



SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

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

Fall 2016

Southport Town Clerk's Office

Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk

New Town Hall Office Hours

Here we are once again in full swing into the fall season and the changes it brings. The first change I would like to address is the new hours for the Town Hall offices. The previous hours were set at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours going forward will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We feel that this will benefit residents that need to utilize the offices at an earlier time. The Recreation Department will remain at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Highway Department also came off of their four ten hour days for the summer months which brings them back to the regular hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information for Hunters

Hunting season is also upon us, the deadline to obtain your deer management permit was September 30th. The DEC will provide a list in November outlining the area's open to additional doe permits. The DEC is also requiring online sign-ups of all hunting and bow education courses at www.hunter-ed.com when you have completed your registration you will

then come to the Town Clerk's office to obtain the study material required for the class. All courses are free and taught by DEC certified instructors. New Sportsman Education classes are added continuously throughout the year with the bulk of the classes being taught between March and September. Classes fill quickly, so it is important to sign up early.

Handicap Parking Permits

Also, as many of you know, the Town Clerk's Office also issues Parking Permits for Persons with Disabilities also known as "handicap" parking permits. If you are applying for a first time permit, applications are available in our office. Applications need to be completed by the applicant and a physician and returned to our office with proper identification of the applicant, before a vehicle tag can be issued. Please keep in mind that permits must be issued by the municipality in which you reside and only one permit is permitted per applicant.

Tax Bills

On another note, the Town Clerk as the Receiver of Taxes has mailed notices to banks and mortgage companies requesting a listing of mortgages with escrow accounts for properties located in the Town of Southport. If you pay off your mortgage, remortgage your property or purchase your property during the months of November and December, please contact our office at 734-1548. This will eliminate the possibility of your tax bill being sent to the wrong location. Town and County tax bills will then be mailed out on December 30th to individuals, businesses, banks and mortgage companies. Town of Southport tax bills will be payable only at the Town Clerks' office during January with no penalty, during February with a 1% penalty and during March with a 2% penalty plus a \$1.00 service charge. After April 1st taxes are payable to the Chemung County Treasurer.

If we can be of service to you in any way, stop in or call our office at 734-1548.

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

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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
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
David Bachman

Council Person & Deputy Supervisor
Kathleen Szerszen

Town Justices
Joseph Holly
Steven T. Milford

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

Zoning Board

Jamie Gensel, Chairman

Role of the Zoning Board of Appeals on Town Government

The Town government structure is split into three distinct Boards: the Town Board, Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Southport Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is an appellant board consisting of five Town residents appointed by the Town Board. Each member serves a five-year staggered term so that vacancies are offset. ZBA Appointees can serve a maximum of two consecutive, full terms. The Town Board recently added one Alternate member to ensure that a quorum is maintained. The Alternate may only participate in the case of absences or other conflicts.

The ZBA was established to perform quasi-judicial and administrative functions in regards to local zoning official decisions. What this means is that the ZBA is there as a “safety valve” for Applicants and Citizens to appeal any decision or interpretation by the Town Code Enforcement Officer (CO). The ZBA must base any decisions on the existing Zoning Law. The ZBA cannot create new rules or definitions, that is reserved for the Town Board. The ZBA can grant (or deny) two types of relief: Interpretive and Variance (Area and Use).

Zoning Interpretations - No matter how well a local Zoning Law is written, there is always room for interpretation. It is the duty of the Town Code Enforcement Officer to interpret the definitions and rules defined in the Town Board established Zoning Law. In most ZBA Zoning Interpretation actions, the CO has ruled against an Applicant. In that case, the Applicant may petition the ZBA for relief. However, there are times when the CO interpretation in favor of an Applicant has aggrieved a fellow citizen. An “aggrieved” citizen can appeal the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer where a permit was granted to the ZBA. A person is “aggrieved” if his or her property value is affected negatively by the CO’s action.

Area Variances - The ZBA reviews requests for dimensional relief from existing regulation relating to building setbacks, building heights, allowed signage, etc. The ZBA reviews Area Variance requests in accordance with Section 267 of NYS Town Law, which states: The ZBA shall take into consideration the benefit to the Applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. In making such

*See **Role** on page 3*

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Role

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determination the Board shall also consider: (1) whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance; (2) whether the benefit sought by the Applicant can be achieved by some method, feasible for the Applicant to pursue, other than an area variance; (3) whether the requested area variance is substantial; (4) whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district; and (5) whether the alleged difficulty was self-created, which consideration shall be relevant to the decision of the ZBA, but shall not necessarily preclude the granting of the Area Variance. The ZBA need not find in favor of the Applicant on every one of the above questions. Rather, the ZBA must merely take each one of the factors into account when making their decision.

