



SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

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

SPRING 2015

TOWN OF SOUTHPORT PARKS & RECREATION

Dave Ellis, Recreation Supervisor

New Pedestrian Bridge & Pickleball Court at Chapel Park

Hopefully by the time everyone reads this newsletter the grass will be green and flowers will be blooming! It has been a very long winter, but we are ready to enjoy the coming months in the parks! Big thank you to the Southport Highway department for not only keeping our roads clear this winter, but also for taking care of our walkways and parking lots in the parks.

One issue that seems to come up this time of year as more and more people start to come out to the park is unleashed dogs at the park. Under the Town's municipal code all residents are to have their dogs on a leash. 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. Dogs should also be licensed.

Now onto the fun stuff! The Town's Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at



Chapel Park once again this year. For many years, Dan Hurley and Bradley Farms allowed us to use their space and we appreciate all of his help over the years! We had another great turnout with plenty of help from the great clubs and organizations. Special thanks to the Southport Business Association, Southport Kiwanis and Builders Club, the Chemung County Youth Bureau, and many more volunteers. This event would not be possible without all of your help and we thank you!

Bob Ripley has done a wonderful job over the past six years organizing the Town's senior bus trips. On March 17 a trip was taken to the Beeches Dinner Theater in Rome, NY for a Branigan's Blarney show and a tasty Irish buffet. For more information about our senior activities and bus trips please contact Bob Ripley at 732-1410 or bripley@townof-southport.com.

Over the past few years we have built a great working relationship with many organizations. The First-Tee of Corning is one of them and this year we are excited to potentially bring not only an after-school program in May and June, but also three separate sports camps lead by Elmira Express Varsity basketball coach Ryan Johnson. More info on these camps is to come so please be on the lookout.

If you have been down to Chapel Park recently you may have noticed the new pedestrian bridge! We are extremely excited for this addition as it will be a tremendous opportunity for greater access for our residents to the park. This will also provide Broadway Elementary and Broadway Academy with easier access to the park for recreation and emergency evacuation! Special thanks to the Town Board, Southport Highway Department, Vulcraft Corporation, Cameron Manufac-

See Parks & Recreation on page 2

Visit our website: 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
 for monthly meetings and events

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact
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

PARKS & RECREATION

Continued from page 1



The Splash Pad at Elmer Goodwin Park invites you to cool off on hot summer days.

turing, Silverline Construction, Hunt Engineers, Mark Watts with Chemung County Soil & Water, plus many more.

Another great addition to the park is the new pickleball courts. We hope to have the courts fenced, painted, striped, and ready to play by mid-June. Pickleball has become very popular and we invite you to come down and check out the sport this summer. For more information on pickleball visit usapa.org.

Over the past two years thanks to our special volunteer we have added seven community garden plots at Chapel Park. As of right now there are only a small number of plots left unreserved. If you are interested in having a garden plot this summer please contact us by phone or email.

One feature to Chapel Park that many are not aware of that lies next 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 sometime this year!

We are in the works with the Elmira Babe Ruth league which is partnered with the Southport Recreation Association (SRA) to make Draxler Park their new home. Babe Ruth is a baseball league for youth ages 13-18. After many years of searching for a home field we hope to have them at Draxler Park for many years to come. This will not only give us another great youth program and beautiful ball field to use, but will also bring in people from all over who will surely enjoy stopping at some of our local businesses before and after games.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

David J. Sheen

Town Financials

The Town's financials continue to be strong. The Town tax levy for 2015 decreased 5%.

The 2015 budget was \$4,800,000 and was unanimously approved by the Town Board. The Town prudently budgeted expenditures amounting to \$4,034,000. The balance is made up of special districts, including three fire districts, one fire protection district and a lighting district.

The town tax for 2015 will amount to \$380,000. This entire tax will be applied to the Highway budget.

Within that budget, the Town continues to place a large emphasis on our local roads and culverts. The Town can confidently say that within Chemung County we have one of the best road systems in our downtown area as well as the country roads. We receive very few complaints regarding our road conditions and urge you to call if you have a concern.

