

Inside the Chamber

Ellenville - Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce
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It would seem to me that this is a perfect time to acknowledge all of the wonderful volunteers who work "behind the scenes" so that we can have programs like the *Holiday Lights*, *Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner*, flags and planters, and the area's best *4th of July Parade* and fireworks.

You will also find our volunteers working in the hospital, volunteering in the school, assisting in the office of the **Chamber of Commerce**, and answering the phones at *Family*.

Volunteers work with our youth through the many diverse church groups, as well as the *Youth Commission*, *Key Club*, and *AAMA*.

We have volunteers who help to deliver meals to shut-ins, participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program, and plant flowers throughout the community.

They bring you *Music in the Square* every summer, a free patriotic concert in June, and a music program in conjunction with the *Senior Citizen Dinner* each December.

And speaking of December, let's not forget all the people who work to put together food baskets for the holidays and who man the various food pantries in our community.

The one drawback to thanking all of these people is that I know I have missed some because our community is blessed with so many volunteers performing so many diverse tasks. Most times, they go about their "work" so quietly that you are not even aware of their presence.

So if you are young or old and sitting at home complaining that there is nothing to do around here, I want to tell you that you are wrong. There is plenty to do. You just need to get up and get involved.

The rewards are priceless.

Mary F. Sheeley
President



**Halloween Gifts
& Decorations**



**Holiday Gifts Coming in
November & December**

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)

Bicentennial Planning Continues

The **Town of Wawarsing Bicentennial Committee** meets monthly at the **Community Room** of the **Ellenville Public Library** at **8 AM** on the **first Thursday** of each month, unless in conflict with a holiday or library scheduling. The October meeting will be **Thursday, October 7th**, from **8 AM** until no later than **9 AM**. Potential Bicentennial participants are welcome to attend.

There were two public planning sessions last spring and a third was planned for late September or early October 2004. However, the Bicentennial Committee has decided to encourage hamlet or small community meetings at this time, possibly returning to the larger town-wide meeting at a later date.

For example, the Ulster Heights community has already held two meetings, with a third planned for early 2005. Tentative plans include holding an *Ulster Heights Day* during the summer of 2006, involving the *Ulster Heights United Methodist Church*, the *Ulster Heights Rod and Gun Club*, and the **District 30 Schoolhouse**. In the intervening months, residents who attended either of the meetings are urged to "spread the word," talk to homeowners who may have historic pictures and/or memories to share for a supplemental Ulster Heights history, or represent some aspect of Ulster Heights past, present, or future. The meetings have been filled with reminiscences and future meetings will involve a tape recorder.

The **Bicentennial Committee** hopes that each hamlet or settlement will schedule at least one major event during the Bicentennial year. A Bicentennial Calendar will be published early in 2006 (deadlines in the fall of 2005) and the preliminary calendar already includes a formal opening ceremony on March 14th at the **Ellenville High School Auditorium**, the *Fourth of July Parade*, a Revolutionary War Encampment by Pawling's Levies at **Lippman Park** in Wawarsing over the weekend of August 12th, which happens to be the 225th anniversary of the Burning of Wawarsing, the annual **August Blueberry Festival**, an *All-Class Ellenville High School Reunion* on the same day (sponsored by the *Ellenville Alumni Association*), and a concluding barbecue-fireworks-township "bash" in October.

To assist and inform local groups and communities, members of the **Bicentennial Committee** are available to meet with those groups in their own communities. To schedule such a meeting, or for additional information, contact Dr. Mark Craft at **647-5430**.