



SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

Town of Southport, 1139 Pennsylvania Ave., Elmira, NY 14904 • 607-734-1548 • townofsouthport.com

Fall 2018

Town of Southport Parks & Recreation

Dave Ellis, Recreation Director

Community Support is Appreciated

We have enjoyed another Summer season and now look forward to our Winter programs and events. Recently in September, the Chemung County Habitat for Humanity chose a Town park again for their Annual Building on Faith day. Last year, volunteers made improvements to Elmer Goodwin (Universal) Park. This year volunteers worked on the Community/Senior Center at Chapel Park. Volunteers painted the exterior of the building, did some weeding of the flower beds, and painted the concession stand floor. We are so grateful to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to work in our parks again this year.

We held our first Open House Wednesday, October 10 at Chapel Park. We had representatives from each of our several weekly activities including, bone builders, cards, chair caning, exercise, Kiwanis, and painting. We also enjoyed some hot dogs and root beer floats. This Open House helped us share everything our parks and Town has to offer.

Next up for us was The Town of Southport Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 1. The parade route begins at the corner of Personius Rd. and Pennsylvania Ave. and continues down

Penn Ave. and ends at Christmas Land located behind the Southport Fire Department. As the parade concludes we light Christmas land and bring out Santa.

Earlier in the year our first "Spring Fling" was a huge hit. We are looking at a tentative date of Friday, March 29, 2019 for our next Spring Fling. Another fun event for 2019 will be our Annual Easter Egg Hunt which is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. We have so many agencies, businesses, clubs, and organizations involved with these events. Everyone's cooperation and participation really help these become true community events. Thank You to all those involved.

Chapel Park hosts a variety of senior activities weekly. Something new to our weekly activities is Monday Funday.

Starting October 15, every Monday we have bean bag toss, putt-putt billiards, and Wii Sports available for open play inside the community center at Chapel Park. Come have some fun.

The Bookmobile will continue to visit Chapel Park between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. every other Tuesday. Please stop down and visit. For more info on the bookmobile and their schedule; please visit www.cclld.lib.ny.us/bookmobile



Members of the National Junior Honor Society and other organizations participated in the Community Leaf Raking Day on Nov. 3. The Kiwanis Club cooked hot dogs at Chapel Park as a thank you to all who donated their time. (See other photo on Page 7.)

We welcome any questions, suggestions, or concerns so please feel free to stop by our office located at Chapel Park, 83 Personius Rd. in Pine City, call 732-4265, or e-mail dellis@townofsouthport.com. Don't forget to check out the town's website for signup information for upcoming programs and events at www.townofsouthport.com. Also, be sure to "like" us on Facebook.



Storm damage to Chapel Park on August 13, 2018. For more photos, see Town Supervisor's article on Page 3.

Southport Town Hall

1139 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY 14904

Town Phone Numbers

Supervisor	734-1548
Town Clerk	734-1548
Town Fax	732-5507
Assessor	734-4424
Highway	733-5467
Justice Court.....	734-4446
Code	737-5268
Recreation	732-4265
Community Development	734-1548
Senior Programs	732-1410
Emergency Police, Fire & Medical.....	911
Non-Emergency calls	735-8600

Town Hall Business Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed Weekends and Holidays

Town Meetings

Please check the Town website at
townofsouthport.com
or our digital sign at Town Hall for
monthly meetings and events

Southport Elected Officials

Town Supervisor

David J. Sheen

Town Clerk

Carolyn Renko

Town Council

Glenn Gunderman

Daniel Hurley

Joe Roman

Highway Superintendent

Steven Renko

Town Justices

Joseph Holly

Steven T. Milford

Council Person & Deputy Supervisor

Kathleen Szerszen

If you wish to be added to our mailing list,
please contact kszerszen@townofsouthport.com

Assessment News

Catherine Edwards, Assessor

School Tax Relief Credit

New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants need to register with the NEW YORK STATE TAX DEPT. to receive a STAR check. Visit www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 457-2036.

New STAR applicants will receive a credit in the form of a check directly from NEW YORK STATE instead of receiving a school property tax exemption. The amount of your STAR benefit is the same regardless of how you receive it.

Renewal for STAR

Current STAR exemption recipients will keep their exemptions as long as they continue to own and reside in their current homes.

