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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, Aroma Thyme.
 2) *Canal Street: Ann to Liberty:* Hidden Treasures, La Bella Pizza, Shadowland Theatre, 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:* 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, Ice Caves.
 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 Village line:* Euro Deli, RiteAid, Ellenville Dodge, McDonalds, Kalter Kaplan, Dr. Lukoff, Ellenville Beverage, Craft Chiropractic, Dianna's, Hair Encounter, Lucille Hand, Ellenville Ceramic Tile, Pizza Hut, Ellenridge, Ace Hardware.
 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, Hollywood Cuts, Il Paradiso.
 11) *Napanoch:* Peters Market, James' General Store, Country Flowers, 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, 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 Church, Skyway Resort, Jellystone Park, Ukrainian American Youth Camp.

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



Cover: Knifemaker, Ulster Knife Co, Canal Street, Ellenville, Town of Wawarsing, Ulster County, New York, USA. From a B&W photo in the Ellenville Museum, of an 1887 painting by famous artist and architect Frederick Dellenbaugh (1853-1935), who co-founded Cragsmoor and gave it its name. This month's feature article is about the 130-year legacy of knifemaking in Wawarsing; see page 16 and following.

From the Editor

"There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." — Victor Hugo

Where *do* ideas come from? Why do some ideas fade quickly, while others gather momentum and strength, sweeping up whole populations? And how do we know an idea's time *has* come?

Well, unless an idea is publicized in some manner, the chances of it finding its time *or* power are nearly nil. Conveniently, this publication reaches a few thousand persons at least, so let's see whether a particular idea can take root and sprout in this soil.

This idea isn't totally new; it has been broached, in some form, a few times, only to be whacked down fast and hard with the dreary sledge-hammer of "That won't work here" or "They'll never let it happen." OK, granted. But that was then; this is now. Maybe, just maybe, *this* idea's time has finally come. First, the latest genesis —

After a recent Ellenville Board meeting, Mayor K asked, "How much money do we get back from Kingston, compared to how much we send them?" Everyone shrugged, but agreed that it was certainly tipped in Kingston's favor. "That wouldn't be the case IF Ellenville were a *city*, rather than a *village*," ventured Trustee K. "Cities get to keep a larger share of sales tax than villages and hamlets do, and they have access to other sources of funding and greater fiscal clout." Trustee G opined that Ellenville was, at only 4200 souls, too small to qualify; wasn't 5000 now the minimum?

Hmmm, mused Trustee K, it wasn't so before; one city (Sherrill NY, it turns out) has only 3100 residents (indeed, 150 of NY's 554 villages, including Ellenville, have larger populations than Sherrill!), but maybe that *was* before a minimum was imposed in New York?

So, suggested Trustee K, why not merge Ellenville with, say, Napanoch, including the corridor that connects them? That would surely surpass 5000 (and add an extra 1000 if the Eastern & Ulster Correctional populations are included; they can't vote, but they do get figured into population stats for purposes of representation etc.)!

At that point, everyone left for home. But Trustee K couldn't shake this new twist on the old "turn-Ellenville-into-a-city" gambit. Consulting the NYS Department of State Local Government Handbook proved there was *no* size or number minimum! And the County wasn't the arbiter, but rather the State Legislature! "The [State] Legislature may incorporate *any* community of *any* size as a city"! Sure, there must be "clear evidence from a local community that its people desire incorporation... ordinarily a locally drafted charter submitted to the Legislature..." But even if Ellenville *could* legally go it alone, the various advantages of joining forces with Napanoch and the connecting Rte. 209 corridor (and any enclaves south, west or, east that want to join up, too!) kept arising:

Ellenville itself lacks space for further growth, residential or commercial; why not draw a new city map that includes breathing room for commercial & industrial parks, *and* new housing, with fewer pockets of non-conforming zoning? And look what the new small city could boast of: an airport, with nearly 20 commercial acres ready to develop; a consolidated water system, police department, fire department; a first-class library, theatre, three banks, and new stores and restaurants; two major industrial plants; proven capacity for wind and water-power generation; a proposed new village/town hall, that could just as easily be a city/town hall (yes, an equitable arrangement must be reached with the town for taxes once levied only by the town). If you try, you can probably envision it, too, as logical and obvious as when Wawarsing broke off from Rochester in 1806, or Ellenville incorporated in 1823, or Ellenville got the state to annex a 4000-acre watershed to it in 1906.

All we need is a name: how about "Elna," from the first two letters of ELlenville + NApapoch? (Can't get much shorter!) Or maybe Elvona, Elcona, Ellnap, or Ellenoch appeals more? Hey, once the idea's own power takes over, naming it will be a snap!

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