



SOUTHPORT JOURNAL

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

Spring 2017

Town of Southport Parks & Recreation

Dave Ellis, Recreation Director

Town Parks Offer Recreational Activities

As warmer days approach please remember how parks and recreation are an important health source for our lives. Getting regular exercise of just 150 minutes a week has been linked to a reduction in heart disease, cancer, and other illnesses. We would like to remind you how lucky we are to have four Town parks that offer a variety of activities, programs, and resources for improving your quality of life.

Over the past few months I have had the privilege of working with SUNY Cortland's Inclusion Recreation Resource Center (IRRC). With help from the IRRC I have completed the Inclusion U online training and now have an action plan in place to make our department more inclusive. For more information on Inclusion please visit the IRRC website at <https://www.inclusiverec.org/>.

The 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park was held Saturday, April 8. 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, the Girls Scouts, 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!



Children enjoy playing a 9-hole golf course, set up by First Tee, and sack races at the Town Summer Parks Program.

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, so DON'T be shy! Come on down to Chapel Park and try it out. For more information on pickleball visit 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 5. This year the Summer Parks Program runs July 5 – August 11. The Chemung County Youth Bureau Summer SPOT Program for teens at Chapel Park will also run July 5 – August 11. Outdoor Movie Nights at Chapel Park are scheduled for July 14 and August 18. The Challenger Sports British Youth Soccer Camp is August 14-18 with special early signup offers going on now.

It is impossible to list everything that is going on and coming up in one short article, so please visit the Town website www.townofsouthport.com. Also, 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. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook (Town of Southport Parks & Recreation).

We look forward to seeing all of you in the parks!

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
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 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

Message from the Town Supervisor

David J. Sheen

Shared Services

Recently, the subject of shared services has come up on both the State and local levels. On a daily basis, our Town looks for ways to be more efficient while providing or receiving shared services. Shared services involves the County and municipalities working together to share costs and resources. The use of Shared Services in our town has resulted in us being able to keep our annual expenses between \$3,900,000 and \$4,000,000 for the past 13 years. This has been possible even as costs associated with medical coverage and highway expenditures continue to rise.

Examples of these shared services that we utilize in our Town are as follows:

- **Residential Sheriff Deputy** – We are, as far as we know, the only Town paying for this type of service. The cost is \$60,000 per year and it is paid to Chemung County for a Deputy assigned solely to the Town for 40 hours per week. We also purchased a patrol car for this service and pay half of any necessary repair costs on that vehicle.
- **Animal Control** – We have a contract with the City of Elmira for the services associated with managing our Town’s animal issues.
- **Assessing** – We have a shared service agreement with the Towns of Chemung, Ashland, Catlin, Baldwin, and Van Etten. The Assessor is based at the Town of Southport office most of the time and our clerical staff provides support to the other towns as required.
- **Code Enforcement** – We have recently signed a shared service agreement with the City of Elmira’s Code Enforcement Office to provide clerical support to their offices; our Permit Clerk will provide these services from our offices. In return, the City will provide code officer support on an as needed basis. No financial compensation will be provided by either party.
- **Highway Equipment** – We use and share equipment with many municipalities within the county such as dump trucks, bucket trucks, road sweepers, and trailers at various times.
- **Chemung County Soil & Water** – We have entered into an agreement with other municipalities in the County to help finance the maintenance and construction of needed soil and water projects. This is under the direction of Mark

Continued on next page

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

Watts, Director of Natural Resources for the Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District.

- **Stormwater Coalition** – The Coalition was formed to assist municipalities in Chemung County to implement and meet federal storm water regulations.

With this in mind, our revenues have been cut drastically due to the reduction in sales tax we receive from the County. This is playing havoc with all the Towns, Municipalities and the City expenses. We are writing this not to debate this decision in this newsletter, but to make it clear that our fund balance will be depleted in four years and any new shared services we continue to make cannot make up for the approximately \$400,000 loss revenue compounded every year. Another factor that is also adding to the reduction of sales tax is the economic impact of a soft buyer's market in the area.

You may ask why we are addressing this issue. This is to prepare the Southport taxpayers for the fact that we may have to consider a tax increase in the near future. Please keep in mind that over the last 13 years we have lowered the tax rate from \$3.05 per one thousand to .78 cents per one thousand. For example, a Town resident who has a house assessed at \$100,000 is now paying \$78 per year for the Town tax as compared to \$305 13 years ago. This is most likely one of the lowest tax rates in this county and adjoining counties. We did this while building up a fund balance with the intent to build a Community Center Building however, that was voted down. We also did this not foreseeing our sales tax being reduced by the County.



