



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025  
ISSUE NO: 1

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CLARA RUTH COOK  
ONE OF SOUTHPORT'S OWN

---

## PARKS AND RECREATION

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

---

## JUSTICE CORNER

LAW UPDATES

A decorative sign for Southport, Vermont. The sign features a central illustration of a river flowing through a forested landscape with mountains in the background. The text 'Est. SOUTHPORT 1822' is displayed in a stylized font across the top, with 'SOUTHPORT' being the largest and most prominent. Below the illustration, the tagline 'A Safe & Caring Community' is written in a cursive script.

Est. **SOUTHPORT** 1822

*A Safe & Caring Community*

Dear Residents and Visitors,

On behalf of the town council, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant and close-knit community. Our town is rich in history, brimming with natural beauty, and fueled by an unwavering sense of togetherness.

Whether you are a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, you will find an array of activities, local businesses, and community events that contribute to the unique charm of our town. We are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for everyone. Thank you for being a part of our community, and we look forward to seeing you around town!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Joe Roman'.

Town Supervisor

## CONTENTS

---

**PAGE 3**

WHAT IS ARPA?

**PAGE 4**

ONE OF SOUTHPORT'S OWN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PAGE 6**

PARKS & RECREATION

**PAGE 7**

ASSESSORS OFFICE

**PAGE 8**

CODE ENFORCEMENT

**PAGE 9**

JUSTICE CORNER

# WHAT IS ARPA?

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

In order to rebound and rebuild after the COVID-19 crises, communities across the nation were provided with funds under the American Rescue Plan Act signed into law in 2021. The Town of Southport received two payments of ARPA funds totaling a little over \$1,000,000. These funds were used for a variety of purposes with the goal of enhancing the Town's assets for the future. The investments represent upgrades, repairs, and new or used purchases for our buildings, parks, and cemeteries. Per the legislation, ARPA funds needed to be fully committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Below is a listing of these investments.

### CHAPEL PARK

- Resurface / Restriping of Basketball, Tennis and Pickleball Courts
- Security Cameras
- Fencing of Backstop, Garden Plots, Pickleball Court, Tennis Court
- Grills
- Pickleball Court Lighting
- Sidewalk Repair
- Walkway Widening / Resurface
- Garden Plots Waterline

### CODE OFFICE

- Code Vehicle

### DRAXLER PARK

- Pavilion Replacement
- Walkway - Crushed Stone

### ROGER STERLING PARK

- Fencing
- Picnic Tables
- Slide

### TOWN HALL

- Access Control
- Brick Repointing
- Floor repair & Cleaning
- Foyer Flooring
- Generator
- HVAC System
- Interior Painting
- Outdoor bench and tables
- Reception upgrade
- Stair treads
- Storage units
- telephone system

### TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- Access Control
- Camera System
- Case Roller
- Fencing
- Telephone System

### ELMER GOODWIN PARK

- Cameras
- Sidewalk Repair
- Walkway Lighting
- Walkway Refinish
- Splash Pad Upgrades

### FITZSIMMONS CEMETERY

- MEMORIAL REPAIR
- PLANTER

### PARKS AND RECREATION

- TRAILERS
- LAWN MOWERS

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ONE OF SOUTHPORT'S "OWN" CLARA RUTH COOK – CALLED "BABE"

CLARA RUTH COOK, CALLED "BABE" BECAUSE SHE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF 11 CHILDREN. CLARA'S PARENTS WERE JOHN AND CLARA COOK OF PINE CITY, NY A FEW RELATIVES RESIDE IN THE SOUTHPORT AREA TODAY. CLARA ATTENDED PINE CITY SCHOOL AND SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL.

CLARA LOVED PLAYING BASEBALL AND ONE DAY A MAN EMPLOYED BY REMINGTON RAND NOTICED HER BASEBALL SKILLS AND ASKED HER PARENTS TO ALLOW HER TO PLAY FOR THE RAND'S BASEBALL TEAM. CLARA'S PARENTS AGREED AND CLARA KNEW THIS WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY.

AT AGE 13, CLARA BEGAN PLAYING BASEBALL FOR THE RAND, AND CONTINUED THROUGH HER TEENS. AFTER GRADUATING FROM SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WENT TO WORK FOR THE RAND AND SHE ALSO HELPED ORGANIZE FRIENDS TO PLAY BALL FOR THE COMPANY.

