" section), *Nu-Design's* new management team has stripped the exterior walls to the wood grain, and freshened the paint, too (above). Sharp!

Indeed, Ellenville is on the rise and what a welcome change that is. As more and more property owners join the parade, others will feel the pressure to do likewise. And we all will be winners!

If you haven't had an opportunity to view these renovations first hand, take a few extra minutes when you come to the **Blueberry Festival** on **August 28th** and check them out. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. See you then.

Until next month,
Mary F. Sheeley
 President

Meet Our Board Members:

Dwight W. Coombe is president and owner of *Sprague & Killeen Insurance Agency*. *Sprague & Killeen* originated as the *Terwilliger Agency* in 1867. Dwight and Ginger Coombe took ownership in 1994 after working at the agency for several years. The agency has evolved and grown over a century.



"We are an Independent Insurance Agency licensed for New York State, South Carolina, and Connecticut. We have seen the insurance industry evolve and grow to meet the needs for individuals, organizations, and businesses," says Coombe. "I have been a board member for two years, and my main goal is to encourage businesses to fill the vacant buildings in the town."