The Town was awarded a grant to assist with the re-development of the Dixie Barbeque site.

As an example of the effect of this sales tax reduction, you will see other towns in the next couple years implementing tax increases. A recent testament to this was a large Town in Chemung County instituting a new town tax for the first time in their town history, at a rate of \$2.30 per thousand. We hope that this issue gets reviewed before tax increases become more widespread.

NYS Restore New York Grant

We are pleased to be on the awarding end of a \$500,000 grant to restore the approximately one acre property which includes the former Dixie Barbeque and two houses. The plan is to solicit a developer to purchase, demolish, and build a business that would be a destination attraction to our area. The developer would purchase the property from the current owner and proceed with the project. The \$500,000 would be paid to the developer once the project is complete. This grant was a highly competitive one that few towns get an opportunity to be awarded and we are pleased that the State recognized us as deserving.

Last Winter Storm

The last snow storm presented great difficulties to our Highway Department employees in terms of their ability to clear our streets. Between cars being parked out in the street, basketball hoops on the side of the roads and items placed at dead end streets, it takes excessive amounts of time for the plow trucks to maneuver around these items. These situations result in the street being partially plowed. In addition, some streets don't get plowed because our plow truck operators can only work so many hours before taking a break or going home for rest.

Therefore, we will be looking to implement new parking rules to address these issues before next winter. This is so that our roads get plowed sooner and become safer for driving. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

As always, any communication is welcome on any town concern.

Town of Southport Highway Department

David L. Bachman, Superintendent

Russell H. Tobey, Deputy Superintendent

Public Safety is a Priority for Highway Crews

This last winter season was worse than some previous years. There were two bad storms depositing ice on many steep, hilly Town roads. Highway crews make public safety a priority as they salt and plow.

We will be gearing up for roadwork projects. At the time of this writing, estimates are being prepared and the projects will be announced at a later date.

The Town Brush Lot, located on Masia Drive, will again be open to SOUTHPORT TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY. Lawn/garden waste, tree branches, grass clippings and leaves will be accepted. The Town has placed surveillance cameras on the lot to aid in identifying offenders of the posted rules. There have been several arrests made of those offenders over the past two years.

Do you have a street light out in your neighborhood or near your home/property? Please call the Highway Department @ 733-5467 and advise us of the nearest address and, if possible, the NYSEG pole number. We will notify NYSEG to have the light fixed in a timely manner.



Cinderella Softball Lady Sting

Jeremy Sherman –

Cinderella Board President

Turning 10 Years Old

The 2017 softball season is set to start for the girls of Southport Cinderella. This year the organization is celebrating its 10th season at Chapel Park. As of this writing, we are well on our way with sign ups and hope to have numbers very comparable with past seasons. We have five divisions 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. Please visit our website at www.southportcinderella.com for more information about our organization.



Movie Nights are scheduled for July 14 and August 18 at Chapel Park.

Southport Town Clerk's Office

Carolyn Renko, Town Clerk

Dog Licensing

With the warmer weather it is important to remind residents that all dogs residing in the town are required to be licensed. A few other reminders on this topic of our Town Ordinance as it pertains to dogs are the following:

- Your dog must be restrained and not running at large.
- Excessive barking is a prohibited act.
- Your dog must be kept in structures or enclosures that are clean and the dog is provided good and adequate care.
- When walking your dog within the town such person walking such dog or dogs must maintain on his or her person a means of cleaning up and removing the excrement created by such dog. At Chapel and Elmer Goodwin Parks "mutt mitts" are provided for this purpose. Please help us keep our Town and parks clean.

The Town of Southport contracts with the City of Elmira for our animal control and can be reached at 607-735-8600.

Fitzsimmons Cemetery

Winter Holiday decorations at Fitzsimmons Cemetery needed to be removed by March 1. Before the mowing season starts the town will appoint individuals to make sure all seasonal decorations are removed (Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas), these individuals will be operating under the direction of myself and members of the cemetery commission. Also at this time the Town and Cemetery Commission are re-evaluating the policy as it pertains to grave decorations and maintenance. Going into the mowing season we ask that decorations are placed upon monuments if possible and please if you have anything that is of value (sentimentally or monetary) know that we cannot guarantee that these will remain intact.