Use Variances - The ZBA reviews requests for relief from existing regulation for changes in density and uses not permitted by current zoning. The Use Variance has a much higher threshold and is also governed by Section 267: No such Use Variance shall be granted by the ZBA without a showing by the Applicant that applicable zoning regulations and restrictions have caused unnecessary hardship. In order to prove such unnecessary hardship the Applicant shall demonstrate to the ZBA that for each and every permitted use under the zoning regulations for the particular district where the property is located, (1) the applicant cannot realize a reasonable return, provided that lack of

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Message from the Town Supervisor

David J. Sheen

Economic Development

We continue to strive to bring new businesses and retain current businesses in our community. Our Economic Development Specialist, Nichola Ostrander, has been involved in many facets of getting the word out that we are open for business.

One of many projects includes a package that is being sent to potential developers that shows sites available for development and sale. Included is a description of our town traffic counts and why someone should locate here.

We have also applied and are going to apply for grants that give the Town an upper hand in recruiting businesses and help assist current business in improving their customer base.

One of the significant grants is the Restore New York Grant. This grant is to obtain up to \$500,000.00 to help develop the old Dixie Barbeque property that is located at the intersection of Broadway and old Pennsylvania Avenue. This grant would help a developer (selected by the Town) acquire, demolish and build a business that can be a centerpiece to the downtown area. This meets the goal of our Comprehensive Plan that was completed recently.

We want to bring people to our community and entice them to shop and live here. With this, we look forward to successfully receiving these grants.

Budget

As normal, we have completed our 2017 Town Budget. This was presented at two Town Board meetings and the attendance was sparse. One would assume that low attendance is a vote of confidence but we still have work to do to make it a lean budget with controls.

This Budget is a \$4,000,000 budget that has remained at this level for 13 years. To cover the expenses and the loss of significant revenues due to Chemung County raising their sales tax retention percentage from 50% to approximately 74% of the total sales tax collected, we will have to use reserves and control expenses to maintain the services that need to be provided to our Taxpayers.

The tax levy again will be reduced 2% for a 13th year of levy decreases. Towns are in for a few tough years if the sales tax provided to the Towns continues to go down.

Shared Services will continue to be utilized but will not make up for the short fall of revenues.

Safety of Our Neighborhoods

This subject has currently come to the top of the Town and our residents. We take this seriously and have been in contact with police agencies and our current local Deputy.

The recent activity of break-ins and accessing cars has suddenly escalated in our area, as well as other surrounding areas. Please be assured that the Sheriff's Office and other agencies are making an all-out effort to investigate these issues and they have leads to whom have been involved.

Our Resident Deputy has prioritized these issues and will be spending more time on surveillance. Other Sheriff's Deputies have also been assigned to this area as well.

We cannot do as we have done in the "old days" and leave our possessions and house unattended. With that, continue to be vigilant and feel comfortable in reporting unusual activity to the police.

As always, my door is always open for questions or comments.

Town of Southport Parks & Recreation

Dave Ellis, Recreation Director



The Annual "Trunk or Treat" Halloween Festival at Chapel Park provides activities for all to enjoy.



Children enjoy activities at the Summer Parks Program offered at Chapel, Goodwin and Draxler Parks.

Community Partners Assist with Many Town Events

It is time to take a look ahead after another very busy Spring and Summer!

We have several activities, programs, and events coming up this Fall and Winter. Plus all Town parks remain open year round. Park hours are 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. We ask all of you to please be aware of your surroundings and pay close attention to the walkways during inclement weather. We ask everyone to notice that our parks are tobacco free. We also ask everyone to please keep our parks clean. There are dog waste bags available at all parks and plenty of garbage cans.

October 29 was our third Annual "Trunk-or-Treat" Halloween Festival at Chapel Park. This event provides a safe, fun place for trick-or-treating. There are games, prizes, cider, donuts, and more! The event has turned into a great community gathering that brings all of us together.

Next up for us is The Annual Southport Parade. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 3. The parade route is scheduled to begin at the corner of Personius Road and Pennsylvania Ave. and continue down Penn Ave. and end at Christmas Land located at the Southport Fire Department. We ask you to find a

safe spot along Penn Ave. and join us for the parade at 3:45 p.m. As the parade concludes we will light Christmas Land at 5:00 p.m. and bring out Santa. The Southport Fire Department is also hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" that day from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

After winter we will start to look forward to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park. We are looking at a tentative date of Saturday, April 8. 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 to all those involved!

