



# SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

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

Spring 2018

## Town of Southport Parks & Recreation

*Dave Ellis, Recreation Director*

### Warmer Days & Recreational Opportunities

**A**s warmer days approach us please remember under the Town's municipal code all dogs must be leashed and all owners must properly dispose of any waste. This is extremely important especially when in the parks. We understand that many of the dogs that come to our parks are friendly and adorable, however, issues occur when they are not leashed. At every park location there are multiple mutt-mitt dispensers and garbage cans. Pick-up bags are provided as a courtesy. If for some reason the dispensers are empty it in no way excuses someone from the responsibility of cleaning up after the dog. We ask that if you choose to walk your animal at the park please have them on a leash and properly dispose of any waste.

March 16 marked our first SPRING FLING at the Chapel Park Community/Senior Center. DJ, music, subs, pizza, snacks and root beer floats!! Everyone had lots of fun and we hope this is the first of many more to come.

The 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park was held Saturday, March 24. We are very lucky to have plenty of help from our local clubs and organizations. Special thanks to the Southport Business Association, Southport Kiwanis Club, Abby's Paws for a Cause, the KRAMER Foundation, Glove House, Chemung County Youth Bureau, National Junior Honor Society, Sheriff's Extreme Cheer, the Southside Community Center, and all the Town employees. This event would not be possible without all of your help and we thank you. This year we were able to add beeping and magnetic eggs to offer a more inclusive egg hunt for

everyone. We also had a special visit from the Elmira and Notre Dame High School Robotics' teams.

The pickleball nets are back up. This is a growing sport that continues to gain popularity. We have seen people of all ages on the courts. We have some balls and paddles available during normal business hours. Come on down to Chapel Park and try it out. For more information on pickleball visit [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org)

One feature to Chapel Park that many are not aware of that lies next to the community center and community garden plots is the shuffleboard court. We do have the required equipment for the court located in the community center during normal business hours. This is a fun game to play, so stop by and check it out!

We have plenty of things to offer this coming Summer. The splash pad at Elmer Goodwin (Universal) Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend. The Summer Parks Program online signups begin Monday, June 4. Signups this year will be ONLINE ONLY. We will no longer accept paper forms. The Summer Parks Program runs July 2–August 10.

The Chemung County Youth Bureau Summer SPOT Program for teens at Chapel Park will also run July 2–August 10. Outdoor Movie Nights at Chapel Park are scheduled for July 13 and August 17. The Challenger Sports British Youth Soccer Camp is August 13–17 with special early signup offers going on now at <https://challenger.configio.com/>

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



*Valentines for Vets Project at Park Terrace Apartments.*



*Design Your Own Cup Craft at Park Terrace Apartments.*



*Everyone enjoyed the first Annual Spring Fling at Chapel Park.*

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 [www.townofsouthport.com](http://www.townofsouthport.com) for upcoming programs and events. Also, be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the parks!

Thank You!

## 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**  
Steven Renko

**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](mailto:kszerszen@townofsouthport.com)

## Town Code Enforcement

*Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer*

### 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.

### Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone Information

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

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. Information is available 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](mailto:procchi@townofsouthport.com). There is no charge for this service.

### Stormwater and Your Lawn

It's time to mow the grass and trim the weeds and brush again. Per Town Code §402 grass should be kept under 10 inches tall. When you are done working on your lawn, sweep grass clippings back onto the lawn. Grass clippings can contain fertilizers and pesticides that then pollute our waters. Grass and leaves block storm drains and lead to flooding when it rains.

Remember there is no burning of brush from March 15 to May 15.

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

## Message from the Town Supervisor

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David J. Sheen

### Town Appearance

As we look around, we need to recognize how our Town presents itself to others and our neighbors. We need to be self-diligent regarding our properties appearance. To some everything may look okay but to others it may not. If you see a situation that may lead to blight or is a possible code violation, please contact the Code Enforcement Office and they can look into it. We usually like the name of who is calling but won't insist if you wish to remain anonymous.

We do want to concentrate on trash removal, weeds and unlicensed vehicles since these are within the town code's jurisdiction. One item that we do not have as much control over is un-mowed lawns under 10 inches in height. New York State mandates that a Town cannot issue a high grass violation unless the grass is more than 10 inches high. That of course could be frustrating to some residents when we have to wait for that, so please help us in not letting the Town be taken over by blight and maintain your property.

