



# SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

TOWN OF SOUTHPORT, 1139 PENNA. AVE., ELMIRA, NY 14904 • 607-734-1548 • WWW.TOWNOFSOUTHPORT.COM

FALL 2015

## TOWN OF SOUTHPORT PARKS & RECREATION

*Dave Ellis, Recreation Director*

### What Do We Do in the Winter?

The Southport Parks & Recreation Department had another very busy spring and summer. We know what lies ahead... Old Man Winter... Brrrr... I get chills just thinking about it. Often times I get the question, "What do you do in the winter?"

Town parks do not close during the winter months. Many people still use the paved trails at Chapel and Elmer Goodwin Parks throughout the winter. The Highway Department clears our parking lots and trails. The roads are the first priority. Please allow them adequate time to clear off these areas.

Our department's three largest community events happen during the fall/winter months. For the second straight year the Halloween Festival was held at Chapel Park. The "Trunk or Treat" is the highlight of the event. It provides a safe place for families to take their children trick or treating. We hope to continue this event for many years to come.

The Annual Southport Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 5. The parade is scheduled to begin at the corner of Personius Road and Pennsylvania Avenue and continue down Penna. Avenue and end at Christmas Land located at the Southport Fire Department. We ask you to join us for the parade at 4:00 p.m. As the parade concludes we



*The annual Halloween Festival at Chapel Park had lots of activities for families to enjoy.*

will light Christmas Land at 5:00 p.m. and bring out Santa!

We also plan to have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park again this year. We are looking at a tentative date of Saturday, March 19. We have so many agencies, businesses, clubs and organizations involved with these events. Everyone's cooperation and participation really helps these become true community events. Thank You!

The Bookmobile will continue to visit Chapel Park throughout the 2015-2016 school year. The Bookmobile will be at Chapel between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. every other Tuesday. Please stop down and visit.

Chapel Park hosts a variety of senior activities weekly. We also coordinate four senior bus trips a year. 2015 trips

included a St Patrick's Day buffet and show at the Beeches Dinner Theater in Rome NY; trip to Seneca Falls, NY; a trip to the Merry-Go-Round Theater in Auburn, NY to see "Saturday Night Fever" and in September we went to visit three separate museums in Western NY. For more information about our senior activities and bus trips please contact Bob Ripley at 607-732-1410 or [bripley@townof-southport.com](mailto:bripley@townof-southport.com).

We welcome any questions, suggestions or concerns. Please feel free to stop by our office located at Chapel Park, 83 Personius Road in Pine City, call 732-4265, or email [dellis@townofsouthport.com](mailto:dellis@townofsouthport.com). Don't forget to check out the Town's website for upcoming programs and events at [www.townofsouthport.com](http://www.townofsouthport.com). Also, be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

Visit our website: [townofsouthport.com](http://townofsouthport.com)

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

## 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
Senior Programs .....	732-1410
Emergency Police, Fire & Medical.....	911
Non-Emergency calls.....	735-8600

## Town Hall Business Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Town Meetings

Please check the Town website at  
[www.townofsouthport.com](http://www.townofsouthport.com)  
or our new digital sign at Town Hall  
for monthly meetings and events

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact  
[kszerszen@townofsouthport.com](mailto:kszerszen@townofsouthport.com)

## Southport Elected Officials

**Town Supervisor**  
David J. Sheen

**Town Clerk**  
Carolyn Renko

**Town Council**  
Etta Kay Dewey  
Glenn Gunderman  
Joe Roman  
Kathleen Szerszen

**Highway Superintendent**  
David Bachman

**Town Justices**  
Joseph Holly • Steven T. Milford

## SOUTHPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Michael S. Smith, Assistant Fire Chief*

## We Need You

Firefighting and rescue services are provided to the residents of the Town of Southport by four (4) different fire departments – Southport, Pine City, Webbs Mills and Golden Glow. Jurisdictional boundary lines were established decades ago, and these boundaries today provide the legal boundaries of the taxing districts that support the operation of the fire departments.