The Town Clerk's office is still in possession of items from the spring/summer removal, this includes some eternal lights, Veteran markers and decorations that were still intact. Please stop in the office if you would like to look at these items. They will be held until June 1. We thank you for your patience at this time and appreciate the adherence to the regulations.

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. The Town will start to issue vouchers on Monday, May 22 with disposal dates being Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 29. 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. These vouchers cannot be combined.

Please check our website for additional information on upcoming events happening in our County such as free rabies clinics, household hazardous waste collections and things happening in and around our town.



Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

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Assessment News

Catherine Edwards, Assessor

Southport Grievance Day

Grievance Day will be held on Wednesday May 24, 2017 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) and NYS Website (www.tax.ny.gov). All forms must be filed at least three business days prior to May 24.

Please call the Assessor's Office at 607-734-4424 after May 1, 2017 to make an appointment if you wish to contest your assessment before the Board of Assessment Review.

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The 29th Annual Pine City Street of Sales

Saturday, June 10

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine

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organized by the

Southport Business Association

Stormwater Coalition

Nikole Watts,
Stormwater Educator



Mobile Education Station

With the Stormwater Education Program growing, the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition along with Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District and Grant Funding through FLOWPA, Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Alliance, purchased a 16-ft trailer to create a mobile education station. This trailer will travel around Chemung County to community events, municipalities and local schools. The overall goal of this project is to give community members an opportunity to learn about Stormwater using interactive models and games.



The trailer is currently in the redesign stage. With the support of Jeff Myers at Cedar Street Manufacturing we were able to add Stairs and hand railing to make the interactive mobile education station accessible for everyone.

Jeremy Hogan from JH design is working extremely hard on creating an informational wrap for the outside of the trailer. The wrap is extremely intriguing and will give the community a snap shot of what information will be available in the mobile education station.

The team is working extremely hard to get this great resource up and running, so that we are ready to educate the residents of Chemung County.

Chapel Park Senior Center

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

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Recreation Director

David Ellis: 732-4265
dellis@townofsouthport.com

Monthly Calendar

townofsouthport.com/content/calendars

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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

Town Code Enforcement

Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer

High Grass and Use of the Town's Brush Lot



It's time to mow the grass and trim the weeds and brush again. Grass shall be kept under 10 inches tall per Town Code. When you mow the lawn, please don't place the clippings into the roadway. Grass can block storm drains and lead to flooding when it rains. You can take grass clippings, leaves, limbs, shrubs, flowers and garden vegetation to the Town's Brush Lot on Bob Masia Drive. It is open from dawn to dusk to Town of Southport residents only. Prohibited items include rocks, garbage and wood products. Commercial landscapers and tree services companies are prohibited from using the lot. If you notice any illegal dumping at the brush lot give us a call (607) 737-5268. Video cameras have been installed to help monitor the lot and we will continue to prosecute violators. Such violations are punishable by paying a fine or imprisonment or both.

Remember there is no burning of brush from March 15 to May 15. Open burning is the largest cause of spring wildfires in New York State. When past fall's debris and leaves dry out, wildfires can start and spread easily. Wildfires are fueled by winds and a lack of green vegetation.



Yard Sales

There is a new ordinance regarding Yard Sales under Section 525-134. A resident of the town may conduct a sale at their dwelling no more than three (3) times per calendar year, limited to two (2) consecutive days in duration and not more than ten (10) hours each day. All signs must be removed within 24 hours after the sale. The definition of "yard sale" means all sales entitled "yard sale," "garage sale," "lawn sale," "attic sale," "rummage sale," or any other similar sale of personal property. It does not include auctions or estate sales conducted by professional auctioneers. A yard sale is not permitted in a business or commercial location or anywhere that it is prohibited by zoning, except as authorized under a site plan. Check with the Chemung County Health Department if you plan to sell food at your sale.

Openings

The Town has openings for the following. If interested please submit your letter of interest to the Town Clerk or call if you have any questions (607) 734-1548.

Planning Board

The Planning Board reviews site plans for land uses in the Town.

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Board of Assessment Review

The Board of Assessment Review listens to residents who want to dispute their property assessment.

•

Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission oversees the operation, maintenance and activities of the Town cemeteries.

•

Sewer Commission

The Sewer Commission advises and makes recommendations to the Town Board regarding sewer service.

•

School Traffic Officers

School Traffic Officers are responsible for the safe crossing of students at designated crosswalks. (Town Residency not required)

Southport Business Association

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

Please check their website at 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.