DURING WORLD WAR II, A SCOUT FROM THE ROCKFORD PEACHES OF KENOSHA, WI RECRUITED CLARA TO PITCH FOR THEIR TEAM. THIS TEAM IS DEPICTED IN THE MOVIE "A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN". CLARA WAS A LEFT HANDED PITCHER AND PLAYED FOR THE ROCKFORD PEACHES (1943), KENOSHA COMETS (1943-1944) AND MILWAUKEE CHICKS (1944). CLARA WAS ONE OF THE 60 FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE ALL-AMERICAN GIRLS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR ITS INAUGURAL SEASON IN 1943.



BORN: JUNE 19, 1921



### CLARA'S CAREER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM (1944)
- METRO-ELMIRA SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION (1975)
- WOMEN IN BASEBALL – AAGPBL PERMANENT DISPLAY
- BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, COOPERSTOWN, NY (1988)

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ONE OF SOUTHPORT'S "OWN" CLARA RUTH COOK – CALLED "BABE"

AT THE END OF THE SEASON, COOK RETURNED TO ELMIRA AND TO REMINGTON RAND. SHE WORKED THERE UNTIL 1955, WHEN SPERRY CORPORATION ACQUIRED THE ELMIRA'S PLANT AND RENAMED ITSELF SPERRY RAND. SHE THEN MOVED TO CALIFORNIA AND WORKED AT AN AIRCRAFT COMPANY UNTIL SHE RETIRED. AFTER RETURNING HOME, COOK CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE AND ORGANIZE TEAMS IN ELMIRA. SHE ALSO HELPED BY COACHING YOUNG WOMEN INTERESTED IN PITCHING.

ON JULY 23, 1996, CLARA COOK DIED IN ELMIRA, NEW YORK, AT THE AGE OF 75. SHE IS BURIED IN THE WEBB MILLS CEMETERY, ALONG WITH HER PARENTS.



IN 2022, THE SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEMORIAL STONE TO BE DESIGNED AND PLACED NEAR THE SOFTBALL BUILDING AT CHAPEL PARK. THE STORY OF CLARA RUTH COOK IS ENGRAVED ON THAT STONE.

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 A FORMAL UNVEILING OF THE CLARA COOK MURAL WAS HELD NEAR THE SOFTBALL BUILDING AT CHAPEL PARK. THIS EVENT WAS ALSO A TRIBUTE & THANK YOU CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE ART TEACHER EMILY SOLOMETO AND HER ART STUDENTS, BEA MCCARTHY, MIA MOORE, AVIANNA ROMANO, JANESSA ROMANO, MICAH SOLOMETO, CECILY SOLOMETO, DAHLIA VIEIRA WHO DESIGNED AND CREATED THIS BEAUTIFUL MURAL OF CLARA COOK. THESE TALENTED AND GIFTED ARTISTS ARE CERTAINLY PART OF SOUTHPORT'S HISTORY NOW.

THE SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD, TOWN OFFICIALS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS HONORED THESE DEDICATED AND CREATIVE ARTISTS WITH A "THANK YOU" CEREMONY AT CHAPEL PARK. THESE AMAZING ARTISTS WORKED DILIGENTLY IN THE EXCESSIVE SUMMER HEAT TO DESIGN AND CREATE THIS BEAUTIFUL MURAL OF CLARA COOK. THANK YOU EMILY AND STUDENTS. THE MURAL IS A "HOME RUN" AND YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS ARE APPRECIATED.



THE CLARA COOK MURAL IS APPRECIATED BY MANY NOW AND WILL BE FOR MANY FUTURE GENERATIONS. **THE MURAL IS A HOME RUN!**

# PARKS & RECREATION

Elmer Goodwin



My name is Ivan Purifoy, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Southport. My third-year anniversary on the job was November 15th, 2024. It has been a joy to be a part of this community and I am looking forward to continuing this career with the Town of Southport. We have so many things happening in our Parks and Recreation Department.

We continue to host annual events, such as the Spring Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park, the Autumn Trunk or Treat, or the Winter Christmas Parade and Christmas Land

display. In the Summer, we provide residents with our annual Summer Parks Program, which is a six-week summer program from July-August for 5–12-year-olds. This program runs Monday-Friday from 9am-2:45pm and offers educational, recreational and enrichment opportunities to kids in our community.