### Snow Removal

We have implemented an ordinance that prohibits vehicles from being parked on our streets during the winter months (November 1 through April 1). This is being done to allow our plow trucks to successfully clear our streets during a snow or ice event and will be enforced only during those months.

If a vehicle is parked on our streets during the winter months, we will start out with a warning citation being placed on the vehicle the first time and a log kept of the violation. If the issue occurs again to the same vehicle, the owner will be subject to the vehicle being towed away or a citation. This is required in order to clear our town streets in a timely fashion during a snow or ice event.

### Town Tax and Financial Position

In past newsletters we have outlined our financial position which is what a municipality should do on a continuous basis. This gives the taxpayer an idea of where the Town is going financially and makes the Town account for their financial position.

We continue to have our reserves go down due to the reduction in revenues and certain expenses that are difficult to control. Shared Services have provided many savings and appear to be at a limit as to future high dollars that can be saved.

We finished the year 2017 with all of our unassigned fund balances depleted and we are now using our assigned fund balances to balance our budget.

The effect of the reduction in sales tax has brought us to the subject of a tax increase. This subject was first approached in our Fall 2016 Newsletter. Our current tax rate is .77 cents per thousand and is by far the lowest tax rate in the County considering it includes all aspects of our expenses. Some towns use districts to cover police protection and recreation and parks.

So, with this information, unless the sales tax calculation changes by the County or sales in Chemung County go up dramatically, we will be considering a tax increase for 2019. While considering this, we will do as much as possible to find avenues to minimize as much as an increase as possible.

## Assessment News

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Catherine Edwards, Assessor

### Southport Grievance Day

**G**rievance Day will be held on Wednesday May 23, 2018 at the Town of Southport. The hours will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by appointment only. A complaint form (NYS form RP-524) will be available at the assessor's office, on the Town's website ([townofsouthport.com](http://townofsouthport.com)) and NYS Website ([www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)). All forms must be filed at least three business days prior to May 23.

Please call the Assessor's Office at 607-734-4424 after May 1, 2018 to make an appointment if you wish to contest your assessment before the Board of Assessment Review.

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

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## Southport Town Court

Honorable Steven T. Milford

### Misconceptions/Updates

In this addition of the Southport Journal I thought I would go over some misconceptions or updates to subjects I have addressed in some of my prior articles as we are still receiving complaints from people who have received erroneous information from law enforcement when they have been cited.

One of the articles I wrote pertained to traffic tickets under section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law with regard to equipment violations and the court's ability to dismiss certain violations if they are fixed within a specified time period.

We have noticed that a lot of people have been producing their correction slips for dismissal that have been completed past the allotted correction times and have stated that the officer writing the summons have told them that as long as the correction is made prior to their court date, that the ticket will be dismissed. This is not the case and if it is happening, it is a mistaken belief. The violation has to be corrected before the next ensuing sunset or if on a weekend or holiday repaired before the end of the next business day. Please read the top of the correction slip for

instructions. Do not depend on what others may have told you.

Secondly the correction only applies to Required Equipment violations, such as a headlight, tail lights and other lights being out. This section would also cover unsafe tires and faulty mufflers. The correction dismissal does not apply to brake violations and does not cover non- required equipment or operating without using your headlights. It also does not cover tinted windows or objects hanging from mirrors or other obstructions.

In other news, the office of court administration in conjunction with the New York State Magistrates Assoc. and the New York State Court Clerks Assoc. is in the process of developing a mandatory training program for all court clerks in which they will have to receive a minimum number of State training hours each year, similar as to what is now mandated for local magistrates. This training will most likely take effect in the year 2019.

As always if you have any questions concerning justice matters please feel to contact the court during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

## Southport Business Association

Lori Jones, Treasurer

The Southport Business is an organization of professional, retail and non-profit businesses, which promotes the Town of Southport as the ideal town in which to shop, seek professional services and participate in community life. We offer business to business networking, cooperative advertising, exposure to new customers, guest speakers and business spotlight. Our biggest "project" is Christmas Land. We continue working to restore and improve it for families to enjoy.

We are currently producing a trifold map listing our members along with their locations, addresses, and phone numbers. These maps will be available at local businesses for patrons and realtors to give homeowners that locate to our area.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in the McClelland Catering Room, with three evening meetings per year.