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

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Historical Society News



The Historical Society has mailed letters to members to renew their memberships. If you have

not sent in your card, it is not too late. If you are not a member, you are invited to join. Membership cards are available at the Town Clerk's office and at the Society's museum. We are open every Wednesday and the third Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00.

Our historic calendars continue to be popular. We are working on the 2018 calendar which will feature Rorick's Glen. Look for the newest calendar in the fall. The 2017 calendar features the rural one room schools in the town. Past calendars contained information about some of these schools. The 2017 calendar features schools that were

not in previous calendars. The schools in this calendar are: Coldbrook School, Edgeworth School, Hopkins Street School, Dry Run Road School, Bird Creek Road School, Kinner Hill School, Dutch Hill School, Upper Hendy Hollow School, and Sagetown School. If you did not get your 2017 calendar about the one room schools, there are still some available at the Town Clerk's office or at the Historical Society. The price is \$10. If you are interested in a school that was in a previous year calendar, some of the calendars are listed below, available for \$2 at the Historical Society. Contact Linda Taft 732- 6565 or a board member.

- Christian Hollow (Rosstown) – 2012
- Lower Hendy Hollow – 2013
- Seeley Creek – 2010
- Mt. View – 2011
- South Creek – 2014
- Pine City – 2011
- Pennsylvania Ave. – 2009, 2014

We have been working on some interesting projects. The Society hosted a one room school reunion in November. George Farmer had the idea to have a reunion for people who attended one the Town's rural schools. It was a great success. An ongoing project is updating our many slides of buildings on the Plank Road into photographs and digital images. In January, board members worked with the staff at the Chemung County Historical Museum to create a display about the Town of Southport. Our display will be at the museum until July. Plan to visit the museum and see what Southport was like long ago. Thank you to the businesses who advertise in the calendars and to everyone who supports the Historical Society. You are much appreciated.



Priscilla Ammerman, who participates in the Thursday painting group at Chapel Park, created this beautiful picture.

Southport Town Court

Honorable Steven T. Milford

“The Courts Closest to the People”

Often times I am asked exactly what I do and what are the qualifications to be a Town Justice. In this edition of the Southport Journal I thought I would address this issue and try to answer these questions.

Over three-quarters of New York’s trail courts are Justice Courts. Their jurisdiction is broad, ranging from landlord-tenant and small claims cases to trying misdemeanor and lesser offenses as well as arraigning felony charges. Yet the large majority of the nearly 2,000 judges in these courts are not lawyers.

Justice courts have a very broad, but limited jurisdiction in matters affecting the local community and are readily accessible geographically to the people. It is for this reason justice courts are often called “the courts closest to the people.”

Town Justices are elected for four year terms and once elected are subject to the rules of the Office of Court Administration. Even though elected, first time elected judges, who are not lawyers are not allowed to serve on

the bench until they have completed a six-day training course which includes a daily written assessment exam.

They then are allowed to serve on the bench for sixty days before returning for another eight hours of training. Thereafter all judges have to complete at least 12 hours of annual training in order to serve the next year. Part of this training also requires non-lawyer judges to successfully pass a written exam.

Once on the bench a Town Justice is responsible for presiding over all criminal and violation cases from start to finish with the exception of Felony cases where the local court only has limited jurisdiction and that is for arraigning the defendant on the felony charge and setting of bail and a preliminary hearing which is a hearing before the Town Court to determine whether there is enough evidence to hold a defendant over for Grand Jury proceedings.

In addition to criminal and traffic cases, the Town Justice also presides over small claims cases with claims limited to \$3,000. Landlord/tenant

proceedings are also under the jurisdiction of Town Courts with unlimited monetary value.

Town and Village judges are considered part time and are funded by their local government, but are independent of local governing. They are responsible for running their courts and all facets of the court including the collection fines and filing of monthly State reports. Southport town court is one of the busiest courts in the county and handles an average of twenty-five hundred cases per year.

Every Town Justice falls under the supervision of the Office of Court Administration and is subject to the same rules and regulations as all full time state judges and is subject to the same disciplinary action for unethical behavior through the office of judicial conduct.

I hope this information explains a little about what we do and what training we go through. As always if you have any questions or need our assistance, don’t hesitate to contact us during normal business hours.



The Draxler Park pond is stocked and the fish are biting.



The splash pad at Elmer Goodwin (Universal) Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend.

Visit our website: townofsouthport.com

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Town of Southport

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Elmira, NY 14904

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Gough Holding Corporation

Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, PC

Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport

Perry & Carroll Insurance

Renko Tree Service

Solutions Credit Union

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