The renewal for the Enhanced STAR will be mailed out in November 2018 or earlier from my office. If you are going to be the age 65 anytime during the year 2019 you will be eligible for the Enhanced STAR as long as you meet the income standards and apply on or before March 1, 2019.

If you are planning on leaving for the winter, you can stop in our office to renew your STAR before you leave. Just remember to bring your 2017 income. We cannot process any applications unless we have proof of income. So please make sure you bring all your income documents. There is also a new mandatory form to be filled out with the renewal application. This form is Income verification form. You have to submit this form in order to receive the STAR credit. There will be 2 applications to be submitted this year.

Commercial update of properties will be done for the 2019 roll, this update was in the plan that was submitted to the State in 2015. Residential properties will not be updated. The town is at 100% and every year the values are looked at to make sure we are 100%.

If you have any questions feel free to call the office at 607-734-4424.

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

Message from the Town Supervisor

David J. Sheen

In January 2019, I will be leaving my position with the Town to take on a position in County government. When the request to consider this move was presented to me, I originally declined. But, after much consideration and persuasion, I decided that my making this move may be in the best interest of the direction the County needs to go and I am dedicated to working hard towards positive change.

Budget and Town Finances

The 2019 Town Budget was passed at the November Town Board meeting with the Town Board voting to increase taxes for the first time in 15 years. The tax rate will be increased from .77cents per thousand to \$1.08 per thousand. This would be an increase of .31 cents per thousand or an annual increase for a taxpayer of \$31 on a \$100,000 home. Please note that 15 years ago the rate was \$3.05 per thousand for an annual tax bill of \$305 on a \$100,000 home as compared to \$108 for such a home today.

The increase, as stated in past newsletters, is directly related to the redistribution change in sales tax that the County decided to implement four years ago. We have been losing approximately \$450,000 annually from this change. We are hopeful that the change in

administration in County government may lead to an improved distribution in the sales tax.

Reserves

We have been reducing our reserves to a point that in order to plan for the future, we need to do our best to ensure we maintain the level they are at. The Building Reserve has been reduced from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000. As a result of the Leland Street Sewer Project, \$500,000 will be needed to repair the streets located in the area. We will also be using all of our \$100,000 Storm Damage Reserve towards storm damage that occurred in August.

Storm Damage

As all of you know, we had a 500-year storm and flood event in our Town on August 13, 2018, which resulted in at least \$1,000,000 worth of damage. We are currently making repairs to our roads utilizing local and State agencies to assist our Highway Department. In making these repairs our hope is to minimize this level of damage from occurring again. We ask our residents to be patient as this process may take up to a year. As of now, a Federal Disaster Declaration has been issued. This means that the Federal Government will pay for up to 75% of the cost of expenses they approve. After



Storm damage on August 13, 2018: (top) Walsh Road; (bottom) Monks Road.

that, it is unknown how the additional 25% will be financed. New York State may pick up some of the balance, otherwise, the Town may be responsible for the remaining 25%.

We should be proud of where our Town is and I am confident that it will be left in good hands. I am grateful for all of your support.

Flood Assistance for Homeowners

Severe storms and flash flooding impacted parts of New York State, including Chemung County, between August 13 – 15. The Town of Southport incurred more than a million dollars of damage to public infrastructure. Both State and Federal disaster declarations were approved to assist with a portion of the cleanup cost and repairs to public infrastructure under the Town's jurisdiction.

Many individuals also sustained damage to their homes and personal property. On November, 2 Governor Cuomo

announced that \$13 million would be available to homeowners in Chemung and several other counties for restoration and recovery efforts. Homeowners seeking information and applications should contact the address below. Applications for assistance must be submitted by February 4, 2019.

Arbor Housing and Development

26 Bridge Street, Corning, NY 14830
607-654-7487 ext. 2049
info@arbordevelopment.org

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

General Information • Meeting Agendas • Meeting Minutes • Municipal Codes • and More

Southport Town Court

Honorable Steven T. Milford

Civil Cases

In this edition of the Southport Journal I thought I would write on a lesser known duty of the justice court which pertains to civil cases.

Justice courts are charged with handling civil cases involving small claims and summary proceedings.

Small Claims cases can be brought before a local court seeking judgments up to three thousand dollars. Anything above three thousand dollars can be taken to a City Court. A defendant in small claims must either reside in the municipality, have an office for transaction of business in the municipality or be regularly employed within the jurisdiction. In other words, if the defendant does not meet those qualifications, the person asking for the judgment would have to file where the defendant resides or has an office.

