



# SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

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

Fall 2017

## Town of Southport Parks & Recreation

*Dave Ellis, Recreation Director*

### Kind Words, Friendly Smiles and Lots of Activities

I am very lucky to have the opportunity to work with and speak with so many great people each and every day.

Many people have a lot of kind words to say when we speak about the parks and programs in Town. We are lucky to have so much support from the town board and great work from all of the other departments in Town and from our staff and volunteers. It is truly an effort from all!! We appreciate all of you who use the parks and your friendly smiles and kind words.

October 28 was our 4th 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 Town of Southport Holiday Parade. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. The parade route is scheduled to begin at the corner of Personius Rd. and Pennsylvania Ave. and continue down Penn Ave. and end at Christmas Land located behind the Southport Fire Department. We ask you to find a safe spot along Penn Ave. and join us for the parade at 4:30 p.m. As the parade concludes we will light Christmas land and bring out Santa.

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, March 24.

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 Smart Driver 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 2018.

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](http://www.cclld.lib.ny.us/bookmobile)

Chapel Park hosts a variety of senior activities weekly. We also coordinate four bus trips a year. In 2017 several sites were included along the way. There were visits to the Bellehurst Castle in Geneva, a trip to Trumansburg to see a personal classic car collection and trip to the Merry-Go-Round Theater in Auburn, NY for a Patsy Cline show. There were also several other fun stops along the way. For more information about our senior activities and bus trips please contact Bob Ripley at 607-732-1410 or [bripley@townofsouthport.com](mailto:bripley@townofsouthport.com)

We welcome any questions, suggestions, or concerns so please feel free to stop by our office located at



*Pine City School Boy Scout Troop 43 set up a rope bridge activity at the "Trunk or Treat" Halloween Festival at Chapel Park.*



*Christmas Land will be open to visitors starting December 2 after the Holiday Parade. Pictured here is the Mr. & Mrs. Claus display by the Southport Kiwanis Club.*

Chapel Park, 83 Personius Rd. in Pine City, call 732-4265, or e-mail [dellis@townofsouthport.com](mailto: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](http://www.townofsouthport.com). Also, be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

Thank You!

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

#### 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](mailto: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](http://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 January 2018 from my office. If you are going to be the age **65 anytime** during the year 2018 you will be eligible for the Enhanced STAR as long as you meet the income standards and apply on or **before** March 1, 2018.

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 2016 income. We are also doing an inside audit of all our exemptions and if there is anything missing from your original application we will be asking for that information. We cannot process any applications unless we have proof of income. So please make sure you bring all your income documents.

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

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

# Message from the Town Supervisor

David J. Sheen

## Budget

As expected for this time of year, we had our 2018 Tentative Budget meeting on September 19, 2017.

Although we advertised the fact that this meeting was taking place, we had low attendance from taxpayers. We strongly encourage taxpayers to attend future budget planning sessions in order to become more familiar with how town dollars are used.

This 2018 Tentative Budget is approximately \$200,000 lower than in 2017. This is due to the sales tax revenue continuing to decline. The tax rate proposed is .77 cents per thousand, down one cent from .78 cents.

This will be the fourteenth year of tax decreases for the Town, amounting to taxpayer savings of approximately \$3.3 million. This equates to significant savings for the taxpayers in our town. For example, an average home assessed at \$100,000 should expect to pay approximately \$77 in annual town taxes. Fourteen years ago that amount was \$305. The tax levy will be reduced from \$345,000 to \$340,000 of which all will be applied to the Highway budget.

We will continue to review shared services opportunities with other municipalities as they come along and strive to maintain our Town's identity.

## Economic Development

We continue to look for new opportunities for our Town and also work to support local businesses. Our Economic Development Specialist continues to seek developers for our area. Although it is difficult to do business in our state, we do believe that our area presents a safe and a receptive place to live and do business in.

## Sewers vs. Septic

We have recently been part of a sewer expansion plan and many people have asked what that entails. The most recent project is named the Leland Expansion Project. This came about as a result of the Town Board being presented with a petition that contained over 100 resident signatures requesting the Town look into providing sewer hook-ups to their area. Given the request, it was only logical to respond with a plan taking into consideration both need and cost. When this is done by the Town officials, it is in response to the people, not the individuals on the Town Board.

When a project is put together, both financing and engineering are considered and the project may be subject to a referendum. With this project, there was a request for a referendum and it will be voted on at the November election. Only the people residing in the specific area will be able to vote on it. This will allow those impacted to vote on whether they want to spend their money on it. No other taxpayers in the Town will be affected

financially as all costs are borne by properties located in the new district.

We try to provide residents with the best information possible in order to help them make their decisions. The decision to vote on adding sewer hook ups could impact people both financially and from a quality of life perspective – making it a decision that may be difficult to make.

