



TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

S P R I N G - S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

Number 33

GREETINGS

Spring Brings Greening & Growing



Supervisor Sullivan and Chief Michalko
Review seasonal Stats

Dear Friends,

In this issue of Town Talk I cannot complain about the weather. We experienced a very mild winter and that has allowed us to get a head start on the spring work.

I look forward to the first season of our community garden. To date, twenty-one families have signed up and we do have room for a few more. Please call me at 734-2031 if you are interested in trying out your green thumb this year.

Thank you to everyone for paying your town taxes. These are tough times for many families. The Town Board worked very hard this past budget season to provide the same great services that you are accustomed to at a reasonable price. For a second straight year the town taxes have been reduced. For example,

residents in West Elmira enjoyed a 1.5% reduction in their town taxes from 2011. (The items on your tax bill controlled by the town board include the Town, Highway, Light District, Park and Traffic Districts.)

I look forward to a productive 2012, with an aggressive street repair program and the construction of a new concession stand in the park. In addition, we welcome Karen Krusen as a new member of the Town Board. Elected in November 2011, Karen brings energy and a wealth of great ideas to the board.

Enjoy the nice weather!

Supervisor



We've Installed a Water Source



A Bounty of Raised Beds

GREAT NEWS

Community Garden Ready to Grow!

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to reserve your garden box! Call Town Supervisor, Dave Sullivan at 734-2031 and get growing!

SEASONAL SHORTS

All Drivers Be Aware!

Police Chief Peter Michalko cannot stress enough the importance of driving safely. Not one, but two pedestrians have been knocked down by inattentive drivers who failed to look both ways at an intersection. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, but Michalko says this is no way to treat a neighbor. As warm weather brings out even more walkers, joggers, cyclists and children, motorists are strongly cautioned to Stop. Look Both Ways. Pay Attention. Yield to Pedestrians & STOP for Residents in Designated Crosswalks!

Puppy Poop

Parks & Recreation Superintendent, Chip LeValley says residents have reported a couple of little stinkers on their hands... or underfoot rather. "Several piles of poop in the park have produced phoul phumes and phorced phancy phootwork. If you have a phour-legged phrend, please use the phree Doggie Bags conveniently provided throughout the park."



Making Concessions

Speaking of the Park, there are several exciting upgrades taking place this spring. First and foremost, the pool facility will get a face-lift with the addition of a new concession stand and patio on the east side of the locker room complex. The former site for sweets and eats will be closed and repurposed.

Sidewalk Program

If your sidewalk has suffered severe weather damage we can help. When you apply for your permit, we will happily arrange to remove your old sidewalk blocks for free! We'll take them away and recycle them back into gravel for other projects.

Building Permits & Inspections for Sheds, Decks, Out Buildings

Speaking of permits, property owners are required to procure one for all Sheds, Decks and Out-buildings. With all the specifications for construction techniques and materials it's better to be safe than sorry. Call Chip @ 734-3608 with any questions.

Zoning Ordinances Get a Make-Over

No worries, there have been no significant changes, just a review, enacted by the Town Board to re-number/re-code all the current ordinances to bring them into harmony with all other municipalities across the state. This common numeric reference between towns eases electronic availability and lessens confusion or misunderstanding.

Backyard Pool Protocol

Any pool with water depth exceeding 24 INCHES is regulated by the State of New York and is required to have a barrier. In practical terms that means a fence of at least 4 feet around it. Please exercise due caution around all pools, wading pools included, and if you have any questions, please call.

Past, Present & Future



Collaborative Effort Restores Forest Lawn Memorial Park

Out on East Hill, Forest Lawn Memorial Park has provided a serene, non-denominational final resting place for more than 60 years. A walk among the headstones reveals many locally-recognized names including Smiths, Romans, Gundermans and even a scattering of Knapps and Lowmans. More than 2500 people are interred at the Park, including a significant number of veterans. Over the last few years, the combination of economic hard times and unusually heavy seasonal flooding had resulted in significant damage (in some cases destruction) of the cemetery's steep, curvy roads.

Bea Ziemer identifies herself as "one of Forest Lawn's caretakers" who with a crew of grounds keepers works to maintain the facility and keep it beautiful. "It's never an easy task," she admits, "but this year we needed some outside help." Thankfully, the Town of Elmira was willing to think and work creatively and collaboratively to affect a beautiful, cost-effective solution. By consolidating resources

they were able to maximize output -- installing new drainage and rebuilding roads -- at minimal cost to all involved.