Each of the fire departments has its own rich history, but all have one common denominator from the time of their establishment. All were formed out of concern of citizens that they and their neighbors have protection against the ravages of fire and other emergencies.

This is truly an example of neighbor helping neighbor for the common good. The costs of this fire protection are kept reasonably low due to the willingness of residents to volunteer their time to serve the community as firefighters.

The need for volunteers is even greater today. All of our fire departments welcome new volunteer members, and all are especially interested in people who are available during daytime hours.

To become a volunteer firefighter you must be at least 16 years of age, of good character (a background check is required), and able to pass a medical examination that is geared toward the requirements of firefighting. Both men and women are welcome and encouraged to visit your local fire station and learn more about the opportunities to volunteer.

Please consider becoming a volunteer firefighter – WE NEED YOU!

# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

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*David J. Sheen*

## **Budget and Finances**

By the time you receive this newsletter, it is expected that the budget process for the 2016 year will be completed. The goal was to decrease the tax levy by 8%. This would reduce the amount to be raised in taxes from \$380,000 to \$350,000. This entire levy is applied to the Highway budget. The total Town budget amounts to approximately \$4 million dollars. We have maintained this \$4 million dollar budget for the last 12 years along with lowering taxes in each of these years.

We continue to monitor and work smartly within the budget while striving to provide exceptional services to you, our taxpayer. As a side note, we have received notice from Comptroller DiNapoli that New York State's Fiscal Monitoring System has ranked the Town with no fiscal financial stress for 2014 and the two years preceding that.

## **Highway Improvements**

Along with maintaining our roads to keep them in excellent shape, you may have noticed the landscaping work and mowing that has been done from the Bulkhead intersection on Rte.328 to the Webbs Mills exit. The State has been cutting back on funding and this has resulted in very limited mowing in this area. With the presentability of our Town in mind, we were able to obtain a five year mowing permit from the State to mow more areas than are normally permitted. This is being done by our Town employees as time allows. This improves the look of the area and presents a better entranceway to both of the roundabouts that are currently being constructed (please see article on using roundabouts within this newsletter).

## **Zombie Properties**

As you may notice, we have houses and properties that do not meet building code requirements and may be in disrepair. When this happens (and the owner does not respond to our violation notices) it can take some time to resolve. Two things normally occur, 1) We levy fines against the owner, in order to encourage them to take care of the property or we have it done by a contractor and then the cost of the cleanup is put on the property owner's next year's tax bill. 2) The property owner walks away from the property and it reverts back to the mortgage holder, i.e., bank or mortgage broker. This is a NYS issue where some of the mortgage holders will not respond to our requests for repair or permission to demolish. It then can take three to four years for a foreclosure to take place and then the subsequent sale of the property. I had the opportunity to meet with the NYS Attorney General to see how we can get our state legislation to make these mortgage companies respond faster to various municipality requests. He indicated that the legislation to force mortgage companies to respond has been in the discussion for years and he will continue to recommend it.

## **Town Sign**

The Town has purchased a new digital sign. This allows us the opportunity to keep residents and visitors informed of the dates and times of our meetings, along with various Town events or items that may be of interest.

## **Comprehensive Plan**

We have completed our Comprehensive Plan and are proud to announce that the New York Upstate Chapter of the Ameri-

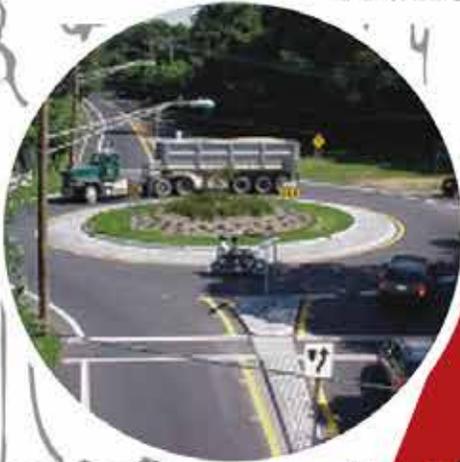
can Planning Association has selected the "Town of Southport Final Comprehensive Plan" to be recognized with an Honorable Mention Award. We would like to express our gratitude to Hunt Engineers and Elan Planning, Design & Landscape Architecture for their work on the plan. We also want to thank the Town residents and the planning committee who participated in many meetings and dedicated hours to assist us with the plan. The Comprehensive Plan Committee members include Jamie Gensel, Tim Steed, Sherry Collins, Etta Kay Dewey, Richard Keyser, Linda Palmer, Chris Parsons, Mike Stephens, Laurie Sweeney, Kathy Szerszen and Dan Williams.