The 2015 budget is in line with the 2014 budget aside from making some adjustments to cover the reduction in sales tax revenue.

Grants

We are pleased again to be notified about the award of an Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) Planning Grant. This grant in the amount of \$30,000 will

provide funding for the Town to do a feasibility study to run sewer from the Bulkhead area to the Pine City area. Areas to be studied within the grant parameters are the need, design, and financial substantiation of this project.

This Grant will hopefully create the opportunity for economic growth in the Pine City area as well as the rest of the Town. A meeting has been scheduled with the Superintendent of Schools, Senator O'Mara's Office, Congressman Reed's Office, and Fagan Engineering to discuss feasibility. If anything, we will have a shovel ready project if we are unsuccessful the first time.

New Opportunities in Southport

Arnot Health Urgent Care – A year ago we were approached by a resident of Southport asking if there was a way to investigate the feasibility of getting an urgent care provider to have services available on Saturdays and Sundays in the Southport area. The opportunity for a closer facility that would serve our residents and others outside our Town would be an improvement to the quality of life and provide additional job opportunities for our residents.

We actively pursued the suggestion and we're proud to have been a part of a grand opening in February at the Arnot Health Services Urgent Care Facility on

Broadway Ave. Within their first week they experienced visit volumes beyond their projections. We thank Arnot Health for their investment and confidence in our Town. Please know that we are always willing to consider our residents' ideas for new development in our town.

Parks and Recreation

We continue to work on improving our parks to provide an outlet for our residents and visitors.

Our future goals include providing bathroom facilities at Elmer Goodwin Park, updating Draxler Park with baseball improvements (see article on Babe Ruth League) and we are also looking into the possibility of installing fencing around the pond at Draxler Park. In addition, we are investigating the option of including two enclosed dog runs (one for big dogs and one for small dogs) within the Draxler pond area. We look forward to the community providing us input on this type of endeavor.

In conclusion, we look forward to continuing serving our residents in a positive and professional manner and I am proud to be a resident of Southport.

SOUTHPORT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

David L. Bachman, Superintendent
Russell H. Tobey, Deputy Superintendent

Now Comes Road Repair Time

What a winter! As many of you know, we experienced a very deep frost line, averaging 4 to 6 feet, due to the sustained cold temperatures. This condition has created heaving to roadway base and sub-base causing pavement cracking and other issues. The Highway Department will tend to these repairs in all areas of the Town as soon as possible.

Another project we are studying is the replacement of an aging box-culvert on Kinner Hill Road. As of this writing, we are obtaining quotes for engineering and replacement of this structure. Other road repair projects will be identified as well.

The Town Brush Lot will be open to all Town of Southport residents/taxpayers. The lot is located on Masia Drive, off Rte.

14. Items that can be taken to the Brush Lot are: yard rakings, tree limbs, leaves, garden waste, and grass clippings ONLY. PROHIBITED ITEMS ARE: ROCK, BRICK, BLACK-TOP, CONCRETE, TRASH, WOOD-PRODUCTS, METALS AND GLASS. These prohibited items can cause catastrophic damage to the grinding machine. We urge our residents to call the Highway Department with a license plate number of a vehicle that is seen in the brush lot dumping any of these prohibited items. We follow up with law enforcement in such matters of illegal dumping.

Should you have any questions regarding any street or road within the Town of Southport, please call us at 733-5467.

TOWN CODE ENFORCEMENT

Peter Rocchi,
Code Enforcement Officer



Property Standards

Exterior Property Areas

- All property areas are to be maintained in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition.
- Premises are to be kept free of an accumulation of trash, garbage, rubbish and debris (this includes animal feces)
- Unregistered or unlicensed vehicles must be stored in an enclosed building
- All vehicles must be parked in an existing driveway and not in a front or side yard
- Fences must be maintained
- Accessory structures, (i.e. sheds, carports, detached garages, etc.) must be maintained
- Weeds and grass must be kept below ten inches in height.