We continue to receive requests from other property owners asking when they can get sewer hook-ups. We suggest that you get people in your area to sign a petition that represents at least 51% of the property owners so that we can look into the feasibility. This gives the Town Board the confidence that people are really interested and that an application for a grant has the citizens behind it. We can help interested residents in defining the area.

## Snow Removal

In last year's newsletter, we commented on the difficulty we have in removing the snow in some streets. This is mainly due to cars parked on the streets. We will be working with the Planning Board to, hopefully, put together an ordinance to ensure cars are off the streets during a snow event. We hope you understand the time and money that is expended when we have to go around cars and have to come back two or three times to clear a street.

As usual, we look forward to your comments or suggestions.

## Town of Southport Highway Department

David L. Bachman, Superintendent

Arthur J. Kerr, Deputy Superintendent

### Major Projects

The Southport Highway Department continues a busy summer and fall with many projects completed and still in progress at the time of this writing.

The Chapel Park causeway was cleaned of debris, silt and sediment throughout its 1.1-mile length.

Roadwork projects have been completed thus far on Comfort Hill, Sitzer, Comfort, Mount Zoar, and Summit Roads and Upper Crestview, Hillside and Hillock Drives. The milling, base and top of Caton Ave, from Cadet Terrace to the dead end, and Acorn Avenue will also be completed before the end of paving season.

Several drainage pipes are being replaced on various roads to aid in stormwater being channeled properly. Several locations through the Town will have received guiderail replacements and repairs.

### Street Lights

Do you know of a street light that is not working properly, or is flickering or staying on during the day? Please call the Highway Department @ 733-5467 with the location and, if possible, the NYSEG pole number. We will see to it that repairs are made.



*Mr. Bachman will be retiring at the end of December. We thank him for his many years of service to the Town of Southport and wish him well in his future endeavors.*

### Brush Lot

The Southport Brush Lot, located on Bob Masia Drive, is open to Town of Southport taxpayers only. Brush, lawn clippings, and garden waste are the only materials accepted here. NO rock, brick, concrete, garbage, metal, glass or wood products are allowed at this site. Surveillance cameras are in place and work well, as several arrests of violators have been made.

Questions? Please call us with any concerns relative to Town roads at 733-5467.

## Lions Club

A new Lions Club is seeking civic-minded men and women to join them in working together to meet needs within the Southport community and surrounding area. Lions Clubs give members an opportunity to advance worthy causes, serve with friends and become leaders in the community. "Lions are people who want to help, who want to make a difference, and who want to have fun while doing it. Lions give a lot to their communities, but they get back something that's even more valuable – the satisfaction that comes with changing lives" said District Governor Lion Harold Bush.

A one-hour information session is scheduled for November 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chapel Park Community Center for interested community members who want to learn more. Lion leaders will also be visiting local business and community leaders to invite them to join.

For more information on becoming a charter member of this new club, please contact David Noteboom at 607-846-2923 or [noteboomdavidw@gmail.com](mailto:noteboomdavidw@gmail.com). Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Its 1.4 million members in more than 47,000 clubs are serving communities in 210 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions Clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

## Town Code Enforcement Stormwater Coalition

Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer

Nikole Watts, Stormwater Educator

### Flood Insurance

The Town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes community floodplain management activities that exceed the NFIP requirements.

Flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS which are:

- Reduce flood damage to insurable property
- Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management

The CRS uses a Class rating system to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. The Town of Southport is rated at a CRS Class 8 which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas to a 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums.

Standard insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Because the Town participates in the NFIP, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded.

Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Contact our office at (607) 737-5268 if you have any flood or drainage questions or concerns regarding your property.

### Classroom Visits

Diogenes once said "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth." When creating my own idea of the Stormwater educator position, this quote inspired me. In order to get my message across in the community, I wanted to travel to schools and educate students on Stormwater and pollution.

I reached out and sent a letter to 400 teachers and administrations in three school districts throughout Chemung County. The letters gave background on our organization and a hand written note asking that when the teacher had time, I wanted to meet with them and go over how our program could help their program. The feedback from the schools has been amazing. Schools from Elmira, Elmira Heights and Horseheads districts have reached out and invited me to come in the classroom to spread the Stormwater message and encourage the kids to be a positive change in the environment.



During my time in the schools I teach kids using a curriculum from Project Wet and a variety of hands on models. These models and activities show students that we have an impact on the environment and that when we make little changes in our everyday life, we can make a huge difference.

I would like to thank the school's administration, teachers and students for inviting me in and giving me the opportunity to educate them on issues that impact our lives. I look forward to continuing my relationships with the schools and to continue growing this program. If you know a teacher who would be interested in integrating this program in with their curriculum, please have them contact [stormwatereducator@stny.rr.com](mailto:stormwatereducator@stny.rr.com).