## **Shared Services**

We are working in conjunction with other towns toward establishing an agreement whereby one Assessor would provide services for several other towns in Chemung County including the Town of Southport. One town will be responsible for employing the shared Assessor and the remaining towns would contract with the Assessor's originating Town. The clerical help needed will be absorbed in some towns. This agreement will save future dollars in town budgets and still provide the quality of service needed.

In conclusion, we continue to work hard for our residents and our employees. We thank you for your positive comments about our great Town and ask that if you have ideas for improvements that are not being addressed, please contact us. We cannot address issues that we are not aware of, and welcome input from all our Town residents.

New York State Department of  
Transportation



**A Citizen's  
Guide  
To  
Roundabouts**

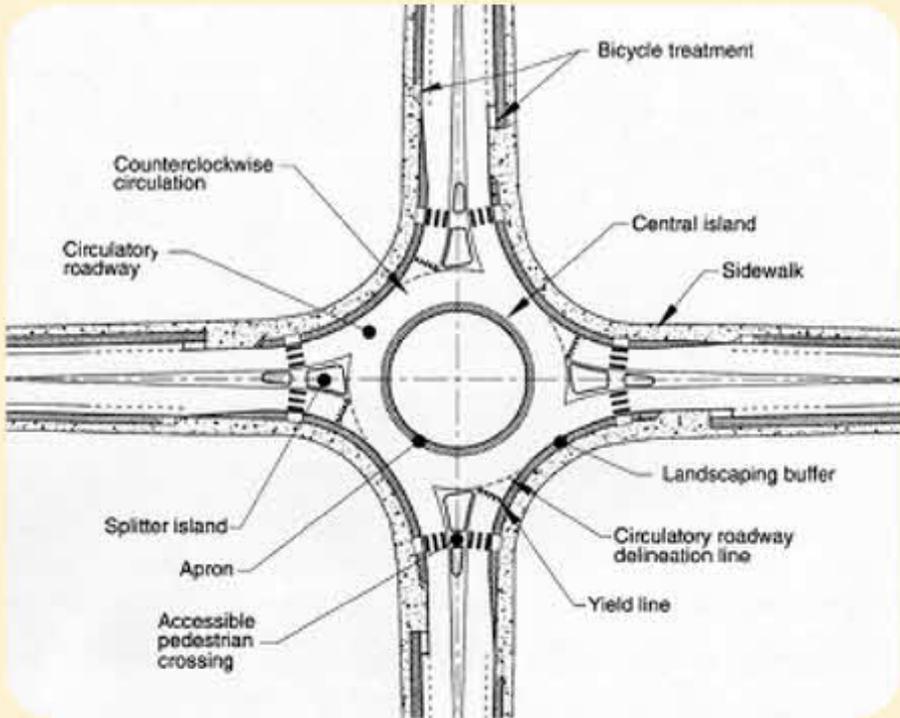


Joan McDonald, Commissioner

# State Constructs Roundabouts on Route 328

## WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT?

A modern roundabout is an unsignalized circular intersection engineered to maximize safety and minimize traffic delay. Over the last few decades, thousands of roundabouts have been installed in Europe, Australia and other parts of the world. Recently, they have gained support in the United States with states such as Maryland, Colorado, Florida, Washington, and more recently, New York, getting experience with their use and design. Drivers in those states also are becoming comfortable with their use. In the cities and towns where roundabouts have been built, and even where the public has been hesitant about accepting them initially, roundabouts ultimately have been accepted enthusiastically because of the increased safety they provide, along with traffic calming, and aesthetic benefits.