Any business that would like to become a member can find an application on our website, southportbusinessassociation.com. Also like us on Facebook.

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

- **Member of the Sewer Commission** - *Must be a Town resident*
- **Alternate member for the Planning Board** - *Must be a Town resident*
- **Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals** - *Must be a Town resident*

#### Send 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*

#### SAVE THE DATE

Annual Pine City Street of Sales  
Saturday, June 9, 2018

## Highway Department

Steven E. Renko, Superintendent

### Brush Lot

The Town of Southport offers its residents a brush lot in which to dispose of yard waste. Chemung County also has a compost facility located on Blostein Blvd. off Chemung Street and behind Grand Central Plaza in Horseheads. This now gives our residents two options for disposition of yard waste. With this additional option, the Town is going to reduce the days that our facility is open. The site is free of charge and we will have an attendant there to verify Town residency. No contractors or commercial enterprises will be allowed to use the facility.

The hours for the Town of Southport brush lot will be:

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We will also be closing the brush lot on November 1 and re-open on April 1 of each year.

Operating hours for the Chemung County Compost site are:

Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except holidays)  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\*\*\* Closed Mondays for processing of materials.

The site is free of charge and you will need to verify County residency with the attendant. No contractors or commercial entities are permitted.

With two options, this should provide ample opportunity for our residents to dispose of their yard waste.

## Stormwater Coalition

Nikole Watts, Stormwater Educator

### Cargill Grant

Cargill, Inc. awarded the Schuyler and Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation Districts \$7,500 on November 30, 2017 to assist with a unique, state-of-the-art education project that will be utilized throughout the two-county area.

This innovative project will allow for the purchase and conversion of a pull-behind trailer into a Stormwater Mobile Education Center. The Chemung County Stormwater Team is made up of a Professional Engineer, a Technician, and an Educator. They are housed with, and are a sub-unit of, the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District, through a formal shared services agreement, trades resources in order to have access to the special talents of the Chemung County Stormwater Team.

The Chemung County Stormwater Team covers all of the Stormwater-related work and education for Schuyler and Chemung Counties. The two Soil and Water Conservation Districts try to partner on as many projects and project areas as possible in order to get the most cost-effective product for residents and municipalities.

The Mobile Stormwater Education Center will allow for hands-on education for all ages. This project will build a unit that could go to all community events and schools throughout Schuyler and Chemung Counties. The interactive education center will go to at least 10 locations a year and have a minimum of 5,000 children and residents pass



Cargill representatives present the check to members of the Chemung & Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District Board and staff.

through and use its interactive form of education. The trailer itself will be wrapped with educational awareness items for Stormwater education and outreach. It essentially will be a traveling billboard of education while it travels from site to site, down the road. Inside there will be handouts, and informational screens where folks can answer questions and go through displays. There will also be a large sound-bar projecting information, and the touch screens will be tied to televisions. A large library of educational books will be purchased in order to change the display for a particular audience. Interactive games will be utilized from the Science Center in Rochester, NY.

This is a great opportunity for both Soil and Water Conservation Districts and communities. We already put forth a concerted effort toward education in our schools, but this will allow for a more hands-on, interactive approach. This wouldn't be possible without the generous support from Cargill, Inc.

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

## Southport Town Clerk's Office

Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk

### Trash Disposal Program

The Town, in conjunction with Chemung County, will be offering the Trash Disposal Program again this year. The same format as last year will be followed for this program which will include picking up your voucher at the Town Clerk's office with proper identification and proof of residency. The Town will start to issue vouchers on Monday, May 21 with disposal dates being during the month of June. Disposal dates are broken down into four separate weeks with 50 vouchers per week available on a first come first serve basis. You must use the voucher in the week that it is issued. There are additional charges for furniture and tires and other certain restrictions outlined in the handout you receive with your voucher.

### Dogs & Cats

Now that spring is here, it's time to make sure your dog is licensed. Nice weather and kids playing outside seem to encourage dogs to roam and explore the neighborhood. The best made fence can't always keep a dog inside! A dog's license can be tracked so a lost dog can be traced to its owner in a minimum amount of time.

