

Village Views

Ellenville Reduces 2005 Taxes

The Village of Ellenville has bucked the county-wide trend and lowered its property taxes for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Although the decrease was far from dramatic, Village Manager/Budget Officer Elliott Auerbach announced a 26¢ per \$1000 reduction without curtailing any village services.

Following a notice from the State Comptroller's office that the Village was at 97% of its allowable tax rate, the Mayor and Village Board insisted that there be no increase in the new budget, even if cuts were required.

Working with Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan, Village Trustees, and department supervisors, Auerbach presented a financial forecast that reduced the tax levy by over \$72,000 and increased the revenues by close to \$100,000. After several workshops, at which options were compared and reviewed, a final draft was put before a public hearing and accepted by the Board. "Increases to the assessment roles as a result of new construction and employee attrition contributed to the success of this tax decrease," Auerbach said. Mayor Kaplan stated that "the past five years of dramatic increases have finally come to an end and the Village has positioned itself for future decreases in property taxes as its tax base and property values continue to swell."

The current tax rate per \$1000 is \$183.72 and will drop to \$183.46 with the total operating budget coming in at \$3,164,865 and going into effect on June 1st, 2005.

Contact: Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan, 81 N. Main Street, Ellenville, New York 12428, (845) 647-7080, Fax: (845) 647-7171, E-mail: kaplan@ellenville.info

VILLAGE OF ELLENVILLE SPRING 2005 CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Center Street and Areas South of Center Street
Monday May 9th through Friday May 13th

Areas North of Center Street
Monday May 2nd through Friday May 6th
Monday May 16th through Friday May 20th

Residents are requested not to use bags. Items that will be picked up are leaves, yard waste, free limbs, and brush. Tree limbs and brush must be in lengths no larger than four-feet, tied in bundles, and in separate piles, or they will not be picked up. Absolutely no car parts, building materials, paint cans, roofing materials, stones, rocks, drums of any size, tires, appliances, or the like will be picked up.

No pick up will occur prior to the above dates; as such, residents are requested not to place items at curbside prior to the weekend before the scheduled pickup. For further information, contact the Ellenville Street Department at 647-5650 or Village Hall at 647-7080.

Ellenville Nets Arbor Day Grants

The Village of Ellenville will receive \$7,500 to plant 40 trees. The grant is part of the state's Urban and Community Forestry grant program to honor Arbor Day.

In all, \$200,000 has been allocated for tree planting in 26 communities statewide.

In Ellenville, the trees will be planted along Rte. 209 from Market Street to Canal Street to shade the corridor.

Ulster County Transportation Offers New Phone Number

Ulster County officials have announced a toll-free number which is now in operation for riders and passengers of transit services in the county.

In an effort to help provide better service the new toll-free number will accommodate Ulster County citizens in outlying areas.

This initiative is part of the restructuring process at Ulster County Area Transit, which has also recently constructed a new maintenance facility.

The new number is 1-888-827-UCAT (8228).



Ellenville's brand-new two-seater all-electric police car was delivered on March 31st at no cost to the Village taxpayers! Made possible by a grant from Provident Bank, and supplemented by a grant from Levi Hecht, the new vehicle uses no fuel, but recharges its batteries from an ordinary wall socket and can run about 30 miles on a charge. No, it won't be seen in any high-speed chases (top speed is 30mph) and it will be used only from spring to fall, but it is quiet, nimble, requires little maintenance, should cost less to operate than a regular police car, and it's cute! A newly-presented defibrillator is stowed in the back, along with a fire extinguisher. There's no air conditioner, but there is a heater, lights, sirens, radios, and plenty of cup holders. The unveiling was televised by RNN-TV and Cable 6 News.

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