There are four parties that cannot sue in small claims. They are: Corporations (except municipal or public benefit corporations) partnerships, associations and insurers.

Small claims cases are more informal than criminal cases and based upon the preponderance of the evidence.

Small claims judgments can only be for monies. The court for instance cannot order a judgment for the return of property.

When filing for a small claim's judgment, the court is allowed to assist the parties with their filing and are required to file an appearance date with the defendant by first class mail and registered mail.

For more information on filing and answering small claims, you may contact the court which can give you a small claims guide or you may go on the internet at www.nyscourts.gov/courts/townandvillage/faqs.

The other civil hearings held in Town and Village courts are known as Summary Hearings or better described and Landlord Tenant disputes. There are two types of summary hearings, (1) non-payment proceedings and (2) holdover proceedings. In a non-payment proceeding there must be a valid Landlord and Tenant relationship and usually pertains to a tenant failing to pay his rent and the landlord requesting a judgment for the unpaid rent and a warrant of eviction.

A holdover proceeding is similar to a non-payment proceeding but is different in that the parties no longer or never had a valid Landlord and Tenant relationship and the action is being brought for reasons other than just non-payment of rent.

Summary hearings follow strict legal filing rules under the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law (RPAPL). The court is not allowed to assist the parties in these types of filings and have to strictly follow the rules set out in the RPAPL.

For detailed information on filing for summary hearings you can go on the internet at www.nycourts.gov.

As always if we can be assistance or you have any questions, you can contact the Southport Court during business hours at 734-4446.

Southport Business Association

Lori Jones, Treasurer

The Southport Business Association has finished two projects this year. The first one is the new **Welcome to Southport** signs. They will be located on Broadway, Maple Ave, and Pennsylvania Ave at the town lines. We hired Finger Lakes Sign & Design to create a design that would be a good representative of Southport. They worked with the original artist who created the sign at Bulkhead.

Our second project was a brochure style map that lists member's business name, phone number, and address. These maps are placed in local retail establishments and with realtors to distribute to current residents, new residents, and out of town visitors to get our local businesses known.

Our next event was the Christmas Parade and Christmas Land lighting on December 1, 2018. As always, Santa was be there as well as his reindeer, pizza and hot chocolate, and other activities. We are hoping to expand the Christmas Land activities throughout December to include cookie decorating and ornament making. Watch our Facebook page for dates and times. Also, check out our website at southportbusinessassociation.com for meeting information.



Yard Waste Reminder

Please remember to keep your leaves and yard clippings out of the roads and storm drains, as they can congest the flow of rain water and melting snow. Some might ask “How can we dispose of this yard waste?” One way to dispose of yard waste is through composting. For homeowners this means putting all the organic waste, such as leaves, lawn clipping and garden waste together and decomposing it in a controlled environment. To start this composting process, you will need to choose a compost bin. There are three different designs to choose from. The first bin is a welded wire compost bin, the second is a pallet bin and the third design is a plastic bin. Once you choose the bin, simply start layering the waste with grass clippings, then moisten the compost pile with water. Make sure you do not soak the pile. When finished, the composting process is in full swing and by spring one should have dark, nutrient rich soil to use for the garden. If you are interested in purchasing a compost

bin, Stormwater Coalition has the “Earth Machine,” pictured at right for sale. Please contact Nikole Watts at 796-2216 or email at stormwatereducator@stny.rr.com.

Another way to dispose of yard waste is to utilize the Town of Southport brush lot. The brush lot is open to Town of Southport residents ONLY. Please visit the Town website for information. The brush lot is located near the correctional facility, on Masia Drive. There is also the Chemung County compost facility for Chemung county residents. For information on this compost facility, please visit the Chemung County website. If you have questions or would like more information on yard waste, please contact Chemung County Stormwater Coalition at 796-2216. Also visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater> and our website at <http://chemungstormwater.org/>.



Pallet Compost



Plastic Earth Machine



Welded Wire

Town Code Enforcement

Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer

Garbage

The Town does not have regular garbage pick-up. Residents must hire a local hauler for their household waste. All trash placed at the curb needs to be in suitable containers and the containers may not be placed at the roadside more than 48 hours prior to being picked up. Or you can take your household waste and recycling to the Southport Transfer Station located on Bob Masia Drive. The Drop-off hours are Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sidewalks

The Town ordinance §459 requires the maintenance of your sidewalk year-round. Remember to keep the sidewalks free of trip hazards and broken sections as well as free and clear of snow and ice. And please don't throw the snow into the street or roadway.

