

# Mountain Lines

## A Tribute to Good Things

by Lucy Muller, Lu@warwick.net

This column is a tribute to the good things about Cragmoor and Ellenville.

I'll start with people who add so much to our lives. Eddie and John Unverzagt make people look and feel good. Like their fathers before them, the cousins know the history, both ancient and recent of our town. I went to high school with them and they are just as great now as then.

I don't know all the people whose job it is to make the Town of Wawarsing and Village of Ellenville work, but I can tell you that Roxanne Shamro at the **Wawarsing Town Office** is always helpful and pleasant.

Mr. Dolaway, the Town Supervisor, instantly stopped what he was doing to listen to my request for deer crossing signs. I know that Ann Bowler makes living in Ellenville easier at the **Ellenville Village Office**.

The folks at the *Aroma Thyme Bistro* provide out-of-this world food and a very lovely place for dinner. I just wish we had the movie theater back again. I think the plays and shows at the *Shadowland* are excellent, but I happen to be a movie buff.

Pat and Dick Peters, who own *Peters' Market*, offer the best-tasting and highest-quality food and both have worked hard for Ellenville and Cragmoor.

Pam Stocking, the director of the *Ellenville Library*, is so creative, as she provides many wonderful programs as well as having a well-run library.

I am a member of *St. John's Memorial Church on Market St.* and boy are we lucky to have the Reverend Canon Jeffrey Gollither as our priest. We also have a fabulous organist named Dorothy Bradford.

I have also been to the *Lutheran Church*, as my husband is a member there. The Rev. Audrey Pederson is warm and welcoming.

I can't forget my dentist, Dr. Paul Lonstein, who comes from a family who has been here for at least three generations.

Dianne Turner, who formerly owned *WAGS*, is still Mother Blueberry and will press on to make that Blueberry Festival event the best of the summer.

I also want to praise Bob and June Constant who have done so much for the village and the VFW.

Alan Loucks is carrying on, from his father, his most important and compassionate work at *Loucks Funeral Home*.

Dr. Sperling, Dr. Horowitz, and all the health workers in our town keep us going and try to keep our eating habits in line, which isn't easy.

Roger Baker painted the neat pictures on the old bank.

I am sure there are many, many great teachers, bank employees, firefighters and police, but I just do not know their names. We thank them for all the unselfish things they do, though.

Ellenville is often the subject of criticism for not having enough opportunities for business and work, but just maybe it's going to end up being valued for one of the last beautiful small communities in the northeast. Everywhere else is developing at a crazy pace and I don't think we want that here. There is a nice, slow-paced feeling one gets when you enter the village. It is a relief in this crowded, frantic world.

Now to Cragmoor.

Sally and Chuck Matz saved the **Stone Church** from

being turned to rubble and you can enjoy different kinds of services all summer long. Sally also works with Tom Bolger to arrange theater and readings in the *Historical Society*.

Rudy at the post office is always a friendly, fun person who can cheer you up when you need it most.

We have **Bear Hill** and **Sam's Point** to hike to. These natural sites are breathtaking and many people worked hard to be sure they would be preserved.

I wouldn't mind a bed and breakfast and a little Mom and Pop store, but I guess that won't happen.

Bill Shamro keeps our driveways clear in winter and also works to keep the Ellenville schools humming along.

I have friends back in New Jersey who have been here and although they think it's beautiful, they still ask, "How can you live there all winter? It's so far from everything." My answer is, "I wouldn't live anywhere else and maybe everything... *isn't* everything!"



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