The AARP has been holding Driver Safety Courses at the Chapel Park Community Center for some time now. Please contact our offices for more information on upcoming courses. We expect to have a total of five more courses held at Chapel Park throughout 2017.

The Bookmobile will continue to visit Chapel Park between 3:00 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.

Chapel Park hosts a variety of senior activities weekly. We also coordinate four bus trips a year. In 2016 several sites were included along the way. There were visits to the Holloway House, Oak Hill Park in Olean, NY; the Crosspatch Ranch for a Chuck Wagon Supper. We also went to see "Oklahoma" and "Smokey Joe's Café" at the Merry-Go-Round Theater in Auburn, NY. For more information about our senior activities and bus trips please contact Bob Ripley at 607-732-1410 or bripley@townofsouthport.com

Also, look out for a new path to and from the bridge at Chapel Park. We hope this will provide an easier route for people coming to and from the park. Special thanks to everyone involved with this project.

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.

Thank You!

Town of Southport Highway Department

David L. Bachman, Superintendent

Russell H. Tobey, Deputy Superintendent

Highway Departments Work Cooperatively to Complete Projects

The Southport Highway Department has been busy with many improvement projects this past summer. These include stream bank stabilization on the Left Branch Road, several storm water culvert replacements to Kinner Hill, Snowbug, Rosar Hill, Lightizer, Lewis and High Haven Roads, and a hot mix asphalt overlay application on Leland and Southport Streets. The Highway Department continues to enjoy a close working relationship with the Chemung County Highway Department, the City of Elmira DPW and several other Town Highway Departments. Known as "Shared Services" all municipalities save taxpayer monies by sharing trucks, manpower and heavy equipment to complete roadwork and storm water remediation projects.

Basketball Hoops & Mail Boxes

To those residents who own portable basketball hoops. The placement of these basketball hoops within the Town Highway right-of-way is prohibited. Not only is it dangerous to be playing in the street, the hoop structures pose an obstruction and hazard to motorists and users of the streets. Additionally, when Highway crews are plowing snow, the basketball hoop structures are difficult to see at night. ***Please remove them from the right-of-way.***

Some information about the placement of mail boxes within the

right-of-way of any roadway. Whenever possible, mailboxes must be located so that the carrier's vehicle is off pavement when serving them. Rural box numbers (or house numbers) must be applied in numerals not less than one inch high. The mailbox post must be of adequate strength and size. Approach to the mailbox should be on a hard level surface (compacted gravel or stone). Boxes must be placed to conform with State laws and Highway regulations. The bottom of the mailbox should be 48" from the ground. Always call 811 before you dig. Most mailbox posts are very close to underground utilities and proper clearance must be maintained to prevent damage to these utilities.

Brush Lot

The Southport Brush Lot will continue to be open to TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY through the end of November. The security cameras in place at the Brush Lot work well and have led to several successful arrests for illegal dumping of unauthorized material. If you observe illegal dumping, please note the license plate number of the offending vehicle, along with the date and approximate time, and report same to the Southport Code Enforcement Office at 737-5268 or the Town Highway Department at 733-5467.

Role

(Continued from page 3)

return is substantial as demonstrated by competent financial evidence; (2) that the alleged hardship relating to the property in question is unique, and does not apply to a substantial portion of the district or neighborhood; (3) that the requested use variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood; and (4) that the alleged hardship has not been self-created. The ZBA must find in favor of the Applicant for all four questions to grant a Use Variance.

Every ZBA action requires a Public Hearing where we welcome comments from our Residents. Comments on all other issues will be referred to the appropriate Town Department and/or the Town Board.

Our meetings are generally scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. As with all of the Town governing Boards, the ZBA meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions regarding the ZBA, our function/process or any other Zoning issues, contact the Town Code Enforcement Officer or attend one of our meetings.

References: http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Guidelines_for_Applicants_to_the_Zoning_Board_of_Appeals.pdf
http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Zoning_Board_of_Appeals.pdf

School Tax Relief Credit

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

New BASIC and Enhanced STAR applicants need to register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check. Visit www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 457-2036.

Anybody under the age of 65 who just purchased their home they reside in will have to apply to New York State for Basic STAR online at www.tax.ny.gov. You must apply to receive the STAR credit check. If you do not have a computer you can call (518) 457-2036 to register.