Please call with questions or concerns at 737-5268 or e-mail procchi@townofsouthport.com.

Historical Society

Diana Maher, President

Historical Society News



As President, I am looking forward to working with our board and the community to bring events and programs of interest to everyone. Special thanks go out to our Past President Linda Taft for her guidance and work she has done for us. We look forward to her on going support.

We started the fall off with our second Southport's One Room School Reunion held on September 16 at Chapel Park Community Center. It was a great success with nearly 50 attending. It was entertaining with many students sharing memories of their school days. We ended the afternoon with individual school photos of students that attended them. Some photos had a number of students others had only one student. These photos will be a nice addition to the various One Room School albums that we have at the Historical Society for visitors to see.

October was another busy month with our Program and Pass a Dish luncheon and Rummage Sale. On December 3rd the Elmira High School Jazz Band entertained at our annual Christmas Party at Chapel Park. We will also be assisting the Southport Business Association with their newest project, Historic Flags of Southport.

The calendar committee has been working on the 2019 calendar featuring Southport's Christmas Land. This calendar will be available at the Southport Historical Society, Town Hall, and our various events for \$10. We thank the Southport Business Association for providing information for the calendar and to the businesses that advertise in it.

The Historical Society will be open to visitors every Wednesday and third Sunday of the month from 1-3 p.m. The Board voted to close the Historical Society during the winter months of December, January and February. We will be open again in March - November 2019.

We will gladly open by special request.

Chapel Park Senior Center

83 Personius Road, Pine City, NY 14871

732-1410

Recreation Director

David Ellis: 732-4265

dellis@townofsouthport.com

Monthly Calendar

townofsouthport.com/content/calendars

To rent the Community Center,
contact the Town Clerk
734-1548

Southport Kiwanis Club

Southport Kiwanis has been busy the last few months. In July, we had the most successful Golf Tournament in the 18 years of its existence. We also have held a series of Open Houses during our weekly meetings. We have invited several community agencies to present information on their programs and had a "Root Beer Float" fundraiser to benefit the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Southport Kiwanis also is involved in many community events. We sponsor a community leaf raking day to assist senior citizens and actively participate in the Town of Southport Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration and the Christmas Parade. Our special event, the lighting of the Stempfle Star on Holden Road, was on Wednesday, November, 21 at 6:00 p.m. At that event, the Star was lit and the entire community was invited to take part in celebrating the beginning of the Christmas season.

At many of these events it is our goal to make it fun for the whole family and provide a small meal and drink to all those who join us. We are always looking for new members so that we can continue our goal of serving the community. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. at Chapel Park and anyone is invited to attend.

Southport Recreation Association News

Sheri Allington

Registrations are underway for the 2018-2019 Basketball season. Teams tend to fill up fast so please get your child registered. Cost is \$65 for the first child, \$55 for the second and \$45 for every child after that. Please go to southportrec.org to register for Basketball.

SRA is also looking for coaches for this basketball season, as well as a new president and basketball commissioner. The commissioner position is a paid position. Anyone interested please contact Sheri Allington or Jeremy Drake. Their contact information is on the SRA Website.



The Summer Parks Program staff & kids participated in a game with Kevin Deery from the Summer Literacy Program.



Members of the National Junior Honor Society and other organizations participated in the Community Leaf Raking Day on Nov. 3. The Kiwanis Club cooked hot dogs at Chapel Park as a thank you to all who donated their time. (See other photo on Page 1.)

Parks & Recreation Department

Chapel Park
83 Personius Road, Pine City, NY 14871
607-732-4265

Senior Bus Trip Info

Bob Ripley: 732-1410 • townofsouthport.com

Kiwanis Club of Southport

meets every Wednesday evening
at 6:00 p.m. at Chapel Park.
New members are welcome.

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

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Town of Southport

1139 Pennsylvania Avenue
Elmira, NY 14904

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Gough Holding Corporation

Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, PC

I.D. Booth, Inc.

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Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport

Parmenter Tire & Automotive Service Center

Perry & Carroll Insurance

Solutions Credit Union

Southern Tier Contract, Incorporated

T-M-T Gravel & Contracting

Williams Construction & Spray Foam

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Zeiser Wilbert Vault, Inc.