

Village Views

Fifty Years of Thanks

by Elliott Auerbach, Village Manager, Ellenville

For those of us who "X-off" days on the calendar, we have exhausted thirty-one as we flip over the page to February, and January 2005 becomes a footnote in history.

While the first month of the year has come and gone, it has left behind a local weather pattern ranging from Alaska to Aruba. We have gone from 60 degrees to 6 in a matter of days, and it simply understates how fickle Mother Nature can be. We have plowed, shoveled, and salted a few times since New Year's, but have had a very predictable winter.

Somewhere between winter's gray storm clouds and cold short days we stayed glued to our television, in the comfort of our own cabled and couched cocoon, and played witness to the results of nature's wrath halfway around the world.

We watched as the word "reality" in relationship to "Reality TV" took on a new meaning and the word tsunami became part of our vocabulary.

The devastation touched our hearts and reached into our wallets, as the future of hundreds of thousands of people became part of our responsibility.

On a local level, we paid honor to those among us who remain responsible for our own well being on a daily basis... the men and women of the *Ellenville First Aid & Rescue Squad*. For fifty years, these volunteers have met area devastation and tragedy head on.

They live the reality of life every time they respond to a call, and we remain forever grateful to them. ☆

Barton & Loguidice Promotes Straut



Richard A. Straut, P.E., has been promoted to Senior Vice President at *Barton & Loguidice, P.C. (B&L)*. A member of the *B&L* team for over 11 years, Straut was tapped four years ago to manage the firm's new presence in Albany and has overseen its tremendous growth. Straut has been instrumental in getting a handle on the needs of the Village of Ellenville's water infrastructure, and developing the interconnect strategy between the Village and Town of Wawarsing.

Having opened with only four professionals, the Albany office today employs a staff of 20. With 18 years experience, Straut specializes in water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment systems. ☆

Water Treatment Course

The *Ulster County Health Department* in cooperation with *Ulster County Community College* will be offering classes for *Water Treatment Plant Operator*.

The course will begin in September 2005 and run approximately thirteen weeks. The Village will reimburse the cost of the course upon successful completion.

If you wish to participate please contact the Village Manager by February 14th. ☆

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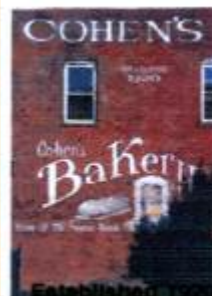
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