To report a violation, call the Code Enforcement Office at (607) 737-5268.

2015 Town of Southport Summer Parks Program

July 6 –August 14 (Monday-Friday)

9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Ages 5-12

Sign-up at the Chapel Park Recreation Office

83 Personius Rd., Pine City, Ny 14871

Sign-up forms also available online at www.townofsouthport.com

Limited number of spots available

This is a free drop-in program

Lunch will be provided by the Southern Tier Food Bank at eligible sites

Activities include:

Arts & crafts, board games, field trips, recreational games and sports, summer literacy program, and more • Visits from the First-Tee of Corning, Bookmobile, Reading PAWtners program, and more

Three Southport sites:

Chapel Park (Personius Rd.) • Draxler Park (Dry Run Rd.)
Elmer Goodwin (Universal) Park (Robert St.)

Call 732-4265 for more information

CINDERELLA SOFTBALL - LADY STING

Jeremy Sherman, Cinderella Board Member

Lady Sting Program Brings in Local Expertise

Corning Community College, Elmira College, and Edison High School were some of the stars this year with Southport Cinderella's Winter Clinic. Each of these well qualified softball organizations dedicated their time and expertise to provide first class instruction for the girls in our program. It is a true gesture of their caring and concern for younger players in the sport and a wanting to give back in the spirit of community service.

It is a remarkable asset. The amount of softball experience and skill level we have in a close geographic radius with area colleges and high schools is truly impressive. These organizations typically will show up with both coaches and players to provide a great opportunity for our kids. They take charge of the clinic and run the girls through drills and skills that they work on a regular basis. Cinderella girls look up to these college and high school players and gain a tremendous amount of softball knowledge from a variety of advanced techniques and perspectives. On behalf of the entire Cinderella Softball League, we would like to thank all those who helped out at our clinics, especially the head coaches

who helped make it happen including Stacy Johnson from Corning Community College, Rhonda Faunce from Elmira College, and Becky Cooper from Edison High School. We truly appreciate the time taken by these local organizations to enhance the softball experience for our youth programs.

Southport Cinderella's Winter Clinic is in its seventh year and is an effort to allow girls to maintain their softball edge over the winter months, a time when typically most leagues are dormant. The clinic is open to all girls from Southport Cinderella and surrounding communities for all age groups. This year the Clinic had girls ranging in ages from 4 to 17 years old, and coming from a variety of areas including Southport, Corning, Elmira, Elmira Heights, Horseheads, Big Flats, and Tioga. The clinic occurs on Friday nights at Broadway Middle School and Elementary School Gyms. We are always looking to increase attendance at our winter clinic. We urge families with children interested in the sport of softball to attend. The clinics are for all skill sets and give the girls a great introduction to how the game is played.

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

Town of Southport Board Members

Supervisor

David J. Sheen

•
Town Council

Etta Kay Dewey

Glenn Gunderman

Joe Roman

•
Council Person & Deputy Supervisor

Kathleen Szerszen

Town of Southport Highway Department

733-5467

dbachman@townofsouthport.com

Catherine Edwards, Assessor

Southport Grievance Day

Grievance Day will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Town of Southport. The hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 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) and NYS Website (www.tax.ny.gov). All forms must be filed at least three business days prior to May 27. Please call the Assessor's Office at 607-734-4424 after May 1, 2015 to make an appointment if you wish to contest your assessment before the Board of Assessment Review.