Along with spring come the issues with cats. The Town of Southport has no ordinance in regards to cats. If a resident chooses to trap a stray cat there are no fees to drop it off at the Elmira Animal Shelter. If you do trap cats you are asked

to call the shelter ahead of time to make sure they have space for them. If you are trapping more than one cat they ask that you spread it out over a period of time and they will not accept cats from a Trap & Release Program. These cats have a clipped or notched ear. The Elmira Animal Shelter is required by law to keep cats for 5 days before they can adopt or euthanize them. If you are in need of animal control services you can contact the shelter at 735-8600 or 911 in case of emergency. (Dog attacks or motor vehicle accidents involving a dog/cat). They are dispatched by Chemung County Communication Center via the Elmira Police Department. Their office number is 737-5807 which is a message number only. The animal shelter number is 737-5767 and shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10-4, closed Sunday and Monday and holidays.

### Free Fishing Days

Additionally, I'd like to pass along some DEC information on this year's free fishing days. During the last weekend in June residents and nonresidents can fish in New York State waters without a New York State fishing license. This year's free fishing days are June 23 and 24. It's a great time to take the children and/or grandchildren fishing. All other days of the year, anyone sixteen years of age or older is required by New York State Law to possess a valid fishing license.

## Cinderella Softball

Jeremy Sherman –  
Cinderella Board President

### Starting Our 11th Season at Chapel Park

The 2018 softball season is vastly approaching and warm weather cannot come quick enough. Sign-ups have begun and we are already on target for similar numbers from season's past. If you have someone who would like to sign up please visit our website at [www.southportcinderella.com](http://www.southportcinderella.com). We have five divisions in which to sign up for tee-ball, 8u, 10u, 12u, and 16u. This is a developmental program so every skill level is welcome. Our philosophy is fair play and giving everyone an opportunity to get out and play. We hope to see a lot of new faces this year and look forward to another successful season at Chapel Park. Our all-star program is always ready to see new girls try out to compete at local tournaments. We have had great success over our league history.

### Chapel Park Senior Center

83 Personius Road, Pine City, NY 14871  
732-1410

### Recreation Director

David Ellis: 732-4265  
[dellis@townofsouthport.com](mailto: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

# Historical Society

Linda Taft

## Historical Society News

We were closed during the long winter months. We are happy to be open now on Wednesdays and every third Sunday. Volunteers will be at the museum from 1:00 – 3:00 on those days. Please stop by and say hello. We are very interested in pictures, stories and memories that you would like to share with the Historical Society. Please contact Linda Taft (732 6565) if you have something you would like to share with us.

Our membership letters were mailed in January. Memberships run from January to December each year. The membership dues help us maintain the museum and our programs. If you returned your membership, thank you! And thank you for the donations many of you made. We appreciate your support. If you did not send the membership in, it is not too late. If you are not a member we invite you to join. There are cards available in the Town Clerk's Office or at the museum.

Spring finds us planning events and lunch programs. The Society is looking forward to celebrating our 40th Anniversary. On June 10 we will hold a party at Chapel Park at 1:30. You are invited to join us as we celebrate with a picnic lunch and ice cream and cake. The Society was formed in 1978. And it continues to preserve and share the history of our community. We have been able to do this because of the work of our dedicated volunteers and the support of people and businesses in Southport. The Society is a valuable organization that needs to continue to grow. We welcome new people with fresh ideas and interests. Please contact Linda Taft if you are interested in joining us as we work together.

We are pleased to hold a second reunion for the one room schools on September 16, 2018, 2:00-5:00, at Chapel Park. The reunion is open to anyone who attended a one room school in Southport and requires no reservations. Save the

date and plan to come and reconnect with old friends!

More information will be available as we get closer to the date.

The Historical Society recently designed and ordered a new sign for the Marvin Cemetery on Pennsylvania Avenue in Pine City. The cemetery was an Eagle Scout project for Connor Voorhees, an Eagle Scout from Troop 43. The sign will be installed soon.

We are working on our next historical calendar. The theme for the calendar will be Christmas Land. It will be ready in the fall. Our 2018 calendar is still available. It features Rorick's Glen and is very interesting. You can get your copy at the Town Clerk's office or at the museum. We have added pens and refillable sanitizers to our gift shop. The pens are \$2 each and the sanitizers are \$3 or two for \$5.



### SAVE THE DATES

#### Kiwanis Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, July 29 at Tomasso's

•

#### Stemple Star Lighting

Wednesday, Nov. 21

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

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**Town of Southport**

1139 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14904

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