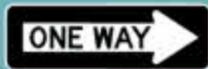
# Navigating a Roundabout

## Motor Vehicles



### Approaching and Entering the Roundabout

- When approaching the roundabout, follow the lane designation signs and choose the proper lane for multi-lane approach roadways, slow down and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Look to the left. Traffic in the roundabout has the right-of-way.
- Approach the yield line and enter the roundabout when there is an adequate gap in the circulating traffic flow.
- If another car is waiting at the yield line ahead of you, do not stop in the crosswalk. Keep the crosswalk clear for pedestrians.
- Bicyclists are permitted to ride within the roundabout and will be riding in the lane just as other vehicles do. Please do not pass a bicycle in the roundabout.



### Exiting the Roundabout

- Once you have entered the roundabout, proceed counter-clockwise to your exit. You now have the right-of-way.
- As you approach your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Exit the roundabout, yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk.



# Navigating a Roundabout

## Trucks



- Drive on the circulatory roadway, except large trucks and trailers may use the truck apron provided to negotiate the tight turning radius.
- Drive (usually with just the rear wheels) on the raised pavement of the truck apron to navigate more easily.
- Cars should not use the truck apron.

## Pedestrians



- Watch for cars; always wait until there are no cars coming or when you are certain that all the oncoming traffic is yielding to you.
- Cross only at the designated crosswalks.
- Never cross to the central island.
- Watch for cars; you have the right-of-way, but your best protection is your own attention.
- Cross and proceed to the splitter island. The splitter islands offer a safe refuge between two different directions of traffic flow allowing you to concentrate on traffic coming from only one direction at a time. Cross the remaining portion of the roundabout.

## Bicyclists



- If you are comfortable riding in traffic, take the lane and circulate like you are a vehicle, making sure you yield to traffic in the circle when entering.
- Ride at the speed of the circular roadway to discourage cars from passing you.
- When you exit the roundabout, use your right hand signal.
- If you are unsure about using the roundabout, dismount and walk your bike as a pedestrian at the designated crosswalks.

## Southport Town Hall

1139 Penna. Ave, Elmira, NY 14904

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**Phone:**

607-734-1548

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**Office Hours:**

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

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Closed Weekends and Holidays

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## Town of Southport Board Members

Supervisor

**David J. Sheen**

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Town Council

**Etta Kay Dewey**

**Glenn Gunderman**

**Joe Roman**

•  
Council Person & Deputy Supervisor

**Kathleen Szerszen**

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## Town of Southport Highway Department

**733-5467**

[dbachman@townofsouthport.com](mailto:dbachman@townofsouthport.com)

## SOUTHPORT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

*David L. Bachman, Superintendent*

*Russell H. Tobey, Deputy Superintendent*

### Kinner Hill Box Culvert Replaced

The Southport Highway Department completed several projects through the summer and fall. A large box culvert was replaced on Kinner Hill Road. The 8' x 12' x 54' concrete structure replaces an old 1950s one which has allowed the road to be widened with a new guide rail appurtenance adding to motorist safety in this area.

Additionally, stone /oil applications on our rural roads, Holden, Walsh and Widger Hill, and reconstruction of Carpenter Road were completed.

The Town Brush Lot will continue to be open through the fall season to Town of Southport resident taxpayers only. The Town Board has funded additional cameras that have been installed throughout the entire property on Masia Drive. These cameras are monitored by the Code Enforcement office and those found violating the posted rules will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

We ask our residents to be vigilant when using the brush lot and report violations (license plate numbers etc.).

With winter approaching, the Highway Department must insist that the portable basketball hoops be removed from the right-of-way on our streets and roads. The placing and use of these is in violation of section 19.02 of the New York State Real Property Law. The parking of vehicles on streets/roads during snow storms is a concern for our snow plow truck operators. Plowing snow and salting operations are difficult and dangerous enough driving throughout the night in falling snow. On some of our narrower streets, parked vehicles often prohibit the passage of large plow trucks and fire department vehicles. We ask that you keep this issue in mind during the winter months.