Town-wide Reassessment Update

New assessments for the 2015 assessment roll year were mailed out in the early part of February 2015. There were appointments made to discuss your new assessments with the Assessor and Contractor during the month of February. Most of the decisions are complete and a notice will be mailed during the first week of May 2015. If the property owner is not satisfied with the decision from the Assessor or the Contractor, the next step will be to make an appointment in the Assessor's office to meet with the Board of Review (Grievance Board). A completed application (RPTL 524) has to be filled out and returned to the Assessor's office to get an appointment for May 27, 2015. Please make sure you have documentation of why you think your assessment should be lowered. Give the Grievance Board information to make a fair decision. The appointments will be

ten minutes. Please be a little early for your appointment. If you have more than one parcel we will be giving some extra time. If you recently had an appraisal done on your property, please stop by the office and drop it off. Our office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Assessor, Catherine Edwards is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and also will be in the office on Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have any questions please call 607-734-4424.

The 2015 Tentative roll will be completed and filed for public inspection on May 1. This document contains property descriptions, ownership, valuations and any exemptions that may have been granted as of March 1, the taxable status date. The Town website is www.townofsouthport.com and the County of Chemung website is www.chemungcounty.com.

Toni Gardner, Stormwater Educator

How Does Stormwater Affect Us?

Stormwater runoff is one of the most significant yet unnoticed sources of water pollution. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) estimates that stormwater runoff accounts for 65% of pollutions in rivers. When it rains, stormwater runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, etc... carrying collected debris and pollutants with it. Many of these pollutants are made up of common items used by most of us.

There are simple changes that you can make that can help to prevent stormwater pollution in your life and community.

Follow these tips and help be the solution to Stormwater Pollution.

- Blow and sweep leaves and grass clippings back onto the lawn to prevent them from flowing into the storm drain with the next storm. A clogged storm drain can result in flooding.
- When walking your pet, clean up! Pet waste can enter into a storm drain with a rainfall event if it is not picked up and disposed of properly.
- Pick up and dispose of litter in the correct way. Litter on the streets and sidewalks can flow with the rain into the drains, creating polluted runoff.
- If you can't get your car to the car wash, then wash your car on the lawn, not in the driveway. Not only can the detergent enter the drain, but the grease, oil and dirt from the car can enter as well. These contaminants do not get treated before entering our rivers, lakes and streams.
- Minimize the usage of pesticides and fertilizers. Only use them according to manufacturer's label.

Courts Institute an Arraignment Bureau

In this issue of the Southport Town Journal, I thought I would talk a little about a new program that has been instituted in Chemung County for the representation of defendants that can't afford legal representation.

First, a little background on this decision. In 1963 the US Supreme Court, in Gideon v Wainwright held states are required under the Sixth Amendment to provide representation in criminal cases for defendants who are unable to afford their own attorneys, stating that the defendant's right to counsel is fundamental and essential to a fair trial.

In 1965, in response to the Gideon decision, New York enacted County Law 18-B and created a county-based system of delivering mandated legal services, better known as the Public Defender Office.

Since the inception of this system, a 2006 report issued by the Commission on the future of Indigent Defense Services found "glaring deficiencies in the quality of legal services offered by counties." It should be noted that these deficiencies are not in Chemung County.

In 2010 the New York Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of indigent defendants in Hurrell-Harring v State of New York, brought suit against New York State and six Counties for inadequate representation.

Part of this suit brought a decision by the Court of Appeals that a defendant's arraignment is a critical stage in the proceedings to which the right of counsel attaches.

Based on this ruling, the State of New York has set up grant monies that coun-

ties could apply for to set up a counsel at arraignment program. With this in mind, Chemung County was one of 26 upstate counties who applied for and received funding.

Starting in August of 2014 the County of Chemung has instituted an "Arraignment Bureau." This bureau consists of two part-time attorneys that respond to any after hours arraignments to insure that a defendant has counsel at his first appearance in court. During normal business hours, the Public Defender's Office is contacted. When a town justice receives a call for an arraignment he now calls the on-call attorney who will respond to the court for representation of the defendant at his arraignment. At arraignment, the judge makes a decision as to whether or not the defendant is indigent or can obtain his own attorney. A decision is also made as to whether or not bail should be set. The "Arraignment Bureau" is used only at the first appearance in court, after which the defendant obtains his own attorney or the court assigns an attorney or public defender.