This does not affect anyone on the Enhanced STAR program (65 year or older).

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

The renewal for the Enhanced STAR will be mailed out in January 2017 from my office. If you are going to be the age 65 **anytime** during the year 2017, you will be eligible for the Enhanced STAR as long as you meet the income standards and apply on or **before** March 1, 2017.

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

A Spring and Summer Season to Remember

The 2016 softball season was a season to remember for the girls of Southport Cinderella. As we came out of a mild winter the girls were ready to hit the fields and play some ball. Participation numbers started off slow but by the season opener we had very comparable numbers from previous seasons. The weather cooperated most of the season and all the teams were able to get a number of fun games and practices in before the all-star season started. The Lady Sting all-stars had a lot of success in all of the tournaments attended. The 8u team took a third place finish in our host tournament, first place in the Elmira Heights tournament, second place in the Horseheads Summer Blast tournament. In the Corning World Series the girls battled on championship Sunday to a first place finish. The 10u team also worked very hard on championship Sunday to finish second in the Corning World Series. The 12u team had a second place finish in the Campbell tournament and a second place finish in the Corning World Series. This was by far the best all-star season the teams have had in quite a few years. It is a wonderful thing to be able to see these girls play and compete with other local organizations. The

support we receive from the Town as well as the parents involved in the program is unbelievable. Without this support system we would not be the organization we are today.

The girls are now involved in the 2016 fall skills program at Chapel Park. Every Monday and Thursday we meet at the fields from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm and work on furthering the level of play with our group. All ages are welcome and we have had quite a good turnout at the practices up to this point. This will lead us into our winter clinics which move inside once the weather gets too tough to handle. We will be ready to continue our success into the 2017 season.

This winter we will also begin work on the memorial bench in honor of a beloved player we lost last year. Hannah Jerzak was a 16u player in our league who tragically left this world far before her time. We as a league want to honor her memory with a bench located in Chapel Park. We have also been wearing her number inside of a heart on our rec ball jerseys since our fall ball season last year. Her family has shown so much support to our league and we hope we have been a source happiness to them during this tough time.

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

Town of Southport Parks & Recreation Department

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

Senior Bus Trip Info:

Bob Ripley: 732-1410
or visit townofsouthport.com

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

Southport Business Association

Kit Gooshaw

The Southport Business Association continues the mission of businesses helping businesses and serving our community. Once again this year we have participated in both the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat events at Chapel Park. These have been very successful partnerships with other community organizations.

The Association is working, in conjunction with the Town of Southport, to develop "Welcome to Southport" signs. We are also currently working on an improved website for the Business Association and updating Christmas Land. Christmas Land has been a Southport tradition for generations. Many of the displays and trailers are in disrepair. We are working on a five year plan to update and add to the beloved display. If you are interested in making a donation to Christmas Land please send donations to: Christmas Land c/o SBA, PO Box 64, Pine City NY 14871. (We are a 501c tax exempt organization).

On December 3 the Southport Business Association will be participating in the Southport Holiday Parade which starts at Chapel Park and ends at Christmas Land. Please come and join us. On December 7 at 6:00 p.m. we will be holding a Christmas party for all members of the business association and their families.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at McClelland's Catering Room. We have guest speakers and do a business spotlight. Contact us if you would be interested in hosting a monthly meeting at your place of business to spotlight your business.

Contact info: Todd McClelland (President) 607-738-1518 or via email todd@visitclassiccafe.com; Lori Jones (Treasurer) 607-737-5990 or via email lorijonesbookkeeping@gmail.com.

Recreation Association

*Robert Ostrander,
Commissioner of Baseball*

Summer Baseball Program

This year's baseball program had a few hiccups but the kids, for the most part, had an enjoyable experience. We had approximately 124 players this season spread across the four divisions with 11 different teams. We had very supportive sponsors for our teams and would like to thank First Heritage Federal Credit Union, Roundin' Third, Pudgies Pizza, Kent's Auto Body, It's OK to Dream Foundation, Southport Business Association, Bulkhead Hardware, Fairshake, ABQ Home Improvement, Vasco Brands, who were the runner up in the Majors Division, and K&L Trucking who were our Majors Division champions.

For the end of the year celebration, "Fun Fest" was held at Chapel Park. It was a huge success and a great event which was open to the public, encompassed vendors, activities for kids and adults, food and Ice cream, several baseball games and award ceremonies for the players.

