

Village Views

Law and Order

by Philip S. Matracion, Ellenville Chief of Police

I would like to occasionally write to you (and appreciate the opportunity afforded by *Wawarsing.Net* to do so) about some of the complex issues surrounding the laws of our state and community, and introduce you to the men and women who risk their lives every day in order to protect and serve the citizens of this great Village of Ellenville.

My name is Phil Matracion and I am an 18-year veteran of the *Ellenville Police Department* and currently serve as the Chief of Police of what I feel is one of the finest police agencies in the State of New York. My second-in-command is Lieutenant Michael Doria, also an 18-year veteran. There are two Police Sergeants: Vanessa Nixon, a 13-year veteran, and Jeff Vanasselt, three years – two Detectives: Robert Shamro, a nine-year veteran, and Richard Jacobs, eight years – a patrol division of ten full-time Officers and 12 part-time Officers – two full-time Dispatchers, six part-time Dispatchers – and two Crossing Guards.

The diverse make-up of the *Ellenville Police Department* includes eight African Americans, three Hispanics, and twelve females. The *Department* has several specialized units as well: Bike Patrol, PAL, DARE, DWI Patrols, Step and Buckle-up Traffic Enforcement Unit, Quality of Life/Building Code Officer, and our own Narcotics Enforcement Unit. We also provide various public service programs, such as daily business and house checks, senior citizen call-in, bike registration, youth programs, bank escorts, school tours, child-safe project (with fingerprints and photos for each child). Foot patrol officers on the beat are another way we provide community-policing efforts for our residents.

All our officers continuously go through on-the-job training as well as in-service training throughout the year. I believe that training helps limit liability exposure to the municipality, and also provides for a more highly-skilled and effective police officer.

We are an extremely busy agency... the District Attorney himself stated that we are the second busiest agency in the county, next only to the City of Kingston. We handled over 11,000 calls for service last year alone and this year we are on a pace that will surpass last year. We made over 600 criminal arrests and issued over 2000 traffic tickets, investigated 275 traffic accidents, issued 375 parking tickets, and issued 350 quality-of-life violations.

I hope you will find all of our officers “user-friendly.” My supervisors and I are constantly telling them that they are ambassadors for this community... how residents and visitors perceive *them* is how they will perceive our Village. If you have any contact, either positive or (hopefully not!) negative, please write, stop by, or call me. It's nice to hear the good; though the negatives serve as great training tools for the

future, they also need to be corrected at once.

Every member of this agency works hard and gives 110% of themselves, often sacrificing family time in order to serve and protect every one of you at a time of crisis or need. I salute every one of them and am proud to serve along side them. They are true heroes and deserve a lot more credit than anyone ever gives them.

In future articles, you will get to meet these heroes that serve you without hesitation, and read about them and their backgrounds and why they choose to serve proudly here in the Village of Ellenville.

Please feel free to stop by and visit me for a chat and take a tour of our facilities and meet the Officers who serve you. I have an open door policy... just come on down, or call me at 647-4422.

Next time, I hope to talk about the law, your rights... and false notions you might get from watching crime shows! ☆

Ellenville Receives \$36,830 Records Management Grant

The New York State Archives and the Commissioner of Education have announced that the Village of Ellenville is the recipient of a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant for \$36,830. The money will be used for the purchase of water-meter-reading software & hardware, as well as training and installation.

The Village, currently collaborating with the Town of Wawarsing to develop the *Route 209 Regional Water Supply* is making a concerted effort to implement structure-wide improvements. In doing so, they have identified the full-system replacement of “drive-by” water meters to replace the decades-old manual-read method.

The utilization of a computer system will ensure that the data is accurate and accessible. The electronic files will guarantee that data will not be lost or misplaced and lead to the improved ability to track samplings and identify potential health concerns within the system.

The application has been made under the direction of Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan and Records Management Officer Ann Bowler and has been written by Shingebiss Associates, Inc. of New Paltz. ☆



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Office Manager:
Georgine Matichuk