This program has been instituted to prevent any possible lawsuits and conform to the Court of Appeals ruling. Each county has instituted its own form of arraignment counsel and the program is being monitored and is subject to changes for improvement.

As always, we are here to serve you and if you any questions, don't hesitate to call the court during normal business hours.

Chapel Park Senior Center

83 Personius Road
Pine City, NY 14871
732-1410

•
David Ellis

Recreation Supervisor
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 and Recreation Department

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

•
Senior Bus Trip Info:

Bob Ripley
732-1410

or visit

www.townofsouthport.com

J. Kelsey Jones, Town of Southport Historian

The "Other" Contemplated Plank Road Via South Creek

Many Southport residents have read or have some knowledge of the Plank Road that existed along the entire route of present Pennsylvania Avenue from the Chemung River to the state line. At the same time a survey was conducted and dated April 15, 1848 for a plank road from Bulkhead (intersection area of Broadway and Pennsylvania Avenue) to the state line via South Creek (present Route 14 - South Broadway). This is the same date as the survey for the plank road that would be constructed from Elmira to the State Line via Seeley Creek (present Pennsylvania Avenue). The original large survey map is in the Chemung County Clerk's office. There is no indication this contemplated plank road underwent the beginnings of any construction. Opposition to the plank road via Pennsylvania Avenue was published in the newspapers of the day, the tolls that were to be implemented being a main issue. Some of the debates involved business growth being stifled versus enhanced if people had to transport their goods via a toll road. Perhaps this was the concern with construction of the South Creek Plank Road, funding did not materialize, or various other reasons resulted in it not being built.

Beginning at Bulkhead going south to the State Line near Fassett, the residences and businesses given on the survey map are:

Ayres Inn
Dalrymple Saw Mill
M. Mapes (*west side of road*)
Colborn Grist Mill (*on South Creek north of Christian Hollow Creek*)
G. W. Miller (*west side of road near 1 mile marker*)
Fenton Saw Mill (*on South Creek near 1 mile marker*)
J. M. Miller (*east side of road*)
P. Stryker (*east side of road*)
R. Carpenter (*east side of road*)
Widow Sparks (*west side of road*)
Beeman (*east side of road near 2 mile marker*)
Atkins (*east side of road*)
W. T. Gardner (*east side of road*)
B. W. Johnson (*west side of road*)
Fenton Saw Mill (*east of Johnson residence on South Creek*)
J. Searlls (*east side of road near 3 mile marker*)
H. Rousha (*Roushy – east side of road*)
Widow Bentley (*west side of road*)
Widow Moore (*east side of road near 4 mile marker*)

This is the earliest known map of the South Creek Valley area depicting residences and businesses. Some of the residences still exist, 167 years later.

Linda Taft

Historical Society News



Spring has finally arrived. Sunshine and warm days are a welcome change. The Historical Society was closed for most of the winter. Now we are open on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 and for an Open House on the third Sunday each month. Our volunteers make it possible to open for these dates. If you see the flag out

front of the house, please stop in and visit. Thank you for your help. If you would like to volunteer to help please call Madelyn Balok at 734-8957. You are also invited to come to the Lunch Programs. We have a dish to pass lunch and a speaker. The next date is June 14. We meet at Chapel Park Senior Center at 1:30. Come and bring a friend.

Our 2015 calendar was a great success. We sold out before Christmas. We are hard at work on the 2016 historical calendar. Thank you to everyone who bought a calendar and to the Southport businesses who support us with advertising in the calendars. If you plan to buy a calendar, please do so early this year to avoid missing out on the calendar. The calendars are always full of interesting people and places in Southport.

We have several Southport Historical Society sweatshirts and T-shirts for sale at a reduced price. They are available at our meetings and at the house.

The annual membership cards were sent out in January. If you did not return yours, it is not too late. If you need a new card they are available at the house and at the Town Clerk's office. We welcome our new members and look forward to an interesting year. The Historical Society has five newsletters, five Lunch programs and many open house opportunities. Please consider joining the Society.

Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk

What Does the Town Clerk Do?

The Town Clerk's Office is frequently considered the center of the municipal government. This is the office that is responsible for recording the activities of the Town Board and their meetings and is the central place for all town records to be filed. The Town Clerk by law is the Records Management Officer, Public Information Records Officer, responsible for issuing marriage license, issuing conservation licenses, handicapped permits, dog licenses, etc. The Town Clerk may execute the Constitutional Oath of Office to all municipal officers serving them.

Since the weather is getting warmer we will touch on the following subjects:

Dog Licensing

Every dog, regardless of age, owned or harbored in New York State for longer than 30 days must be licensed in the town, city or village where the dog is being harbored. The following are the only license exemptions:

Dogs under four months: If the dog is under four months of age and not running-at-large (off the owner's premises)

Non-resident dogs: If a non-resident brings a dog into New York State for less than 30 days and the dog is licensed according to the resident state's licensing laws

Residents of the Town may license their dogs in person at the Town Clerk's office with the required documentation of a spay/neuter certificate and proof of current rabies vaccination. Rabies clinics are offered throughout Chemung County. You can contact the SPCA at 732-1827 or check the Town's website for upcoming clinics.

Fishing Licenses

Fishing season opened in New York State on April 1. Fishing licenses are valid for a full year (365 days) from the date of purchase, the fee for the license is \$25 (resident, ages 16-69) and \$5 for a resident senior. A non-resident fishing license can be purchased for \$50. Free fishing days for 2015 will be June 27-28, when anyone can fish the fresh or marine waters of New York State and no license is required.

Trash Disposal Program

The Town, in conjunction with Chemung County will be offering the Trash Disposal Program for the month of June 2015. 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 (Driver's License in addition to a utility bill or tax bill). The Clerk's office will begin to issue vouchers on Monday, May 18 with disposal dates beginning the first week of June. These vouchers will be issued on a first come, first serve basis and you must use the voucher in the week that it is issued for. More information will be handed out when you come in to pick up the voucher that outlines the days, hours and what is acceptable for disposal.

I am very pleased to make our residents aware of the many compliments about our staff and the level of customer service they provide. Our employees always strive to be courteous, helpful and proactive in situations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 607-737-5270 or by e-mail at crenko@townofsouthport.com.

TOWN of SOUTHPORT First Annual Parade Dec 6, 2014



A slow steady rain during the first annual Christmas Parade could not dampen the spirits of the Town of Southport's Citizens.

Kit Gooshaw

The Southport Business Association has been enjoying growth of membership over the last year. Our slogan has always been Business Helping Business. We have remained true to our roots with networking, cooperative advertising, promoting our local businesses and community involvement.

We are pleased to be involved with such events as the Southport Easter Egg Hunt, Pine City Rummage Sales, Ugly Grill Contest, Southport Trunk or Treat, Southport Christmas Parade/Christmasland and Salvation Army Bell Ringing.

The Southport Business Association always welcomes new members. We are also looking for members to serve on committees for events we sponsor. Meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at McClelland Catering Room. Membership applications are available at the Town Hall or contact any of our business members. Todd McClelland at 738-1518 (Classic Café/McClelland Catering Room), Lori Jones at 742-2588 (Jones Bookkeeping Service), or Kit Gooshaw at 738-5320 (Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport, LLC).

A full listing of members and more information regarding The Southport Business Association can be found on our website southportbusinessassociation.com.

Gail E. Veruto

The Kiwanis Club of Southport is a small, but very active participant in the betterment of the Southport/Pine City/Southside Community. We are currently beginning work on one of our most popular and rewarding programs, the Kiwanis K-Dette Program. Two fifth or sixth grade students from each of the elementary schools on the south side of the river are chosen by their teachers as the K-Dettes of the year from that school. They are chosen on their overall achievement in "life," as opposed to only academics. At the printing of this article, we will have completed our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with the Town of Southport. We are also looking forward to participating in the JDRF Walk, and the Memorial Day Parade, where we ride on a 1936 American LaFrance Fire truck, and delight in providing candy to the waiting children on the route.