Town Code Enforcement

Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone Information

The Town of Southport Code Enforcement Officer can provide you with the following information:

1. Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).
2. Flood insurance data for a site such as the FIRM Zone, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or depth, if it is shown on the map.
3. Handouts on the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement that applies to people who are getting a federally-backed mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.

4. Access to Elevation Certificates that have been processed in the Town and if they exist for a certain property.
5. Information on historical flooding.
6. If the property is located near a sensitive or wetland area.

If you would like to make an inquiry, please call or stop by with the property's address. We are open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may reach us by calling (607)737-5268 or send us an email at procchi@townofsouthport.com. There is no charge for this service.

Important Flood Property Protection Information

It is important that the Town work with you to help maximize flood mitigation efforts for your property. Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer and Certified Floodplain Manager, is available to visit your property to discuss possible flood mitigation efforts with you. This service is provided by the Town to help you with flood protection measures in any way possible. To schedule an appointment, please call the Code Enforcement Office at (607) 737-5268.

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Historical Society News



The newest Historical Society calendar for 2017 will be on sale at the Town Clerk's office

starting in November. The cost is still \$10. We hope you will consider buying a calendar. We are very appreciative of the town businesses who support the Society and the calendar.

This year's calendar is about many of the town's earliest schools. The old one room schools are an interesting part of our history. There were 14 school districts in Southport when the decision was made in 1957 to consolidate with the Elmira School district. Most of these schools were in the rural areas. There were 29 districts surrounding Elmira that were part of the consolidation. Southport had the most districts. The town of Ashland had three districts. There were five districts in the town of Baldwin and five in the town of Elmira. The town of Chemung had two districts. This was a huge undertaking that affected many students. The concerns were many. New schools were needed and schools needed to be renovated. The finances, staff and many other issues were discussed for months. A vote was taken and the consolidation was narrowly approved. To this day you can hear Southport people will say that they had to change schools and leave their small rural schools.

The Historical Society was awarded a grant from the Community Foundation to update many of our slides of the town buildings along the Plank Road. A committee is working on changing slides into photographs and digital images. We are very grateful for the grant. As we go digital we can preserve more information. You can email the Historical Society at southporthistoricalsociety@townofsouthport.com

The Society presents five Lunch Programs during the year. We have a dish to pass lunch at 1:30 and after lunch there is an interesting speaker. The lunches are open to members and the public. The programs are at Chapel Park in the Community Center on the second Sundays of February, April, June, October and December. There will be a lunch on December 4. The Jazz Band from the High School will entertain. We invite you to come and enjoy the afternoon with us.

Our Open House on Sundays are on the second Sunday of the month We are open from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. There will not be an Open House on Sundays in December or January. We are also open on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00, except for December and January. If the flag is out, we are open.

If you have ideas or questions for the Historical Society, please contact a board member or officer or email us. We look forward to an interesting year and welcome you to join us.

Yard Waste Reminder

With the raking of leaves season upon us, please remember to keep your leaves 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 design 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, making 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 here) for sale. Please contact Nikole Watts at 796-2216 or email at stormwatereducator@stny.rr.com.

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Yard

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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; it is open 24 hours a day through the end of November. The brush lot is located near the correctional facility, on Masia Drive.

For information or questions 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/>.



Plastic Earth Machine



Welded Wire



Pallet Compost

Southport Town Court

Honorable Steven T. Milford

Fees & 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 \$25.00 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.

I am also pleased that in the winter of this year our court received a JACAP grant from the state to digitalize our back court records and the process has begun where all of our records are now being scanned into digital format and the records will be maintained off sight. This process is being accomplished by the Chemung County data processing division with the cooperation of the Town of Southport. I want to thank all involved in bringing our records management into the 21st century.

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.

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Town of Southport

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Elmira, NY 14904

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Elmira Savings Bank
F.M. Howell & Company
Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors, PC
First Heritage Federal Credit Union
Gough Holding Corporation
Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport, LLC**

**Hunt Engineers Architects & Land Surveyors, PC
McDonald Automotive
McDonald Contracting & Mulch
Nelson & Streeter Construction Co.
O'Connor Plumbing & Heating LLC
Olthof Funeral Home, Inc.
Perry & Carroll, Inc.
Renko Tree Service
Shepherd's Food Market
Solutions Federal Credit Union
T-M-T Gravel & Contracting, Inc.
Tom Holleran's Auto
Williams Construction & Spray Foam
Williams Lubricants, Inc.**