Town Highway Superintendent, Matt Mustico connected the dots. He organized a

team that combined BOCES students with a desire to learn and veteran road crew members with skills to teach. Together they helped the Town of Ashland recover from Hurricane Irene by hauling away 4000 tons of creek gravel. Then, they helped Forest Lawn by grinding that gravel into new road base. "What a great bunch of young people," observes Ziemer. "They're coming back to continue their work on the Veteran's Section this year."

This effort by the Town of Elmira, Ashland, Forest Lawn and BOCES falls under the heading of sustainable community, and according to Town Supervisor, David Sullivan, "The Town of Elmira is committed to supporting these types of creative, cost-effective partnerships."



New Roads... Better Drainage

MORE GREAT NEWS



Michael Marrone



Richard Wheat

Veteran Department Defends and Protects

Residents of the Town can rest assured knowing their police force is filled with experienced officers who bring a full complement of skills to their jobs -- from investigations, tactical intervention and drug enforcement to emergency medicine and preparedness. In addition to Tom Barr and Joel Raatz, whom we introduced in *Town Talk* last spring, Chief Peter Michalko is pleased to welcome Richard Wheat and Michael Marrone to the force. With more than 40 years on the job combined, the two veterans already know the questions to ask and have developed an extensive list of contacts throughout the state for back-up! Wheat and Marrone cover nights, weekends and vacations.

Court Coverage

On Wednesday nights when Town court is in session, Michalko is grateful for another pair of experienced officers, Corey Ripley and Patrick Dotts. This team takes care to protect the judge and clerks as well as to provide general security for all in attendance at the proceedings.

Introducing... Karen Krusen

In November, Karen Krusen was elected to serve on the Town Board. A resident of West Elmira for the past seven years, Krusen says she's spent her first few months of service familiarizing herself with Town of Elmira policies, procedures and people, learning the ins and outs of the budget and trying to help wherever needed. From her professional life in the telecommunications field, she brings to the board more than two decades of operations management. From her personal life, she brings her continued love of youth sports. Krusen welcomes your call.



Karen Krusen

Get To Know Your Neighbor

Kum DiNardo



Kun Carries the Torch

Imagine Korea 1956. You meet a young American service man and write letters to each other for three years. In May 1959, he tells you he wants to marry and asks for your ring size. By way of telling him that size you say “yes” and he joins you in Korea for a month of preparation. On June 27th

you marry, but unready to leave your family, your new husband encourages you to stay with them a while longer. You finally join him in America in August. Despite severe homesickness and many tears you live happily ever after. This fairy tale is the real-life love story of Kum DiNardo of West Elmira

and her stamina in romance is just the beginning of DiNardo's amazing story.

As the “first Korean girl in Elmira” Kum served as an ambassador for so many other Asians who followed. Joe fulfilled his promise to bring most of her family to America, and dozens of local business people, hospital patients, travelers and their families also found their way to her door, her home and her table. Her stamina enabled DiNardo to translate, host, house and cook for all who came. “Even today, I never feel tired when I am helping someone,” she says.

If you drive Church or Water Streets regularly you have likely seen her stamina in action. This 78-year-old dons her (usually blue) track suit nearly every morning to walk, race walk or run. It's more than a habit; it's her training for the New York State Empire Games, as well as the Regional and National Senior Games and

Komen Race for the Cure events she's frequented. DiNardo's been training, racing and winning medals (many of them gold) in nearly every event she's entered for twenty years now.

Her late husband, Joseph got her started. DiNardo says he was her best coach, cheerleader and support vehicle driver. If she were tired, he'd say, “Kum, go!” and having memorized her route and her timing, when rain began to fall he would drive to collect her, not wanting her to get wet or sick. She misses him

enormously, and breaks her stride each day at Lourdes to say, “Good Morning, I love you!” She says it makes her feel “peaceful in [her] heart” to run and think of Joe. According to Joe's admonition, their three children, Mark, Debbie and Kim continue to “spoil” their mother. This June, they will join her in Saratoga for the Empire Games, cheering her on for three days of fierce, but friendly competition.

If ever you need a motivational icon to “go” run, walk or help someone, just imagine Kum DiNardo.



On the Medal Stand Again!