Southport Parks are the host to youth sports such as the Cinderella Softball league at Chapel Park, the Southport Recreation Association Boy's lacrosse league at Goodwin Park and currently we are in the preliminary stages of exploring a girl's lacrosse league. We also continue our partnership with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Jr. baseball, which is split between Pirozzolo Park and Chapel Park.

Our Town Senior Center continues to be an active center for our residents. The Senior Center operates Monday-Friday at Chapel Park with various groups and activities.

Over the last year we have made numerous improvements to the Town parks. Some of these include: The new pavilion at Draxler Park, resurfacing of the Chapel Park walking path, tennis courts and pickleball courts, solar lighting around the newly resurfaced walking path at Elmer Goodwin Park, and additional cameras throughout our parks. In the future, Parks and Recreation will be looking to make improvements in the 2025 season to our Splash Pad at Elmer Goodwin and adding new outdoor grills to our parks.

Please inquire about any season work positions and also any questions that pertains to any of the aforementioned details of our Parks and Recreation Department.

Thank you,

*Ivan Purifoy*

# ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

## ENHANCED STAR

If you are going to be the age 65 anytime during the year 2025 and you are currently receiving the STAR exemption off your school taxes, you may be eligible to apply for the Enhanced STAR if you meet the income standards. You must apply by March 1, 2025. <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/>



## SENIOR CITIZENS EXEMPTION

Senior exemption (65 and older), with income of \$37,399 or less, will be receiving their renewal application in January 2025. Application and proof of 2023 income must be returned by March 1, 2025.

Please call if you have any questions 607-734-4424 extension 4.

*Dave Reger*

Assessor

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

## GARBAGE

The Town does not have regular garbage pick-up. Residents must hire a local hauler for their household waste. All trash placed at the curb needs to be in suitable containers and the containers may not be placed at the roadside more than 48 hours prior to being picked up. Or you can take your household waste and recycling to the Southport Transfer Station located on Bob Masia Drive. The Drop-off hours are Wednesday 8am to 4pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm.



## SIDEWALKS

The Town ordinance §459 requires the maintenance of your sidewalk year-round. Remember to keep the sidewalks free of trip hazards and broken sections as well as free and clear of snow and ice. And please don't throw the snow into the street or roadway.



Please call with questions or concerns at 607-737-5268 extension 3 or e-mail [procchi@townofsouthport.com](mailto:procchi@townofsouthport.com)

*Peter Rocchi*  
Code Enforcement Officer



# JUSTICE CORNER

It has been a while since our last newsletter, which was prior to the COVID outbreak and a lot of changes have occurred in the judicial system since then. The State Legislature has made a substantial change to the Criminal Procedure Laws concerning Bail Reform and although it can be complicated, I will try to break it down.

First of all, the new bail reform laws basically breaks crimes down to two categories, qualifying and non-qualifying offenses. Non-qualifying offenses are crimes that bail cannot be set on by the courts and the defendant has to be released on their own recognizances either by appearance ticket or arraignment. This includes most misdemeanor offenses, except domestic related offenses in certain circumstances and non-violent felonies. Qualifying offenses include certain felonies and domestic misdemeanor charges, where bail can be considered by the court. This has taken a lot of Court's discretion away pertaining to bail.

In other legislation concerning Vehicle and Traffic offenses, a person that does not pay his fine cannot have his license scooped or suspended for failure to pay a fine, but still can have it suspended for failure to answer a summons. The Court now has to offer a payment plan for paying fines. This Court has always offered such a plan, but now it is mandatory.

Another recent change to the Vehicle and Traffic Law that most drivers are unaware of pertains to license plates. It is illegal to have any type of covering on a license plate, either clear or tinted. This has always been the law but recent legislation has increased the penalty for such violation from a minimum of \$25.00 to \$100.00 and three or more convictions within a five-year period can result in the suspension of your vehicle's registration.

There have been several other changes to the various laws that we deal with and I will attempt to cover them in upcoming newsletters. These changes have resulted in a substantial increase in our clerical workload and the Town Counsel last year authorized the Court to upgrade our part time clerk to a full-time position which has greatly helped us to keep up with the increased work load. I wish to thank our town board for recognizing this need and responding to our request.

As always, we are the court closest to the people and if there are questions and concerns you may have, don't hesitate to contact us.

Honorable,