Questions? You may call us at the Highway Department at 733-5467.



*Crews complete the repaving of Carpenter Road.*

## TOWN CODE ENFORCEMENT

*Dale Balmer,  
Code Enforcement Officer*

### Carbon Monoxide Detection Now Required for All Commercial Buildings

Effective June 27, 2015, the New York State Building Code now requires carbon monoxide detection systems to be installed in all restaurants, businesses, and other commercial buildings, with very few limited exceptions. This requirement applies to existing buildings as well as new construction, and effects all buildings that are not single or two family dwellings or townhouses. This new law is aimed at protecting occupants of a commercial building or restaurant from injury or death resulting from the inhalation of carbon monoxide, which is a colorless and odorless gas.

Although the law establishes an effective date on June 27, 2015, it also allows a transition period from that date until June 27, 2016. During that period, the owner of an existing building will not be in violation of the code if he or she has provided the Code Enforcement Officer with a written statement that they are attempting in good faith to install carbon monoxide detection as quickly as practicable. After the transition period, the owner of the building will be subject to fines and/or jail time as prescribed by law.

The owners of these buildings are encouraged to install the detection systems as quickly as possible. Please contact the Southport Code Enforcement Officer with questions and advice for your specific building.

## ASSESSMENT NEWS

*Catherine Edwards, Assessor*

### Exemption Information

The renewal for the Enhanced STAR will be mailed out in November, 2015. If you are going to be the age 65 anytime during the year 2016, you will be eligible for the Enhanced STAR as long as you meet the income standards and apply on or before March 1, 2016.

Senior exemption (65 and older), with incomes of \$19,200 or less, will receive their renewal application in January 2016.

There is no specific exemption category for residents on disability for Town, County or School taxes. They must qualify under the existing categories. Please feel free to call our office at 734-4424 with any questions.

## STORMWATER COALITION

*Toni Gardner, Stormwater Educator*

### Seasonal Reminder

A reminder from the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition that while raking leaves this fall season, keep them out of the roads and off the storm drains as they may clog the flow of rain/melting snow. Leaves can easily be mulched or composted. A simple way to mulch them is to drive over them with a mulching lawn mower. A bagging mower is helpful with this task. The mulched leaves can then be mixed into the soil of your garden. The nutrients from last season's leaves will enhance the soil for next year. Another way to break down this yard waste is to compost it, simply layering dead brown plants with some green grass clippings, adding enough water to moisten but not soak the pile. You may want to purchase a composter, The Earth Machine, through the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition at (607) 796-2216 or search other designs available. The dark, rich soil from the compost can then be worked into your garden in the spring.



## Chapel Park Senior Center

83 Personius Road

Pine City, NY 14871

732-1410

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### David Ellis

Recreation Director

732-4265

dellis@townofsouthport.com

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### Monthly Calendar

townofsouthport.com/  
content/calendars

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To Rent the Community Center,

contact the Town Clerk

734-1548

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## Town of Southport Parks and Recreation Department

Chapel Park

83 Personius Road

Pine City, NY 14871

607-732-4265

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### Senior Bus Trip Info:

Bob Ripley

732-1410

or visit

www.townofsouthport.com

## SOUTHPORT TOWN COURT

*Honorable Steven T. Milford*

### Fees and Penalties

In this addition of the Southport Journal, I thought I would address portions of the Vehicle and Traffic Law related to fees and penalties. These fees are not under the control of the courts, but pertain to certain guilty pleas that may be entered. New York State has a point system under the Vehicle & Traffic Law (VTL) in which certain violations accumulate points against your driver's license.

Under the Driver Responsibility Act section 503-4, any person who accumulates six or more points on his driving record within an eighteen month period shall have to pay DMV \$100 per year for a three year period for the first six points and an additional \$25 per year for each additional point on his record. A failure to pay this fee to DMV can result in your driving privileges being suspended.

There are different ways to reduce points on your driving record such as the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving course which can, upon completion, reduce up to four points on your driving record. There are several defensive driving courses offered locally.