SPRING INTO SUMMER...



Keeping you Posted

Hot Fun in the Summertime

The Town of Elmira Recreation Commission is thrilled to bring you another season of great events. With a variety of activities from movies to music, gardening to golf, the Rec Commission folks hope to fill the Park all summer long!

Watch for dates & times on the sign board in front of Town Hall!

Come Out to Play

Summer Athletic Camps for kids ages 6 -12 will commence on July 9th!

Camps consist of seven different one-week programs all focused on fundamentals, skill building and fun. Space is limited and some experience is preferred. Registration flyers will come home from school with your child in May.

Week #1 Basketball - July 9 - 13



Week #2 Golf - July 16 - 20



Week #3 Baseball - July 23 - 27

Week #4 Soccer - July 30 - August 3



Week #5 Games - August 6 - 10

Week #6 Lacrosse - August 13 - 17



Week #7 Softball - Dates & Instructors TBA

All camps will be led by Bob DeMember, certified Physical Education/Health Education Teacher, as well as qualified, sports-specific co-instructors -- Jay Stukey, Adam Rundell, Ryan Johnson and Derek Hamilton.



Swing Batter Batter

The West Elmira Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball and Cinderella Softball Leagues will offer another full season of fun for players ages 4 & up. Come on out and enjoy a swinging good time watching our regular season teams and welcoming our tournament season guests!

May 5th -- Opening Day Parade & Activities -- 11:30 A.M.

THE SEASON OF SUN AND GAMES



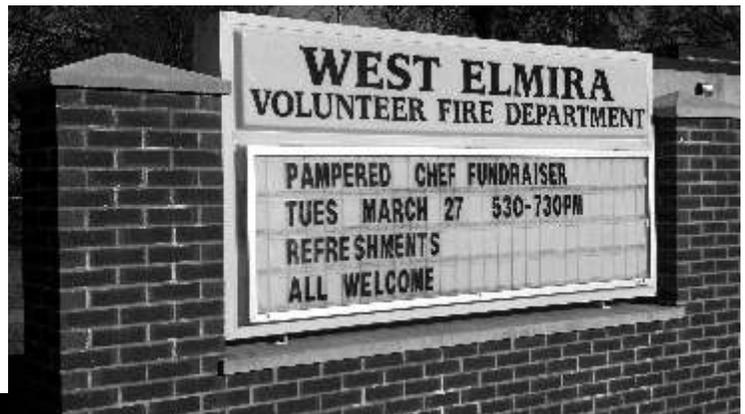
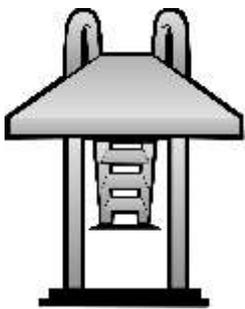
New League Takes the Field

Chemung Valley Soccer Association has been training up tykes on Town fields for years. Now, with the ever-growing popularity of lacrosse, the Town of Elmira is pleased to host a second independent youth league dedicated to teaching youngsters the basics. The Elmira Youth Lacrosse league is open to all kids in grades K-6. The league will run from July 9 - August 25. For more information, contact coordinator, Jason Stukey at 742-6428 or by email: orangefan44@hotmail.com.

Pool Preparations from Kenny Hartnett

The staff and I would like to thank everyone who came out to swim last summer! We really enjoyed seeing all the familiar and new faces everyday. Together, we strived to create a safe, clean, fun environment and with summer right around the corner we're ready to do it again! Please

remember to sign up early for swim lessons and to sew your patches on your bathing suit or towel. The pool staff and I look forward to fun in the sun (and water) with everyone!



Contact Us

Seriously, we'd love to hear from you. Better yet. Stop by for visit!

David Sullivan (Supervisor) 734-2031
Lori Rupp (Deputy Clerk) 734-2031
Liz Lucarelli (Court Clerk) 734-5971

Fred (Chip) LeValley (Code Enforcement Officer) 734-3608
Becky Carpenter (Code/Assessor Clerk) 734-1486 - 734-3608
Peter Michalko (Chief of Police) 8:30 - 4:30 - 734-2031
Matt Mustico (Highway Superintendent) 734-0199

Councilpersons

Ron Allison 734-6474
Kenneth Bush 733-4373
Thomas Milliken 732-6760
Karen Krusen 734-9412

Community info on the Go!

