

Scene Around Town



Nine members of the 11-member *Ulster County Charter Commission* met June 20th in the **Media Room** (photo above) of the *Ellenville High School*, as one of a series of meetings held throughout the county to allow citizens in all regions to observe the commission in action. Charged with drafting a revamped charter for county government, to be ratified by the Legislature and public referendum before implementation, they've already voted for the following: reapportionment and Legislature salaries should be handled by an independent community group, rather than by county lawmakers; retain partisan elections and part-time rather than full-time Legislators; backing the 2003 public referendum to reduce the Legislature from 33 to 23 members in 2012, with single-member districts rather than the multi-member districts now in place. At this meeting, they voted to reject term limits, and to have a county-wide-elected county executive, rather than appoint the Chair from among their own, as today. Talk of staggered four-year terms was tabled without resolution. ☆



Ellenville's new police cars have been given an extreme makeover in the decal department. Black and gold on white is the new color scheme, and the village's website is printed on the rear bumper. Even one of the older cars got the new detailing motif, for the sake of consistency. ☆



4-H'ers Learn Camp/Team Skills

by Dawn Clayton

Congratulations to the members of the Sullivan County 4-H who attended the Horsemanship/Team Building Weekend at the Frost Valley YMCA camp in Claryville on June 18th & 19th. Accompanied by local leader Dawn Clayton and Sullivan County Educator Amy Barkley-Carey, 17 youth members spent two days at Frost Valley. While there, they received instruction on horseback riding, rock climbing, negotiating the low and high rope courses, rowing a boat, and staying warm while sleeping in tents. They also enjoyed the great food in the cafeteria, made s'mores by the campfire, played games in the dark in the barn, and toured sections of the beautiful Frost Valley facility. For their efforts, the members received very attractive certificates and shirts commemorating the weekend activities.

The local club, the "Barn Brats" was represented by Rebecca Clayton, Rebecca Madison, Samantha Rue, Erica LeHuray, and Victoria Zlotnikova. Thank you to all who helped to secure the funding for this great weekend and these great youth members! ☆

Ellenville Youth Court Sworn In

The latest round of *Ellenville Youth Court* members were sworn in on June 23rd in **Ellenville Village Hall** by Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan. Shown below, front row (left to right): Shelby Haberman, Erin Grey, Kristen Eckert, Stephanie Kossar, and Jessica Myers. Middle row (left to right): Mayor Kaplan, Markus Pratti, Michael Brown, Thomas Maerling, Daniel Meier, Nickolas Meier, Kevin Maier, and Youth Court Coordinator Charles Dechon. Back row (left to right): Jarrid Blades and Brian Fernandez. Unavailable for picture: Caitlin Logan.

Each *Youth Court* member completed an intensive course in the origins of the law, the American criminal justice system and the operation of a youth court. The *Ellenville Youth Court* is an alternative for first time, non-violent juvenile offenders who may otherwise have to appear before Ulster County Family Court, or local criminal courts, for offenses they have committed in the community.

The newest members will be contributing to a program that has seriously reduced the rate of recidivism of juvenile delinquency in the village. ☆



Fourth of July

by Elyssa Garcia, *EMS, Grade 7*

Fireworks explode...
Our families watch the parade.
Unusual floats...
Red-white-and-blue fills the town.

The summer sun shines its
brightest...
Hot weather.

Over the country we wave the flag...
Fellow Americans celebrate
together.

Joy fills our hearts...
Under the fireworks as they create a
masterpiece.
Light the sparklers...
You remember the ones who gained
us freedom. ☆