

Village Historic Landmarks Public Hearing July 11th

The *Village of Ellenville Board of Trustees* will hold a public hearing Monday July 11th in response to the historic landmarks nomination of the **Old Ellenville Cemetery (Leurenkill Cemetery)** and the **Hunt Memorial Building** by the village's *Historic Preservation Commission*.

At the *Board's* June 13th meeting, Commission Chairman Marion M. Dumond presented the two nominations to the *Board* in the name of the *Commission*. Each nomination gave a brief history and referred to appropriate parts of the 2004 code to explain the site or building's importance.

The **Old Ellenville Cemetery**, also known as the **Leurenkill Cemetery**, was divided from the Eburn Haight farm on the old *Leurenkill Road*, now identified as **Nevele Road**. Although gravestones indicate burials as early as 1807, the property was officially deeded to the *Methodist Episcopal Church of Ellenville* for use as a "public burying ground" on September 3, 1838. The cemetery includes the burial places of many Civil War soldiers, as well as civilians prominent in the business, social, and civic life of the community. (See feature article in June 2005 *Wawarsing.Net* Issue #31)

"Since the **Hunt Memorial Building** has been recognized on both the State listing and the National Register," said Mrs. Dumond, "it would be ludicrous if we did not recognize it as a local historic landmark as well."

The public hearing on July 11th will be an opportunity for open discussion about the two nominations.

In two other matters of *Commission* concern, Mrs. Dumond asked if the Village is going to amend its Historic Preservation Code in order to apply for Certified Local Government status. The necessary changes will be the basis of a second public hearing on the same evening.

Mrs. Dumond also reminded the Village Board that the one-year appointment of Peter Backman is due to expire in August and recommended Mr. Backman's reappointment to a full three-year term. Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan scheduled discussion of the appointment for the first meeting in August.

The *Historic Preservation Commission* was created in 2004 and includes Dumond and Mary Sheeley (3-year terms), Danyel Rubin, and Town Historian John Unverzagt (2-year terms), and Peter Backman (1-year). 🌟

Ellenville Elementary Students Collect for Hunt Memorial

A mock check presented to the *Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee* on June 17th, by members of the *Ellenville Elementary School's Student Council* contributed "zillions of pennies" from a recent penny drive. With the check were several containers of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, plus a few bills. The contribution will be tallied by a local bank for deposit in the *HMPC* account, but the containers weighed in at 136 pounds.

"The *Student Council* has held penny drives for other causes," said Mrs. Stephanie Craft, one of the *Council's* advisors, "but this is the first time they have collected for a local cause."

Ellenville Elementary's Student Council includes

Chris Bruce, Abigail Craft, Melissa DeHosson, Danny Grogan, Gage Klipper, Britney Krom, Tori Mattracion, Delani Meier, Logan Rotolo, Alyssa Scarsafava, Jamie Wallack, and Paige Yerkes. Mrs. Sandi Hecht and Mrs. Craft are the *Council's* faculty advisors.

The students presented the check and the accumulated coins to Mrs. Phyllis Rubin, president of the *Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee* for the organization's current **Hunt Memorial** restoration fund drive. In turn, Mrs. Rubin presented a framed certificate of appreciation to the *Elementary School*.

Mrs. Marion M. Dumond, *HMPC* Treasurer and retired *Ellenville Public Library & Museum* Director, talked to the children about John R. Hunt, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the **Hunt Memorial Building**. "When the building was officially opened in January of 1918," said Mrs. Dumond, "Homer Bartlett, a respected composer who had lived right on **Maple Avenue**, played for the dedication."

"When your grandparents were your age, the Women's Christian Temperance Union was still active in Ellenville. Most people don't remember that **Hunt Memorial** was built by the WCTU with funds left to them by John R. Hunt, a prominent businessman from the days of the **Delaware & Hudson Canal**, who wanted them to have a building of their own which could also serve the community." Dumond continued, "We have this wonderful building to remember both Mr. Hunt and the WCTU, and in years to come, when you pass the restored **Hunt Memorial**, you will be able to take pride in knowing that you have helped to bring it back to its glory." Mrs. Dumond explained that she had been director of the *Library* during its last years of community service from **Hunt Memorial**.

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade contributed coins during the three-to-four-week penny drive and were so interested in giving that one boy came running after the *HMPC* members to add another penny or two to the collection before it left the school. 🌟



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