Jo Ann Sherwood (Town Clerk) 734-2031
Joe Cost (Bookkeeper) 734-2031
Melanie Purcell (Assessor) 734-1486



Police Business After Hours 735-8600

SEASONAL SHORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Of Roads, Recycling and Cost Reduction

Highways Superintendent, Matt Mustico is pleased to report the following roads will be resurfaced: Estates Drive, Upper Durland, Grandview and York Avenues, and part of Cornell Road. Residents will be informed when work is to take place. Additionally, all of Hardscrabble Road and Church Street (west of Guinnip to the Point) will be reconstructed.

Cool Compost

Mustico also reminds residents there is no spring pick-up of sticks and leaves. These may be deposited (free of charge) with clippings and other yard waste at the town compost facility located at the Highway Garage, 1890 W. Water Street. Collection hours are Monday - Friday, 7 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. except holidays. If you have not already done so, residents and property owners may apply for a free permit at Town Hall.

Light Snow = Less Money

Unseasonable weather resulted in significant cost savings in terms of snow removal and overtime. Because orders are placed on projections in April/May, Mustico says he's already got 70% of next year's salt order (1400 tons!) leftover. It's safely under cover at the salt barn and ready to go for next season.

MORE GREAT NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Class Act

Two more young residents have been recognized for exemplary service to their school and community. Nominated by their guidance counselor, Terry Nicklaus, EFA seniors, Abeer Ahmed and Corinne Murray received Outstanding Youth Awards at February's Town Board Meeting.

In her nomination, Nicklaus credits Ahmed for balancing a scholarly work ethic with a compassionate heart. In addition to his considerable intellectual gifts, Ahmed is known at EFA for his musicianship and athleticism. Outside of school Ahmed has responded to a family health crisis with emotional maturity beyond his years and extreme devotion.



Abeer Ahmed

Like Ahmed, Murray, has also achieved great academic and personal success in high school. Nicklaus notes Murray has also served in broader community and international capacities as co-captain for her Relay for Life team and as a youth leader with the elite People to People program.



Corinne Murray

Outstanding Youth Awards are given quarterly by the Town of Elmira to lifelong residents who have made significant contributions to their schools and community, as well as demonstrated qualities of leadership, character and good citizenship. Youth leaders, parents, educators, coaches and clergy are encouraged to nominate young people in grades 7 - 12 who reside in the Town of Elmira. Nominations are accepted year-round.



GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING



Town Assessor, Melanie Purcell and her assistant Becky Carpenter wants you to know they're not selling Girl Scout cookies! If they knock on your door, please answer. "It's a part of the building permit/assessment process that is sometimes misunderstood," says Purcell. Basically, whenever a permit is issued, Purcell gets a notice. Then, when she's out and about she'll stop by to take measurements and snap a picture. She comes back when a project is complete to review everything, compare it with the original and snap another picture. "That way I can assure the property's taxable status is completely accurate."

Accuracy is an important part of Purcell's job. This spring, she has been especially busy accurately re-addressing thirty-nine residential parcels along the new County Route 60. The road, originally part of "old Route 17" included Oneida and Brant Roads. "They've been reformed into one continuous road with a guardrail," notes Purcell. "Folks along County Route 60 should get 911-appropriate addressing packets from the post-office in order to notify personal and financial correspondents."

Grievance Day – May 22th

In accordance with State Law, the Town of Elmira Assessing Unit has posted its tentative roll data on the website: www.townofelmira.com. If residents have questions or concerns about the roll they can come in to talk about it and/or test their assessment, as well as to apply for grievance.

Call for Submissions

Do you have a feature suggestion for a future issue? Do you have a great Town photo, poem or story? Do you know a neighbor, historic site or place of interest we should highlight? Call us. 734-2031.

Town Talk is produced bi-annually as a vehicle for news and information about the Town of Elmira which includes West Elmira, West Hill Road, Hillcrest Road, Gordon Circle, Sunset Drive, East Hill and sections of the Village of Elmira Heights. Please contact the Town Hall if you have questions about residency.