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# Southport Town Clerk's Office

Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk

**C**hemung County is sponsoring the Broadband Aggregation & Adoption Campaign (BAAT) in order to hear from residents about their current broadband needs and whether those needs are being met by providers. The County has installed a computer terminal in the Town Clerk's office where you can stop in and fill out a brief survey to help the County identify shortfalls and gather more precise data on the areas that are in need. This information will also help with a plan to move forward and better the County-wide broadband services.

I would also like to remind residents with dogs that under Article 7 of the NYS

Agriculture & Markets Law, every dog owned or harbored in New York State for more than 30 days which is four months of age or older must be licensed in the municipality in which they are harbored. The Clerk's office mails out renewal notices but it is the owner's responsibility to make sure their dog's license is current. Licenses are valid for one year. If you have lost your dog's tag it can be replaced in this office.

My office has mailed notices to banks and mortgage companies requesting a listing of mortgages with escrow accounts for properties located in the Town of Southport in preparation for the 2018 Town & County tax bills. 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.

Please check our website to obtain information in regards to upcoming events like free rabies clinic, hazardous waste collection, information on Town Board meetings along with public hearing notices and meeting minutes.

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

## The Town is currently accepting applicants for the following positions:

**Member for the Sewer Commission** – Must be a Town resident

**Member for the Board of Assessment Review** – Must be a town resident

Send a letter of interest to:  
Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk  
1139 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14904

**Alternate School Traffic Officer** – Applications available at the Town Clerk's Office

### 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](http://townofsouthport.com/content/calendars)

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

### Town of Southport Parks & Recreation Department

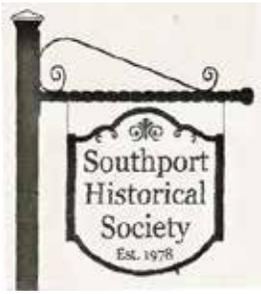
Chapel Park  
83 Personius Road, Pine City, NY 14871  
607-732-4265

#### Senior Bus Trip Info

Bob Ripley: 732-1410  
or visit [townofsouthport.com](http://townofsouthport.com)

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

## Historical Society News



The Southport Historical Society is proud to be selected as the site of a New York State historical sign.

The sign about the Plank Road is placed in front of the museum and was dedicated by the Chemung County Historical Society in May.

The latest historical calendar is completed. It tells the story of Rorick's Glen and is illustrated by old post cards that are part of a collection at the Historical Society. Rorick's Glen was a popular destination in the early 1900s. It was located on the banks of the Chemung River in the town of Southport. A trolley ran up West Water

Street to the entrance to the Glen. To reach Rorick's Glen, people crossed the river on a foot bridge. This 2018 calendar is available at the Town Clerks office and at the Society's museum. The cost is \$10. We appreciate the many businesses in Southport that support us by advertising in the calendars. We ask you to remember these businesses when you do business in the town.

The Christmas lunch program is December 3. The Elmira High School Jazz band will entertain us. The Historical Society will be closed in December and January. There will not be open house on Sundays and Wednesdays in December and January. In February there will not be a lunch program. Bad weather has plagued us in February. We will see you again in April for lunch and a speaker.

For many generations the Shepherd family was an important part of the town. Their store was where we kept in touch with our neighbors and the community. Now that the store has closed, we realize what a part of our daily life it was. Marc has retired and we send best wishes to him and his family. Thank you for many years of friendship and community service. You are greatly missed.

The reunion of the one room schools was a great success. We are hoping to have another reunion later this year. More information will be available. If you have ideas or questions about it, or are interested in being on a list so we can contact you with details, please contact Linda Taft at 732- 6565.

### Southport Business Association

meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

Please check their website at [southportbusinessassociation.com](http://southportbusinessassociation.com) for more information

### Kiwanis Club of Southport

meets every Wednesday evening

at 6:00 p.m. at Chapel Park.  
New members are welcome.

**Town of Southport**

1139 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14904

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**Thank you to these Sponsors for their  
generous support to help offset the cost of  
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**Bulkhead Hardware Company**

**Caywood's Funeral Home & Gardens**

**Chapel Lumber**

**Chemung Canal Trust Company**

**Coachman Motor Lodge**

**Dalrymple Gravel & Contracting**

**Elmira Savings Bank**

**F.M. Howell & Company**

**Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyor, PC**

**Gough Holding Corporation**

**Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, PC**

**Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport**

**Perry & Carroll Insurance**

**Renko Tree Service**

**Solutions Credit Union**

**T-M-T Gravel & Contracting**

**Williams Construction & Spray Foam**

**Williams Lubricants**