Under the wing of the Southport Kiwanis is the Kiwanis Builders Club. This is an organization of sixth, seventh and eighth grade children who also want to serve their community. Our current Advisor is Bill Evans, who along with

help from a group of parents, teach the children what it means to "give back." They do special projects for the elderly, such as leaf raking in the fall, and provide cards, pumpkins, and friendship to the people at such places as Woodbrook Assisted Living. They are currently looking forward to the Annual "Senior Prom", which is also held at Woodbrook for the "seniors!" They also do various fundraisers throughout the year, and the children themselves decide what organizations are worthy of their donations.

The Kiwanis Club is also starting work on our largest fundraiser, an Annual Golf Tournament to be held at Tomasso's on July 26. The proceeds from this and all other fundraisers are given back to the community in the form of donations and our physical assistance at other activities. We are always looking for new members, who are urged to do as much or as little as their time and desire allows. We meet every Wednesday evening at 6:00 at Chapel Park, although members are not required to attend all meetings. We welcome anyone to just drop in to meet us and see what we are all about.

Gregory Belanger, SRA Board Member

Elmira College Women's Basketball Team Hosts Basketball Camp

Southport Recreation Association (SRA) is pleased to recognize and commend the Elmira College Women's Basketball Team for their efforts on behalf of our organization and the areas youth. For the past several years the team has hosted a very successful Winter Basketball Camp where the kids have fun, make friends, develop skills, and gain a better understanding of the sport. Most importantly, the camp works on all fundamental skill sets including shooting, dribbling, offense, defense and more. Children participating in the SRA Basketball Program are first eligible to register, but children outside the league are encouraged as well. Annually around 40-60 youth attend and the entire Elmira College Women's Basketball Team, including the coaching staff, are there to work with the children. With such a presence and participation by the coaches and team, SRA kids are allowed the luxury of having many trainers and significant one on one instruction resulting in strong, positive experience. The camp is truly a great outreach to the community and is a tremendous benefit for the youth of our region. Thank You Elmira College and SRA sincerely appreciates the coaches and players from the Women's Basketball Team!

Lacrosse and Baseball Seasons Are Here and Ready To Go

With spring arriving finally, Southport Recreation Association (SRA) is very busy with our spring sports leagues. Lacrosse has begun outside practice at Elmer Goodwin Park and under leadership of Sean Murphy, has continued to grow and is a very strong program that is giving kids the opportunity to learn and play the fast paced game of Lacrosse.

The spring season of SRA/West Elmira CAL RIPKEN baseball is also in swing with practices now underway. This partnership has been extremely successful and SRA is happy to say that we have increased the number of players participating from SRA this year in the league. With help from the Town of Southport and volunteer residents, improvements continue to be made on baseball fields at Chapel Park.

At Draxler Park, the new home of SRA/Elmira Babe Ruth baseball work continues to transform the existing field into a full size baseball field. This is very exciting and we are so happy that the Babe Ruth players will be having a permanent home in the Town of Southport. SRA would like to thank the Town of Southport and the residents for all they do to support the youth of our community.

Founded in 1948, Southport Recreation Association (SRA) represents the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive independent youth sports program on the Southside and has served thousands of children and families for over 60 years. This service has been conducted by a dedicated group of community minded individuals who volunteer their time and abilities for the greater good and benefit of our children and grandchildren. Our mission statement today still holds true to our founding principles and states that "all children should have the opportunity to participate and have fun in sports, irrespective of skill level or income. Our recreational sports programs build character in such areas as teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, skill development, physical fitness and self-esteem." At its core, SRA represents and flourishes from people who know the community, care deeply about it, and want a positive vision for its future. SRA sponsors baseball, basketball, and lacrosse programs for youth in Grades K-12. For more information, please visit our website at southportrec.org.

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