Writer/Editor: Blink Creative Services
Designer/Printer: Copy Express

Check us out on the Web: www.townofelmira.com

**SAVE
TOWN OF ELMIRA POOL 2012 Schedule
IMPORTANT DAYS**

Monday, June 4 Swimming lesson sign-ups begin for Park District #1 residents only

Saturday, June 23	OPENING DAY 12 NOON
Monday, June 18	Swimming lesson sign-ups begin for everyone else
Monday, June 25 - July 6	1st SET OF LESSONS
Monday, July 9 - July 20	2nd SET OF LESSONS
Monday, July 23 - Aug 3	3RD SET OF LESSONS
Monday, Aug. 6 - Aug 17	4TH SET OF LESSONS
Monday, Sept. 3	LAST DAY POOL CLOSSES AT 5:45 PM

Pool Hours- June 23- Aug. 25	12 Noon - 7:45 PM
Aug. 26 - Sept. 3	12 Noon - 5:45 PM

Adult Swim: Monday through Friday, June 26 through August 24 4:30 - 6:00 PM **18 YEARS AND OLDER. NO CHILDREN ALLOWED.**
The baby pool is **CLOSED** at this time.

POOL FEES
Park Dist. #1 Pool Patches available at the Town Hall ONLY
(No patches will be issued at the pool)
Park District #1 residents only.

Season Pass: \$15 per Person

<u>Daily Fees:</u>	<u>Park District #1 Resident</u> (Must have Resident Patch)	<u>Outside District</u>
Child	\$1.00	\$4.00
Adult	\$1.50	\$5.00
Senior Citizen	Free with Gold Card	

American Red Cross lessons: Four (4) two-week sessions.
40 children maximum per session.
\$25 per session, Age 4 and up. Monday through Friday, 11:00 AM-11:45 AM Rain or Shine

SAVE



2012 Summer Tennis Lessons

Greater Elmira Tennis Association

Web: www.getatennis.com

Session	<input type="checkbox"/>	Time(s)	Dates	Days & Ages	Court Location
<u>Juniors - \$70 for 12 / one hour lessons / three week tennis camp</u>					
Session 1A	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:30am – 9:30am	July 9 – July 26	Monday thru Thursday	Town of Elmira
Session 1B	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:30am – 10:30am	Tennis Camp	Ages 5-10, 10-16	
Session 1C	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:30am – 11:30am		(grouped by age and skill level)	
<u>Juniors - \$70 for 12 / one hour lessons / three week tennis camp</u>					
Session 2A	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:30am – 9:30am	July 30 – August 16	Monday thru Thursday	Town of Elmira
Session 2B	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:30am – 10:30am	Tennis Camp	Ages 5-10, 10-16	
Session 2C	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:30am – 11:30am		(grouped by age and skill level)	
<u>Juniors - \$60 for 6 / one hour lessons / six weeks</u>					
Session 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	July 9, 16, 23, 30 August 6, 13	Mondays Ages: 12-17 (grouped by age and skill level)	Town of Elmira
<u>Adults - \$60 for 6 / one hour lessons / six weeks</u>					
Session 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	July 11, 18, 25 August 1, 8, 15	Wednesdays Adult	Town of Elmira

Detach below and mail registration with check or money order to:

GETA Lessons

PO Box 567

Elmira, NY 14902

Required (ages 17 & under) --- GETA medical emergency form with registration

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 25th

GETA Members receive \$5.00 discount

Name (first/last): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email (adult): _____

GETA 2012 member? Yes ___ / No ___

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____ Male: ___ Female: ___ School: _____

Circle Session(s):	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	2C	3	4
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Check enclosed for \$ _____ Amount should reflect session(s) from Lesson Schedule above.

Be sure to include the medical form with your registration!

Town of Elmira
1255 West Water Street
Elmira, New York 14905

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TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

S P R I N G - S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

READ ALL ABOUT IT

News

Community Garden Update
Experienced Officers Join the Force
Town Board Welcomes Karen Krusen

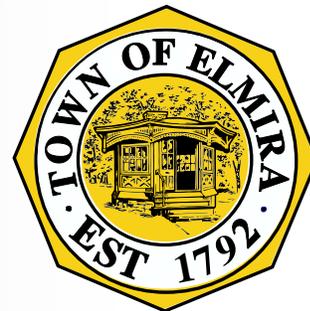
Schedules

Swimming & Tennis
Summer Camps

Features

Resident Profile - Kum DiNardo
Cooperative Effort Restores Forest Lawn

Writer/Editor: Blink Creative Services
Designer/Printer: Copy Express



Check us out on the Web: www.townofelmira.com