There are also civil penalties for a conviction of operating or permitting operation without insurance. DMV will revoke your license and/or your registration for at least one year if found guilty,

and impose a \$750 civil penalty that has to be paid to DMV before restoring your license and/or registration.

Civil fees to have your driving privileges restored for failing to answer a traffic summons or failure to pay a fine (also referred to as scofflaw) are required before the scofflaw suspension can be lifted. This fee is \$70 per each scofflaw violation up to a maximum of \$400 per day. In other words, if you failed to pay a fine or failed to answer a traffic summons or tickets in one court, you would have to pay \$70 for each unanswered summons in that court up to a maximum of \$400. If you had unanswered or unpaid fines in other courts, the same would apply to those tickets before you could get your privileges restored.

Keep in mind that it is actually your driving privileges being suspended so this penalty would also apply to out of state drivers.

On a final note, I would like to remind everyone that there is now a five point assessment on all cell phone and texting violations.

As always, if you have any questions concerning topics covered in this article or any other questions concerning court matters, you may contact the Southport justice court during normal day hours.

*Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk*

### School Zone Safety Reminders

Fall is upon us and school has been underway for a few weeks now. The Town employs a handful of School Traffic Officers who are a dedicated group of people and take their job of crossing the children of our community very seriously. Two of the major concerns that occur for our School Traffic Officers are cars not yielding when they are crossing students and vehicles speeding through school zones. Please remember, it is state law that motorists yield to people in crosswalks. Please make sure the School Traffic Officer and the student(s) they are crossing are completely across and clear of the crosswalk. Speeding in school zones is another problem. The maximum speed in school zones in the Town of Southport is 20 mph and according to Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1180 "no person shall drive in excess of such maximum school speed limits during school days between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m." It only takes an extra minute or two to slow down through the school zone and it only takes a split second for an accident to happen. The goal for everyone involved is the safety of the students and the school traffic officer. We have asked the Sheriff's department to monitor our school zones more

closely and just a reminder that fines can be doubled for tickets received within these zones.

The Town Clerk's office is very pleased to announce that we will be selling 2015-2016 Calendars for the Southport Historical Society once again. The calendars will be available on or around November 1st and will cost \$10 each. This was a very successful fundraiser for the Historical Society and we are happy to help them in their effort to surpass last year's sales!

It is also the time of year again when this office begins the collection of listings of escrow accounts from banks and mortgage companies for properties located in the town of Southport. If you pay off your mortgage, re-mortgage your property or purchase property during the months of November and December, please contact our office so we can ensure that your tax bill makes it to its proper destination.

The Town's website is available at [www.townofsouthport.com](http://www.townofsouthport.com), where you can find agendas for all of our boards, meeting minutes as well as events that are happening in our town. As always please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

*Kit Gooshaw*

### Brochure Lists Association Members

As Fall rolls into Southport, the Southport Business Association is busy with several projects. We have been working on a tri-fold brochure listing all our current members. The brochure will be at several businesses and points of interest, along with sending them to new homeowners who move into the area. If you are a business that is not currently involved with the Southport Business Association and would like to be included in this brochure, please contact Todd McClelland at 738-1518 or via email [todd@visitclassiccafe.com](mailto:todd@visitclassiccafe.com).

Several of the Southport businesses participated in the second Annual Trunk & Treat at Chapel Park on October 31. This is a wonderful community event for the kids.

Christmas Land will once again grace our community. We are looking to replace the existing trailer that houses all the electrical for Christmas Land. This trailer has seen better days. The current trailer is over 40 years old; we have had it since the mid 80s. The floor has fallen out creating a hazard to those who set up the display. We are looking for a trailer that is at least 7' x 14'. If you know of any trailers or would like to donate to the efforts to raise money for a new trailer, please contact Todd McClelland at the above number, or you can send a donation to the Southport Business Association, P.O. Box 64, Pine City, NY 14871.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at McClelland's Catering Room.

**TOWN OF SOUTHPORT**  
1139 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14904

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Thanks to the following Sponsors for their generous support to help offset the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter.**

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**Dalrymple Gravel & Contracting Co., Inc**  
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