



Since the mid-1990s, an annual *President's Choice Charity Golf Tournament* garners between \$5000 and \$7000 each year for a cause chosen by the *Noonday* President. Recipients have included: *Ellenville Little League*; the *Ellenville Public Library and Museum Community Room Building Fund*; *Ellenville Community Hospital*; PAL and "Pop Warner Football" (*Southern Ulster Vikings*); Jason Miller (a local young man battling leukemia); local food pantries; the *Ellenville Police Department* for

three portable defibrillator units (photo left).

The roster of *Noonday* Presidents reads like a local "Who's Who," from William L. Douglas (1923) to Earl Thornton, Jr. (2004). They have been school administrators, entrepreneurs, CEOs of large businesses, attorneys, elected officials, employees, and professionals.

An annual *Senior Citizen Holiday Turkey Dinner*, usually held the first Saturday of December at the *Ellenville Central School*, brings senior residents from all corners of the Town of Wawarsing together for fellowship, food, and entertainment. Noonday members prepare and serve the food (photo below), assisted by non-member volunteers, and entertainment is often provided by musical groups from the school.



In recent years, a *Noonday* group has participated in New York State's Department of Transportation "Adopt-A-Highway Program," committing to "cleanups" of the 2-mile stretch of *Rte. 209* south of the Village line (below, from a photocopy of a *Museum newspaper clipping*).



Since 1962, *The Noonday Club* has honored a local citizen, business, or organization for service to the community by naming that person or group "Citizen of the Year." The first was Regina (Jean) Craft. For a complete list of winners through last year, go to the March 2004 issue of *Wawarsing.Net*, page 20, or go online at: www.wawarsing.net/16/COPDF/403-20-Village1.pdf

Other early winners included Katherine Terwilliger in 1963 (photocopy above, with, left to right, committee member Frank Decker, Toastmaster Charles Kaiser, President Richard McDole, and committee chair Dr. Richard Craft), and Nellie Newkirk in 1970 (photo below, with, left to right, Philip Aaron, Leo Rosick, Dick Craft, and Jack Killeen). (See bios in 11/03 issue of *Wawarsing.Net*.)



The award has gone to individuals, married couples, two or more individuals who have worked together on similar projects, businesses which have been extraordinarily "good neighbors," and service organizations, always for their endeavors making the Town of Wawarsing a good place to live, work, and share. The 2003 "Citizens of the Year" are Marion Dumond and Mary Sheeley, who were honored at the annual dinner on Tuesday, September 21st, 2004. (photo, next page, top right)

One of the major changes in *The Noonday Club* by-laws finally opened membership to women, after more than 50 years of existence as a "men only" organization. Current bylaws now say, "Membership shall consist of adult persons, of good character and/or business reputation, who are interested in and willing to work for the welfare of the entire Township." In line with that change, Fran Wolfe was elected president in 1994, the first woman to hold that office, but not the last (photo, next page, top left, with past president Robert Fontaine).

Let's not take for granted the contributions of *The Noonday Club* and similar organizations to our community and our way of life.

For all of us, Thank You, *Noonday!*

The *Ellenville Public Library & Museum* has a substantial "*Noonday Club*" file of newspaper clippings, programs, and related documents in the "Organizations" 